

# SNOWBOARDING SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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USSA CONGRESS 2011  
The Marriot Hotel, 1895 Sidewinder Drive, Park City, UT  
May 20, 2011

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Andy Gilbert - Intermountain Rep  
Bill Slattery - FIS Rep  
Bill Van Gilder- USASA Rep  
Tricia Byrnes - Athlete Rep  
Danny Kass - Athlete Rep  
Dylan Omlin – Far West  
Chris Davis– Eastern Rep (via conference call)  
Jon Casson - Chairman  
Phoebe Mills - IJC Rep  
Mike Jankowski – Coaches Rep

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jeremy Forster - US Snowboarding Director  
Tom Winters - FIS Rep  
Rick Shimpeno – Woodward  
Ashley Berger - SSWSC  
Ross Hindman – ISTC  
Bud Keene – USSA  
Nick Alexakos – USSA  
Eric Webster – USSA  
Rick Bower – USSA  
Sheryl Barnes – USSA Membership  
Ian Kirk – SMS  
Dave Redden - SMS  
Ross Powers – SMS  
Jeff Moran – Jackson Hole  
Jack Coghlan- Park City Snowboard Team  
Andy Coghlan – Park City Snowboard Team  
Spencer Tamblyn – ISTC  
Eric Rolls – Team Utah  
Jonathan Cheever – SBX Team  
Chris Karol – Team Fast  
Sdjan Pandic – Team Fast  
Kim Raymer – parent

1. Chairman's Welcome: Jon Casson

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

2010 Minutes approved – motioned by Jon Casson, seconded by Andy Gilbert

2. Division Representative Nominations:

Pacific Northwest Representative – need new representative. Tabled discussion asked for nominations to be emailed to Abbi

### 3. Regional Rep Reports

#### Andy Gilbert – Intermountain Report

The 2011 season saw good snow totals across the region and more areas reported that skier/rider visits were up. Park City continues to lead the region in attracting riders and pros with its quality parks and support of snowboarding. Sun Valley is continuing to make a push into this territory with an expanded park program and desire to create and bring in new events as well as opportunities for industry photo shoots. Jackson Hole's addition of Burton Stash Parks throughout its area is showing a new level of commitment to snowboarding as well.

Many of the other areas in the Intermountain are continuing to support snowboarding. The Canyons, Brighton, Snowbasin and Snowbird all held some level of snowboard event during the past season. The region also saw a big influx of younger riders coming into competition, for ages 12 and under field sizes at grass roots events saw a major increase this season. There also seems to be an increased focus by most clubs in the region on the kids this age which bodes well for future years.

#### Events:

- 13 USASA snowboard event days (30-120 riders depending on discipline)
- North Face Big Mtn. Masters Snowbird Jan 20-23
- Gatorade Free Flow Jackson Hole Jan 29-30
- Grand Prix BX Canyons Feb 9-12
- Dew Tour Snowbasin Feb 10-13
- USCSA Collegiate Nationals Sun Valley Mar 8-12
- The Launch Park City Apr 6-9

#### USSA Membership:

- 109 regional members
- 67 national members
- 30 coaches
- 35 officials
- 18 member clubs

#### Coaches' Education:

- 2 level 100 clinics with 14 attendees
- level 200 is being scheduled for late May
- Level 300 clinic just wrapped up in Park City

#### Athlete Accomplishments:

- Sage Kotsenburg threw the first cab 1440 double cork in competition and got third in the Arctic Challenge Slopestyle
- Kaitlyn Farrington 1st Copper Grand Prix pipe, 2nd X-Games pipe, 2nd Snowbasin Dew Tour pipe
- Lindsay Lloyd PGS US Champion

Next wave:

- The USASA Intermountain Snowboard Series is growing in size with 324 participants making it the 3rd largest series
- Ryan Roemer USASA Youth Men (14-15) Overall National Champion
- Ali Appleton USASA Junior Women (16-17) National Halfpipe Champion
- Chase Josey, Ali Appleton and Kelsey Coglan invited to Project Gold Camp
- Taelor Mattingley and Shay Coglan invited to Junior Gold Camp
- 36 total medals at USASA Nationals

One of the biggest challenges right now is ski areas' continued support of hosting events and staying committed to their park and pipe programs. We have seen some downsizing in these areas with the downturn in the economy. We were lucky in that some new things were added (Jackson Stash Park) and some new players got involved in events (Canyons/Snowbasin/Sun Valley). It is going to be important that USSA, local clubs and volunteers continue to push these programs and events to keep the Intermountain Region involved in the growth of snowboarding. There are a lot of untapped resources in the region both people and places that should be tapped in the future.

Growth at the younger ages at local events is a good sign that snowboarding is doing well. The region is producing great young talent and the clubs in the region are also doing well. The Intermountain region is unique in its size and diversity of areas. Scheduling, travel time, and playing to each area's strengths is always a challenge but it is also why so many great riders, coaches and volunteers come out of the region. I assume this will continue to be the case in the near future.

#### Dylan Omlin – Far West Report

Almost 800 inches of snow fell in the Sierras this winter; which made for some great free riding and tough conditions to train in no matter what discipline you compete in. It was too soft to set gates, parks were buried, pipes were being cut once every couple of weeks when the storms would finally break and SBX courses were hard to come by. Winter started for us in the beginning of Oct. and most resorts are still open through the end of May with Mammoth and Boreal continuing to operate into late June.

Mammoth stepped up to the plate again and hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> stop of the Grand Prix tour this season. The weather was tough this year with lots of wind and cloudy skies cancelling practices. Mammoth's parks were in great shape, even if you couldn't see them half the time. The pipe event went well and the Slopestyle course was again one of the best we saw all winter. The jumps were really big this time around and the course was even more challenging than last season.

Alpine Meadows got into the hosting game out west this winter with a Hole Shot stop in February. All though there were some growing pains with the Hole Shot tour and some mistakes by a first time host, the event went fairly well. I know that Alpine would like to host again if the opportunity was available. Hopefully this will work out, and things will go even better next season. It worked well to have the Hole Shot just prior to the Revolution Tour in the same general location to give the SBX crews a couple of starts in a short period of time without having to travel.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive winter Boreal and the Auburn Ski Club hosted another stop on the Revolution Tour. This was the best of the three seasons, as the Boreal/ASC/USSA groups worked well together this time around. Not to mention the weather cooperated for

all six days, allowing for all the events to go off without a hitch. The addition of Skiing also created a bit of a buzz locally as some of the Tahoe based teams had their first taste of the Rev Tour experience.

Educational Things: The Auburn Ski Club hosted a level 100 clinic in Nov. that was well attended. It was taught by Donald (Mortercross) Nyberg and Dylan Omlin. The West is in dire need of more clinicians, and more resorts willing to host clinics. It is always the same people and places doing the hosting, we need some variety.

Tough things: The need to have more teams in the region besides ASC, TSST, and Squaw get involved in all parts of the process. From education, transitioning athletes up the pipe line, helping at local events, to even hosting at their home resorts. Sugar Bowl has decided to stay a free ride team and not compete above local USASA events. Northstar, which is a team of 80 kids has chosen to not compete much at all with the exception of a few athletes doing the USASA series and one going to a couple of Rev Tours.

Bridging the gap from USASA to USSA on all levels, both organizations are obtaining athletes from the same pool and need to make sure that they can transition between the two without too many hassles or athletes will be turned off to competing.

We need to find a way to incorporate the freestyle skiers better and more often into what we have going on. Starting with the education of the coaches and moving all the way down the line to the inclusion of the athletes. There are a number of teams and some really talented athletes out west and they are constantly trying to find places to train and compete. They need something to get behind and focus on that is consistent.

ISTC moved away from Tahoe at the end of last season and did not return. Besides the massive hit to the wax budget of the Start Haus, it was tough on some of the upper end kids in the Tahoe area. There were fewer chances to have quality sbx training, and a much smaller open class field at all the USASA sbx and racing events. The loss of three motivated coaches from our area also hurt the cause.

There are concerns with those that hosted Rev Tours out west that the event going to a site fee rather than income being based on entries will make it harder and harder to host from a financial standpoint. The addition of skiers added two days to the event, but the fields were small, so not a lot of income for two extra days work and expenses.

Future Things: To continue to host Grand Prix's, Hole Shots and Rev Tours in the region. To continue supporting the education that is taking place to try and bring a bit of legitimacy to the Far West region and the teams that train out here.

#### Chris Davis – Eastern Report

The presence of USSA events in the Eastern division was fairly slim this season, with only two events; the Race to the Cup at Holimont, NY and the Revolution Tour event at Mt Snow, VT.

This was a concern for many coaches, who feel that the capacity to hold good events on the East Coast is not being utilized, and that the USSA Eastern athletes are being forced travel west of the Mississippi to have any chance of developing in their sport. This demographical discrimination is unfortunate and the coaches feel it needs addressing as many of the young snowboarders on the East coast are the best prospects in the country.

The Events - Race to the Cup: Held in Holimont, NY, this race is still 7-9 hours from the majority of the East Coast competitors, so location is still an issue. The venue and mountain were very good, and the events went off with very little incident. The men's

field for both GS/SI was approx 30, and the female field for both was approx 20. In both cases, half the field was foreign, mostly Canadian. The request from coaches is that the USSA attempt to find a more centrally located venue for race events this coming season.

Revolution Tour: Held at Mt Snow VT, this was a central location for the East coast and Mt Snow provided some great terrain for this event. The halfpipe went off without a hitch with the men's field 38, with about half being from the Eastern division, the ladies field 17 with two thirds from eastern division. The Slopestyle fields were 55 men and 18 ladies, with same Eastern rider ratios. Unfortunately the weather conditions during the men's Slopestyle hindered the quality of riding but the best riders prevailed. The fact that the course had a kink in the trail was unfortunate, as the necessity to have two sets of judges was unavoidable.

It was also brought up again, by the coaches, about the lack of SBX again on the East Coast, and that all East coast SBXers "have" to go out West, for Rev or Hole Shot events.

Education: The East Coast continues to be one of the strongest regions in the field of education with clinics in Waterville, NH, clinicians Davies and Mallon working with over 30 coaches, taking level 100 and 200. At Okemo, Davies worked with 12 level 100. Also two clinics in PA, one in Camelback, led by Sean Naughton and another in Roundtop, PA led by Neil Sunday.

The Eastern Division is strong, with capable riders and coaches, with great potential. Riders from the East Coast continue to have success all across the US and the world, Seth Wescott, Jonathan Cheever, Scotty Lago, Chas Guildimond, Kelly Clark, etc. With continued cultivation, the next crop may well come from the East Coast with the assistance of USSA.

#### Jessica Zalusky – Central Report

The Midwest had a great season for snowfall. With most ski areas being comprised of manmade snow, it was a delight to have so much real snow. The winter of 2010-2011 is the tenth snowiest so far in Minnesota's history. As of February 28, the Twin Cities International Airport had measured 76.5 inches of snow for the 2010-2011 winter season. This is enough to be in 9th place for the snowiest winter, coming in just ahead of the winter of 2000-2001 with 75.8 inches.

A few clinics were held throughout the Midwest. The G Team, Inc., hosted a Level 100 clinic last March in Minnesota. The clinic went well and the attendance was great.

The Central region had a successful season for competition. Paul Brichta was named to the USSA Rookie Team for 2010-2011.

In North American events, we had several top finishes from the following riders: Emma Crosby, Brady Lem, Hunter Murphy, Missy McAlpin, Meghan Graham, Jack Taylor, Tyler Anderson, Paul Brichta, Mikaela Casey, Thomas Graham, and Jack Dryer. Hunter Murphy also finished well at '11 Junior Worlds. Additionally, we had several riders invited to the Project Gold Camp for this summer.

Future Items: There are no higher-level events currently in the Midwest and there is a strong need and desire for this by teams, riders and coaches for an event to return to the Midwest.

We would be very interested in hosting a higher level USSA event, whether a Revolution Tour, Grand Prix or Race to the Cup.

The Midwest lacks in halfpipes and Boardercross courses and there is a great demand and need for these so that our athletes can remain competitive.

There is also a need for more teams in the Midwest. Most of the competitive athletes stem only from a few areas.

To continue to support and provide education opportunities for coaching professionals in the Midwest, there is a need for more coach trainers and clinics in the Midwest and we are working with the US Snowboard Coach Education program to do this.

#### Rocky Mountain Region

No report was submitted by Paul Krahulec for the Rocky Mountain Region.

#### 4. Team Report – Mike Jankowski

SBX Team report – it was a great year for the SBX team. Jankowski reviewed goals and accomplishments of the SBX Team. Great training camps were held in Hood and the New Zealand. Residency program was a success again.

HP Team report – Jankowski reviewed goals and accomplishments of the Halfpipe Team. It was a great season and we continued working on goals of fittest athletes. The Camp at Hood with airbag was productive. NZ camp was ok, not great weather for training. There was a great camp at Copper with fundamentals skills with Foley and Archibald setting up a race course for the Halfpipe team.

The team continued to work on safe trick progression with tramp, airbag and then snow. Healthy and smart training is the focus. Nutrition was also a focus with a private chef at Copper and XGames. Lofty goals were set again for this year.

#### 5. Athlete Report: Danny Kass & Tricia Byrnes

All of the snowboarders here felt very good about the season. After an action packed previous season with five grand prix and the Olympics, everybody had an overwhelming feeling of relief for the two grand prix that took place this winter. The judging was very consistent with many judges favoring runs that had doubles corks. Most of the field is progressing faster than expected with similar if not more technical runs going down this winter. Along with this there were many major and minor injuries suffered to our team. There was a unanimous response in moving forward in getting group disability insurance. With this group taking on more risk and suffering huge injuries, it is one of our biggest concerns.

There were also several requests for all Grand Prix and World Cups to be TTR rated so our team can gain points towards snowboarding's biggest trophy and title of TTR World Tour Champion.

Everyone on the team said the coaching was amazing and that all the coaches were very happy and stoked to be there. There have been a few cases of the top pros hiring private coaches to help take their riding and competing to this new level. This does not have much to do with the team but the shift in tricks and moves in our sport. Riders are needing a one-on-one approach to master a new trick and keep their runs a bit more secret than training with teams; all riders still want to be a part of the organization and travel with the team.

All training camps could use air bags or foam pits to minimize the dangers of learning new and dangerous tricks. The training camps people were requesting would be Mammoth, Snowmass, Park City and New Zealand.

## SNOWBOARDCROSS

Overall the Snowboardcross team feels they have the best coaches in the world for support and finding the fastest lines in the courses. There is a demand from the entire team to add events to at least two of three Grand Prix. With the high costs of travel to compete on the World Cup circuit there are a few B team that have not gotten any funding and feel like there is no support for the up and coming champions. The scheduling could be adjusted a bit with the Grand Prix overlapping a World Cup and a three-week gap in their season with no competitions. There was a unanimous response in moving forward in getting group disability insurance.

## ALPINE

The US alpine team is underfunded. Some feel to help they need to train in areas where World Cups may be held similar to what they will be racing. Seems the team has not made certain criteria to secure positions for World Cup.

## SLOPESTYLE

ALL disciplines are very excited to see this added to the Olympic schedule. Many riders feel we are already behind other countries that have been forming and training teams for Slopestyle events. There is an overwhelming interest in how the team we will be chosen and through which events. Slopestyle riders are not into Big Air events being used as qualifiers for the team and it seems pipe FIS points are counted to qualify for Slopestyle events. They feel it should be similar to the US Halfpipe team but managed differently.

For picking the team and events, the riders all feel it should be a combination of Grand Prix, Dew Tour, X-Games, and other TTR events. Many riders are concerned with how the USSA will manage the Slopestyle team and worry that the riders might not have much feedback in shaping the sport within the USSA. Having good athlete representation and experienced Slopestyle riders in the program shaping the qualifiers and teams could really help both the USSA and the future medal-winning SLOPESTYLE TEAM.

Byrnes stated the need for an actual world tour and a true overall ranking system. She also mentioned the scheduling issue with so many events on the radar. Byrnes then discussed WAS (We Are Snowboarding), which is basically a snowboarding union still in the early stages, trying to organize themselves.

Jonathan Cheever – really wants to move the sport of Snowboardcross forward. South Korea event was a bummer. We need more money, sponsors and publicity to drive the sport forward. Move in a motocross or NASCAR direction. The bib system is too confusing; need a consistent color for the season. Powers – agreed with Cheever.

### 6. Alex Natt – Concussion legislation

Natt informed the group of the new concussion legislation and process for submitting concussion information to USSA. His presentation can be found at the following website: <http://www.ussa.org/magnoliaPublic/ussa/en/formembers/clubs/clinics/excellencearchive2011.html>

7. Walt Evans – Sport Development presentation

Evans gave an overall review of the new sport development program he will be running. His presentation can be found at the following website.

<http://www.ussa.org/magnoliaPublic/ussa/en/formembers/clubs/clinics/excellencearchive2011.html>

Kass asked if there was a way for points from USASA to advance to USSA to complete the pipeline from USASA to USSA. The group agreed this was a good idea and should be explored.

8. Judging Report – Phoebe Mills

Overview: The 2010-2011 snowboard competition season saw the biggest change in judging since 1999 when the IJC moved to the Overall Impression system (FIS/USSA started using OI around 2004). The Burton Global Open Series and most 6-star TTR events used the new Snowboard Live Scoring system (SLS). In general, the SLS uses four Trick judges for individual hits in a halfpipe/features on a Slopestyle course and two Flow judges for the overall composition of a run (similar to overall impression). The scores are then weighted 60% on the trick scores and 40% on the flow scores.

The SLS system is great for television and provides more specific feedback to riders, but it has some challenges to overcome in the halfpipe including the variation between judges among individual trick scores. USSA should consider using the SLS system for some of its events to remain relevant and at the forefront of our sport, and USSA may be required to use SLS as well as judges knowledgeable with it if any Grands Prix become TTR 6-star events.

There were only two Grand Prix events for halfpipe and one for Slopestyle this season. The field size and depth was good at Copper, but the field was smaller and not as deep at Mammoth. This is often the case in a post-Olympic season. Scheduling of these events so they don't conflict with other major events is a challenge, but USSA's decision to change the schedule in Mammoth to accommodate those attending the US Open was appreciated by many riders and coaches.

The biggest frustration for judges at the Grand Prix is the antiquated scoring system. All of the other major events use an updated scoring system allowing Head Judges to see results, rankings and ties prior to approving the scores. The newer systems also allow for judges to see their individual rankings. I strongly urge USSA to upgrade its scoring system since it will improve accuracy and efficiency of judging, which is important when there is so much at stake for these competitors.

Judging for the Revolution Tour was good, but most of the Slopestyle courses required judges to be split along the course. Judging from split panels continues to be a challenge in terms of providing a true overall impression score and thus achieving the correct ranking. Either the courses need to be shorter or there needs to be a video feed so the judges can be together and judge the same thing. The scoring system for the Rev Tour needs to be upgraded to an electronic system with judging keypads and a computer screen for the HJ to see all scores, rankings and ties. This will ensure accuracy and efficiency in scoring and make the events better for everyone.

The addition of skiing to the Revolution Tour brought new opportunities and challenges regarding judging. Ski judges were scheduled for each stop, but none of the events had a full panel of ski judges because there are not enough educated ski judges yet. Regional clinics will need to focus on skiers so we can increase our pool of ski judges for these events.

Head Judges: The Head Judges for both of the Grand Prix events were from Canada and both did an excellent job. For the Revolution Tour, we used the same Head Judge for all of the events (same HJ for both snowboard and ski events). Having one Head Judge for the Tour seemed to help with the overall quality of judging and organization of the judges. In the future, it would be ideal to have a ski HJ for the Tour as well a snowboard HJ.

Judging: The overall quality of judging at the Grand Prix and Rev Tours was good. There were some new judges at both of these events. At the Grand Prix level, the new judges did a great job and were very knowledgeable. Many of these judges also judge Dew Tours and BGOS events so this helps consistency of judging at different pro events. Judging at the Revolution Tour events was more of a challenge because we had split panels on the Slopestyle courses and snowboarders judging skiers. While the basic concepts and criteria are the same for judging either sport, skiers simply prefer to be judged by other skiers.

Judges' Education: The IJC held an international Pro Judge clinic at Copper Mountain, CO in November 2010. For the first time, both snowboarders and skiers attended the clinic. The clinic was very well attended with about 35 judges from the U.S. and 3 from Norway. Almost half of the attendees were skiers. While there was limited ski video footage available, the Association of Freeskiing Professionals (AFP) provided some video for use at the clinic. Several AFP judges attended the clinic. The FIS held a North American judge clinic in Calgary, CA with 5 U.S. judges attending. FIS scheduled one U.S. judge at the World Championships in La Molina, Spain and one U.S. judge at three different World Cups.

Future Planning: The IJC will continue to educate and develop more high-quality judges as well as prepare updates to the materials to incorporate SLS judging. The IJC is also working with the AFP to develop ski-specific education materials and clinics. In conjunction with TTR, IJC will likely hold a North American clinic to educate judges on SLS. In addition, there will be a North American FIS Clinic in the eastern U.S. in September or October 2011.

Byrnes stated there was confusion amongst US riders about the new judging formats. Women felt like they were not getting rewarded for technical tricks. Coaches were not sure how to work with it and it was hard to understand the new system.

Jankowski said it was valuable to explore new options and not stagnate. It was challenging, dropping a portion of the run; he felt everything should count. He had a hard time understanding the new system and felt like it shouldn't be that hard to understand. FIS and Olympic judge in OI, continue to focus on that. Good to explore new systems.

9. Industry Report: Jon Casson

Jon Casson reviewed the report that was submitted by Marty Carrigan.

10. Membership Report: Sheryl Barnes

Barnes reviewed the membership update, background screening. She mentioned there would be a \$5 increase to the FIS membership. She also reviewed the new user account system – hopefully a more fluid user account system. She asked for everyone to please give feedback on the system as needed.

Barnes also mentioned that a new focus was on data security and to pull a lot of personal information off the main website. Information will not be available for general public. She stated that it will take time, and to please be patient.

11. FIS Report: Bill Slattery

Slattery discussed the FIS proposals, and said it was encouraging that Slopestyle was being added to the Olympics in 2014. SBX Team event would be the next event to be added to the Olympics. He added that it was a slow process at the upper level of FIS.

Mills asked about the FIS proposal about Nations Quota. Forster responded the combined system of TTR and FIS would provide the system to select nation's quota. Mills commented that the judging format, the system would remain the same for all the events as part of the Olympic process. Forster responded that hopefully each nation will earn its team size as a country as we did in 12/13.

Slattery mentioned that we allow nations to qualify their athletes in their own process. IOC will determine the field size per discipline, hope they will increase the size due to Slopestyle being added, but we don't know. It will be discussed in the June FIS meetings and again in the fall FIS meetings.

Winters – joint set of rules for both Snowboarding and Freeskiing. Move to a 100 point scale for judging.

Jack Coghlan asked how to increase YOG field size. Forster responded that this was a decision of the IOC and not likely until the events had a little more history behind them.

12. Grand Prix Event Report: Eric Webster

Webster stated it was a good season; the move to two events was well received. Copper and Mammoth were signed for next year. Canyons will take place again next year for SBX. Telluride Snowboardcross World Cup was confirmed in Telluride through 2014. He added that this was a great long-term partnership for the events.

Freeskiing and Skicross were integrated into all the Grands Prix this coming year. No compromise in the venues or the services provided to the events. Open to feedback on schedule, challenges with branding the venue. He added that the Big Air World Cup was a good event.

2012 Goals:

- Produce high quality venues for 22' Half Pipe, Slopestyle and SBX Events
- Support development of Slopestyle, Freeskiing HP and Freeskiing Slopestyle as Olympic Sports
- Integrate Freeskiing events into Grand Prix series
- Deliver opportunities for US athletes to compete in the US
- Enhance spectator engagement at events
- Strengthen integration of Revolution Tour and GP competitions
- Maintain System to name Olympic Halfpipe Teams in 2014

2012 Tentative Schedule:

- December 5-10, 2011 - Copper Mountain, Colorado
  - Monday December 5 HP Practice
  - Tuesday December 6 HP Practice
  - Wednesday December 7 Freesking HP Qualifiers/ SB HP Practice
  - Thursday December 8 SB HP Qualifiers/ Freesking HP Practice
  - Friday December 9 Freesking HP Finals
  - Saturday December 10 SB HP Finals and PMPS Street
- February 7-11, 2012 – Canyons, Utah
  - Tuesday February 7 SBX/SX Practice
  - Wednesday February 8 SBX/SX Practice
  - Thursday February 9 SX Time Trials
  - Friday February 10 SBX Time Trials
  - Saturday February 11 SBX/SX Finals
- February 27- March 3, 2012 – Mammoth Mountain, California
  - Monday February 27 HP & Slopestyle Practice
  - Tuesday February 28 HP & Slopestyle Practice
  - Wednesday February 29 SB Slopestyle Qualifiers and Freesking HP Qualifiers
  - Thursday March 1 SB HP Qualifiers and Freesking Slopestyle Qualifiers
  - Friday March 2 Freesking HP and Slopestyle Finals
  - Saturday March 3 SB HP and Slopestyle Finals

2012 Snowboarding Halfpipe/Slopestyle Pre- Qualified Criteria:

1. Former Olympian (Lifetime)
2. Top (40) Men and (20) Women Grand Prix HP Overall 2010-2011 Season
3. Top (20) Men and (10) Women from the Revolution Tour Overall standings and top (3) Men and (3) women from each Revolution Tour that proceeds a Grand Prix in Season
4. Top (16) Men and (8) Women US Open 2010
5. Top (5) Men and Women USASA Open Division 2010
6. Top (100) Men and (50) Women TTR Ranking List 2010
7. Top (100) Men and (50) Women FIS Ranking List 2010

13. Revolution Tour Event Report: Nick Alexakos

Alexakos mentioned the goals for the tour this season: Try to work with other event organizers to avoid conflicts. Try to hit 4 different regions and SBX at 2 events next year.

Looking for a Revolution Tour in your area, reach out to Nick directly.

The U.S. Revolution Tour started in 2003 to bridge the gap from grassroots local competitions to elite level international competitions. In its seventh season with over 1,600 athletes and 15 nations competing, it has become one of the top junior Tours in the country!

In 2011, the U.S. Revolution Tour also opened its doors to freeskiing and with the anticipation of halfpipe skiing being added to the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, the U.S. Revolution Tour blew up with over 1,250 registrations in the first few hours of opening and topped out with over 1,650 total registrations.

The Tour brings together athletes across the country to identify the top juniors in halfpipe, Slopestyle and cross events. Athletes 13 and older compete in open class halfpipe and Slopestyle events, and athletes 15 and older compete in Snowboardcross and Skicross open class events. The U.S. Revolution Tour is also used to qualify athletes for World Juniors, U.S. Grand Prix, U.S. Open, U.S. World Cup, USASA Nationals and Project Gold camps.

This year the Tour started out in December on the heels of the Visa U.S. Halfpipe Grand Prix at Copper Mountain, CO where the athletes got to take full advantage of a perfectly built 22 foot halfpipe.

The Copper stop included 11 international Teams and Spencer Shaw claimed the Halfpipe snowboarding win on his last run that was highlighted with a massive frontside 1260 that he stomped to edge out Japanese riders Kazumi Fujita and World Cup and X Games medalist Ryo Aono.

The second stop of the Tour headed to Mt Hood Meadows, OR in early January and despite tough conditions, the competitors continued to show progressive runs with multiple double cork variations in the Slopestyle competition!

In February the U.S. Revolution Tour continued in Lake Tahoe, CA at the Boreal Resort where the Skicross and Snowboardcross overall winners were crowned. In Skicross, the Tour winners were KC Brousseau and Tania Prymak, and in Snowboardcross Hunter Murphy and Kristen Harvey led the way to the overall crown.

The fourth and final stop of the 2011 U.S. Revolution Tour finished up in Mount Snow, VT in March and with the overall Halfpipe and Slopestyle Tour winners still up for grabs the athletes didn't disappoint. In both Halfpipe and Slopestyle competitions, spectators were treated to back-to-back 900's and 1080's as well as double cork variations. With the level of skiing and riding progressing at each stop of the Tour this season, we are all waiting to see what these amazing athletes will serve up next season in 2012!

This season the support from industry partners was at an all time high on the U.S. Revolution Tour. All podium finishers received product from Kicker, Smith Optics, Burton, Swix, Leki, Bern, Windell's, Under Armour, Swatch, Armada, High Cascade Snowboard Camp, and The North Face. With sponsors kicking in over \$60,000 in product and over \$30,000 prize money, the athletes all threw down to try and claim the title of 2011 U.S. Revolution Tour Champion. Thank you sponsors! We couldn't do it without your support!

Alexakos mentioned that Freeskiing was a good addition, but did add some challenges.

2012 Tentative Schedule:

- December 19-22, 2011- Copper Mountain, CO
- January 9-13, 2012- Seven Springs, PA/ Otsego, MI
- January 30-February 3, 2012- Boreal, CA/ Mt Hood Meadows

- March 12-17, 2012- Mount Snow, VT

Andy Coghlan asked about never ever competitors and how do we get them in. Discussion ensued about Rev Tour registration process and how to get new kids into the system.

14. Domestic Events Report: Abbi Nyberg

Race to the Cup

Copper, CO November 18-19	PGS – 49M/34W	PSL - 46M/31W
Steamboat Springs, CO December 20-21	PGS - 52M/34W	PSL - 38M/23W
Holimont, NY February 23-24	PGS - 32M/21W	PGS – 32M/20W

Summary: Large turn-out for all races. The Copper and Steamboat races had great turn out with a World Cup field. Holimont, NY was a new venue this season, they race a great race and hope to increase participants next season. U.S. races continue to have large participation numbers, and high points' value. Prize money this year was divided among top three for both disciplines. We worked in cooperation with Canada to develop a cohesive schedule.

Tentative 2011/12 Dates:

- Copper, Co Nov. 14-15
- Steamboat Springs, Co Dec. 9-10
- Holimont, NY January or February
- Squaw, CA March

Hole Shot Tour – SBX/SX NorAm

- Mt Hood Meadows, OR January 19-20      53M/29W x 2
- Steamboat Springs, CO January 26-27      36M/13W x 2
- Alpine Meadows, CA February 3-4      45M/12 W x 2

Summary: Great first official season of the Hole Shot Tour. Three stops with six events total. Hole Shot Tour also included Skicross this season. Higher level courses with Steamboat stepping up and building a solid World Cup level course. Prize money distributed to top three for both disciplines.

Tentative 2011/12 Dates:

- Steamboat Springs, CO early February
- Mt Hood Meadows, OR late February
- Killington, VT March 6-8

15. USASA Report: Mike Mallon

Mallon reported it was a great year and updated the group on the new board positions of USASA. Successful nationals were staged incorporating the ski group with their own event days. Total of 1,641 competitors, and the event was really well received. Membership is now at approx. 5,000 total members. 700 are part of the free membership

program. Formed a partnership with AFP and the Open class is now a silver-level event. 49 of 50 states represented.

Van Gilder reported that the Nationals were great. Overall positive split for skiers and snowboarders. Improved judging system with touch screens. Continue to improve the quality and experience of the event. USASA was offering more support to regions with software and other improvements moving forward. Casson – USASA and USSA have a strong working relationship, focused on moving athletes up the pipeline.

16. Domestic Program Report: Abbi Nyberg

Junior Development Camps

- Halfpipe – Successful Project Gold and Junior Gold camps held in May; camp in Mammoth with a 22" pipe. Spencer Tamblyn, Ashley Berger, Dave Boldwin, Scott Harris and Jeff Moran as guest Coaches.
- SBX – great camp held at Timberline with the National team; Timberline built a full course for the athletes to train with private lift. Nathan Park as guest coach.
- Alpine – Great camp with a new batch of young riders. Training camp held at Hood in July. Neil Sunday and Mimi Wiencke guest coaches.
- COE Air Awareness Camp – Successful Air Awareness camps at the COE with both Project Gold and Junior Gold athletes. Divided up Junior Gold into a boy's camp and a girl's camp. Spencer Tamblyn, Rick Bower, Ashley Berger and Red Bull High Performance, Coach Matt Christiansen.
- May 2010 Project Gold HP and Junior Gold camp scheduled in Mammoth, SBX Project Gold camp scheduled in June at Hood and Alpine camp scheduled in 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 IJC clinic held in Copper, as well as three regional judges' clinics.
- Continue to update USSA competition guide and sync up with FIS rulebook.

Coaches' Education

- US Snowboard Coaches' Education Committee continued to progress. USASA held several Level 100 and 200 clinics in 2009/2010. First level 300 clinic/coaches symposium held at the COE.

Junior World Championships

- Great Jr. World Championship team represented the USA in Valmalenco, ITA March 28-April 3. Chloe Banning – 3<sup>rd</sup> in SBX, Taylor Gold – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Halfpipe and Karly Shorr 3<sup>rd</sup> in Slopestyle.

17. Old Business: Competition Guide review

Nyberg asked for any changes to the competition guide be sent to her by June 30.

18. New Business:

Concussion Legislation: Discussion ensued regarding the new concussion legislation. Nyberg stated that she will follow up on the protocol in place to make it as simple as possible to report the concussion and the return to snow process.

Marriott update: Nyberg handed out an info sheet on the new partnership with the Marriott.

Coaches' Education Update: Casson stated there were 25 clinics in the US, 230 coaches went through education. 361 coaches at USASA nationals each paid \$20 for an arm band for coaches to have venue access. All of the money went into the trainers division to support the coaches' education. The challenge is to hit underserved regions of the country with clinics and clinicians. Coaching clinic blitz will take place in the fall to hit the underserved regions. On-snow level 300 will take place this fall. The Level 300 clinic is growing and is more professional, and dedication is at a much higher level at this point.

Redden said it is good to see the growth of the program. He likes to see the USASA and USSA working together. Karol asked what was being done for Alpine. Casson responded that Alpine is included at all levels and we would integrate discipline-specific at the Level 400.

National Training System: Nyberg opened the discussion up regarding the new Snowboarding National Training system. She mentioned the training system will be designed to include more detailed information. Kass said he would be interested in helping with this program. Redden said the SMS staff would also like to be involved. The group agreed that we should use this training system as a tool, not necessarily as the system that must be used for all athletes.

Other topics: Hindman brought up the issues between the Skicross format vs. Snowboardcross at the Hole Shot Tour. Powers brought up the XGames format that the top 16 advance directly to finals from 1<sup>st</sup> run, with a smaller second run, which could work well for the Hole Shot Tour to better include the skiers into the existing format. It was agreed that we should try some new formats.

Redden asked about the selection process for Jr. Worlds. He mentioned that we should use the last Revolution Tour as a last chance qualifier for Jr. Worlds. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that Nyberg would send a criteria out to the group once the FIS quota was determined.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Tricia Byrnes, Mike Jankowski second.