

SNOWBOARD SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

USSA CONGRESS 2006 – PARK CITY, UT

May 12, 2006

Chair: Michael Mallon

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michael Bell- Intermountain Rep

Bill Slattery- FIS Rep

Paul Krahulec- Rocky Rep

Tom Collins- USASA Rep

Tricia Byrnes- Athlete Rep

Lisa Kosglow- Athlete Rep

Tom Casey- Central Rep

Randy Rogers- PNW Rep

Mike Mallon- Chairman

Phoebe Mills (via phone)- IJC Rep

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jim Goff- ORDA Lake Placid

Nancy Wiedel- RA Rocky

Ali Goulet- PCSBT Coach

Andy Gilbert- SVSEF Coach

Ricky Bower- US Team Coach

Jeremy Forster- US Snowboarding Director

Tom Winters- FIS Rep

Thelma Hoessler- RA

Gary Wright- FIS TD

Scott Palmer- USSA Grand Prix

Eric Webster- USSA Grand Prix

Jon Casson- SSWSC Coach

Ben Boyd (via phone)- Outgoing Rocky Rep

1. Chairman's Welcome: Michael Mallon

Mallon called the meeting to order, went through introductions and determined that a quorum was achieved with those who were present.

2. New Elections: Michael Mallon

Ben Boyd nominated Jim Smith as the Rocky Mountain Rep, Michael Mallon nominated Paul Krahulec as the Rocky Mountain Rep. Candidate platforms were presented, vote declared Paul Krahulec as new Rocky Mountain representative.

Michael Mallon nominated Tom Casey as Central division representative, approved by acclamation.

The USASA representative position was brought to the table as an election topic. It was determined that the sport committee bylaws were unclear as to how this position was named or elected. It was determined that Tom Collins would bring the issue of how USASA nominated their rep to the USASA board meeting, and that Mallon would review the bylaws with legal counsel.

Michael Mallon was nominated by Bill Slattery to serve another term as committee chairman, approved by acclamation.

3. 2005 Meeting Minutes approval: Michael Mallon

Motion to approve by Kosglow. Approved by acclamation

4. Snowboard Department Overview: Jeremy Forster

Forster presented the 06/07 Addendum A plan. Addendum A was available by contacting Becky Woolley.

Forster also thanked the committee for their support and highlighted some aspects of the planning process: the snowboard budget has a 15% increase for the 06-07 season, Bud Keene would transition out of the head coach role to assist with coaches' education and some fundraising projects. Forster expressed his enthusiasm in making snowboarding relevant to the Foundation department, as well as continued growth in membership.

Forster addressed the snowboard team sponsor renewals, stating that both Burton and Nike are working on renewal through 2010, with a goal of greater flexibility in the glove category from Nike and perhaps some Gore-Tex technology in the 2010 uniform pieces. Both companies were recognized for putting together a very successful and functional uniform for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

The Revolution Tour would continue with its six industry partners, and U.S. Snowboarding would continue to reach out to new partners with the goal of bringing in some cash sponsorship that would support the tour directly with prize money.

A new team member athlete agreement would be worked up as a result of the values added to the vision and mission statements. This should not affect U.S. Snowboarding athletes greatly, because the U.S. team and its agreement was already a strong example. Forster then recapped the values addressed in the keynote speech: loyalty, integrity, team, respect, perseverance, and accountability.

Scott Palmer asked if U.S. Snowboarding was comfortable with the proportion of the USSA budget that they received. U.S. Snowboarding was comfortable with what they had to be able to accomplish its goals, and that the snowboarding budget couldn't be compared to the rest of the company.

5. Competition Services: Sarah Duffany

Duffany introduced herself and explained the role within the comp services department as the link between USSA and the FIS for scoring events and FIS licenses. She noted that it was a fairly smooth season in snowboarding, but noted that the FIS is cracking down on requiring FIS numbers prior to competitions. The FIS would start tossing results that did not include FIS numbers for every competitor.

Duffany noted the challenges in the time change between the U.S. and Switzerland and that ideally she needed a minimum of four days to receive a FIS registration number. Woolley asked attendees to help communicate this to the athletes and clubs, and that communication efforts would be made by USSA as well.

6. Coaches' Education: Andy Walshe and Bud Keene

Walshe introduced himself as the Sports Science director and his role in leading coaches' education. He explained the learning process they had gone through in building out the

alpine programs and the challenges in making coaches' education a revenue item. Attention was being turned to snowboard and cross-country this season, with the goal of producing a snowboard DVD by November 1. He noted that with all first time projects, it was always a learning process and they were open for feedback. Sport Science as a department this year would also be working with the PGS and SBX teams to provide physical testing and analysis.

Keene provided an overview of the plan to produce the snowboard DVD. He stated his goal was to take the materials already in existence and make them better, and that he was going to be careful not to bite off more than he could chew in this first year. He also talked about the uniqueness of snowboarding in that riders liked to learn how to do it and then go do it, rather than being lead through every step of progression.

Keene felt that coaches' education should have the same approach, provide basic level coaching knowledge, and then resources to make their job better that apply to various levels of coaching versus a structured step by step program. The goal of the snowboard DVD was to provide a format that is right for kids - modern, core, video, not a dry coaches' video. Coaches would pull what they needed from it, while kids would watch and get stoked.

DVD overview: focus was 7-9 basic tricks - FS air, BS air, FS 540, BS 540, McTwist, Crippler, FS 720, BS 720. DVD opens with music from snowboard bands, options for "play intro," "chapters," or "bonus features." Within each chapter was the option to: Play trick tip, Learn the skills, or coaches info. The coaches' education component would be buried in the coaches' info button including drills, common mistakes, etc. The DVD would be entertaining with the knowledge snuck in.

Phoebe Mills asked if there was a way to work this in with USASA materials. Keene stated that the goal was not to reinvent the wheel or duplicate efforts. This would be a stand-alone piece that fits into the education system. The U.S. Snowboarding certification system would look at using the USASA certification as part of the continued education component to keep certification current. Tom Collins supported Keene in stressing that the USASA trainers' program was more focused on working with groups and harassment than on trick tips.

Walshe stressed that it would likely take up to 10 years to build out a full education program. The first goals this year would be to identify the curriculum, and then identify the pre-requisites and/or co-requisites. Walshe also noted that currently there was material and education available that applied to all sports and would be integrated into the snowboard education structure: sport management, nutrition, dealing with parents, ASEP, first aid, etc. Snowboarding just needed to figure out where these courses fit into their system.

Ben Boyd asked about a different approach to ASEP certification, stating that many coaches were not taking time to do it on-line and perhaps it would be better if it were part of the snowboard fundamentals course.

Walshe responded that the problem with multi-day courses was the cost involved and most people would choose the on-line option if available, people usually wanted to pay for the on-snow portion and do the bookwork on their own. Snowboard could build out their program for whatever system worked best, but to be aware that people would need to get accredited to teach and be willing to pay for costlier clinics. Tom Collins stated that USASA required eight attendees, and then the clinics payed for themselves.

Keene summed up by thanking everyone for a great experience with U.S. Snowboarding and that he was really excited about the values and re-focusing of USSA, stating that the

hard work, perseverance, reward, punishment, and camaraderie had been there in snowboarding all along. He said, "we've been seen as dark, edgy, and underground, but now everyone can see that we've been living by these values for a long time and it's awesome to be recognized for it."

7. IJC Review: Phoebe Mills

Mills announced that the IJC was still in a process of transitioning, but was continuing to provide educational materials. Overall, the IJC felt good about the formats and competitions that were out there today.

Mills recapped the Grand Prix series and that the consistent judging panel was a good thing, resulting in the best riders going to the Olympics. As a judge, it was interesting to watch the podium rotate (aside from Shaun), demonstrating the continued depth in U.S. halfpipe riders. Mills complimented Remi Laliberte as an awesome and respectful head judge, and Eric Webster and Scott Palmer as excellent organizers.

Looking to 06-07, the hope was for more U.S. judges on the Grand Prix panels if sanctioning allowed, and the need for more depth in U.S. judging was stressed. The Revolution tour allowed for a good platform for building and involving judges.

Mills hoped to see new faces on all judging panels for the future season. The biggest issues that needed to be dealt with were scheduling issues and determining who was responsible for scheduling, as well as more and better education at the regional level in conjunction with USASA clinics. She stated the biggest problem this past season was communication and coordination, and that next season the clinics needed to be more organized and information needed to be distributed widely through all channels. Discussion also included involving coaches in these communications and that clinics were open to coaches.

Eric Webster noted that in the 06-07 season the Grand Prixes would be FIS level, not NAC, allowing for more U.S. judges on the panel. This past season the goal was to use the best judges with the most current education, and the NAC sanctioning required a certain level of certification as well as foreign judges.

Lisa Kosglow asked for follow up on the issue she addressed last year on behalf of the athletes concerning athlete education and opportunities to discuss judging issues.

Webster replied that there were two athlete meetings, one in Mammoth early season and one in Breckenridge, meetings were well attended and allowed riders to play various scenarios with the judging panels.

Tricia Byrnes stated that it was a good format and helped the athletes to work through some issues. Scott Palmer announced that the Grand Prix would continue to provide these opportunities and that all coaches and athletes should take note. Collins reported that the USASA did this and it was the best way to communicate.

The entire IJC report and education proposals were available by contacting Becky Woolley.

8. Member Services: Sheryl Barnes

Barnes reviewed the membership numbers for the 05-06 season, highlighting that snowboarding was down 1 official for total of 146 and 2 coaches for a total of 100. Athlete membership was up 9% for national memberships (511 members) and 16% regionally (591 members). There were no fee changes for the 06-07 season, and no

management changes within the membership department. A new addition to member services was management of the on-line store.

Woolley asked Barnes if the membership year would be changing to align with the alpine year. Barnes stated that they had adapted their season to meet the needs of the first alpine FIS list, which now appeared in June instead of November, but that all other sports would remain the same at this time. If there were a change, it would be communicated extensively. Barnes also noted that they were using the www.ussa.org page to post multiple reminders about membership deadlines.

9. Regional Rep/ Rocky: Ben Boyd

Boyd highlighted the two coaches' education clinics that were held in the Rocky region this year, both hosted out of Ski & Snowboard Club Vail. Clinicians were Ben Boyd, Nathan Park (SSCV) and Jason Troth (TMS). Clinics were fun and well received by all.

It was decided amongst the clubs in the Rocky Mountain area to disband RMST. This was due to the growth of the USASA Copper Series, the demise of the SOS Series and the clubs' desire to put on a Colorado Championships. The championships were hosted by Aspen and saw a great attendance from most of the clubs. Thanks to Miah Wheeler and his crew from AVSC for putting this on.

Once again, a major concern for most of the programs was the heavy competition schedule between USASA Events (16 in all in most series), Revolution Tours, Grand Prixes and independent pro events like the US Open, Aspen Open and Spring Massive.

Boyd confirmed that this was leading to limited training opportunities for athletes, particularly those who were not full time, and it was also seen that athletes under the age of 10 were getting thrown into competition really early without having the necessary mileage on snow to improve skills.

At present, clubs involved in the Copper series were working on ways to have fewer events with better quality. Thanks to Jim Smith from Summit, Jon Casson from SSWSC, Bob Holme from Winter Park, SSCV and the crew from CBA as they worked together with Paul Krahulec to help with the development of the Colorado athletes. There was great interest from clubs and organizers from the Rocky area to host a Revolution Tour. Areas already looking into those opportunities were Copper Mountain and Vail.

Colorado athletes had been getting great results, and development from grass roots up to elite athlete was going well. All the clubs in the region needed to be congratulated on great programs and coaching coming from all of them. Great results came from Dylan Bidez (Team Summit), Matty Ladley (SSWSC), Jordan Karlinski (AVSC) and Broc Waring (SSCV). Congratulations to Colorado junior athletes who were selected to World Cups: Jordan Karlinski, Lindsey Telling, Kim Krahulec and Sabrina Ste Marie, as well as those selected to FIS World Juniors: Dylan Bidez, Matt Ladley, Jordan Karlinski, Clair Bidez and Vic Wild.

Boyd concluded that it was a great season in the Rocky Mountain area, with an awesome snow year and good development across the board. Boyd also announced that this was his last year as Rocky mountain rep, and that it had been a pleasure to serve the snowboard membership of the Rocky region for the past three years. Boyd would remain heavily involved, but felt that due to personal and professional reasons, it was best to have someone else step in and take the reins. He was still available to support Paul Krahulec in his new role as Rocky Rep, and would continue to work hard in coaches' education and developing the athlete. He thanked everyone for the privilege of being able to serve the USSA.

10. Regional Rep/ Central: Tom Casey

Casey provided a little more background about himself and his familiarity with the Minnesota, Michigan and Iowa regions. He passed around a report from Mo Shorr in Michigan about the state of affairs in their area and their goal to focus on SBX as a high school sport. Shorr's report also stated that their strengths were halfpipe and slopestyle. Casey also distributed a report about the All American team headed up by Jessica Zalusky from Minnesota.

Casey expressed his enthusiasm about being involved with the Revolution Tour and the great qualifying opportunities it provided, highlighting that the event at Spirit this season provided both World Junior and World Cup opportunities. He was looking forward to having the event back in his region. Casey also touched on his primary goal of projecting the image of having fun through snowboarding and reminded everyone of the great riders who came from the central area: Danny Davis, Steve Fisher, Mason and Molly Aguirre.

11. Regional Rep/ Intermountain: Michael Bell

Bell announced that the Intermountain region's main focus was building the USASA series and that it just kept growing with teams bringing more and more athletes to events. Highlights this season included a sold out Revolution Tour at Jackson and 180 competitors at one of the USASA events. On the education front, the USASA and USSA co-hosted a coaches' clinic and an IJC judging clinic. Bell believed they were just scratching the surface of youth riders in the greater Salt Lake valley and the potential for continued growth was huge.

Andy Gilbert stated that Intermountain was a great region to look at for development because it was so fractured, with a minimum of four hours of driving to every stop and events selling out, the region was ready to grow.

12. Regional Rep/ Pacific Northwest: Randy Rogers

Rogers stated that the only events in the region were the U.S. SBX Nationals at Mt. Hood Meadows and the NorAm Finals at Crystal Mountain. There was little activity in the Northwest and he continued to struggle with how to kickstart grassroots in this area.

Lisa Kosglow announced that there were several athletes now living in the area who were interested in learning what was going on and how to help. She inquired about involvement of USASA. Collins said there were two long-time series, one at Mt. Hood and one at MT. Bachelor, and a new series out of Spokane at Schweitzer.

Rogers said he would like to encourage officials' development and a judging clinic around the first weekend of November, and that the biggest challenge in the region was getting clubs organized and connected. The high school league in Oregon was also discussed, and Rogers would look into trying to use it as a catalyst. It was agreed to meet later with Kosglow to discuss a development strategy.

13. Regional Rep/ East: Michael Mallon for Alan Smarse

Mallon stated that membership was flat in the East. There was also a new USASA series in central Vermont, but there was the same problem of finding open weekends for bigger events due to five series existing within four hours of each other. USASA directors were trying to work around other schedules, and club directors needed to focus on managing athletic starts and demanding more "off" weekends.

14. U.S. National Team: Peter Foley

Foley thanked everyone for the job they did developing talent and bringing it up the line, stating that it amazed him every year. Foley reviewed staffing changes, bringing Jeff Archibald on board as a full time SBX coach, moving Mike Jankowski up to the position of head halfpipe coach with Ricky Bower as the assistant. Jan Wengelin and Steve Persons would continue to head the alpine team. In developing the plan this season, the goal was to provide each team with basic needs to support an A team at the top level by providing: two coaches, a wax tech, a PT and funding for a full and reasonable season. Foley was excited to report this was accomplished for all three teams.

The summer schedule was available in the Addendum A plan. Official teams would not be announced until the first summer camps when the new team agreement was ready. Team selection criteria were distributed for everyone to review.

Foley then provided a recap of the Olympics, addressing the challenges of the selection criteria in maximum team size and how it pitted athletes against each other in different sports. This translated to some negative energy on the alpine side. He addressed that it was difficult to find a way around this scenario, and that if two Olympic spots were promised per discipline per gender, it would result in leaving behind athletes with World Cup podiums. On a positive note, the criteria picked a great team and in a good time frame, allowing for great Olympic preparation.

Kosglow asked about the number of athletes in the Games for snowboarding. Slattery reviewed that the Olympic quota was supposed to be 140 snowboard athletes, but with the maximum team size of 16, over 170 snowboard athletes participated in the 2006 Olympics. It looked unlikely that this quota would be raised, and not many nations were having the same quota limitation issues that the U.S. did.

Foley concluded his report with a picture slide show from the Olympics to share some of the experiences of the Games, including logistical challenges and successes.

15. FIS Report: Bill Slattery

Woolley asked Slattery to review the FIS structure for new committee members before his presentation. Slattery explained his role as chairman of the FIS snowboard committee as a comparison to Mallon's role at these meetings. He explained that the FIS committee was then divided into three working groups: Rules - which Peter Foley was a member of, Technical Delegates - which Tom Winters was a member of, and Judges - no direct U.S. representation, but Tom Winters served as a liaison. The committee dealt with rule changes and proposals on an annual basis, voted on them and then referred them to the Council. Slattery also stated that all positions except staff members were volunteer. The medical committee at the FIS level often drove some of the issues that came up concerning rules (helmets, course specs, etc).

Slattery reviewed the four U.S. proposals this year: a snow seed rule for SBX, a second run seed for SBX qualifications, reducing the slopestyle age to 13, and changing the name of the FIS to the International Ski and Snowboard Federation. Another issue on the table being discussed would come up through the development task force, the U.S. proposal for a team SBX event. The annual FIS meetings were in two weeks in Portugal, and meeting minutes were available by request.

Slattery concluded that "if you want to start to understand how the FIS works, read through the comments to the agenda in your packet to see the attitude and interests of other nations and their directions and intentions."

16. Rule Changes: Becky Woolley

Woolley addressed the current specifications of slopestyle courses at regional events and proposed dropping the minimum specifications from six features with four different varieties of features to four features with two varieties. Organizers faced a difficult challenge finding resources to place judging panels in a location that allowed them to judge together and view the entire course for a reasonable cost.

A course with four features, she explained, still allowed for reasonable variety and to showcase skill levels with one judging panel. Split panels at the regional level meant that you either had two panels of two judges or the course was weighted unevenly with a 3/2 split. There were also software limitations in that the current design of Split Second only allowed for five judging judges.

Woolley pointed out that all but one of the courses at the regional level had been under the six feature minimum specification, so the rule was already being broken on a consistent basis.

Discussion ensued over concern of lowering the level and quality of slopestyle events and what constituted an ideal slopestyle course. It was determined that courses must have a minimum of two large jumps and may have a variety of any other features. This rule revision would also help smaller hills that might not have enough vertical feet to meet the specifications as currently written. It was stressed that these were minimum guidelines, and whenever possible course designers should have a goal to provide longer courses.

Rule was revised to read:

1001.2 A Slopestyle course must have a minimum of four features, not favoring regular or goofy foot riders, which shall include at least two jumps, and two other forms of terrain park features which may include fun boxes, quarter pipes, waves, rails, spines or other approved features.

Approved by acclamation.

Woolley also brought up a housekeeping issue in the rulebook that addressed rankings in the final results of a USSA sanctioned SBX event for both six and four person formats. Currently the rules allowed for all competitors outside of the big and small finals to be tied within the round they went out in.

This rule was left over from the days when time qualifiers were not standard procedure, now time trials provided a fair way to rank athletes and this rule change was consistent with what actually happened at the international level.

Rules were revised to read:

915.1 Six Person Format. The top 12 riders are ranked according to art. 910.1 and 910.6. The remaining riders will be ranked within groups (i.e. 13-24; 25-49 and so on) according to their qualification time.

915.2 Four Person Format. The top 8 riders are ranked according to art. 911.1 and 911.6. The remaining riders will be ranked within groups (i.e. 9-16; 17-32 and so on) according to their qualification time.

Approved by acclamation.

17. Athlete Report: Lisa Kosglow and Tricia Byrnes

Kosglow introduced Byrnes as the new athlete rep who would represent the freestyle side while Kosglow focused on alpine, and the two of them were working together to communicate with SBX athletes.

Kosglow covered the pros and cons of the Olympic criteria for the PGS athletes, stating that the major fault was that the results of a slalom race helped to determine a World Cup start right in the Olympic criteria. All selection events for PGS should only concern PGS races.

As the athlete rep, Kosglow had reviewed and approved the criteria and took personal blame for that oversight. The PGS athletes also felt that using the World Cups for qualification limited the field too much, and that if using World Cups was necessary, efforts needed to be focused on increasing U.S. World Cup quotas to provide opportunities for more athletes.

In general, most athletes felt that too many quota spots remained "protected" on the World Cup. Kosglow also addressed the unfortunate lawsuit that arose out of wording in the Olympic criteria and how it resulted in costly expenses and caused a rift in the team mid-season. Lessons learned from the lawsuit were a review in the approval and writing process of criteria as well as practicing the usage of standard verbiage in criteria.

Athletes had suggestions for how to build World Cup criteria and would like to be involved in a working group to assist in writing criteria. Foley accepted this idea and would work with Kosglow to establish a group of athletes as a working group.

Kosglow also expressed concern over the new mission statement and lack of the word "team" in it, and future concerns about the lack of alpine events at the Grand Prix series. In general she said that athletes were pleased with how funding on the team was distributed this year. Kosglow also worked to gather information about whether gloves were performance apparel, and alpine athletes felt that the dollars brought in by Nike affected all athletes better than those athletes with individual glove deals and gloves should be a part of the team uniform.

Byrnes recapped the Olympic selection procedure and felt it worked well for the halfpipe team; the most vocal complaints were about venue location, particularly Mt. Bachelor and some against Mountain Creek. Important events should be scheduled where the weather was likely to be desirable. Athletes understood that weather could not be controlled, but scheduling in an area prone to rain and terrible storms seemed like a poor approach.

Byrnes also relayed the opinion that the last two qualifiers should mimic Olympic competition conditions, so no night event leading up to 2006; if 2010 were a night event, then qualifiers should be night events. Athletes also felt that there were too many contests in too short of a time period, it was hard to stay focused and keep enthusiasm high. Webster posed the question that if they hadn't had so many weather delays, would the athletes still feel the same way? It was discussed and determined that multiple delays did not help the cause.

Byrnes' last point stressed the importance of slopestyle having a consistent presence at a high level in the Grand Prix series.

Overall, athletes felt that SBX Olympic criteria nailed it, all the athletes wished for more spots at the Olympics, and that even the PGS team, despite the grumbling, admitted the criteria worked well.

18. Industry Report: Becky Woolley for Marty Carrigan

Carrigan provided Woolley with information prior to the meeting, including a detailed market summary from SIA as well as a review of some key questions posed to the industry. Both reports were available by contacting Becky Woolley.

Discussion revolved around the companies that had been approached: Palmer, K2, Vans, DC, ThirtyTwo, C-3 (Capita, Union, Deeluxe). All were very core companies, not necessarily interested in competitive snowboarding and their responses reflected this. Most of the answers in the survey reflected that these companies were unaware and unclear of what USSA did or even what USASA did, of the opinion that halfpipe was too robotic, the Olympics was not the soul of snowboarding, and that sponsor support was available for a few key riders, not for events and development.

Keene pointed out that perhaps their perception of U.S. Snowboarding was a little bit skewed, but that obviously it was still a common perception and we had some work to do. Forster stated that we had done a good job of working with riders at our events, but had not focused on reaching outside of the competition circle. The group concluded that as formalized clubs and programs continued to grow, awareness would increase and that we would continue to reach out to industry partners through various avenues.

19. Grand Prix Report: Eric Webster & Scott Palmer

Webster reviewed the 05/06 Grand Prix event series and Lake Placid World Cup, stating that venues this season were much improved over the previous year. Overall, they were pleased with the event season despite some weather challenges.

Goals for the Grand Prix series in 06-07 were:

- Create progressive venues that present opportunities for increasing fan base
- Continue to support and enhance the US Snowboarding brand and mission
- Provide revenue generation opportunities through event sponsorship, television and fundraising fulfillment
- Focus on maintaining status as a premier snowboard series
- Maintain participation levels with focus on attracting strong fields

Webster also highlighted some challenges facing the events dept in 06-07:

- Fulfilling expectations of diverse client groups: athletes/coaches, sponsors, resort partners and broadcast/media.
- Providing venues that had 22' halfpipes and keeping pace with the increased costs of venue design and construction. It was discussed that if bigger pipes were used, adequate training time needed to be allowed for riders to learn the pipe and generate rider enthusiasm.
- Balancing athletic and business obligations.
- Limited prime competition weeks, there were only seven or eight good weekends to host a competition outside of holiday weekends, and then scheduling had to compete with other events.

Grand Prix Schedule 2006-2007

December 15-17	Breckenridge	Halfpipe*	Exhibition
February 2-4	TBD	Halfpipe*	Exhibition
February 23-25	Mountain Creek	Halfpipe*	SBX*

*National Championship Events

Tentative Grand Prix Schedule 2007-2008

December 13-16	Breckenridge	Halfpipe	Exhibition
January 11-13	TBD	Halfpipe	Exhibition
February 8-10	TBD	Halfpipe	SBX

20. Domestic Event Report: Becky Woolley

Woolley recapped the domestic season starting with the Race to the Cup Series, which was in its third season qualifying athletes for start rights at the Lake Placid World Cup. Stops this year included:

- Copper, CO Nov. 21-22, 2005 42 Women/ 65 Men
- Okemo, VT Dec. 20-21, 2005 28 Women/ 60 Men
- Steamboat Springs, CO January 29-30, 2006 21 Women/ 36 Men

The first two events served as World Cup/ pre-Olympic Qualifiers, driving attendance and participation by national team members, resulting in 500-point races. Races in Steamboat were worth 320. U.S. races continue to have higher participation numbers and points value than Canada. Prize money this year was divided among top three for both disciplines, \$350/ \$250/ \$125. The schedule was geographically spread throughout the season, with events available in Canada in February and March or the opportunity to travel in Europe without missing U.S. events. RTTC in 06-07 would continue with stops at Copper and Steamboat, one location needed in the East.

The athletics department also hosted the first ever U.S. SBX Championships at Mt. Hood Meadows, OR Dec. 16, 2005 with 26 women and 69 men competing. The U.S. SBX Championships were scheduled to fill a gap in the competition schedule left by the cancellation of the Grand Prix SBX event. The Grand Prix event was cancelled due to World Cup schedule changes that would eliminate the Grand Prix as a World Cup qualifier, resulting in no national team attendance.

To keep the Olympic selection process as open as possible and provide opportunities to "make" the World Cup, the race at Meadows was scheduled for mid-December. Meadows did a great job building the course, staffing and managing the venue. Prize money was available for 1-4 in the amount of \$4,000/ \$2,000/ \$1,000/ \$500 and \$125 each for men's field 5th-8th. The U.S. SBX Championships were not scheduled for 06-07, because SBX would be at one of the Grand Prix events next season.

In its second year, the Revolution tour hosted three winter stops and would host one summer stop. Woolley reviewed the winter stops and their attendance:

- Jan. 13-15 Spirit Mountain, MN
 - o HP 15 W/ 60 M/ 11 Jr SS 17 W/ 72 M/ 18 Jr SBX 11 W/ 35 M
- Jan. 27-29 Killington, VT
 - o HP 10 W/ 40 M SS 6 W/ 50 M SBX CANCELLED
- Mar. 10-12 Jackson Hole, WY
 - o HP 21 W/ 52 M/ 15 Jr SS 19 W/ 62 M/ 14 Jr SBX 9 W/ 43 M
 - o June 20-21 Windells, OR

Spirit and Killington were World Junior qualifiers as well as a qualifier for the Lake Placid World Cup SBX event. The SBX at Killington was cancelled due to lack of snow and rain resulting in the inability to build a sufficient course. Course conditions throughout the tour were high quality. Killington and Jackson both hosted a high-energy rail jam. Jackson and Spirit were sold out for HP and SS. Killington had some issues with coaches not

attending the coaches' meeting, resulting in missed starts and unhappy athletes and parents.

Tour support included prize products from Burton, series T-Shirts from Bonfire, product from Swix, Helly, Smith, Level Gloves, Palmer Snowboards, and Windells. *Snowboard* magazine provided three full-page ads in their winter issues supporting the series. US Open awarded pre-qualified spots to all winners of HP and SS events, USASA awarded Open class spots to overall Tour winners, top three finishers earned exempt spots on the 06-07 Grand Prix Tour.

Calendaring for 06-07 Revolution Tour was in process with Okemo tentatively slated for March 2-4. Far West, Rocky and Central stops were TBD. All stops would include HP, SS, SBX and an optional Rail Jam. USSA had increased tour support next year with prize money, increased site fees, a Technical Advisor, a Race Administrator, and an equipment budget.

The committee was asked for its input on how to divide up the \$10,000 prize money budget throughout the season with the following options:

- Option 1- Every stop, every discipline award \$100/ \$75/ \$50 and then at the last spring stop a bonus of \$750 to each overall tour winner
- Option 2- Every stop, every discipline award \$250/ \$100/ \$75
- Option 3- Every stop, 1st place in every discipline: \$415

It was determined that if the goal of the tour was to encourage athletes to travel the entire tour, Option 1 was best, if the goal was to truly be a regional event, than Option 2 was best. Feedback would be considered and the U.S. Snowboarding staff would reach a decision.

Woolley also approached the topic of age classes and field size limits for 06-07. Currently some stops allowed a 12 and under division capped at 20 competitors. This made the schedule very tight to maintain a format with a two-run qualifier and two-run finals for the remaining 60 men and 20 women. It was determined that the 12 and under division was not necessary and would in fact help some coaches with keeping that age group focused on fun instead of competition.

The domestic schedule concluded with the NorAm Finals at Crystal Mountain, WA where 29 women and 49 men competed. Crystal had great promotional coverage, excitement and enthusiasm for the event, including athlete tickets to the Sonics game, seating in a VIP box and a halftime presentation. Timing had some technical difficulties on the first day, but overall the organization made up for delays. Canada supported the event with some sponsor signage and \$6,000 in prize money, bringing prize money totals to \$1,500/ \$1,000/ \$500 each discipline and gender. Top U.S. and Canadian athletes were named national champs for each nation.

U.S. Snowboarding would continue partnership with Canada for the 2007 NorAm Finals; it was good for the sport promotionally and athletically. Canada would host 2007 in Eastern Canada, following the World Cup Finals in Eastern Canada. U.S. would support the event with \$6,000 in prize money, signage and organizational support if needed.

21. World Junior Championships: Michael Mallon

Mallon attended World Juniors this season as the team leader and said that it was the best World Juniors he had attended in the seven that he had seen. Positives included: great location of lodging in comparison to the venue, all teams lodged at the same hotel,

underground amusement park/mall between lodging and venue for entertainment, manicured venues, flawless training, 150 volunteers and lots of cultural interaction.

U.S. athletes had outstanding performances. All men qualified for SBX finals, as well as all girls but one who finished 17th. PGS had one male and one female qualify for finals (Vic Wild and Abby Champagne). The men's HP field was tough and one of the three heats was particularly stacked, only one man made finals (Dylan Bidez, 6th) and Matt Ladley just missed finishing 13th. Highlight was the women's event with Clair Bidez winning and Ellery Hollingsworth 2nd.

Mallon felt the guest coaches were a great part of World Juniors. 2006 coaches included Hans Berger (SSWSC), Jim Smith (Team Summit), Spencer Tamblyn (SSWSC) and Travis McLain (AVSC). It presented a great opportunity for athletes to learn from different coaches and coaches to challenge themselves with different athletes. The timing of this year's World Juniors (one week prior to the Olympics) gave it a special feel as coaches talked to the athletes about how many current members of the Olympic team were at World Juniors just four years ago and that this event was truly like a mini-Olympics.

22. USASA Report: Tom Collins

Collins recapped the 05-06 season stats: USASA had 400 regional events in 37 different series this year. Three series were new, and three series were lost, the biggest surprise of which was the SOS series out of Vail, CO. There was a strong likelihood that next season would see a new series in Northern New York and Montana.

Fees this past season were \$50 for a USASA membership until October 31, and \$60 thereafter. At any point in the season competitors could purchase a temporary membership for \$30. The 05-06 season had 4,714 members and 649 temporary memberships. The operating budget for last season was approximately \$650,000.

Strongest membership categories were the 14-15 year old age group with 504 members, followed closely by the 16-17 year old group with 460 members. Each event series hosted an average of 12 events, and were required to host a minimum of three freestyle events, two-three alpine events and two SBX events. The trainers' division hosted 12 clinics and brought on more examiners this season.

The USASA insurance was offered to clubs and teams this year as well, offering \$5 million in general liability and \$5 million aggregate. The USASA board had new members with Scott Palmer as president, Bill Van Gelder as VP, Tim Windell and Phoebe Mills.

The USASA All American team brought home the Topolino trophy and used their international experience to attend some events in France. The USASA was still interested in the possibility of combining World Junior teams with USSA.

USASA Nationals occurred the first week of April in Northstar with 1,435 athletes in attendance, and a record 434 athletes paid the nationals entry fee just to compete in one event. Entry fee cost was \$250 and included a six-day lift ticket. One day there were 220 people competing in the slopestyle event. Every athlete received a pair of Da Kine gloves as a gift, and the SBX starts were from Global Management - the same gates as used at the X Games.

USASA Nationals changes for next year would require coaches to be certified in order to receive complimentary lift tickets, but they would recognize all certifications. 2007 Nationals would also occur at Northstar and USASA was currently seeking bids for 2008 and entertaining ideas at Okemo, Loon, Alyeska, and Sugarloaf.

23. New Business:

Woolley brought up a concern from domestic coaches about how SBX courses in the U.S. were designed and approved. Webster addressed the topic that the Grand Prix's goal was to provide courses that were safe, fun and consistent, creating opportunities, not risks. All organizers would ensure that courses were safe and dialed in before training opened. Mallon stated that the TD was ultimately responsible for the safety of the course, and that coaches always had an opportunity to object to features they felt were unsafe. Woolley addressed the attitude of resort management and risk management; many of whom were starting to require that a professional rider run the course before opening it to the competition field. She commented, "if you see this happening out in the field, it is not to provide a competitive advantage, only to keep resorts happy."

Forster posed the question about creating a Slopestyle National Champion and felt it was time to recognize it. The question was how to name a National Champion if slopestyle was not in the Grand prix - is it through the Revolution Tour, or is that the right level?

Discussion ensued throwing out ideas of combining the Aspen Open and US Open, using USASA Nationals, and if a National Champion was even necessary. The group determined that ideally the Grand Prix would provide a high-level slopestyle event, and that one event was enough to name a national champ, it did not need to be a series. It was also decided that the naming of a national champ would give slopestyle increased credibility within the USSA and FIS to keep moving it forward. It was also pointed out that U.S. Snowboarding did not want to get stuck in a hole just focusing on the Olympic disciplines like freestyle skiing had.

Further decisions were tabled until the Grand Prix determined its event schedule for 06-07 and that the executive committee could approve it at that time if necessary.

Forster announced that snowboarding would receive a special recognition award at the awards dinner Friday evening.

24. Adjournment

There being no further business, Collins motioned to adjourn. Kosglow second.