

SNOWBOARDING SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

USSA CONGRESS 2008 - PARK CITY, UT

The Yarrow Resort Hotel & Conference Center, Park City, UT
May 16, 2008

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Michael Bell - Intermountain Rep
Bill Slattery - FIS Rep
Paul Krahulec - Rocky Rep (via teleconference)
Jason Toutolmin - USASA Rep
Tricia Byrnes - Athlete Rep
Lisa Kosglow - Athlete Rep
Tom Casey - Central Rep
Randy Rogers - PNW Rep
Mike Mallon - Chairman
Phoebe Mills - IJC Rep
Peter Foley – Coaches Rep
Scott Adam – Eastern Rep (via teleconference)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jon Casson - SSWSC
Andy Gilbert - SVSEF Coach
Jeremy Forster - US Snowboarding Director
Tom Winters - FIS Rep
Jon Casson - SSWSC Coach
Ben Boyd – Vail Club Coach
John Jett – CJ Timing
Cath Jett – CJ Timing
Luke Bodensteiner – USSA
Jim Smith – Team Summit
Dylan Omlin – Auburn Snowboard Club
Anna McIntyre
Steve Kostenberg – parent
Ross Hindman – Independent Coach
Andy Gilbert – SVSEF
Rick Shimpeno – SMS
Bud Keene – USSA
Nick Alexakos – USSA
Sheryl Barnes – USSA Membership
Fraser West

1. Chairman's Welcome: Michael Mallon

Mallon called the meeting to order, went through the introductions and determined that a quorum was achieved with those who were present. Mallon also reviewed the Sport Committee operating procedures.

2007 Minutes Approved motioned by Kosglow, seconded by Bell.

2. Jeremy Forster: Department Overview:

Forster discussed the intense spring planning that goes on within the organization and said USSA is investing in the future of snowboarding and new disciplines. Bud Keene will be coming on as the Freestyle Development Coach. Abbi Nyberg will also be taking a more development-focused position working with coaches' education and club programs. Also Nick Alexakos will be joining the team as the *Revolution Tour* Event Coordinator.

Forster also reviewed the process for the Olympic selection criteria. The biggest challenge is we need to earn our team size and it will determine how to meet our max team size. Olympic selection criteria have been drafted, approved by the USOC, and will be approved by the board this weekend. No event detail has been added. The intent is to keep the criteria the same as the 2006 selection process.

Tom Casey asked if we foresee any problems with meeting the maximum team size?

Foley outlined the strategy for getting our best possible chances of earning our nations team size. Alpine and SBX will be easier to gain the spots because they will be on the World Cup the entire year. Halfpipe will be more difficult to ensure we have athletes competing at the World Cup, while still attending the top events in the US.

Foster also noted the housing is secured in Vancouver for 2010. The 2010 Olympic Plan is looking good. We also plan to continue the TTR partnership with *Grand Prix*. Forster also updated the group on the new Center of Excellence, which will include a ramps and tramps area, partnering with Woodward to build the best possible indoor facility.

Forster stated Slopestyle would be a WC discipline for 08-09 and included as a WSC event in 2011. Team Boardercross was extremely successful and moving the discipline onto the WC calendar will be a priority for the US. Forster will discuss this further at the FIS Congress in June.

Ben Boyd asked if there be a slopestyle focus in Bud's job description? Forster answered that yes, it would be a part of Bud's duties.

Rick Shimpeno asked if the World Cup would step up and have a higher standard of venues?

Forster answered; hopefully, they had chosen good resorts to host these events – NZ & Bardonecchia for the first two events.

Forster also noted FIS has LG as a new title sponsor.

3. Membership Report: Sheryl Barnes

Barnes stated a new USSA Youth Membership discount was now available. She reminded the committee to utilize the Members List Tool. Barnes also discussed the new Online Membership Registration and they hoped to have it up and running by June. Foreign athletes were not able to register online. Each member would create an online account. Online registration is available for both FIS and USSA Memberships. The goal was to have 50% memberships processed online.

Phoebe Mills asked if background screening was available online? Barnes said, yes, background screening registration would be available online.

4. Eastern Report: Scott Adam via phone

Adam stated the Eastern region has a large grassroots development structure that is made up of 11 different series throughout the east. The east had a great competition season; east coast athletes were all over the world and the country. The east is a growing and thriving region, which has produced some outstanding athletes and will continue to develop top-level athletes for a long time to come. Adam also highlighted athletes from the Eastern Region.

5. Rocky Report: Paul Krahulec via phone

Krahulec highlighted the many events and athlete results in the Rocky region. The Rocky Region hosted two *Race to the Cup* events, a *Revolution Tour*, *Grand Prix* and a NorAM SBX event. He noted that the junior athletes from the region had a tremendous year both domestically and internationally posting top results amongst the fields packed with veterans. Krahulec addressed the tentative schedule for 08/09.

6. Intermountain Report: Michael Bell

Bell reported that event participation in the Intermountain saw a slight decline in the 07/08 season due to the distances required to travel to compete. The Intermountain region increased the number of trained judges by 25%, which helped raise the level of events. A new team was formed in Odgen.

7. Pacific Northwest Report: Randy Rogers for Hans Hibbard

Rogers reported that the Pacific Northwest put together a snowboard competition working group. They held a meeting at Mt Hood Meadows during the *Revolution Tour*, which was well attended. This group is working to establish a new series of events in the PNSA. Mt Hood Meadows hosted a *Revolution Tour* and did a great job and really got behind the event and the sport. Lisa Kosglow also established a competition-training program at Meadows.

8. Central Division: Tom Casey

Casey highlighted athletes from the Central region and their results at domestic and international levels. Casey noted the Spirit Mtn *Revolution Tour* was well-attended and provided high-quality venues. This year saw better judging with more consistent judges used.

9. Far West: Dylan Omlin

Omlin, while not a committee member, was asked to share what was happening in the Tahoe area. He reported they had seen large growth in the number of events in the area and more athletes moving onto the international competition scene.

10. Team Report: Peter Foley

Alpine had an extremely successful year – four World podiums by Jewell, Gorgone, Smith and Reiter. The Alpine has a full summer schedule ahead with dry land and testing camp in Park City in May and September, New Zealand in August, and then back to Colorado in November.

The SBX team also had another great season. Nate, Lindsey with X Games wins. From November to April the team finished 1st or 2nd in every event except one. Lindsey had five WC podiums this season. Coaching staff remains the same with Peter Foley and Jeff Archibald. First camp will take place at Mt Hood June 14 – 23.

It was a great year for young Halfpipe riders. Greg Bretz had three WC podiums and Louie Vito won the Grand Prix Overall. Gretchen Bleiler won the X Games. US riders

won 9 of 12 top events in the world. Coaching staff remains the same with Mike Jankowski and Rick Bower and this season we will be adding Bud Keene as the Development Team coach.

Keene discussed the plan for the Development team. He stated the team would consist of both Halfpipe and Slopestyle riders. Keene is looking to improve communication with club coaches and continue to improve coaches' education.

Boyd asked if the vision is to keep these athletes in their clubs? Keene responded that Club coach communication should stay open to determine what is best for each athlete.

11. Athlete Report: Lisa Kosglow/Tricia Byrnes

Alpine:

- World Cup Team most successful season since 2001
- Some staffing concerns-wax tech, coaching issues
- Team needs full-time PT-right now PT rotates, no consistency

Halfpipe:

- *Grand Prix*-need to raise the level of events, better pipes, bigger prize payouts and better venues
- *Revolution Tour* was well received, some complaints in Park City
- Riders love the expression session-would like to see more of these type of events
- The *Grand Prix* needs to keep TTR tour in mind and try to incorporate into that system more
- Slopestyle or expression session needs to continue to be a part of the *Grand Prix* event series

Snowboardcross:

- Would like to have more snowboardcross events on *Grand Prix Tour*, and have the course dialed in more before event days
- Team needs another wax tech
- Riders were happy about FIS World Cups events
- 48straight is a nice stepping stone for US snowboardcross athletes, would love to have more high-caliber US events

Overall the *Grand Prix* venues need to be ready earlier and perfect for each practice day. Byrnes stated that the *Grand Prix* needs to step up the caliber of its events. Otherwise it will lose athletes and its status among the riders.

12. Judges Report: Phoebe Mills

Mills stated the IJC educated and certified more new judges in 2007 than it has in many years past. USSA hosted a lot of events last season so there were many opportunities for these judges. As a result, we introduced several new judges to both the *Revolution Tour* and *Grand Prix* events. Most judges were more than ready to judge these events and did a great job, only one or two fell short of expectations.

Two US judges were scheduled for three FIS World Cups. This is an improvement over the past few years and we are moving in the right direction. Unfortunately, several qualified US judges applied for FIS events and did not get scheduled. USSA must be willing to send judges to the FIS European judge clinics if it wants FIS to schedule more US judges.

The *Grand Prix* events have reached a very high level in terms of riding and event management. However, some of the best riders are not participating in all three GP events. IJC believes this has partly to do with the quality of the halfpipes and partly with conflicting event schedules. All of the *Grand Prix* venues must have the best halfpipes. Although Breckenridge does an outstanding job year after year, both Tamarack and Killington fell short of rider expectations in this respect. The scheduling of events is difficult due to all the other pro events, but that means USSA must stay on the cutting edge in terms of competition formats and prize money in order to retain interest in the GP events. IJC would like to work with USSA to implement different competition formats, except perhaps when it's an Olympic year making it more important to use the same formats as used in the Olympics.

The *Revolution Tour* is a great series but still needs to improve the quality of events in terms of pipe and slope conditions. Slopestyle events are definitely more challenging to run, but it is extremely important for both the riders and the judges to have safe, well-designed courses. For instance, judges absolutely must be able to see the entire slopestyle course and that includes the approach, take-off and landing areas. The HJ should be included in all pre-event discussions about the location of judges' stands and course features.

13. FIS Report: Bill Slattery/Jeremy Forster

Slattery discussed the agenda items being proposed at the FIS Congress. Winters added that Big Air should be taken out of the World Cup calendar and replaced with Slopestyle. Winters also added that the US would not be sending any athletes to the 2009 World University Games.

Forster also discussed the SBX rule changes being submitted at the FIS Congress.

Slattery discussed that he and Winters were updating the FIS ICR and should have it available for review in early summer.

14. USASA Report: Jason Toutolmin

Toutolmin stated that the USASA Fall Summit was well attended by judges, officials and coaches. Membership had a steady growth, more full status members. Over 500 events, 50 +/- series. USASA now has better insurance coverage for their events and members. Working with ReDesign for software for National Ranking system, online registration for membership and events and working on website updates.

At USASA Nationals they had 1615 competitors during the six-day event. Overall great event! 3 star TTR event for the HP. Invested to make it look better with signage and event materials. Go211 did live webcast that was very beneficial. USASA Nationals will be back in Copper for 2009. Working on an Alumni Event at Nationals.

Red Bull was a big sponsor of Nationals. PacSun sponsorship, title sponsor of National Team. PacSun had XGames booth, camps and provided funding for PacSun riders. This year PacSun will provide less coaching and more financial support, camp, photo shoot. Woodward camp in August.

Still working on sponsorship support for the organization. Trying to expand more paid positions. Overall the organization is in good shape and looking towards the future.

15. Grand Prix Report: Nick Alexakos

Alexakos gave a recap of the 07/08 *Grand Prix* season. Saw many weather challenges during the year and poor attendance at the Tamarack event due to the weather. Alexakos presented the plan for the 08/09 season. The *Grand Prix* is working to have all 22' pipes. Change in the truck giveaway, you must be present to win. Date for next season: Dec. 10-13, January 28 – February 1, and March 13 – 15.

Byrnes asked what was being done to up the level of the venues. Byrnes highlighted the need for the *Grand Prix* to raise the bar to make sure the events stay relevant.

Alexakos stated they would do everything possible to increase the quality of the events. Keene – asked what was going to be done with the builders to insure we have the right person even if we are back-to-back with other events.

Kostenberg asked why not sanction more of the events as TTR.

Boyd recommends putting the slopestyle at the December event, rather than the Killington east coast event.

Casson asked if the AST conflicted with the *Grand Prix*. Forster responded, no we have worked together to make sure our dates do not conflict. We have recommended to the AST that they utilize our *Revolution Tour* events as qualifiers.

16. Lake Placid World Cup: Nick Alexakos

Overall great event with Team SBX as the highlight event. Jacobellis and Baumgartner both won the SBX. Tyler Jewell was 2nd in the PGS, first domestic podium for men. High spectator attendance for all events.

17. Race to the Cup Report: Abbi Nyberg

Copper, CO November 15-16 GS - 57 M/34W SL - 58M/32 W
Steamboat Springs, CO January 4-5 PGS - 35M/19W PSL - 36M/19W
Park City, UT February 6-7 GS - 41M/26W PSL - 40M/26W

Summary: High point races at both Copper and Park City. U.S. continues to have more races, higher participation numbers, and points' values than Canada. Prize money this year was divided among top three for both disciplines, \$400/ \$225/ \$125. We worked in cooperation with Canada to develop a cohesive schedule.

Tentative Schedule 08/09:
Nov 19-20 Copper, CO
Jan. 9-10 Steamboat, CO
March East Coast

NorAm Finals

March 22-23 Mt Hood Meadows, OR 52M/30W – PGS, 48M/30W - PSL

Summary: In 07/08 it was the U.S.'s turn to host the NorAm Finals. We continued our partnership with Canada; they provided \$6,000 in prize money to the event. Mt Hood Meadows did a great job hosting the event, good feedback from athletes and coaches regarding the hill and preparation.

18. Revolution Tour Report: Abbi Nyberg

Jan. 11-13 Spirit Mtn, MN			
HP 25 W/ 59 M	SS 25 W/ 73 M		SBX 27 W/ 41 M
Jan. 20-22 Copper, CO			
HP 36 W/ 79 M	SS 55 W/ 93 M		SBX 39 W/ 62 M
Jan. 26-27 Park City, UT			
HP 35 W/ 79 M	SS 30 W/ 99 M		
Feb. 22-24 Meadows, OR			
HP 25 W/ 61 M	SS 26 W/ 0 M		SBX 23 W/ 51 M
Feb. 29 - Mar. 1 Sno Mtn, PA			
HP 13 W/ 35 M	SS 10 W/55 M		SBX 9 W/ 36 M

Summary: Once again the *Revolution Tour* was a huge success. Registration for the events sold out within 30 minutes. The *Revolution Tour* events were qualifiers for Junior World Championships, Grand Prix 07/08 and 08/09, USASA Nationals, Lake Placid World Cup and the US Open. All of the resorts built great venues (Park City and Snow Mtn – 22' pipes). Mt Hood Meadows built an outstanding SBX venue.

We will continue to strive to use host resorts with high-quality venues. Tour support included prize product from Burton, series T-Shirts from Bonfire, product from Swix, Dakine, Smith, Kicker and Skullcandy. *Snowboard* magazine provided four full-page ads in their winter issues supporting the series. US Open awarded pre-qualified spots to the top two overall winners, USASA awarded Open class spots to overall Tour winners, top three finishers earned exempt spots on the 07-08 *Grand Prix Tour* and the top 25 Men and 20 Women earned spots in the 08-09 *Grand Prix*.

Tentative Schedule 07/08:

Jan. 22-23 Copper – SBX, HP, SS

Feb. 8-10 TBD - SBX, HP, SS

Feb. 20-22 Mt Hood Meadows – SBX, HP, SS

Mar. 6-8 East Coast – SBX, HP, SS

SBX NorAm events

Copper, CO January 30-31 30 Women/ 65 Men x 2

Summary: Copper hosted two well-received NorAm SBX events right after the X-Games. Field was not as high a caliber compared to the previous year.

19. Program Report: Abbi Nyberg

World Junior Championships – Valmalenco, ITA

- Event moved from Khanty-Mansiysk, RUS to Italy with two weeks notice. The date and location change caused an overlap with the US Open and we lost half of the original HP team.
- 24 total athletes (5W/5M SBX, 4W/4M HP, 3W/3 M PGS/PSL, 1M BA).
- Kaitlyn Farrington 2nd HP, Callan Chythlook-Sifsof 2nd SBX, Brooke Shaw 3rd SBX.
- U.S. athletes had a great showing. High-level competition. All but one male qualified for SBX finals, and three women qualified for finals. Brooke Shaw (6th PGS, 12th PSL) qualified for both PGS & PSL Finals. Michael Trapp qualified for PSL Finals (11th PSL).
- Good SBX quality venues, JWC followed World Cup Finals.
- Guest coaches – Nathan Park, Jon Casson, Adam Cassanova, Phil Fell, and Spencer Tamblyn

Junior Development Camps

- Halfpipe – two successful camps. May camp held in conjunction with the National team at Mt Hood Meadows 22" pipe. June camp held at Windells. Rick Shimpeno and Spencer Tamblyn were guest coaches.
- SBX – great camp held at Mt Hood Meadows with the National team, Meadows built a full course for the athletes to train. Nathan Park guest coach.
- Alpine – good camp in conjunction with the national team at Mt Hood. Good training conditions during the whole camp. Phil Fell guest coach.
- May 2008 Project Gold HP camp scheduled in Mammoth, SBX Project Gold camp scheduled in June at Hood and Alpine camp tentatively scheduled for June at Hood.

Officials' Education

- USSA and IJC worked closely to prioritize the goals for judges' education – US judge on the Olympic judging panel in 2014.
- A National judges' clinic was held in Copper as well as two regional judges' clinics. In 2008 we will host a FIS judges' clinic in the US with two-three regional clinics.
- Officials' Education subcommittee was formed and basic revision of the officials' manual was completed. Will continue to work this summer to clean up the USSA rulebook.
- USSA will also join a discussion with industry partners to outline best practices for Snowboarding events.

Coaches' Education

- A coaches' working group was formed in conjunction with USASA. A pipeline has been developed for coaches' education. USASA held several Level 100 and 200 clinics in 2008. Together USSA and USASA will host at least two Level 300 Clinics in 2008/2009 with the goal to build out the pipeline to include a Coaches' Academy by 2011.

20. Old Business: World University Games

The US will not be sending any athletes to China for any events due to the condition of the medical facilities.

21. Revolution Tour Qualifiers:

Discussion ensued based on the proposed invitation criteria for the *Revolution Tour*. The group consensus was to keep the majority of the field as open registration and take the top athletes from the previous year's *Revolution Tour* and USASA Nationals. Nyberg will send out the final criteria for the committee's approval.

22. Race to the Cup Junior events:

Kosglow brought up the issue of adding a junior race to the *Race to the Cup* events. There has been a request for athletes who are under 15 to compete at the higher-level races. Discussion ensued regarding allowing these athletes to compete in the *Race to the Cup*. The committee came to the conclusion that athletes who are not of age to compete at the *Race to the Cup* should compete in Open Class USASA division races and when they are of age they move into competing at the *Race to the Cup* events.

23. Coaches' Education Update

A coaches' working group was formed in conjunction with USASA. A pipeline has been developed for coaches' education. USASA held several Level 100 and 200 clinics in 2008. Together USSA and USASA will host at least two Level 300 Clinics in 2008/2009 with the goal to build out the pipeline to include a Coaches' Academy by 2011.

Keene discussed that, in his development coach position, he would establish a formal communication channel with the coaches. He also outlined the pipeline for coaches' education.

24. SBX Rule Change

Mallon proposed to change the USSA SBX rule regarding intentional contact to match the FIS rule. The exact documentation could not be found. Nyberg stated that she would send out the exact rule change language and vote via email.

25. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Michael Bell, Kosglow second

A. Nyberg, 6 08