

SKI JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING

Silver Mine B, Park City Marriott
1895 Sidewinder Drive, Park City, UT

Friday, May 17, 2013
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Agenda

Acting Chair: Joe Holland

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Confirmation of SJ/NC Sport Committee membership, 2013
 - **New Members of SJ/NC Sport Committee Membership for 2013-2014**
 - Reed Zuechlke Chairman 5/2015
 - Joey Caterinichio USSA Nordic Director By employment
 - Willy Graves Athlete USSA BOD
 - Clint Jones Athlete 5/2015
 - Dave Jarrett National Coach By employment
 - Vacant National Coach 5/2015
 - Joe Holland Regional Rep, East USSA BOD
 - Todd Wilson Coaches 5/2015
 - Mark Levesseur Officials Co-CHair 5/2015
 - Blair Tompten Officials Co Chair 5.2015
 - Dan Mattoon At-Large/Central 5/2015
3. Opening comments by Chair and USSA Nordic Program Manager
4. Additions to agenda
5. Approval of minutes, spring USSA Congress 12
 - Approved
6. Highlight of program reports from Coaches' Subcommittee Meeting (Wilson)
 - Report was given.
7. Domestic calendar report (Wilson)
 - US nationals will be in Park City large Hill; Lake Placid Flaming Leaves Small hill in October.
8. Reports

- Nordic Combined update (Jarrett)
 - Women's Ski Jumping Report
 - Men's ski Jumping Report
 - Nordic Combined Report
9. Proposals and report from the Officials' Subcommittee
- Motion to change Age classifications in the comp guide from the J system to the U system. Motion passes.
 - Reed Zuechle new obman, replaces Matt Laue. USSA appointed.
10. Proposals and report from the Coaches' Subcommittee
- No action
11. USASJ Trends/Risks/Opportunities
12. Women's Ski Jumping USA Trends/Risks/Opportunities

JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

USSA Congress 2013
Marriott Hotel, Park City, UT
May 17, 2013

Call to order at 08:30

Roll Call

- Eastern, Reed Zuehlke standing in for Mark Levasseur (Mark replaced Dan Warner who retired)
- Central, Dan Mattoon standing in for John Keck
- Rocky Mountain, Paul Andrews standing in for Larry Glueck
- Intermountain, Chuck Heckert standing in for Keith Hanson
- Alaska, Doug Taylor (absent)
- Acting chairman, Chuck Heckert
- Sport Chairman, Joe Holland
- FIS Obman, Reed Zuehlke
- USSA Nordic Director, Joey Caterinichio

Additional Attendees: Todd Wilson, Clint Jones, Blair Tomten, Paul Loomis, Greg Poirier, Dave Jarrett, Alan Alborn, Alan Johnson, Peter Graves, Matt Laue, Kerry Lynch, Mike Jokela

Motion made by Dan Mattoon to have Mike Jokela stand in for Doug Taylor, seconded by Paul Andrews; approved by the voting members

1. Select new chairman
 - a. Nominations
 - i. Blair Tomten nominated herself
 - ii. Chuck Heckert was nominated by Dan Mattoon

- b. Chuck Heckert expressed a desire to not take on the full burden of the position
Discussion on the topic ensued and the opinion expressed from the group was that due to the inexperience of Blair Tomten in the role, Chuck Heckert and Blair Tomten should co-chair the committee
 - i. Motion made by Reed Zuehlke and seconded by Dan Mattoon to move forward with the co-chair appointment; approved by the voting members
 - c. Proposal from Larry Stone to reopen nominations for subcommittee chairman
 - i. Motion made by Reed Zuehlke and seconded by Dan Mattoon; approved by the voting members
 - ii. Mark Levasseur was nominated by Larry Stone
 - iii. Due to the nomination of Mark Levasseur, Chuck Heckert requested to have his name withdrawn from the list of nominees
 - d. Motion from Chuck Heckert to have Mark Levasseur and Blair Tomten co-chair the sub-committee, seconded by Reed Zuehlke; approved by the voting members
2. Division reports
- a. Eastern, 27 positions, 7 events, 16 active officials with 4 FIS
 - b. Central, 93 positions, 23 events, 17 active officials with 13 national and 3 FIS
 - c. Rocky Mountain, 23 positions, 5 events, 9 active officials with 7 national and 2 FIS
 - d. Intermountain, 32 positions, 5 events, 14 active officials with 12 national and 2 FIS
 - e. Discussion
 - i. Eastern division does not have enough events to support the number of judges
 - ii. Central has more events than the roster of judges can support
 - iii. Proposal was made to use Eastern officials at Central events
 - iv. Motion made by Reed Zuehlke to have himself and Dan Mattoon foster a discussion between Mark Levasseur and John Keck to engage Eastern officials in Central division events, seconded by Chuck Heckert; approved by the voting members
3. Review of Major Events
- a. Nationals, Chicago
 - i. The predominant issue is the scheduling and timing of the event
 - ii. Held in the summer due specifically to the inability to find a weekend during the winter when all athletes – including the national teams – can attend
 - iii. Discussion – continue with summer nationals, but should there be a large hill nationals each year
 - iv. This is an issue for the Coaches' subcommittee, so further discussion was tabled until that meeting
 - b. Junior Nationals, Minneapolis
 - i. Todd Wilson, coach – jumps were well prepared; cross country venue was not well prepared; needs to be better prepared for a national championship
 - ii. Jarret Moe, TD – echoed opinion of coach Todd Wilson
 - iii. Matt Laue – explained that the venue changed at the last minute and he was not able to be involved in the preparation of the new facility
 - c. North American Championships, Eau Claire
 - i. Dan Mattoon, Acting Central Officials' Chairman - Hill was well prepared and commended the club for putting on the event
 - ii. Issue that the hill will not be FIS certified this coming year due to the in-run being too short
 - iii. Hill remodeled by Dave Tomten; because a major event was scheduled, the funding became available

- iv. Todd Wilson – Offered kudos to the Eau Claire Ski Club on their performance in putting on the event

4. Rules & Controls

- a. Junior National Rules & Guidelines – Report by Jarrett Moe
 - i. Todd Wilson – requested clarification of equipment rules, specifically the ski measurement rule
 - ii. Jarret Moe – discussion of the suit as well
 - iii. Which equipment rules will be followed for juniors - junior BMI or FIS rules?
 - 1. USSA rule 170.1 applies to juniors
 - 2. Todd Wilson – is it in the best interest of the sport to enforce the rules for all vs. the top athletes in the results
 - 3. Discussion from the group: when should rules be applied and when not? Always applied.
 - 4. What are the core issues? Fairness vs. cost.
 - iv. Gender/Age Class team event (USSA rule 125.2.2.1)
 - 1. Todd Wilson – does interpretation of the rule allow coaches and organizers to have flexibility in team makeup since at times there are athletes left over in team selection?
 - 2. Discussion from the group: cross divisional teams are normally not allowed, however, it may be an option for those “left over” to allow all athletes to participate
 - v. Age and Classification
 - 1. Todd Wilson – should the terminology for age groups be changed to follow the rules that other disciplines/sports are using?
 - 2. Proposal from the group: change the terminology used for the age group classification of athletes from the “J” designation to the “U” classification to clarify age classes more effectively.
 - 3. **Motion made by Reed Zuehlke to adopt the “U” classification and present it to the Sport Committee for approval, seconded by Chuck Heckert; approved by voting members.**
- b. North American Championships
 - i. Organizers - should the name North American Championships be applied with/ without Nordic Combined events?
 - ii. Discussion from the group: the precedent has been set and this is already allowed.
- c. FIS Rules & Updates
 - i. Judges per Event – reduction to 3 being tested this summer in Hinterzarten and Klingenthal
 - ii. Judge Retirement Age – judges over the age of 60 can petition their National Governing Body to continue as WC/COC judges until 65
 - iii. Judge Scores as Factor in Total Score – a proposal may be in the works to have all five judge scores count to raise the percentage of judging in the overall point total
- d. Video Measuring
 - i. Reed Zuehlke – provided a brief discussion on video measuring systems and reported that he has provided royalty-free video measuring systems to the Norge Ski Club and the Eau Claire Ski Club
 - ii. No other clubs have expressed interest in the system
 - iii. Tom Bickner, Norge – reported that the system was very successful when used in competition this past winter at Norge; reflecting that manual distance

measurements were off by as much as three meters at times and recommending that all clubs use video measuring

- iv. Discussion from the group: what are the next steps for video distance measuring in the USA?
 - v. Matt Laue – proposed that Dartfish be used for US events since USSA's license could be leveraged by all clubs
 - vi. Discussion from the group on Calculations in general
 - 1. Tom – Paul Jastrow from Eau Claire has developed a calculations system he will roll out this summer
 - 2. Other systems have been developed, but all are individual and proprietary
 - 3. Reed Zuehlke – offered the opinion that a nationwide team needed to be established to design and develop technology systems so they could survive beyond the involvement of a single individual and address solutions much broader than calculations; creating a centralized approach that could reach all clubs and expand into the areas of marketing, recruitment and beyond
 - 4. Greg Poirier – reported that he is working with USSA to establish requirements for calculations systems
 - vii. Greg Poirier – will continue working with those who have developed calculations systems to foster discussion and collaboration on the subject
5. Hills Committee – Kyle Gilbertson, Chairman
- a. Kyle Gilbertson was unable to attend
 - b. Blair Tomten – provided a brief update on the subcommittee status; hill inventory is still incomplete
 - i. Discussion from the group
 - ii. Todd Wilson – Steamboat is ready to pursue obtaining new FIS hill certificates and asked what steps to take to complete the process
 - iii. Recommendation – follow procedures in the appropriate FIS competition rule book
 - iv. Hill approval procedure
6. Education Working Group – Larry Glueck, Chairman
- a. None of the members of this group were present
 - b. No report was submitted
7. J/NC Officials
- a. Activity
 - i. Nominations – Jodi Graves, nomination for national judge presented by Reed Zuehlke on behalf of the Eastern division; motion made by Chuck Heckert to accept the nomination, seconded by Reed; nomination approved by the voting members
 - ii. No other nominations
 - b. Database
 - i. Reed Zuehlke – referring back to the discussion on calculations above, repeated the opinion that there needs to be a central repository for databases
 - ii. Greg Poirier – agreed to bring up the issue of technical support with USSA and lead the effort to pull a group together to address the broader topic of technology
 - c. TD Reports
 - i. Matt Laue – reported that TD reports can be completed electronically

ii. TD report template will be downloadable from the USSA website

8. Proposals for Future Events

a. National Championships

i. 2014 – no venue was decided at the time of this discussion

ii. Discussion from the group

1. USSA Rule 100.3.2 – recommended that we bring forth to the sport committee a change in the wording of this rule from

*“The USSA Events Department will **select** the Host Site and Organizer,” to “The USSA Events Department will **approve** the Host Site and Organizer.” Editorial note: The existing verbiage will remain.*

2. USSA Rule 100.4.2 – referenced regarding the timing of the events to facilitate the discussion of which venue might be able to host in 2014

b. Junior National Championships

i. 2014 – Alaska

1. discussion regarding dates due to close proximity to Brattleboro event on the calendar

2. concern is that the J1 skiers may have to choose between the two events

3. decision is to keep dates as proposed

ii. 2015 – Steamboat, letter requesting to host read by Todd Wilson

iii. 2016 – Salisbury, letter requesting to host read by Larry Stone (one year ahead of expected date)

c. North American Championships

i. 2014 – no venue was decided at the time of this discussion

d. Other events – None

9. Motion made by Reed Zuehlke to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 14:54