

# SNOWBOARDING SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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USSA Congress 2009  
The Yarrow Resort Hotel & Conference Center, Park City, UT  
May 15, 2009

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Andy Gilbert - Intermountain Rep  
Bill Slattery - FIS Rep  
Paul Krahulec - Rocky Rep (via teleconference)  
Bill Van Gilder - USASA Rep  
Tricia Byrnes - Athlete Rep  
Lisa Kosglow - Athlete Rep  
Tom Casey - Central Rep  
Hans Hibbard - PNW Rep  
Mike Mallon - Chairman  
Phoebe Mills - IJC Rep (via teleconference)  
Peter Foley – Coaches Rep

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jon Casson - SSWSC  
Jeremy Forster - US Snowboarding Director  
Tom Winters - FIS Rep  
John Jett – CJ Timing  
Cath Jett – CJ Timing  
Dylan Omlin – Auburn Snowboard Club  
Ross Hindman – Independent Coach  
Bud Keene – USSA  
Nick Alexakos – USSA  
Eric Webster – USSA  
Dave Boldwin – Coach  
Rick Bower – USSA  
Phil Fell – Coach  
Nathan Park – Coach  
Chris Clark –CVA  
Jacob Levine – Park City Snowboard Team  
Lane Clegg – Snowbird  
Stu Rea – Park City  
Sheryl Barnes – USSA Membership  
Mike Jankowski – USSA  
Lindsay Lloyd – Athlete  
Mike Kirchner - NYSEF  
Anna McIntyre

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.

2008 Minutes approved motioned by Kosglow, seconded by Van Gilder.

2. Division Representative Nominations:

Dylan Omlin was nominated by Abbi Nyberg for the position of Far West Representative. Dylan Omlin approved by unanimous vote.

Mallon mentioned the Rocky and Central Representatives terms are now over and we will be requesting nominations for the positions in the next few weeks.

3. Jeremy Forster: Department Overview:

Forster welcomes everyone; thank Nick and Abbi for their work this season. Forster stated he was very excited to see Bud Keene's Development team program get going.

The company faced tough budget cuts this season and going into next season. Difficult changes in the Alpine program with laying off one coach. There is a budget gap after the Olympics with no funding for the March projects. The March projects remain an initiative yet to be funded.

Forster discussed the Olympic selection criteria. US Snowboarding is on track to send a full quota to Vancouver. Education on criteria is crucial. Forster asked for the committee help in disseminating the selection criteria information. After FIS meeting next week we will finalize the selection events. After the FIS meetings USSA will lock in the final events that we will use for SBX, PGS and HP selections. It will be posted online by June 15. Everything else is in place for Olympics, housing, venues, etc.

4. Rocky Report: Paul Krahulec via phone

Krahulec gave the Rocky Report, stating the Grand Prix was well received and well attended. Challenges with snow throughout the season made some of the events difficult. USASA nationals were a huge success with 1584 competitors. Coaches clinics were held throughout the region and just prior to USASA Nationals.

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 09/10.

5. Intermountain Report: Andy Gilbert

Gilbert mentioned there was a late start to winter which hindered some events. Sun Valley adding jumps to the mountain for the first time. Park City hosted events at all levels. Tamarack's closing was a big loss to the community. The intermountain area remains committed to pipe and parks. Good level of participation, good level of riders coming out of the intermountain, good kids at all levels. Intelligent Design was well received. Burton Am was also well received. Gilbert highlighted the athletes from the intermountain region.

6. Pacific Northwest Report: Hans Hibbard

Hibbard noted the northwest is greatly underserved in moving kids up to the elite level of competition. Wishes there was more to discuss from the northwest region, would like to see more events in the region. Fun to watch Ben Watts progress this season. Noted another up and comer – JD Dennis. Struggle to have good Halfpipe venue at Mt Bachelor. Hibbard highlighted the athletes' accomplishments from the region.

Mallon asked what is being done to bring USASA events to the PNSA. Van Gilder said USASA is working on it. Hibbard noted there is a lot of talent in the area, but looking for someone to take over the series. Windells did a great job with the Winter Hood series, it was good for the athletes.

7. Central Division: Tom Casey

Casey was absent during the reports section, see report prepared by Casey

8. Far West: Dylan Omlin

Omlin noted that Tahoe hosted a *Grand Prix* and *Revolution Tour*. Weather was a challenge to build the SBX. Rev Tour was tough to lose the Slopestyle. Rev Tour headed back to Boreal next season. Great talent pool in the region. Events in the region allow some of those athletes to compete in their home town.

9. Eastern Report: Mike Mallon

USASA event series continue to have good numbers, with a great athlete talent pool. Sugarloaf Rev Tour, Killington GP, Sunday River WC. Mallon noted some of the athletic accomplishments from the region.

10. Team Report: Peter Foley, Mike Jankowski, Rick Bower, Bud Keene

Foley stated the Alpine team had a great start to the year, and then ran into a bunch of injuries. All of the podium athletes ended up having surgery. Gorgone had a great year. Olympic quota on track for three men's quota spots and one women's quota spot. It would be nice to lock up another quota spot on both sides. Jan has had to juggle the summer training schedule due to injury recovery. Late June for first on-hill camp.

Foley then highlighted the SBX team season with 8 Men's WC podium, 6 Women's WC podiums. On track for four men's quota spots and two women's quota spots at the Olympics. Camp in June at Mt Hood. Either NZ or Argentina in late August or early September. Olympic Selection events reviewed.

Fell asked, what do the non-team athletes need to do to earn the additional Olympic quota spots? Forster responded by January 18, 2010 the number of athletes in the top 30 will dictate how many athletes we can send in Alpine. The challenge will be the 10 men and 8 women total Olympic team quota.

Lloyd asked how many selection events for Alpine. Forster responded that currently there are 4 events, but the FIS is hoping to add another World Cup event, which would be 5 selection events.

Jankowski updated the group on the Halfpipe team. Olympic quota 6 men and 6 women in the top 30/40. It has been challenging to have everyone stay Olympic eligible and earn a quota spot. Updated everyone on the named team. Hood camp in July at high cascade with a 22'. NZ World Cup. Successful camp in Aspen this spring. Bower noted Ellery Hollingsworth was the first woman to land a cab 1080. Fun to watch everyone collectively progress at that camp. Best camp opportunity the team has had a in a long time.

Forster noted that the new Ramps and Tramps area at the Center of Excellence and thanks Bower, Jankowski and Keene for their help this season on the project.

Keene was really excited about working with this new group of athletes. He updated the group on the Rookie team achievements. All but two of the rookies Olympic Eligible. Very healthy season for the Rookie team. "Rookies land runs" was the motto for the year. All girls have 900 and all guys have at least one 1080 and some have 1260. Junior Worlds was a low point for results. Targeted slopestyle for training, looking forward to putting

more emphasis on it in the next season. Set the goal to make the Olympic Team. Rookie team worked great.

Junior Gold camp established and excited for the future of development. Establish relationship upfront with this group of athletes.

Keene discussed the team nominations.

11. Membership Report: Sheryl Barnes

Barnes updated the group on the membership department staff changes. Online registration encouraged. Background screening recertification implemented. Comp guides only sent to coaches and officials. Membership cards are going digital, print out cards.

12. Athlete Report: Lisa Kosglow/Tricia Byrnes

Byrnes discussed the Freestyle feedback. Byrnes said generally speaking this season went well as far as most riders were concerned. There is some concern for the *Grand Prix* series and the 22ft halfpipes on tap for next season. They felt like the pipes were not in competition ready shape for practice during most of this season's events (Boreal and Killington) and would like to make sure that next year the pipes are contest ready for practice seeing as how these events will determine the Olympic team. There was also some talk of putting these Olympic Qualifiers at resorts that already have existing 22ft half pipes so the riders and the mountains will have already had some time with this new breed of halfpipes under their belts.

As far as the US Team is concerned, budget cuts were felt by all the athletes and the lack of funding for team housing broke down the coaches' ability to really work with the athletes in an effortless manner, such as tracking riders down for waxing, videos, and physical therapy treatment. Ideally, the team should be staying together in order to achieve their goals and to be more efficient. On the positive side, the Spring camp in Aspen was the most productive camp in years for the majority of riders and riders felt that if the budget was still going to be tight in the next year they would rather see the money spent on high level camps like this rather than a bunch of lower level camps throughout the season.

Kosglow discussed the SBX team feedback. Generally the Snowboardcross athletes were pretty happy with the event season, love the team element and coaching. As far as US contests were concerned they really want to see more *Grand Prix*s hosting Snowboardcross events. At least two of the three *Grand Prix* stops should have Snowboardcross. As far as the Boreal *Grand Prix*, the athletes felt the event was run well, but the course was not up to par, a more technical course would be the ideal as this event names the National Champion.

In terms of the US team, things continued to operate well. The lack of funding was felt on their end, especially in regards to the wax tech. Some feel that by not having access to the wax tech A-team athletes have an unfair advantage, either way a second wax tech would be hugely appreciated.

World Cups were good, the majority of events stepped up their courses but not all and ideally they would like to see a consistent set of courses in any one tour and they want more prize money. They are looking forward to next year's qualifiers which seem pretty ideal and fair, albeit gnarly.



Summary: Once again the *Revolution Tour* was a huge success. Registration for the events sold out within minutes of opening. The *Revolution Tour* events were qualifiers for Junior World Championships, *Grand Prix* 08/09 and 09/10, USASA Nationals, Sunday River World Cup and the US Open. Weather plagued the tour with two events canceled. All of the resorts built great venues. Sugarloaf built an outstanding SBX venue, but unfortunately the event was canceled due to weather. 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 Dakine, Smith, Kicker and Under Armour. *Snowboarder* magazine provided four full page ads in their winter issues supporting the series. Under Armour stepped and provided trick of the day prize money. 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 08-09 *Grand Prix* Tour and the top 25 Men and 20 Women earned spots in the 09-10 *Grand Prix*.

15. Junior World Report: Jon Casson

Casson highlighted the FIS Junior Worlds event in Nagano Japan. Stellar coaching staff. Challenging snow conditions, warm weather. All SBX men made finals two SBX men in the big finals, first time ever. Three of five SBX women qualified for finals. Alpine challenging conditions, mix of experienced and non-experienced athletes. Halfpipe team was staked with mainly the rookie team athletes. Junior Worlds continues to be a goal for this level of athlete.

16. Grand Prix Report: Nick Alexakos/Eric Webster

Webster gave a recap of the 08/09 *Grand Prix* season. Webster stated they focused on bringing the level of the venues up. Webster outlined the goals for next season. He also noted he is working on finding training opportunities for the team pre and post events leading up to the Olympics.

Byrnes asked about training days between Halfpipe events at the last stop of the *Grand Prix*. Webster responded that they would evaluate the possibility. Casey asked about finding a site with more spectators for the final event. Webster noted they are trying to find the perfect site for the last stop to announce the Olympic team.

Jankowski asked about the judges for the *Grand Prix*. Focus on the Olympic judges at the *Grand Prix* events – Marcello and Remi on board for the *Grand Prix* judges. Fell asked about the state of SBX in the future of the *Grand Prix*. Webster responded that it will be included in future events, but we are looking at revamping all of the events.

17. Sunday River World Cup: Eric Webster

Successful event and a great SBX built on a challenging hill. Great event for a first time World Cup site. Were not able to execute the team SBX. Next December, Telluride will host the US World Cup with PGS and SBX.

18. FIS report: Bill Slattery

Slattery highlighted the current FIS status. He noted Snowboarding is working to calendar events together with Freestyle.

Kosglow asked about the future of Alpine events in the Olympics and World Cups. Foley responded that he sees a strong future for Alpine at least through 2014. Jankowski asked about the how the freestyle and snowboard events will be link up, which was responded to by Bill Slattery, who also discussed that the FIS is working on a long-term calendar planning through 2015.

Jankowski mentioned the experience in Vancouver was poor, and asked what was being done to improve the venues. Slattery mentioned it will be discussed in Croatia at the FIS meetings.

19. Tom Winters TD Report:

Winters congratulated two new FIS TDs (Bell and Van Gilder). Winters also mentioned that two sentences that need to be included in events results are that all TD, HJ and event officials need to be aware: 1 -The jury inspected the venue and improved the venue and security. 2 - Reference the jury inspected and reviewed the medical plan and approved it. Announce at Team Captains' meeting that you have reviewed the medical plan.

20. USASA Report: Bill Van Gilder

Van Gilder gave the USASA report. Going into the season, he questioned how the economy would affect the whole organization. Overall, the season was a success, 5001 members. Free-trial membership – 600 individuals were widely accepted. USASA has 33 regions. Application in for some new regions. Questions were whether or not we should include the new regions. 1,584 competitors at Nationals! Best Nationals yet! Rider meetings depict the success, four years ago chaos, this year 30 minute meetings. Coaching and organization has become much more professional. Good sponsorship support with PacSun Monster and Mitsubishi. Foundation is growing and scholarship funds being reissued.

USASA/USSA relationship is in place as clearly defined in the pipeline. Competitive pipeline is very clear. Coaching programs are now clearly defined. Developing an official pipeline through USASA, USSA and FIS. Success lies in the satellite regions and we will continue to support them with resources. 100% of all regional series director trained as officials.

21. Program Report: Abbi Nyberg

Junior Development Camps

- Halfpipe – Successful camp held in May camp in conjunction with the Pro-team at the Mammoth 22' pipe. Spencer Tamblyn, Rob Kingwill guest coaches.
- SBX – great camp held at Timberline with the National team, Timberline built a full course for the athletes to train. Nathan Park and Ross Hindman guest coaches.
- Alpine – Good, but small training camp held at Hood in July. Phil Fell guest coach.
- May 2009 Project Gold HP and Junior Gold camp scheduled in Mammoth, SBX Project Gold camp scheduled in June at Hood and Alpine camp scheduled for June at Hood.
- Halfpipe Rookie Team named in 2008 with 12 athletes and National Development Coach – Bud Keene

### 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 FIS clinic was held in Park City, as well as three regional judges' clinics. In 2009 we will host an IJC Nationals judges' clinic in the US with 2-3 regional clinics.
- Continue to update USSA competition guide and sync up with FIS rulebook.
- USSA took part in a best-practices discussion with Burton.

### Coaches' Education

- 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 2008/2009. Together USSA and USASA will host at least two Level 300 clinics in 2009/2010 with the goal to build out the pipeline to include a Coaches' Academy by 2011.

### Junior World Championships

- Great team traveled to Nagano, Japan for Junior Worlds. Jon Casson and Mike Mallon attended as Team Leaders. Bud Keene, Mark Harris and Adam Casanova were guest coaches.
- Results - Roger Carver 3rd in SBX and Dylan Bidez 2nd in HP

#### 22. Old Business: Competition Guide review

Cath Jett noted she worked to update the USSA comp guide this past summer. Jett asked for input from the committee on rule changes and align the FIS rulebook with the USSA comp guide. Potentially work with USASA to match rule books.

#### 23. 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.

#### 24. Coaches' Education Update:

Working group met yesterday and formed a committee and nominated a chairman – Jon Casson. Casson updated the group on the meeting with the goals and plan for the future.

#### 25. Long-term athlete development:

Nyberg asked the group to review the proposed Long-Term Athlete Development plan. Nyberg will email the group the plan for feedback.

26. Junior Worlds Coaches' Selection:

Criteria proposed and discussed amongst the group. Group discussion ensued and it was determined the proposed criteria was good. Small changes will be made and Nyberg will post online by September 1.

27. "The Hole Shot" NorAm SBX Tour:

Mallon outlined the concept of the tour, which was developed to bridge the gap from the *Revolution Tour* events to the World Cup events.

28. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Van Gilder and seconded by Gilbert.

A. Nyberg, 6 09