

## Snowboard Sport Committee Meeting Minutes

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**May 17, 2002**

**Committee Attendance:**

Gary Taylor - Chair  
Mike Mallon – Rocky Mountain Representative  
Tom Collins – USASA Representative  
Marty Carrigan – Industry Representative  
Jeff Archibald – Intermountain Representative  
Ricky Bower – Athlete Representative  
Peter Foley – Coach Representative  
Bill Slattery – FIS Representative

**Non-Committee Attendance:**

Mike Bell – Carrabassett Valley Academy  
Chris Karol – Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club  
Thelma Hoessler – USSA Race Secretary  
Alex Natt – USSA Legal Counsel  
Anna McIntyre – Waterville Valley  
Randy Rogers – Willamette Pass  
Abbi Nyberg – USSA Events  
Jeremy Forster – USSA Events  
Becky Woolley – USSA Snowboard Program Manager

G. Taylor: Hello everyone, and welcome. Before we get started we have a few positions on our committee that we need to fill. We need to nominate a new representative to take over the Pacific Northwest.

P. Foley: I nominate Randy Rogers. (Mike Mallon 2<sup>nd</sup>)

G. Taylor: Are there any other nominations? All in favor? (Unanimous)  
We also need a new representative for the Intermountain division.

P. Foley: I nominate J.T. Schoonover (Mike Mallon 2<sup>nd</sup>)

G. Taylor: Any other nominations? All in favor? (Unanimous)  
We also have a new industry representative.

P. Foley: I nominate Marty Carrigan.

G. Taylor: Are there any other nominations? All in favor? (Unanimous)  
And, as many of you know, my term as chairman is over, so we need a new chairman for our committee. Margie Peterson, who was the Snowboard Program Manager for the last three years, contacted me about running for the position.

P. Foley: Then, I'd like to nominate Margie as the new chair of our committee.

G. Taylor: Are there any other nominations? All in favor? (Unanimous)  
Super, than Margie will take over as chair in the fall. She regrets she could not be here today due to commitments with her new job, but I am confident she will do a fantastic job.

Before we get started I would like to introduce the new chairman for the USSA Board of Directors, Chuck Ferries. I had the opportunity to talk with Chuck a bit the other night and discovered that he has long roots in this organization. He and Bill Marolt were racing together before I could ski. Chuck, do you have anything you would like to share with us?

C. Ferries: Actually, I'm not the new chairman until Saturday, but thank you for the introduction. I just wanted to stop in and listen for a little while to get a feel for the different committees and how they work and operate. I look forward to working with you, and want to thank all of the volunteers for taking the time to be here today. While my background may be in skiing, I have strong ties to snowboarding as well, and look forward to the developments we will see in the years to come.

G. Taylor: Thank you Chuck. Now let's start with our divisional reports. We only have a few of our reps here, Mike, Jeff, do you guys have anything you would like to say?

M. Mallon: Things in the Rocky Mountain division were limited as far as USSA divisional level events were concerned. We did host Western Regionals again, and the American Snowboard Tour.

B. Woolley: As far as the other regions, we directed everyone towards USASA, except in cases where there were no USASA series. Jackson Hole hosted two boardercross events in January. They did a pretty good job with an excellent turn out of 50 kids for a first time event. Snowbowl in Montana hosted a GS race, and Schweitzer in Washington hosted a race as well. A woman named Judy Harris, who lives in Spokane, has contacted me about getting a series going in the Pacific Northwest, particularly the Spokane and Seattle areas. In the East, the only USSA event was Eastern Regionals. Eric Webster sent me a report stating the same problems we've always had in the East... the appeal of USASA at their lower cost and their already dominant presence.

G. Taylor: Super. We didn't have anyone submit any rule changes this year, so we don't have to worry about that. The Judges' report is included in your packet, so you can look that over at your convenience. Maria McNulty and Greg Johnson put this together, and it reviews the Grand Prix events this past season. They've also compiled a report on the judges' clinics this past season, and a tentative idea about when and where clinics will be next year. Peter, why don't we have you give us a team report?

P. Foley: Well, if you all pull out this blue and red sheet in your folders, you can see the names of everyone that qualified for the team and how they qualified. The names in red are people we assume will likely join the team, but nothing is set in stone yet. The schedule for the summer is much lighter than in years past to give everyone some time to recuperate and get ready to focus on the next season. You can see the tentative freestyle and alpine schedules for the freestyle and alpine teams here in your packet.

The freestyle team will come to Park City to train for a week in June, and then head to Mt Hood for 10 days of riding. Then, they are off until September, when they will have another dry land camp and then fly to Chile for some winter snow training and a world cup event. Testing will happen in Salt Lake City mid-November and then on to camp at Mammoth.

The alpine team is flying to Chile in late July for a few weeks of training and a couple of continental cup events. They will return to Chile in September for two weeks for more training and the Valle Nevado world cup. In October the alpine team will do testing in Salt Lake City, and then fly to Sölden, Austria for a world cup. November will bring them back to Copper again for two weeks and the continental cup.

M. Mallon: Could you tell us how riders will qualify to compete at the events in Chile?

P. Foley: It's hard to say right now, we'll know more after the FIS Congress in June, because they may reduce our quota size. It will probably go off a combination of the points list and results from the Continental Cups, or maybe we'll run a time trial in Chile. We'll just have to see, because there is no point in speculating about it until we know our quota size.

G. Taylor: Does anyone else have questions for Peter? Jeremy Forster, who is the Director of Events, is with us today, and I would like him to brief us a little bit on what's happening in the Events department.

J. Forster: Well, firstly, you can see the Grand Prix Schedule lined out on this handout. The first Grand Prix will be in December in Park City with a PGS, halfpipe and Exhibition event. Next stop will be Breckenridge in January with a halfpipe and Exhibition event. February brings us back to Mt. Bachelor with another PGS, halfpipe and Exhibition event.

The site for Nationals is yet to be determined. This year we are re-formatting the look and feel of Nationals, starting with changing the name to US Snowboard Finals. We are trying to find a site for the first week of April in order to avoid conflicting with USASA Nationals. By taking away the National Championships title, we are no longer restricted by the FIS to a point limit of 360. We'd like to make this a more worthwhile event athletically, and a fun way to end the season for the athletes, instead of them feeling like they have to go because it's part of the team contract and it's the only way to win the truck. The alpine events will be continental cup level, increasing the athletic value to the alpine side of the event, and the Halfpipe will likely be a FIS level event. We would like to name a series of events that would be included to name a National Champion at the end of the season, rather than crowning the overall winner of that single event as National Champion. For example, in alpine you could use your continental cup at Copper, the two Grand Prix events, and an AST or Regionals or whatever is most fair. We would give the truck away at this event to the overall alpine National Champion, for halfpipe we have yet to decide if it will be there or at the last Grand Prix. Does that make sense?

G. Taylor: That sounds great Jeremy. While we are talking about changes. . . Ted Morris, the vice-president of Marketing, just poked his head in the door. He'd like to tell you about some possible changes with the team uniform.

T. Morris: Hi everyone. Jeremy asked me to come down here quickly to just update you on some of the things that are happening in snowboarding from the marketing side. As most of you know, our contract with X-Nix is up so we are looking for a new uniform sponsor. Companies bidding on the uniform are bidding primarily on the Olympic uniform. We'd like to keep the manufacturer here in the US, rather than trying to work with a Japanese based company. At this point in time, we are about 99% sure the patches will be gone from the uniform next year. We are working on an agreement that would allow athletes with current uniform sponsors to wear their sponsor uniform, but still be affiliated with US Snowboarding. Nothing is set in stone yet, but these are some of the things we've been working on.

M. Mallon: And the sponsors don't have a problem with this?

T. Morris: At this point in time, just about everyone is on board with us. Some of the companies that have patches on the uniform are in it for the ski side and snowboard was just extra. For some others, like Yahoo, we may have to figure out something special to keep them happy. Chevy is obviously a big one, but we are trying to show them the value they get out of the Grand Prix series with the sponsorship signage and bibs. The idea is that we would create a new brand, "US Snowboarding," and it would become such a strong brand that everyone would want to be affiliated with it. This is the idea that we are selling our sponsors.

G. Taylor: Thanks, Ted for taking time to come in. Sheryl Fine and Tom Kelly are here now as well, so I will go ahead and let them do their presentation. Sheryl heads up the membership department and Tom is the vice-president of Public Relations.

S. Fine: I have a really quick presentation for you all. I just want to present who we are and where we are going in the next season. I'm happy to announce that our staff is real static. We aren't hiring any new people and we are hiring one less half-time person. We are bringing back three people in addition to myself, which is a really good thing because we all have a good foundation of knowledge to be able to answer questions and receive phone calls. We have Rhonda Caywood who will continue in membership processing in general. She also handles FIS except for Snowboard. Lois McQueen handles Snowboard Grand Prix registration and FIS registration. She did that last year and it worked out very well, so she would be a good contact

person for you. It is Lois' third season with USSA and Rhonda's 2<sup>nd</sup>. Any one of us can answer your questions, but there is a little bit of specialization that goes on.

Lois also handles club registration, clinic registration, schedule agreements, meeting registration, video and publication processing, so she works closely with Tim Ross and Katz. Rhonda also handles refunds and membership changes. I do all the mailing lists, manage our database, and make sure things are handled efficiently.

We have been on a campaign to try to increase data in our database for our officials and coaches. Last year we added your certification levels to the system. Now your membership card reflects your certification, and this process will continue.

I also want to highlight that we accept faxes, we haven't publicized that as we are a little intimidated by the thought of 10,000 faxes coming in, but we're finding it's working really well. So we will accept faxes for USSA and for FIS licenses and renewals.

One other item for you, Tom Kelly is going to discuss some issues with you that we will be presenting to the board tomorrow. There is one cost that I would like to point out to you, our late fee is increasing from \$15 to \$25. We have been incredibly consistent on this cost and the date for seven seasons now. Members Services does a lot of other processing than just memberships, so if we can get those memberships in early it helps us to be more efficient in other areas throughout the season. With that I'll turn it over to Tom.

T. Kelly: We are proposing a number of category changes across the organization. With the exception of one category in alpine skiing a couple of years ago; we have not changed our membership fee structure for five years. I just wanted to apprise you of and set the stage for where we are going in the future. We saw our insurance costs, our necessary insurance coverage for all sports, not just snowboard, go up 325%, which was an unplanned increase. In raw numbers that is about half a million dollars. Fortunately as a company we are strong and we were able to absorb it within the company. The fee increases we are proposing this year are quite nominal when you look at the cost of the insurance. The only good thing is that we are locked into an insurance fee for this year, which we were not last year. It's about 10-15% higher than last year. We are not locked into a fee for the '03-'04 season. We will likely have to evaluate again our entire membership fee structure in the fall, so it's likely we will have a discussion with you in your sport committee meeting about your membership structure for the '03-'04 season. In Snowboard, we have two categories: Competitor, which is our core product; the national competitor, and then our regional competitor. We are proposing an increase in the competitor membership from \$70 to \$80, and in our regional from \$30 to \$45. Those are comparable to the increases we are proposing in freestyle and somewhat less than in alpine.

B. Woolley: I thought when we discussed this yesterday; we decided we would like to focus on keeping the regional membership fees down?

T. Kelly: Have you had any further discussions about where you are going to go with your regional programs?

B. Woolley: No

T. Kelly: Are you going to have those and be able to come out of your meetings today with a focus on that?

B. Woolley: Hopefully, with Tom Collins here...

T. Kelly: Will you have those later today?

B. Woolley: We would like to discuss that later this afternoon . . . can I catch up with you after that?

T. Kelly: Sheryl do you have anything else you would like to add?

S. Fine: We are going to try and trigger renewals a little bit earlier than we have in years past.

G. Taylor: Thank you guys. Alex Natt just came in. He's the attorney in house at USSA. We spoke this morning about restructuring the committee for meetings in the future. Could you brief us on what steps we would have to take to accomplish that?

A. Natt: Essentially you have to decide as a committee how you want to re-structure yourself to set yourself up as you want. As long as the structure does not unreasonably concentrate power within a certain geographical region or with a particular group. You then bring that to the board. Generally I would expect that they would approve whatever you recommend. But the opportunity would be there for any group who feels they have been disadvantaged by your group. It's a pretty simple process and it's something you'd want to have ready for the board to review 60 days out from their meetings in the fall... probably by the end of September. As long as it's something that makes your board more efficient, I wouldn't expect that it should be much of a process.

G. Taylor: The reason we're doing it is because the committee has gotten so large, and it's difficult for everyone to make it to the meetings. There are still a couple of spots that haven't been filled in years from Central and Northern. And because of the size of the committee you need 20% athlete representation and because of our size we need 3 athletes, which is difficult. I think a good solution would be to keep it similar, but instead of 7 divisions represented, maybe one from East, West and Rocky. You would remain with Foley, FIS, USASA, Industry, Rules and Tech, and just make the divisional quotas smaller.

A. Natt: You hit on really the only requirement, which is the 20% athlete representation.

G. Taylor: Isn't the staff required in the bylaws?

A. Natt: Yes they are required too, but we'll always have a staff person.

G. Taylor: OK, so we're looking. . . I think all of you would agree it would be a good thing to move forward with. I mean Rick has been here as long as I have, and how often have you seen a full committee in attendance?

R. Bower: I don't think ever.

G. Taylor: I mean you need people on the committee here so you can have feedback.

A. Natt: You may want to think about your executive committee. Eight people on an exec committee is large. At the USSA level, they are only empowered to act when all people are there, not there but on the phone and participating, so you can't just have eight members, but only need a quorum of five to do business. Maybe that is something you should consider. You should also consider decision making at the exec level.

G. Taylor: Greg Johnson put an official's report in everyone's packet, but he can't be here.

B. Woolley: Greg put together a manual last year. He did a great job; he finished it last June and it goes over everything from how to prepare venues to how to run a venue, and it's snowboard specific, not just FIS TD or USSA TD, but our own Snowboard official program. He ran a couple of clinics last year. The numbers are listed in his report. We created a certification system. Pro Level 1, 2 and National. He certified 22 at regional and national and 3 at Pro 2. Next year we will likely run these clinics in conjunction with the judges', so that participants can take the judges'

clinic one day and the snowboard officials' clinic the next. I don't know if he's planning on doing a pro-level clinic in conjunction with the Pro Judges Clinic.

G. Taylor: Chris Katzenburger stepped in a few minutes ago. Chris works in Coaches' Education. This year the Coaches' Academy just finished at Mt. Bachelor. There was no snowboard specific portion, but they are planning on bringing it back for next year. The Academy is 11 days for alpine and usually 7 for freestyle and snowboard, because they don't have as much area to cover. She doesn't have much else to report, but the dates would be May 1-11, and it may be at Mammoth—if not at Bachelor. The snowboard portion would be the 7 last days, May 4-11.

IT goes from Regional Coaches through to International and there is different levels you can participate at.

R. Rogers: What's the process to go?

P. Foley: We've only had one, so it's a little up in the air.

R. Rogers: So you just go to the common regional clinics and go from there.

P. Foley: We don't have set rules yet.

G. Taylor: I think it's important... you see it all the time where a bunch of kids come up through the system and they get to Peter's level or whatever level and they don't have the skills necessary to compete. SO, it's important that when they are at Mike's level or below we are all working in the same direction to get the best competitors possible.

R. Rogers: The thing I see, at least on the alpine side, at the regional level the coaches who should be attending can't take the time off or don't have the resources available to be able to attend something like that. So if there were something more on the regional level it would be helpful, or if there were funding or scholarship for attendance that would be great. I've talked to a coach who is coaching internationally without any certified education. The other side of it is you have the guy who wants to attend for the merit badge. So I think that maybe invitations are the way to go for a National level clinic.

B. Woolley: I met with Chris this week to talk about this. It's a general feel that we would like to see a more standardized program. For snowboard all there is at present is that National Academy that happened two years ago, but I said I don't want to see it slide completely through the cracks this year. We spoke about running some regional level clinics in the fall. She mentioned that they were starting to work with ACEP, which is an applicable fundamental coaching program for all sports, so that maybe we could do a 2-day clinic, one day ACEP, one day snowboard specific. Something that's a basic intro level to get people fired up to go into the winter and bait them a little bit for the Academy in the spring too.

R. Rogers: What about seminars or clinics during an event? The coaches are already there and they don't have to spend extra time and money to attend a separate clinic.

B. Woolley: And I've already spoken with Jeremy and Abbi Nyberg about that. The first Grand Prix next season is an excellent opportunity because it's here, at Park City, and we have the facilities and resources easily accessible. That's a definite possibility for next season.

R. Rogers: Another idea for both coaches and official's education is to use your resources at Mt. Hood. Everyone is there training during the summer already, so you just book a room at Timberline for a couple of hours to do a clinic with a group of coaches.

M. Mallon: Yeah, like if Bob wanted to do a Sports Pysch thing for two hours, that'd be great.

A. Natt: A federal judge in Wyoming has just dismissed a case about an injury in a terrain park on the motion that it is a risk inherent in the sport of Snowboarding—which is good for the organizers, good for the ski areas.

T. Collins: There was a comment at the TransWorld Industry Conference about terrain park features and that we should set down “Guidelines” not recommendations or specifications. We have to clean our language up with guidelines and terminology. Something that’s going on between SIA, Ski areas and insurance companies is a big discussion about terrain park risk management. They are trying to make a move from the industry side with SIA and the video producers to get the safety message across of “Look before you Leap” at the beginning of all videos.

G. Taylor: Becky, would you like to give a program report?

B. Woolley: I’ve enclosed a program report in your packet. If you look at the divisional breakdown of events, there were two at Jackson in Intermountain, one at Schweitzer in the Pacific Northwest, four in Rocky—Western Regionals, and four in the East—Eastern Regionals. The American Snowboard Tour had three events; one at Sugarbowl, one at Steamboat in conjunction with Regionals, and one at Bear Mt. The Sugarbowl event was a bit of a scramble, because the BoardFrenzy tour didn’t show up.

The BoardFrenzy Tour had planned four events this season focusing on PGS, one at Park City—Olympic Winter Games Selection event, one at Snowbird, one in January TBA and the fourth in conjunction with the AST in Sugarbowl, which he did not show up for. Luckily, Craig Ellidge and Tom Winters with the AST picked this event up. When I talked to Konrad Rottermund about it, he says he told the AST organizers that he wouldn’t be able to pull it off, but he never notified USSA and there was nothing posted on his web site. I’m really glad Craig and Tom were there to help out. Jeff (Archibald) were you at that event? How did it go?

J. Archibald: Yeah, we were there, and it went well. We were super-psyched it happened.

B. Woolley: So, the BoardFrenzy tour will not be coming back next season. Konrad still owes athletes’ prize money and the TD his fees. He also says it is not economically wise for him to run this tour next season.

Regional Championships... we had them at Steamboat for the second year in a row, and it was great to have a year of experience behind them. Plus they pulled off a great event with the AST there at the same time, so thank you to them. Then I headed out to Waterville Valley in the East. It was an interesting event as the event organizer had never done an event before and the race secretary had never scored a snowboard event before. The weather was classic, raining half an inch Saturday night and then dropping to 30 degrees in the morning, so there were some hill issues. The PGS finished at 4:45 that afternoon with the help of everyone on the mountain. The points were good as it was continental cup level and part of the NorAm Series.

The NorAm Series had nine events this year. The world cup spots were awarded to the top finisher in each discipline as you can see on your summary. We went over the tentative schedule for next year, and you can see it outlined in your packet.

Jr. Worlds was in Rovaniemi, Finland. The results were great. Eric Warren took 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Michelle Gorgone took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the PGS. The halfpipe was a mess, the kids got to train for an hour and half, and after a two hour team captain’s meeting all the coaches were out that morning with shovels trying to fix it best they could. The kids did great though, Steve Fisher and Hannah Teter both won. I’ve included a Jr. Worlds Result comparison for the past four years, which you can find directly behind your program report. The event included boardercross for the first time, and Lindsey Jacobellis won that. I think we did pretty well considering we only had 12 kids there. The

full contingent we selected couldn't make it due to multiple injuries at the end of the season, and the expense and cost of the trip wasn't cost efficient to replace riders at short notice.

In Development, we had a great opportunity with the Olympics, because we brought in 8 kids for halfpipe and 8 for Parallel GS to forerun the events. We were also able to bring in Scott Palmer and Bud Keene to help coach. It was just awesome to be able to provide such an incredible training opportunity for the up and coming kids in our programs. They were so excited, and for them to be able to compete in a venue like that, in front of a crowd like that is something those athletes will never forget. We took some heat from various groups about using the kids that we chose, but I think we did the right thing.

P. Foley: We took people that we felt had a good chance of being in the Olympics the next time. The issues mainly came out of the local clubs about why the Park City kids weren't the forerunners.

G. Taylor: Bill Slattery is here who is the chairman of the FIS Snowboard Committee.

(General Introductions)

B. Slattery: Just briefly to tell you what's happening, the FIS meetings are coming up the first week in June. Becky has put together the FIS Comments to the Agenda in your packets, and there are 102 proposals, which if you read through it, most of them came from Germany. They deal with world cup, Olympic Winter Games, continental cup and general rules. We are going to have to go through each one of these things. It's going to be a couple days of compressed activity. What we would like you to do if you can, is in the short period of time you have this document, if you could review it and if you have a comment or a question, Peter Foley will be going over as well as myself and Jeremy Forster. Peter is on the Rules Committee, which will be going over most of these. If you want to go over them, we would appreciate it, and you can get in comments to Becky in the office. In the fall we don't do hardly any rule changes, just some tweaking. All rule changes take place in the spring. You will also see your '02/'03 calendar, and a brief outline of '03/'04. That's world cup, the continental cup calendar isn't in there.

G. Taylor: What critical issues do you foresee?

B. Slattery: There are some key issues in there with venue management, vertical drops, and training periods for boardercross and halfpipe. The US initiatives mainly deal with the quota procedures for Olympic Winter Games in Torino, and that's not to have a double qualification period... once for the nation and again for the athlete. What happened, when snowboard came in '98 the IOC had a new philosophy to minimize the field size. Across the board in summer and winter games they are trying to keep the number of athletes down as we grow in disciplines. The other thing that's happening is the proposal of a third discipline in Torino for 2006, and that's boardercross. We're hoping that they don't take one away from the other side, and if they have boardercross the chances are the field size will go up, because boardercross has its own athletes rather than being a crossover sport.

Our initiatives primarily deal with halfpipe and the judging—rotation of judges, nomination of judges for the Olympic Winter Games, World Championships and the formatting of the halfpipe, because we did some test formats at lower level races and we want to have them approved so that we can use them at continental cup and on up.

G. Taylor: What's your feeling with proposal 101, helmets?

B. Slattery: As you probably all know USSA has a helmet rule for all sanctioned events, but helmets are not required for FIS events. With the Olympics here I had to do control of all the equipment, and I would say better than 50% of the competitors in the halfpipe were wearing a helmet. Senior Executives are pushing through the medals committee and other areas for

helmets in all snowboard disciplines and other sports. What do I think is going to happen? The Germans are requesting that helmets be used for all snowboard sports for safety reasons. As you probably all know athletes are going higher, pipes are being built with machine snow, which can be harder. As a TD I've had 3 concussions and they went to the hospital, and I've had 2 where we've had to keep them out of the competition because they were out for over a minute and seeing stars. That's what's prompting this. If I had to guess, I would say right now it's going to pass, because there's a lot of momentum behind it from management.

G. Taylor: Rick, as an athlete, and I know you wear a helmet, do you think that's going to deter people from competing in halfpipe? I know in the finals of the Olympics, of the 12 guys competing, only one guy had a helmet, and half of the girls wore helmets in the finals. A number of the top athletes don't wear them and don't like them, so what's your feeling as an athlete?

R. Bower: Well, I think it's up to the individual. I think a lot of the athletes would put up a big protest about having to wear helmets, especially at the world cup level. A lot of those guys don't even do the world cup until the year before the Olympics to get their FIS points back up, so there's a whole other world cup tour out there. I think you would also see a lot of people taking that rule and just going in stride with it.

T. Collins: IT also goes in stride with your pipeline... kids are required to wear helmets as they are coming up, if you have a helmet rule at the upper level, two or three years from now, those kids will be there.

A. Natt: I've asked if this is based on any scientific research, and I was told no, just anecdotal evidence.

R. Rogers: I have another rule question. There's a rule about setting distance between gates in parallel. Right now you have a range. Here it is saying 11 m or 21. As a course setter I think you need to keep a range, even if it's only 2-3 meters.

M. Mallon: I don't think that will go through.

R. Rogers: I hope that the interpretation is for a range.

B. Slattery: With these proposals sometimes it's hard to read the true intention with the transfer from German to English, but with Peter sitting on the rules committee. And all of this will be run through that committee. Some won't take long to go through, and others may take more discussion.

G. Taylor: I think the helmet one is going to be a big issue, just knowing the top athletes.

R. Bower: So how come our Grand Prix events don't require helmets?

G. Taylor: Because they are FIS events, and right now helmets aren't required. That's why Nationals is FIS as well, so that we can use their rules.

M. Mallon: What's our stance, Peter?

P. Foley: I don't know yet, but personally, I think it should be up to the athlete.

B. Slattery: This is going to be a rather interesting topic over at the FIS. It's coming from the FIS TD working group and from management. Now whether they have gathered more statistics about it, I don't know. The issue may not even see the light of day.

C. Karol: With the helmet thing, it's been a big issue at Aspen. We have a lot of parents asking where we stand on it, and our stock answer is, "Well, USSA requires them."

R. Bower: There's no doubt about it that helmets help, but a lot of these riders come right out of the skateboarding scene and will have nothing to do with being told what to wear. Basically it comes down to when you whack your head hard enough, you decide it might be a good idea.

B. Slattery: I don't know what's going to happen with it. The minutes from the FIS Congress are usually circulated approx. 4 weeks after the event, and they can be found on the FIS website as well. The helmet issue is a key issue, and will probably be known by the Wednesday, the first week in June.

G. Taylor: Any other questions for Bill?

M. Carrigan: Just in general, about your role as one of the upper members in the committee. Where is the general direction going with FIS and snowboard in general and the US side of it and the things we are doing over here that are different, no world cup in the US, etc?

B. Slattery: There are no world cups in the US because USSA and FIS have not been able to agree on a set of business requirements or financial side of things.

M. Carrigan: So where does your role and Howard's role fit into that?

B. Slattery: I'm the chairman of the committee and Howard is on the conference committee. When it comes to the financial end of it, the snowboard committee doesn't have a whole lot of authority into determining a nation accepting or rejecting a world cup.

P. Foley: It's all smoke and mirrors, you don't have any idea how much money they bring in from their sponsors or anything like that. They are supposed to be this member/nation group, and only some things like technical rules are decided by the nations, but other than that it's basically people in Switzerland making decisions.

B. Slattery: To answer your question, we are a technical committee... we deal with anything that affects the athletes. When it comes to the financial end, we don't have much authority.

G. Taylor: I think the USA's answer to that is the US is setting the standard for events using progressive formats, providing excellent venues, and we are doing a better job than most of the world cup venues.

M. Carrigan: I want to know who is lobbying for the Grand Prix formats to be recognized at a higher FIS level?

J. Forster: The problem is there are a bunch of other rules that go along with a continental cup level event, like country quotas and peripheral rules. And, at this point, we (as the event department) haven't really been given the feeling that FIS halfpipe points are really that important.

P. Foley: We often propose the kind of things you are talking about, but we meet great resistance from the FIS staff and Central European nations and we end up being outnumbered. The other member nations, the Austrians for sure, are not as interested in the way we try to keep things open, making sure all the best athletes have access to the events. The Austrians only want access for people who join their national team and they'll do whatever they can to keep the others out. What I am always interested in is seeding athletes off a combination of their best two FIS point results, but they won't do that because they want to see an accumulation of participation that makes sure you go to every event—and that's the kind of thing that Europeans go for, which is not the way we see it at all. We have some support from Canada, and sometimes from Sweden. But most of the FIS staff is into whatever they can do to require participation in their events. That way they can run a low-level event and still have everyone show up. Whereas, from Jeremy's side we've decided there are no requirement for participation, but we are going to

run the best event, which is what will make everyone come. I wish that is what they would do; I wish the FIS would run less events and focus on making them the best events.

We have asked several years to have less World cups, and there's a general agreement on that, except that every one of those nations wants to host a world cup. Then, the way the FIS sells their tour, they make more money if there are more events.

B. Slattery: The technical stuff is sometimes overwritten by the financial stuff.

G. Taylor: Any other questions for Bill? If you didn't know, Ted Martin resigned and Alex Hoeller has replaced him.

B. Slattery: Alex is coming in without much experience. Ted, for his pluses and minuses, did a pretty good job, except that he didn't delegate very well. Alex does not have the experience that Ted did. I would guess that it could prove to be an interesting year with the coaches on the world cup this year. The only thing I would add to that is that the TD's will probably have more authority than they did when Ted was there; which may help some. Alex has probably only been involved for maybe six years.

P. Foley: My worry is that he is an Austrian, and they don't even stand up to their own nation. And he used to build horrible boardercross courses.

B. Slattery: If you give him a break he may do a pretty decent job and be flexible and listen to people.

G. Taylor: Thanks Bill. Becky, did you have anything to finish up?

B. Woolley: I didn't have much else, just the junior development camps. Those camps are comprised of the kids who made the Junior Gold Team at Eastern and Western Regionals along with some Coaches' Discretion spots. The alpine camp is June 22-28 at Hood, coached by Nick Smith and Jeff Archibald. The halfpipe camp is August 3-9 at Hood coached by Heath Van Aken and Bud Keene.

We are planning on publishing a comp guide this year. It's still available on-line, but we found there was just too much demand for a printed rulebook, which we did do last year. There are also some key issues in the comp guide that I would like to see back in print as well, just for a reference. That's it program-wise, if anyone has any questions.

R. Rogers: What are we going to do to foster development at the grass roots level?

G. Taylor: We will discuss that in a bit; Mike Mallon has something he's working on. Tom Collins is here and we'd like to work with him later as well and talk about some possibilities

Rule changes, there were no formal rule changes put in. Greg Johnson wrote a report and he requested that helmets be taken out as a requirement for halfpipe and Slopestyle, but it wasn't a formal motion. That probably wouldn't fly anyway at this level, and it wasn't a formal motion. If it were, we would have to vote on it. Other than that there were no rule change proposals.

T. Collins: One thing you might want to do in terms of protecting yourself in terms of liability... you might want to go through your rules and change specifications to guidelines.

G. Taylor: Mike, do you want to present your idea?

M. Mallon: Sure. Becky and I were talking about ways to re-start grassroots snowboarding for USSA, but because Tom is here I definitely want to keep the floor open for USASA because that is definitely the strongest way to go based on their number of members and the great job they are

doing already. But we can definitely look at what we were talking about, I just want to keep the floor open for Tom and Becky to continue talking, because my personal feeling is that is the best way for USSA to go.

G. Taylor: And we'll talk about that after the meeting as on open forum. I think that's the best way to go about it, informally, as a group to see what ideas we can come up with. Jim McCarthy just walked in and this is his last meeting as the chairman of the USSA board. He has been with us for six years. He's a snowboard fan. He made it to all the snowboard events at the Olympics; he was at the start for the Women's halfpipe and the finish for the men. It was great he could be there and be a part of it. He's been very supportive of us and we're grateful for his help.

J. McCarthy: I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for all the work you do. As Gary said, I had the chance to see some truly awesome competitions at the Olympics and I finally understood what awesome meant. You guys brought greatness, newness and some amazing athletes to the Olympics. I was there the night the three men got their medals and I was impressed with what great people they are. It speaks very well for the sport and the excitement you bring to what can be a very tradition bound organization.

G. Taylor: Is there any other old business that anyone would like to bring up or discuss? As I said we are fortunate to have the people in the room that we do. We sat with Marty for an hour this morning and we are very fortunate to have someone from the industry be here as a sounding board and to be able to bring stuff back to the industry to let them know what we are doing and why we are doing it. It's tough to get criticized by the industry when the people aren't here giving us their ideas or viewpoints. So again, we are lucky to have Marty here. Marty, do you have anything you would like to say?

M. Carrigan: I think in general on the industry side, it's mostly a matter of good communication and PR, which I definitely will help spearhead, letting everyone know what's going on behind the scenes, how hard everyone is working and what the goals are.

G. Taylor: Tom, do you have anything from the USASA side? What are the dates for your Nationals?

T. Collins: For 2003, March 25-30<sup>th</sup> at Sunday River. We are looking for 2004 at the moment.

G. Taylor: Anything going on with USASA that you would like to fill us in on?

T. Collins: It was interesting to see the FIS report and that the meetings are in Slovenia two weeks after the ISF meetings.

J. Forster: Yeah, they can never seem to coordinate to get it all together at once. Two years ago we were able to attend both, and being at the ISF.

T. Collins: And the ISF is still living. There isn't going to be an ISF Tour, all events are going to be run by separate promoters. It's interesting the way it developed. Basically the ISF board used to be eight people, and due to financial reasons it has been reduced to five people. And the board is now controlled by the US. Gordon Robbins is the president, I'm the Treasurer, Mark Schultz is still on as the VP. They gave the rights to the tour to the pro riders organization in Europe and Asia and to USASA in North America. Peter Bayer has pulled out of running the PSA in Europe. Don Bostick is looking at running the tour as a third party and it would be a combination of the Vans events and the X-Games.

P. Foley: All in the US?

T. Collins: No, it was a true European tour and would also take the Burton European Open and the Asian Open, but not run by the ISF. The ISF is living and breathing, trying to keep going, but

with zero dollar expenditures. They are just trying to pay back their own debt, get everything right, and be there for the nations.

As USASA we are still trying to stay out there and grow. We have targeted areas where we would like to go—as you had mentioned in the Intermountain areas and Pacific Northwest. What we currently have going does stretch some of these age groups down to a bare minimum. At some of these events you only have two junior women and two junior guys.

M. Mallon: How many at people at Nationals this year in Mammoth?

T. Collins: 1,139 in five competitions in five days.

P. Foley: I hope the ISF can put something together, at least on the halfpipe side, because you sure don't want the FIS to be the only game in town.

T. Collins: We want to definitely focus on the halfpipe, and we would like to bring boardercross back up as well.

G. Taylor: OK, Becky has a couple of items under new business.

B. Woolley: I really just wanted your opinion on a couple of things. We need to solidify our calendar with the FIS about our number of sanctioned events. At the Regional level, I would like your feedback about whether we should sanction halfpipe and boardercross as FIS events. Is it worth it for your riders to have the halfpipe be FIS, or should we just have it as USSA?

M. Mallon: Or ISF?

B. Woolley: That's an option too, it would just take a little more research to see what we would need to do to pull that off.

T. Collins: In North America, you would have to go through USASA.

B. Woolley: So I would have to sit down with you, Tom, and go over the logistics.

M. Mallon: Ricky, what do you think?

R. Bower: I would just like to see more regional events anywhere, especially in Intermountain.

P. Foley: I don't see the benefit of sanctioning it with anybody.

B. Woolley: I don't have a problem with Regionals being just a USSA contest—it's easier from an organizational standpoint. My only hesitation is that if it is just a USSA event and you go to Snowboard Finals and it's a FIS event, you will have some kids who will attend that event who have not participated in any Grand Prixes and do not have a National license or FIS license, and suddenly they are looking at paying another \$90 in membership fees for one event. I don't know if that's an issue, but just something to think about.

R. Bower: I think if they are going to Nationals, they should expect to pay that.

R. Rogers: And is that justification for making Regionals FIS events?

M. Mallon: For the last two years Regionals has been a FIS event, and for the younger kids we just run them separate as a USSA event.

P. Foley: I think for the alpine side there is always an advantage to having it to be FIS. On the halfpipe side it just doesn't matter. The ranking just doesn't matter on any list.

B. Woolley: Two years ago at Eastern Regionals the halfpipe was just USSA, and Enos came down and he was upset, because he thought his kids were going to get FIS points for the event.

M. Mallon: The only reason we wanted Regionals to be FIS was for the alpine side of it.

B. Woolley: If the halfpipe and boardercross are just USSA, it's great for everyone. The kids can compete with just their regional license, we only need a FIS TD for two days instead of four, and the judges won't cost as much. But, if it is worth it athletically, and these coaches think it is worth it to bring their kids to a FIS halfpipe, we can do it that way too. Mike Bell, your team is predominantly freestyle, what do you think?

M. Bell: I would have brought more kids to Waterville if it weren't FIS. I have a group of kids who I know weren't going to go to Nationals, so it wasn't worth it for them to upgrade to a FIS license for one event.

G. Taylor: So you are in favor of just a USSA sanctioned halfpipe?

M. Bell: Yes, definitely.

C. Karol: I'm kind of with you on that. I understand that getting kids alpine points is a great thing, but for a lot of kids that's a definite deterrent.

P. Foley: I've heard the argument on the other side way harder. On the alpine side at the Grand Prixes there are constant complaints about how are they ever going to get a better place to start if there are no other FIS events in the US?

M. Mallon: I think from the racing side it's definitely a good thing to keep it FIS at that level.

P. Foley: Somewhere you have to draw the line about when you start earning points.

B. Woolley: Mostly, there is just no reason for the halfpipe fields at Regionals to only be 70 kids.

M. Mallon: And the reason the alpine fields are so big is because they are FIS, and the kids are chasing those points. So, I think the halfpipe should be USSA, boardercross doesn't matter.

B. Woolley: All right then, I'm sold.

G. Taylor: I'll have to discuss with Becky and Alex about re-structuring the committee and the time-line to present it in the fall so that it's in place for next spring. That's all I've got. The chairman's dinner is tonight at 6:30 pm. Pete Del'Giudice is the USSA Coach of the Year, which is a huge honor. He was nominated by the alpine sports, so that's a pretty neat thing. Jeremy, did you have something?

J. Forster: Gary, I would just like to thank you for all the work you've done for the last six years.

R. Rogers: I just want to say I've been going around to a lot of different meetings in the last few days. I'm trying to collect comments and ideas for a panel of the National Ski Areas for part of their regional educational Clinics. We want to put together a panel that would discuss events and the effect they have on ski areas, just to have some dialogue started because we can't show up to run an event and then run into roadblocks all the time. The event and the mountain should have a partnership. If USSA's goal is "Best in the World in 2006," then the resorts are going to have to play a role in making that happen. So let's look at it that way, instead of, "We need ten more hours cat time or this event is not going to happen."

As a TD, hopefully, if everything goes right, you should show up to an event, everyone knows what they are supposed to do, and really you are just there for a couple of signatures. The

reality is, that doesn't always happen. I think we do a pretty good job of identifying in advance what our expectations are at a club level, but somehow it doesn't always reach all the way to the event management group to the ski area owners or managers. So I'm trying to put together some kind of group where we can address this, so that when we show up for an event with athletes, you are still recognized as customers.

Many of you are bringing more dollars into the resort than the season pass holders are, and the ski area is benefiting from having the event there—but at the same time we are still looked at as an obstacle. I see it happen a lot where as an event, if you need something, you can't even talk to the managers because if you ask for just one thing more, they want to cancel the whole thing. Or you see John Public show up to buy a lift ticket and he claims the only reason he came that day was to ski the run that is closed for an event.

J. Forster: We're constantly trying to evaluate our events and show how it provides value to the resorts. I think most of those resorts understand the value-back, and while it's not tangible and no one is coming up to them and saying "I'm here because I saw a television show and I'm buying a lift ticket." You know, there is an impression that comes from the media and economically because there are extra people in the town spending money.

R. Rogers: In the Far West there are only a few places that host events and are willing, and we would like to expand that with the help of your experiences and input.

G. Taylor: Let's call for adjournment. Who would like to stay and talk with Tom and Marty about Grassroots and where we are going and how we can work better together? We have the room all day, so let's take an hour for lunch and come back at 1 pm.

P. Foley: I motion to adjourn.

M. Mallon: Second

G. Taylor: Meeting adjourned.