

JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

USSA Congress 2014
Marriott Hotel, Park City, UT
May 16, 2014

Call to order at 08:30am

Roll Call

Acting chairman, Blair Tomten
Eastern, Martina Lussi standing in for Jack Phelps
Central, Paul Jastrow standing in for Korey Arneson
Rocky Mountain, Larry Glueck
Intermountain, Jarrett Moe
Alaska, Mike Jokela (absent)
Sport Chairman, Joe Holland
FIS Obman, Reed Zuehlke
USSA Nordic Director, Joey Caterinichio

Additional Attendees: Todd Wilson, Clint Jones, Paul Loomis, Greg Poirier, Dave Jarrett, Alan Alborn, Alan Johnson, Peter Graves, Paul Andrews, Mark Levasseur, John Keck, Tom Bickner, Blake Hughes, Signe Jordet, Peter Graves, etc.

Rules & Control Working Group: Keith Hansen

Hill Committee: Kyle Gilbertson, Karl Evenstad, Blair Tomten

Education Working Group: Larry Glueck, Art Tokkle

Executive Officials Subcommittee: Reed Zuehlke, Blair Tomten, Mark Levasseur, Dan Mattoon

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) Opening comments by Chair, Blair Tomten
 - a) 2013-2014 Season Review
 - i) Co-Chairman Report, Blair Tomten, Mark Levasseur
 - ii) Division Reports
 - (1) Central – Paul Jastrow reported that Central has too few judges, so a “judge sharing” program was suggested with the East.
 - (2) East – Sixteen judges on the roster including four new ones but need more TDs. FIS Cup in Brattleboro. National judges need more comps, interested in working with Central.
 - (3) IMD – 10 officials on the roster. Hard to bring in new judges because most competitions are large events. May be a gap coming in the next few years. Proposing a judges' clinic for small hills.
 - (4) RMD – 10 judges, of whom 6 are national, 2 are FIS. Only 2 TDs. Assignments are scarce for RMD officials. Larry gave an overview of their regional seminar stating it was based on a FIS meeting agenda.

Larry also discussed the desire to put Paul Andrews forward as a national level TD.

- (5) Misc – Greg Piorier asked if there was a difference between a TD for jumping versus Nordic combined. Alan Johnson responded that NC is not much of an add on. Discussion ensued on adding NC to TD training despite the fact that it isn't covered in the FIS conference.

iii) Subcommittee Reports

- (1) Blair covered the Hills report from Kyle Gilbertson

- (a) Karl Evenstad is designing the small hills for Westby which will include side boards

- (2) Reed stated that anyone who serves on a committee needs to have a USSA membership. Not sure all of our committee members are current.

b) Judges Education

i) Education Group

- (1) Blair presented who the education group is and what they do. The purpose is to provide consistent information to the regions, typically by presenting at each region's annual meetings.

- (2) Seminars

- (a) Blair and Reed joined the Central meeting via Skype to give the National update and the FIS update, which was well received by Central.

- (b) Mark Levasseur presented for the East

- (c) Blair also joined the session for IMD

- (d) Gap in 2014 with RMD?

- (3) Misc – Reed stated the need for better communication and suggested leveraging video conferencing software. Also suggested expanding to include coaches and event organizers. Due to the challenge of getting people to the USSA Congress, he suggested possibly using video conferencing in the future.

- (4) Officials' Manual

- (a) Art Tokkle is creating an Officials manual including procedures and developing a pipeline for next year. Standardized test on rules to follow. Reed stated that all judges need to be up to speed on the rules to be aware when they are at events and question decisions. The purpose of the testing is purely for education and not to weed anyone out.

- (5) Evaluation of scores

- (a) Blair discussed the FIS deviation chart.

- (b) Paul Jastrow updated the group on how scores are being evaluated in Central. His statistical methodology could potentially be used at the National level.

- (c) Reed emphasized the importance of calibration sessions, and further stressed that deviations should be looked at beyond the group level, ex. could be that the person thrown out was right. Officials need to talk about the rules and deductions to get on the same page. Judges need to talk between rounds. Recommended a debriefing at the end of the comp.
- (6) Educational committee names: Art Tokle, Paul Jastrow, Larry Glueck, and Blair Tomten
- (7) Officials Pipeline
 - (a) Currently outdated, needs to be updated. Educational committee to review.
- (8) National Advancement
 - (a) Paul Andrews was submitted by RMD to become a national level TD. The group discussed Paul's background and voted unanimously to move him to the national level.
- (9) Video Marking
 - (a) Alex from EVOX presented to the group on his product, which is currently being adopted by Russia. Stated that running it is easy, but that the technical background required is challenging. Said it takes about ten competitions to get comfortable with it. Requires three operators and an assistant. Need a license from FIS. Stated that cost can be based on the full-blown product or just the video portion. He would come back with a cost proposal. The system can only be used at the FIS Cup level and below. Above that level EVOX comes in and runs it.
- ii) Hills
 - (1) Rule 190 (2011)
 - (a) Hills Committee is Blair Tomten, Kyle Gilbertson, Karl Evenstad, and Matt Gundry.
 - (b) Todd Wilson asked how a club can find out what they need to do to get back in compliance. Hills committee is the first point of contact. Reed stated that the FIS Obman can help mitigate roadblocks and obstacles with FIS.
 - (c) Eau Claire is currently being reviewed and Iron Mountain will be reviewed the following season.
 - (2) Kyle Gilbertson has asked if anyone would like to take over his position with the FIS Hill Committee.
- iii) Rules and Controls
 - (1) Reed reviewed the FIS meeting minutes. Each FIS event was videotaped and reviewed by a committee to assign deviations. Discussion on judge performance in specific areas. Lots of confusion on outrun deductions. Norway submitted a proposal for clarification on scoring the outrun.

- (2) Suit permeability was a big topic. Skin-tight suits added 30-40% more impact, much larger for women, which was believed to cause more knee injuries. It's now much less safe to jump to Hill Size. Skin-tight suits were only good for two jumps before needing to be altered. The proposal is add thickness and they will no longer be skin-tight in terms of fit.
- (3) Upcoming TD seminars in Germany in the summer and North America in the Fall in Canmore, Alberta
- (4) There will now be a new conference for the position of Chief of Athletes Village
- (5) US FIS judges approaching retirement age are Glen Jones and Mike Somalla
- (6) USSA Rules & Updates
 - (a) Add Rule 190 to the USSA guide since it's been previously approved.
 - (b) Add equipment control for National events including Jr. Nationals, but not going to measure suits.
 - (c) Chief of Comp will be required to fill the equipment control role.
- (7) National Rankings
 - (a) Need to have an official ranking list since it currently doesn't exist. Committees will be formed for Men, Women, and Nordic Combined. Will bring a proposal to Joey C. at USSA.

iv) Awards

- (1) USSA Awards Committee: Reed Zuehlke (Chairman), Peter Graves, Todd Wilson, Mark Levasseur, and Chuck Heckert

v) 2014-2015 Upcoming Events

- (1) Nationals: LH, Park City; NH, Lake Placid
- (2) JNC: Steamboat
- (3) North American Championships: Whistler, BC

vi) USSA Website

- (1) We need to review and provide content. Joey C will coordinate putting our content on the site
- (2) Educational Committee will review the content

vii) USSA Comp Guide

- (1) Comp guide needs to be reviewed and updated. Committee was established to review the guide consisting of Blair Tomten, John Keck, and Greg Piorier.
- (2) Joey will help print Officials Pass Books. Template needs to be provided from Blair.

3) Motion made by Reed Z to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 12:50

Minutes prepared by John Keck.

JUMPING/NORDIC COMBINED COACHES' SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

USSA Congress
Park City Marriott
1895 Sidewinder Drive, Park City, UT

May 16, 2014, Meeting started at 8:35 a.m. (Numbering based on agenda)

1. Roll call

Alan Alborn IMD
Martin Bayer -RMD
Evan Bliss - East
Zach - Alaska
Paul Loomis (for Scott Smith) - Central

2. Opening Welcome. Todd Wilson

5. Ranking list

Ski jumping list is updated 3/03/14 on the web. Scoring is done by Jeff Hastings.
Women's list is not done yet...but as the numbers grow, within 2-3 years
NC uses WC and Continental Cup scoring, but no scoring is used even internationally.
Base of scoring could be done with the 4th of July, Springer Tourney. Paul Loomis and
Craig Ward volunteered to initiate a national ranking list.

6. FIS cup, Brattleboro, Lake Placid, and Iron Mountain for 2014-15.

3 & 4. Membership - Sheryl Barnes

Two new categories: USSA Volunteer, need background check & Club participant,
insurance coverage, global membership
Benefit platform. Aggregated benefits, even with health insurance. Should be live in July
Fast Start Coaching. 1.5 hr on-line course
\$150 membership, FIS \$65
Club membership. CLIP insurance for \$1500, will be rolled out soon.

Is there a Try-it-On-for-size membership? Do clubs offer a non-sanctioned event that
does not require a USSA membership?

4. continued

Greg P highlighted USASJ and USSA both track participants.
USASJ 184 under 14 competitors
USSA. 92 this year, 96 last year
USASJ grand total 241youth, 57 coach
USSA. 443 members
Jim Holland confirmed 530 Actual ski jumpers
191 People showed up on the. Volunteers, for a total of 630
Competitors total of USSA 347

There is a real need to communicate with USSA, that the numbers of participants is
actually larger, and that lower competitions don't want or need sanctioning.

USASJ tracks that there were 10 facilities last year that were upgrading; this year there are seven. Do we need to do a similar tracking for membership?

Each free USASJ membership gets a packet of free materials and T-shirt.

7. New proposal for NC WJC tryouts -- need to have both a 5k and a 10k

8. Age class designation Alan Alborn

Currently U12, U 14, U 17 and U 20

New proposal for men due to capturing more of the bell curve (in the U16 class) of the PHV phase, puberty peak 10,12,14,16,18 & 20.

Advantages

Keeps the kid in his biological age. Develops skills better, develops better emotional and psychological preparedness. Retains more people. Gets the kids to compete better. Clubs can run competitions more efficiently, and quickly.

Disadvantages

Event numbers will be cut. Clubs will have to give out more medals.

Another proposal will be written, (by Alan A) for competitions that mirror these designations, along with what will be allowed in terms of competitors moving up, or not, in their classes. Must be at least a U14 to compete at the U16 Jr. Nationals...and also have a U20 class.

19. USSA club development, Brian Krill, bkroll@ussa.org

All disciplines have the same attrition problems for athletes.

Build a broader base of athletes, through education, coaching, skill development through cross sport participation.

He can help facilitate club development and club expansion and numbers of clubs.

John Nolting, USSA. Coaches' education, jnolting@ussa.org

Level100 certification manual is completed, and roll out of on line will be ready within the month. Cost effective. Fast start

9. Jr. National rules

A & E Proposal of scheduling of JN between Feb 20-Mar 20. Sounds good. Overlap of NC with the XC is good if those Nationals are in the same region..and possible. Avoid conflicting. Alan to write the proposal.

B. Ski length rule - enforce the ski length rule only with the top ten. This proposal was NOT adopted!

C. Video distance options...at Jr. Nat'l's, Todd was able to hand video and found up to 3 meter discrepancy with the official markers. New video protocol is proposed and comps need to have fully trained operators. New technology is improving every year, with playback capability and accuracy. The committee recommends that this proposal be written and approved at the sport Committee, headed by Reed Z.

D. Max entry fee. \$200. Agree to stay

10. Zack reports on Jr Nationals 2014 No complaints. Weather was difficult prior to...but for the events, it went well. Fundraising covered the costs; consensus was that it was a very well-done event. The ski jumps will get plastic this summer.

Proposed recommendation for the events should be in this order: Ind event, team jump, then elimination...so that if weather pushes events back, the elimination jump may be lost.

Steamboat is hosting the 2015 Jr. Nationals; March 3 unofficial training - closing ceremonies Sat., March 7th. Lodging and board options presented. Website will be up and loaded soon, at <http://www.jncjn2015.com>

11. NAC report from Eau Claire. All went well.

12. USCSA collegiate ski jumping event - Lebanon, NH There were only three people. One regional qualifier and fulltime academics. Dates for next year, alpine and x-c is in Sun Valley...potential for jumpers to first jump in Park City.

13. Review of US Championships in Lake Placid, Flaming Leaves. Nice weather, nice comp. Cost of event was reasonable, nice showcase. Video package was approx \$6,000. Table proposal to host 2015 event.

14. Review of National Summer camps
Expand excitement at 4th of July; Springer Tournee, Park City 7/28- 8/3
Ladies camp, eight ladies committed. June 30-Aug 3 Lindsey Van to coach. Regional coaches invited

NC camp scaled back, but around July 4th, Springer
Ski jumping camps.....Steamboat, Park City, Chicago early October, Lake Placid

15. Calendar. Draft reviewed; final copy will be sent by Greg P. Clint proposes WJC tryouts at Lake Placid Jan 30-31. Greg Poirier threw down the gauntlet to have the World Jr Champs in 2017 in Park City (or 2018).

16. Standardized calculations Greg Poirier to Paul in central working on improving the software used these past two years. Also used for Nordic combined. Capability for dropping in sponsors.
Greg Poirier: we may have access to EWOXX technology.

17. Live streaming of Champ events. Available to use, owned by USASJ, may have larger audiences. Local usage(access) can affect the broadband capability.

18. Growing our sport, maintain facilities, coaches, recruitment, marketing.
Roller jump: How to double numbers? How to create a fun environment for the kids?
Can we steal alpine skiers? Have more fun with singing, clapping hands. How to leave a legacy? Do we ever ask the kids what they want to do?

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Ward