

SNOWBOARDING SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

USSA Congress 2015
Center of Excellence, 1 Victory Lane, Park City, UT
May 14, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Pete Davis- USASA Rep - present
Alex Deibold – Athlete Rep - present
Tricia Byrnes - Athlete Rep - present
Ross Powers– Eastern Rep - present
Jessica Zalusky – Central Rep - present
Jon Casson – Chairman - present
Jonas Brewer - IJC Rep - present
Peter Foley - Coaches Rep - present
Cath Jett – Rules and Tech (via phone)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jeremy Forster – USSA
Mike Jankowski – USSA
Dave Reynolds – USSA
Nick Poplawski– Team Park City United
Sarah Welliver - USSA
Tom Winters - FIS Representative
Eric Webster - USSA
Ross Hindman – ISTC
Nick Alexakos – USSA
Michael Bell – Team Park City Untied
Sheryl Barnes – USSA Membership
Brandon Hunt – Snowboarding Strategic Working Group member/ team athlete parent
Greg Janeky – Northstar
Lisa Kosglow – USSA Board
Ritchie Date – USSA Events
Jeff Juneau – Killington Mtn School
Matt Vogel – Team Summit
Cameron Hunter – Method Academy
Tori Koski – SSWSC
Ben Wisner – Mammoth
Lane Clegg – Team Utah
Eric Webster – USSA
Mike Mallon – CVA (via phone)

1. Chairman's Welcome: Jon Casson

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

2. Meeting Minutes Approval

2014 Minutes approved – motioned by Tricia Byrnes, second by Ross Powers.

3. Committee Member Nominations

Nomination by Jon Casson of the following: Intermountain, Central, Rocky – all current representatives nominated for another term. Second by Tricia Byrnes. Approved by acclamation.

4. Membership Update

FY15 Congress Update - Snowboard

Sport Task Force Groups:

- Comprised of sport, club and industry representatives
- Charged with studying sport entry, attrition, retention and growth opportunities

Key considerations:

- How can we broaden the reach of our sports at all levels
- How can USSA better serve its members

Grow Athletic Membership

- New category launch - It is the USSA's goal to not only broaden participation and engagement with our sports but also better facilitate participation at every level of skiing and snowboarding, from volunteers to college racers, high school coaches and fans.

Our objectives included several key points:

- Provide for easy sport entry. The outline below shows the proposed new categories and fees.
- Offer customer/parent-friendly options that make sense to the consumer.
- Including a short-term membership option for all sports to allow participants to try competitions.
- Recognize family sport participation by capping membership for a family at \$400.
- Encourage multi-sport participation by allowing members to add other USSA memberships without a fee.

Proposed new categories and fees

General Member (Applicable to Club Participant, Non USSA Competitor – USSA Forerunner / High School / College / USCSA Athletes)	\$15
Competitor (required for FIS registration)	\$150
Coach	\$115
Official	\$60
Club Volunteer	\$45
Short Term Athlete Membership	\$25/day

- Provide enhanced member benefits – Re-launch the printed membership card and decal to all USSA members to give members physical benefits in addition to our other products and services.

USSA Core Benefits package including:

- o Magazine Subscription
- o Global Rescue Travel Service Hotline access
- o Membership to USSA Rewards discount and benefit program
- o Excess accident insurance
- o Discounts at the USSA Education shop
- o US Snowboarding membership card & luggage tags
- o USSA Excellence newsletter

- Free parent membership benefits – Provide basic USSA member benefits to parents of minor members.
- Growth through industry partnerships – Work with key industry partners to provide membership opportunities to those not currently involved with USSA.
- Insurance program restructure – Work in conjunction with USSA Executive staff and American Specialty Insurance to offer a comprehensive general liability policy to those clubs that may not otherwise be able to obtain cost-effective coverage.
- USSA’s buying power provides the opportunity to offer CLIP at rates in most cases more affordable and more comprehensive than other products.
 - o Accepted by resorts across the country
 - o Coverage for all traditional ski and snowboard-related activities including non-USSA sanctioned training and competition
 - o USSA membership required – \$15 general membership accepted
 - o General membership includes excess medical
 - o Optional Directors & Officers insurance for all clubs
 - 30 clubs used the coverage last season
 - \$575 for \$1 million coverage
 - \$875 for \$2 million coverage

Customer Service and Systems Enhancements

- Bulk membership option for clubs to enroll members en masse.
- E-Signature Capabilities – Members will sign only for those they are legally authorized to do so. All other members will be required to complete signatures on waivers and policies through an e-sign process triggered during the membership purchase process.
- Extend service availability – October through March – Expand hours of operation during the height of the competition season. Pending initiative funding.
- Extend service by department – Expand areas of service to include event registration and sport education as systems and staffing permit. Pending initiative funding and system development.

Manage and Enhance Existing Programs

- Affiliate dues management program – Continue managing dues for 16 affiliates while working to provide enhanced data access through new systems.
- Background screening – Manage compliance with background screening requirement. Integrate USSA’s database with our current background-screening vendor, through an API to provide notice of when a member’s next screening will be required.
- Fast Start Coaching course – Maintain compliance oversight for coaches with no certifications.
- FIS inscriptions – Oversee FIS registration of athletes to FIS list. Move to integrate USSA’s online registration with the FIS website to provide immediate turnaround of FIS numbers to athletes.
- Club registration and CLIP club reconciliation – Manage USSA club and CLIP club membership. Additionally, provide online club registration through new systems in next phase of development.

IT Projects in the Works

- Short-term membership
- FIS Integration – Will allow athletes to purchase and receive a FIS number in real-time.
- NCSI Integration
- Bulk Registration
- Division membership purchase only
- Division Waivers
- Subdivision dues
- Online club registration

5. Athlete Report - Tricia Byrnes and Alex Diebold

Halfpipe

- Weather was a major issue this season and the competitive halfpipe circuit suffered setbacks due to weather at nearly half of the events, including a cancellation at the Mammoth Grand Prix.
- Scheduling; no real pipe time before the first two major events, then a big break in the middle of the season and then back-to-back-to-back events from X Games to Europe to Mammoth. Three contests in 14 days. They would like to see better scheduling, if possible and all events working together to create this.
- Generally stoked on the relaxed nature of the season, wished the weather was better but a more relaxed attitude after the Olympic stress.

Slopestyle

- Liked the FIS/Grand Prix events, clear communication and knew what to expect.
- Scheduling; a lot of events to compete in between FIS, Grand Prixes, Dew Tour, X Games, Open, Air+Style.
- Generally stoked on the season and the program, the US team riders gelled really well and all had successes which keeps morale high.

WST/TTR

- Riders felt like TTR/WST bit off more than they could chew and fell short on their plans for a complete world tour. Great intentions that didn't really work out.
- It seems that a World Title would be nice but the points list is good enough at this point and come Olympics everything will be put on pause.
- Riders were excited about the idea of a TTR/WST World Championships.
- Major lack of clarity on what was going on leading up to TTR/WST events, the wild card system and how people qualified into those events.
- Disappointed that the riders didn't show up at the Mammoth Grand Prix to support the tour they petitioned for. Speculation on scheduling conflicts as to why they didn't show.

Judging

- Lack of consistency between events. Each event series had a different standard. X Games + Dew Tour seemed less transparent than the Opens, the Grand Prixes/FIS events.
- Riders should be driving the progression and dictating what should be rewarded. Some riders felt that the judges changed their values this season rewarding style over progressive tricks i.e. Switch method vs back-to-back double corks. At the very least, they expressed a need to understand the judges' angle before the event.

General Commentary

- Fewer sponsors, less money for the major events.
- Fewer pipes and pipe riders on the horizon.

SBX Athlete Report

Mother Nature wreaked havoc on boardercross this past season. Of the 5 'world class' events held, 3 of those were dangerously close to joining the many other events that were nixed. While weather is not something that can ever be controlled, hopefully it can be taken into consideration when choosing venues and planning calendars.

With the lack of major events it's always hard to get a true barometer on where everyone stacks up. The US did manage to have a few different men stand on several podiums, as well as Lindsey Jacobellis winning yet another World Championship title and X-Games gold. On the men's side there were 6 men in the top 30 on the World Cup Points list and two of the three WC – NorAm spots going to US athletes. For Women there were 4 in the top 30 on the World Cup Points list and also two of the three WC – NorAM spots.

There do seem to be more than few younger kids in the pipeline that may be in contention to fight for Olympic spots come 2018 which is good to see, especially on the women's side.

The current state of SBX does seem to be in a bit of disarray on the organizational side. The new/current WC quota criteria have changed and seem to put the USA at a bit of a disadvantage with our depth of talent and large team size, after losing one base spot. On the WC side, course construction seems to be stagnant if not in slight decline. Rider feedback is very valuable to course design and maintenance and should be better utilized. It is understood that with a lack of snow, many course builders struggle to have material to do what they envision, but that should not mean they couldn't adapt. In regard to running heats of 4 or heats of 6, it was good to see that there was good judgment used this season, with courses that suffered from lack of snow and hill space being reduced to 4. This has not always been the case and it is important to note that event organizers should always be very clearly notified that if there is a safety issue, there is always a possibility of events being modified. Well built four-person courses do more to progress our sport than poor six-person courses.

On the Nor-Am side, the events that did happen were run well, but it was expressed that in the future there is a hope that they may be run a bit faster. When events were canceled, it seemed there was a scramble to make something happen elsewhere and as such quality suffered. The event at Ski Cooper was an excellent example of what Nor-Am level course builds should be. While not being overly technical, it was well maintained, had a well-built start section, and still challenged riders with higher speeds.

US Team dynamics were reported as good this season. The lack of Olympic qualifying was noted as being helpful and also positive experiences at training camps. The training camps that were pulled together were very productive and it was good to have multiple sessions.

Again, it is understood that there is no way to predict or control the weather, but it has been widely expressed that there is hope the US will again host a World Cup, as well as trying to include SBX in at least one Grand Prix event.

6. Regional Rep Reports

Intermountain Regional Report – Andy Gilbert

2015 was a low snow year, as it was across the west, which resulted in a few event cancellations. That being said, the Intermountain region remains committed to its park and pipe programs with

Sun Valley and Park City continuing to offer super pipes. Sun Valley is working to create Olympic Training Center designation for snowboarding which will assure that the super pipe program continues moving forward. The region seems to have a large number of riders engaging in the competitive side of snowboarding, specifically in the U-12 groups which bodes well for the future. Many local learn-to-ride programs popped up in places like Jackson and Sun Valley this year with many local riders looking to keep kids coming into the sport. Backcountry riding continues to be gaining in popularity across the region. The IMD is still very unique in its size and distance between resorts but continues to be supporting snowboarding in its different forms.

Events: USASA 6 Resorts hosted events Sun Valley, Jackson Hole, Park City, Brian Head, Eagle Point and Snow Basin. All these resorts hosted great events and every discipline was represented during the series. Park City hosted a Grand Prix Stop. Banked Slalom events are again on the rise with Jackson, Sun Valley and many of the Utah resorts holding events.

Member clubs continue to be the driving force.

Kaitlyn Farrington held a girls' camp in Sun Valley that attracted over 30 girls and many top female pros for the three-day event.

USSA Membership: 86 competitors, 35 coaches, 40 officials, 12 member clubs

Athlete, Coach and Club Accomplishments:

Hailee Mattingley and Chandler Hunt were named to US Rookie Team.
Chase Josey named to US Pro Team and winning the Red Bull Double Pipe event.
Dave Reynolds was named US Rookie Team Slopestyle Coach.
9 riders and 2 coaches on the Junior World Championship Team.
Park City United was named USSA Club of the Year.
Jon Casson awarded the Anna McIntyre Award.

Next wave: USASA Big Mountain Series is one of the largest and most competitive in the country.
USASA Nationals Medal Count: 11 Bronze, 14 Silver, 8 Gold
Payton Bacca, Clara Jenner, invited to US Gold Camp.

Challenges: Warmer winters and snow totals are always a concern. Resorts abilities to get quality venues up and running early in the season is really important. In addition, getting resorts to buy in to offer venues for camp opportunities later into the season (when possible) should be a priority. We are the only region that has two resorts that don't allow snowboarding, but we do have Travis Rice and Sage Kotsenburg so I guess we will be fine.

Looking Ahead: Growth in the younger age groups at local events is a good sign that snowboarding is doing well. Local crews and resorts are pushing web content in some fun and different ways which hopefully will add to some growth. More grass roots and shop contests seem to be popping up which is a really fun trend that should continue. The region is producing great young talent and the clubs in the region are also doing well. Park City United's commitment to Boarder Cross has helped to re-invigorate that discipline within the region with many international riders moving to Utah for training opportunities.

Far West Regional Report – Dylan Omlin

For the fourth straight winter it hardly snowed out west, which made for yet another season like Groundhog Day. This again caused tough conditions for training and competition, regardless of discipline. There were only a handful of powder days, very few good jumps (unless you were at Mammoth), and hardly any halfpipe access. Mammoth did a nice job building and maintaining a halfpipe for the Grand Prix and throughout the end of the season, but beyond that Northstar was the only other resort that managed to get a halfpipe built and it was later in the season and only 12-14 feet tall. No one managed to build an SBX course throughout the season, and a number of

resorts also scrambled to get their race arenas groomed and trainable until mid-season, and some never even got their arenas race-ready. We had so little snowfall again this season that not a single resort in the Tahoe basin managed to stay open into May. The only western resort still currently operating is Mammoth and they are just going to make it through Gold Camp.

Good Things: REV TOUR! For the 7th consecutive winter, the Revolution Tour journeyed westward. The tour made two trips to Mammoth this season. One stop was the originally scheduled Mammoth stop and the other was a rescheduled event that Mt. Hood was unable to host. With a whole lot of sunshine and really good venues both times, Mammoth continues to be the best stop on the tour year after year.

WOODWARD at TAHOE! This was Woodward's third full year of operation, and their business continues to grow and get better. Their summer camps (mid June-end of July) look to be filling up this summer even with the lack of snow and the changing of several on-snow sessions to dryland only. With the tough snow conditions again in Tahoe this winter, it was a blessing for teams to incorporate Woodward into their training programs; it made for productive dryland sessions in very unproductive snow conditions. Woodward appears to be on the right track with the facility, the future direction of the campus, and marketing their summer camps. As they grow, the hope is that the pool of talented athletes in the Tahoe Basin grows alongside them.

MAMMOTH, MAMMOTH, MAMMOTH! What else can be said? Mammoth again stepped up and took on everything that got thrown at them. From a cancelled Rev Tour at Mt. Hood, to their scheduled Rev Tour stop, a US Snowboarding Grand Prix/TTR Elite event, Volcom PBRJ Finals, Amusement Park, Snowboarder Magazine's "The Launch", US Pro Camps and Project Gold just to name a few things they hosted. Mammoth constructed a terrific park and pipe and maintained them throughout the season, even with the lack of snow. Mammoth had consistently better conditions than anywhere else in the West, and that success was evident as a number of teams, pros, and public made the pilgrimage throughout the season.

Educational Things: There were not a lot of clinics out west this season. There was a 100 clinic early in the fall, too early for a lot of the coaches who were not yet back in town, and the resorts had not done their hiring yet. There was also a 200 clinic that was fairly well attended in the early fall. We will need to host at least one Level 200 clinic next fall since there are a number of coaches that will be coming due for their re-certifications or moving up a level. We will also need to host at least one Level 100 clinic, hopefully a little later in the fall, once everyone has done their hiring. There seems to be another new crop of coaches showing up in Tahoe that need the education. There was an attempt to host a slope and pipe endorsement at Mammoth during the Grand Prix/Rev Tour, however with the lack of early-season snow and the compressed schedules, the timing never worked out. There will be a need for discipline-specific training this coming fall/winter as there are a few Level 200 coaches that will need to attend the endorsements as they move towards their Level 300.

Tough Things: The West needs other regional teams besides ASC, Mammoth, and Squaw to start getting involved in all parts of the process: clinics, race competitions, race venues, event hosting, etc. We need to find a way to get South Lake Tahoe teams engaged, like the Far West Skiing groups. Those of us out west need to get on the same page regarding education, transitioning athletes upwards, helping at local events, and hosting events at our home resorts. North Tahoe, South Tahoe and Mammoth produce really good athletes, we just need to figure out a way to get them to compete against and ride with one another more often to strengthen the whole athletic pool out west. (Ben and I have some ideas we are going to start working on).

Although the gap between USASA and USSA has been bridged on many levels, especially on the education side, there is still a need in Tahoe for a stronger USASA presence, especially in North Tahoe. The athletes on the grassroots level need strong local events to prepare them as they work their way up the pipeline. Hopefully with Woodward @ Tahoe finding its footing, some new blood in the USASA ranks, and a push by USSA to help clubs bridge the gap, we will develop a larger pool of young competitive athletes, but as of now their numbers are still shrinking.

It needs to snow next winter! It has been four tough snow years in a row out West. It has hurt the resorts, retailers, snowboard teams, and just the general snowboarding population. It is hard for people to get motivated to ride, spend money on equipment, passes, team dues, etc. when it is so bleak in the mountains.

Future Things: To continue hosting events in the region: World Cups, Grand Prix, Hole Shots, Rev Tours, and USASA events. Our hope is that event organizers will continue to look west for venues. It has been tougher and tougher to find venues and resorts willing to take the risk anymore with all the concerns about snow.

To continue supporting education and bring some legitimacy to the Far West region and the teams that function out of the region.

Host more clinics, especially Level 200s as a number of the coaches that went through the process in the past few years need this next step. With the new crop of coaches showing up out west we will also need to be diligent in getting them through the Level 100 process.

Reach out to the South Lake Tahoe groups and get them involved.

Rebuild the attendance numbers for the USASA at events, especially in North Tahoe. Otherwise our pipeline will dry up sooner than later.

To combine forces between North Tahoe, South Tahoe, and Mammoth to start doing some Super Regional events, Jam sessions, Cultural Shred Exchanges, whatever they need to be titled to get the athletes riding with each other more consistently and under better situations than just contests.

Eastern Regional Report – Ross Powers

The East Coast had a great snow year with cold temperatures. Having the best snow in years especially after the New Year was great for the resorts, training and events. Having no major pro events on the east coast is a disappointment to some and it makes it hard for mountains to commit to venues with big features.

With USASA having many series in the east there were events to attend for the low to mid-level riders. With USSA having a Rev Tour freestyle stop and a Nor-Am alpine stop in the east it made for quite a bit to a lot of traveling for the mid to higher-end riders. We missed having an SBX Hole Shot stop in the east and we hope to have one again next season.

East Coast Events: Revolution Tour; Location: Seven Springs PA, January 29-30

This Rev Tour had a good set up but unfortunately was once again affected by some weather which made for challenging conditions in the slopestyle. Seven Springs is said to have one of the best parks in the east with a park staff that works hard to keep it that way. The halfpipe had 17 women and 28 men competing. The Slopestyle had 18 women and 65 men.

Race To The Cup/Nor-Am Cup: Location: Holiday Valley NY, January 21-22; Holiday Valley continues to be very excited to have the alpine racers at their resort and they have a good race hill. This year there were around 29 women and 35 men in both the PGS races.

Education: The east offered quite a few Level 100 & 200 coaches' clinics this year with many of them being in the fall. Some coaches are hoping for a Level 300 or at least part of the course offered on the east coast.

Conclusion: The Eastern Division has a number of great training programs, many USASA series and decent mountains.

The east is still producing amazing snowboarders and many riders from the east are representing our sport around the world. Athletes like Kelly Clark, Chas Guldemond, Seth Wescott, Scotty Lago, Hannah Teter, Alex Deibold, Lindsey Jacobellis and Ty Walker.

With our biggest freestyle events taking place at The Rev Tour in PA, Seven Springs is the only east coast mountain to build a 22ft halfpipe. With many of the east coast mountains not committing to halfpipes anymore and there being only one 22ft pipe, there continues to be a decline in halfpipe riding.

A discipline that continues to grow is banked slalom. This year USASA had another year of banked slalom test events in most of their regions and at their nationals. The VT Open shut down registration at 150 and The Sugarloaf Banked Slalom had around 200 athletes sign up.

At this time the highest level events on the east coast are the two USSA events. We would love to see them return and hopefully grow for all of us involved.

The information in this report was put together by Ross Powers with feedback from other eastern region coaches.

Rocky Mountain Regional Report – Paul Krahulec

Paul Krahulec - Rocky Mountain Region

The 2014-15 season: Meager snow year, lots of challenges running early season events

- Rider / Skier visits were up at all Rocky Mtn resorts.
- Strong participation from the following clubs: Team Summit – Freestyle SSCV – Freestyle & SBX SSWSC – Freestyle / Alpine / SBX Stratton Mtn – Freestyle / SBX Vision Elite – Freestyle / SBX G Team – Freestyle / Alpine / SBX ISTC–SBX Winter Park – Freestyle Team Breckenridge – Freestyle / SX Eldora – Alpine Method – Freestyle Alberta Freeskiers – SX Nova Scotia SBX - SBX
- RMS/USASA 9 & Under FREE program now has 57 members (purchase a USASA Membership and all entry fees are comped).
- Skiers and riders from Korea, Japan, Russia, Norway, Brazil, Great Britain, Switzerland, Canada and China supported training opportunities and participated in both USSA hosted NorAMs & USASA Rocky Mtn Series venues.
- Keystone, Winter Park, Breckenridge, Vail and Copper all again featured excellent terrain parks. Most, however not all, had them up by late December.
- The Rocky Mountain region was once again home to three (Breckenridge, Copper & Vail) of the best 22' HPs on the planet. Nowhere else in the world can you ride three different monster halfpipes in one day (located 30 minutes from each other).
- The final U.S. stop of the SBX/SX NorAm Tour was held in conjunction with USASA Nationals Open Class races. The sanctioning of these OPEN Class events represents a cooperative effort among the USASA, the USSA and Copper Mountain Resort.
- Membership: USASA RMS (verified) Competitors – 683 (up 15%)
- Events: Coaches - 80
- Race to the Cup NorAM at Copper; November cancelled due to poor early-season snow conditions.
- Grand Prix at Copper – December 1-6, 2014 Winter conditions / Successful televised; featured halfpipe only
- RevTour at Copper – December 15th thru 17th Winter conditions

- Halfpipe and Slopestyle – HoleShot Tour at Ski Cooper – February New venue / Natural snow conditions presented challenges Well attended by a domestic & international field
- HoleShot Tour at USASA National Championship Copper – March 29th & April 5th – 22 USASA Rocky Mtn Series regional events beginning in November.
- Slopestyle continues to be extremely popular with snowboarders and freeskiers. Field sizes in separate venues (snowboard & freeski) of upwards to 160 participants requiring a double up judging format.
- 8 Slopestyle – Steamboat / Winter Park / Vail / Copper 3 – Halfpipe – Copper / Breck 6–SBX/SX–Ski Cooper/Copper 2–GS&SL–Copper/Howelsen Hill
- 2 Rail Jams - Copper / Steamboat
- 1 Banked Slalom / Copper – USASA National Championships at Copper – April
- Historical partnership with the USSA & FIS dual sanctioning the following: Men’s & Women’s SBX – NorAM Men’s SX – NorAM Men’s & Women’s PGS & PSL – FIS Races
- Continues to be the largest snowboard & freeski event on the planet with a record 1911 participants. 6 snowboard events (HP, SS, SBX, GS, SL & RJ) occurring simultaneously over a five day period.
- Banked Slalom introduced as new event for both snowboard and freeki; 4 freeski events (HP, SS, SX & RJ) over a three day period; 10 days of winter action sports for a wide range of participants, ages 5 to 75. Some just beginning in the pipeline & others well outside but still doing what they love to do!
- Rocky Mtn Series Medals 2015 National Championships 53 Gold 36 Silver 30 Bronze
- Programs: IJC Judges clinics anticipated again in the fall of 2015. Jonas Brewer has been very successful recruiting entry-level judges and providing them with opportunities to judge events (both snowboard & ski).
- “9 & under FREE” program in the USASA for both snowboard & freeskiers with their paid USASA membership wildly successful with 57 members. Basically, become a member and compete in any event free of charge. 2015 will see the Rocky Mtn Series host three separate “9 & Under Events” with HP in the morning and SS in the afternoon utilizing the “small parks & pipes” at the following resorts: Winter Park, Steamboat Springs, and Copper Mountain
- Introduced “Teach’m to Ride” program in the USASA Rocky Mtn Series. Gave away three complete 80 cm GromCo decks (built by Jim Smith) as prizes to Open
- Class USASA competitors. Winners were encouraged to find a kid that would fit the board, give it to them and teach them to ride it, take some photos and video and submit to me. In return I



provide each Open Class Teacher a new GoPro 4 camera as their reward. Check out one of the videos at <https://vimeo.com/122923708>

- Moving forward: Working on water issues to help Ski Cooper open a November SBX / SX training facility. Fund raising to purchase: 2nd SBX / SX Settele Start Gate – When you have two venues you need two gates and new Settele Alpine “Drop Gate” – Time to upgrade what this crew uses -- Thank you for your support.

Central Regional Report – Jessica Zalusky

- The Central Region had a great season.
- We had an unusual season weather wise that started and ended the season early.
- Only a handful of USSA Teams this season.
- Two 100 clinics, one 200 clinic that was cancelled due to low numbers.
- With Vail buying Afton recently, lots of competition emerged.
- Two halfpipes remain in the Central area, one being a superpipe that just re-emerged.
- G Team and Buck Hill hosted a FIS NorAm Parallel Slalom race in Burnsville, Minnesota. A huge field of racers battled for the podiums with over 60 competitors.
- Additionally, a Junior FIS Parallel Slalom race was held in conjunction with the NorAm and fielded a giant roster with over 25 Juniors!
- Central athletes successfully competed throughout the season. Athletes competed in the Hole Shots, Race to the Cup, Grand Prix, Revolution Tour as well as USASA.
- Two athletes qualified for Junior Worlds from Central, Grant Abrahamson and Emma Brodigan.

PNSA Regional Report – Justin Schoonover for Coggin Hill

Athlete Highlights:

- Ben Ferguson
 - Snowboarder Rider of the year
 - Multiple magazine covers
 - 3rd Halfpipe Grand Prix, Copper Mt.
 - Peace park standout
- Kent Callister
 - 3rd Halfpipe Grand Prix, Park City
 - 6th Halfpipe World Championships
 - 15th Halfpipe Grand Prix, Copper Mt.
- Gabe Ferguson
 - 5th Halfpipe Grand Prix, Park City
 - 8th Halfpipe X-Games
- Dru Brownrigg
 - 3rd Halfpipe 7springs Rev Tour
 - 2nd Big Air Mammoth #1 Rev Tour
 - 5th Halfpipe Mammoth #1 Rev Tour
 - 3rd Slopestyle USASA Nationals open class +best trick
 - Sponsorship Burton NW
 - Invited to Junior Worlds
 - Participated Project Gold Camps
- Livia Molodyh
 - 1st Slopestyle USASA Nationals + best trick
 - 1st Boarder-X USASA Nationals
 - 4th Halfpipe USASA Nationals

- 4th Rail jam USASA Nationals
- 4th Halfpipe Mammoth #2 Rev Tour
- 1st PBRJ qualifier Stevens Pass, WA
- Participated Project Gold Camps
- Autumn Inouye
 - Significantly improved her halfpipe skills
 - 1st Halfpipe USASA Nationals
 - Participated Project Gold Camps
- Sean Fitzsimons
 - Finished season just after Nationals with shoulder surgery
 - 10th Halfpipe 7 Springs Rev Tour
 - 6th Halfpipe USASA Nationals
 - 10th Slopestyle USASA Nationals
 - Invited to Project Gold Camps
- Nathan Jacobson
 - Qualified Grand Prix
 - 4th Halfpipe Junior Worlds
 - 5th Slopestyle USASA Nationals open class
 - 2nd Halfpipe USASA Nationals open class
 - 4th Halfpipe Mammoth #2 Rev Tour

Rev Tours and Local Events:

- MBSEF athletes at all three Revolution Tour stops, 4 athletes at 7 Springs, 7 at Mammoth #1 and 8 at Mammoth #2
- New Central Oregon Series director Adam Brown brought new energy to the younger generation of riders locally.
- 18 snowboard athletes from MBSEF competed at USASA Nationals and approx. another 15-20 from the PNW
 - Livia Molodyh and Dru Brownrigg were standouts
 - 3 athletes in Top Ten Men's Open Class Pipe and Slope

Camps & Coaches Clinics

- Held an early fall USSA Level 100 and 200 at Windells/Timberline with excellent participation. This was my first led clinic since attaining my level 300.
- New Western Washington Series had good participation at local events but not many athletes traveled to nationals.
 - Isabella Gomez is a standout from that area 2nd in halfpipe.
- Windells and High Cascade lower participation with low snow, change of management and the number of other camps increasing (Woodward, BK Pro, Kik etc.)

Training

- Low snow levels heavily affected the Pacific Northwest
 - No June Camps at Mt. Bachelor with Vail Ski and Snowboard Club for freestyle this year.
 - Mt. Hood and many other Oregon and Washington resorts struggled to stay open while Bachelor being further east stayed just below average all season.
 - Travelled to Park City for two separate training sessions due to no large jumps or pipe at Mt. Bachelor before Copper Rev Tour and Mammoth Rev Tour #1.
 - Local training was a challenge as large jumps weren't built until early-mid February and pipe wasn't built until mid-March.
 - Hood Series came to our Central Oregon Series at Mt. Bachelor for halfpipe events so athletes could qualify for USASA Nationals.
 - Bachelor closed early on May 10th usually open through Memorial Day.

Summary:

- The Pacific Northwest as a whole struggled this year with far below average snowfall. Many resorts were forced to close early or for periods during the season. A couple resorts in Oregon only opened for two weeks while others like Mt. Baker, Stevens Pass and Snoqualmie closed during the season. On the plus side, many athletes drastically improved their rail skills just because that is all they had to train on. Despite the challenges associated with weather, talent is still being produced out of the region. Mt. Bachelor continues to be the leader of the freestyle scene and was the only one to produce a halfpipe this year. This has led more athletes from the region to MBSEF and our program continues to grow at all levels. Look for a more structured elite team from our program next year.

7. Judging Report – Jonas Brewer

- Overview: It was a progressive season for competitive snowboard events. International IJC and US certified judges were present at every competition. Winter Dew Tour, Copper, Mammoth, and Park City Grand Prix, X Games, Euro and US Open, all had judging panels loaded with experience that the athletes and coaches rely on. We had amazing results and feedback all season long.
- Judging Formats: The majority of the pro events continue to use the Overall Impression judging system. FIS uses an OI system with 6 scoring judges dropping the high and low scores. Dew Tour and X Games both use OI systems with 5 scoring judges then average the scores. USSA events have historically been judged on OI as well. This season the Mammoth GP selected to run the SLS judging format. The SLS system is based off of video judging and uses 8 scoring judges separated into 4 scoring groups. We were able to successfully implement the system to the slopestyle event. Weather kept us from running the new SLS 2.0 for half pipe. The 2.0 system is somewhat of a throwback to the criteria-based system used decades ago. The 2.0 system was used at BEO and the USO. SLS systems continue to grow and are gaining popularity. The IJC would like to see the use of the SLS system again at any 2016 Grand Prix Events.
- Judge Education: IJC held a pro-level certification clinic at the COE last October. We had over 20 judges and coaches attend. It was a great mix of veteran judges and first timers. Plans for an IJC/TTR/FIS clinic are already in the works for this October. It will provide judges a chance to obtain a two-year certification by all the major organizations. The Rev Tour has been a great place for some newer judges to gain top-level competition experience. Last season we had at least one female judge at all four Rev Tour stops. We are hoping to get more women judges certified and involved at all levels. IJC pro judges continue to work Rev Tour and USASA regional events helping the young judges along the way.
- Discussion regarding judges talking about scores on the panel. Jonas discussed how professional the panels are at the high level. There is some discussion on the panel to discuss inconsistencies. High-level clinics offered to provide education for professional judges.
- FIS judges looking at adding SLS.

8. USASA Report – Pete Davis

Highlights of 2014-15 Season:

- 2015 was the Largest USASA National Championships. Successful event with robust participation from athletes, coaches, USASA alumni and VIPs. Enhanced package for participants: Free VAST Action Photos, Free Medicine in Motion, Athlete Goody bags, AFP

Silver Level Sanction, TTR National Sanction, NorAm, Hole Shot BX and FIS sanction for Alpine Snowboard race events.

- Skier introduction to Banked Slalom discipline at regional level and National Championships.
- Expansion of 9 & Under Free Program continues.
- Introduction of "Adaptive Free" program to new markets.
- Mobile App introduction at National Championships (visit: m.mobile.usasa.org) received huge viewership and accolades. Live Scoring integrated this year.
- Online Registration expansion continues at regional Level. 100% of (non-FIS) National Registration was done on line.
- Re-established Great Lakes Snow Series by merging Middle Earth and Huck Finn Series.
- Central Oregon Series replaced "Enter the Dragon" series at Bachelor.
- New Series included: Western Washington State, Grand Canyon.
- Media Campaign(s), advancements in social networking and PR efforts.
- 10% growth of paid Membership achieved.
- "Menu" marketing concept expanded to cover Judge Clinic and membership fees.
- SIA presence of USASA for second consecutive year.
- USASA Emag published three times over season.
- Enhanced Member Benefits
- Second year of successful VideoGames / Reel Theory / GoPro Nationwide contest (<http://vimeo.com/groups/usasagopro>)

Challenges from 2013-14 season:

- Inability of some series to tabulate or submit results correctly.
- Financial status of the organization continues to challenge.
- Reluctance of some series to embrace new technology and programs.
- Continued decline in number of halfpipes at resorts across the nation.
- Resorts not willing to build banked slalom venues.
- "Old-school" mentality and resulting backlash of FIS sanctioning decision.
- Decreased sponsorship dollars.
- Inability to sell Gold Passes provided by USSA.

USASA MEMBERSHIP STATS:

2014 SNOWBOARDER	2015 SNOWBOARDER	NET
Paid: 2996	Paid: 3274	Up 278
One Day: 138	One Day: 255	Up 117
Free Trial: 406	Free Trial: Discontinued	NA
OVERALL: 3,540	3,530	(NOTE: No Free Trial)

2014 SKIER	2013 SKIER	NET
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Paid:	1548	Paid:	1752	Up 204
One Day:	83	One Day:	255	Up 172
Free Trial:	308	Free Trial:	Discontinued	NA
OVERALL:	1,939	OVERALL:	2,007	(NOTE: No Free Trial)

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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

PAID:	4544	PAID:	5026	Up 482
One Day:	221	One Day:	511	Up 290
Free Trial:	714	Free Trial:	0	NA
OVERALL	5,479	OVERALL:	5,537	Up 772

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2014 SNOWBOARDERS	1100	2015 SNOWBOARDERS	1257	Up 157
2014 SKIERS	555	2015 SKIERS	647	Up 92
2014 TOTAL COMPETITORS	1,655	2013 TOTAL COMPETITORS	1,904	Up 249

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REGIONAL EVENTS UPDATE:

Regions = 31

Events = Slopestyle, Boardercross®, SkierCross, Alpine Snowboard (SL & GS), Halfpipe, Rail Jam, Banked Slalom

Total Events = 651 Total Events

Including = 565 Regional Events / 43 National Championship events / 43 Clinics

Gender = 1073 Female / 3953 Male (Full paid Memberships)

Age range = 3 to 80 years old

Coaches = 548 (Level 100 & 200)

Background Checks = 103 (Majority had completed last year)

Judges = 88 Current (Paid)

USASA CLINICS:

Overview

Total clinics – 40

Total certifications – 299

Total current & paid coaches - 548

Judge Clinics

Total Clinics	-	12
Total Clinic Certs	-	68

Coach Level 100

Total clinics – 20

Total clinic certs – 123

Total online re-certs – 65

Technical Supervisor (TS) Clinics

Total Clinics	-	2
Total Clinic Certs	-	33 Level 1
		25 Level 2

Coach Level 200

Total clinics - 9

Total clinic certs - 57

Total online re-certs – 27

Moving Forward:

- USASA will continue to invest in technological infrastructure with the goal(s) to increase:
 - Automation for variety of member services.
 - Website improvements.
 - Expansion of the USASA Mobile App to the Series Level.
 - Streamline Event Registration process.
 - Online testing and re-certification.
 - Software maintenance and improvements.

- Banked Slalom; will move forward with Banked Slalom:
 - Expanded presence at Series Level.
 - Possibly greater presence at National Championships.
 - Considering fundraising opportunities via Calcutta style BSL events.

- Reviewing new Series Director proposals to continue series in:
 - ADK
 - So. Lake Tahoe
 - Southern Vermont

- Continue Coach Education Opportunities via:
 - Coach clinician training
 - Increase number of Endorsement Clinics
 - Focus will continue to be on Level 100 and 200 clinics
 - Scheduling within each region is key priority

- Develop mutually-beneficial partnership in and out of industry

- Continued Growth of USASA Membership, 10% Nationwide (BHAG)

- Establish four regional series that will present AFP / TTR sanctioned events to serve as qualifiers to USASA National Championships.

- Host NorAM Finals of BX and SBX at USASA National Championships in 2016.

- Continue to develop synergistic relationship with NGB.

9. Program Report: Jeremy Forster

Olympic cycle had an effect on the funding of our national teams. Funding remains a challenge, frustrating with the success we had at Olympics. Sponsors are focusing on Summer Olympics. CEO, CFO, CMO working on providing more funding.

Good time to look at developing development programs. Addition of the Slopestyle Team good start for the development of Slopestyle. Hire Dave Reynolds as the coach for the program. SBX Development program good start for the progression of SBX athletes.

FIS considering Big Air and Team SBX as additions to the 2018 Olympics. Big Air looks positive. Team SBX still in discussions. IOC looking at more mixed gender events as well.

Looking at using two seasons for the Olympic Selection events.

Congratulations to Justin Reiter on his great success this season.

Eric Webster named to the World Snowboard Tour board. Work to maintain USA presence at the International level.

Re-energized the discussion with USASA and more cooperation happening at the executive level.

10. SBX Team Report: Peter Foley

Tough year with lack of funding to start off the season. First contest of the season was World Championships. Good results at Worlds and X Games. Massive time off between events. Good training in Summit County. Thanks to Ross Hindman for supporting the camps to Ski Cooper. Team – remains the same, Roger Carver moved up to the B Team. Rosie Mancari added to the Development Group.

11. Halfpipe/Slopestyle Report: Mike Jankowski

Great season for Halfpipe men and women. Good summer camps, with solid training partnerships. Summit County good training and events, and training for slopestyle team. Good addition of Big Air World Cup and success at some of the major events.

12. Grand Prix Report: Eric Webster

2015/16 Goals:

- Produce high quality venues for 22' Half Pipe, Slopestyle, Big Air and Cross events
- Support development of Slopestyle, Halfpipe, Big Air, SBX / SX and Team events as Olympic Sports
- Deliver opportunities for US athletes to compete in the US
- Enhance media and spectator engagement at events
- Strengthen integration between FIS - TTR - AFP at Grand Prix Events
- Strengthen integration of Revolution Tour and GP competitions

2015/16 Tentative Schedule:

January 6-10, 2016 - Mammoth Mountain, California

- Snowboarding Halfpipe and Slopestyle – TTR World Tour
- Freeskiing Halfpipe and Slopestyle – AFP Platinum & FIS NorAm

February 3-7, 2016 – Park City, Utah

- Snowboarding Halfpipe and Slopestyle – TTR International & FIS World Cup
- Freeskiing Halfpipe and Slopestyle – AFP Platinum & FIS World Cup

February 10-12, 2016 – Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts

- FIS World Cup Snowboarding and Freeskiing Big Air

March 9-13, 2016 – Squaw Valley, California

- FIS World Cup Snowboardcross and Team SBX
- FIS World Cup SkiCross

13. Revolution Tour Report: Nick Alexakos

2015 U.S. Revolution Tour Snowboarding

Dates/ Location/ Disciplines

- Dec 15-17, 2014- Copper Mountain, CO- HP/ Slopestyle
- Jan 28-30, 2015 Seven Springs, PA- HP/ Slopestyle
- February 10-13, 2015- Mammoth Mountain, CA- HP/ Slopestyle/ Big Air
- March 18-20, 2015- Mammoth Mountain, CA- HP/ Slopestyle

Sanctioning

- HP/ Slopestyle/ Big Air- World Snowboard Tour- National Level
- HP/ Slopestyle- FIS Level
- Big Air- USSA
- SBX- USSA

Total Snowboard Starts

- 2015- 646
- 2014- 548

Pre-Qualified vs Open

- Slopestyle- 94 pre-qual riders/ 110 full field
- Halfpipe- 76 pre-qual riders/ 110 full field
 - *Only about 60% of the pre-qualified riders claimed their Rev Tour spot*



2015 Overall Winners

- HP- Gabe Ferguson/ Maddie Mastro
- Slopestyle- Jake Pates/ Chloe Kim

2016 U.S. Revolution Tour

2016 Schedule

- 4 Stops- TBD- Dec, Jan, Feb, March
- 4 HP/ 4 Slopestyle/ 1 Big Air/ 2 SBX
- Mammoth multi-year deal through 2018

2016 Rev Tour Structure

- All riders will come from pre-qualified criteria
- No onsite waitlists
- Expand pre-qualified criteria- Deeper into Rev Tour Overall standings, USASA age groups, USASA Regional event qualifiers
- SBX to collaborate with Hole Shot Tour- 2 stops

14. Domestic Event Report: Abbi Nyberg

Race to the Cup

Copper, CO November 10-14	Event canceled – due to lack of snow
Buck Hill, MN Dec.6-7	PGS – 42M/12W PSL – 45M/12W
Steamboat, CO Dec.12-13	PGS – 42M/14W PSL – 42M/14W
Holiday Valley, NY Feb. 21-22	PGS – 36M/29W x 2
Copper/USASA Nationals	PGS – 33M/14W PSL – 33M/12W

Summary: The Copper event was canceled due to lack of snow. Buck Hill also held a Junior FIS race. USASA Nationals Open class also hosted as a FIS event. The events had solid numbers and good turnout.

Tentative 2015/16 Dates:

Copper, CO November

Steamboat Springs, CO December

Buck Hill December

Copper/USASA Nationals April

Hole Shot Tour –

SBX/SX NorAm

SBX

SX

Ski Cooper, CO Feb. 2-5

74M/36W x 2

36M/5W x 2

Copper, CO April 4

57M/22W x 2

39M/0W x 2

Summary: Tough year with poor snow conditions. Ski Cooper event originally scheduled for January was moved to February. Squaw Valley World Cup/NorAm/Rev Tour canceled due to a lack of snow.

USASA agreed to host the Squaw make up race. These events were sanctioned as FIS NorAm. SX only men's event sanctioned as a FIS event, due to age-eligible athletes.

Numbers continue to grow. Two stops with three events total. Prize money distributed to top three per event and Hole Shot Tour Overall Winner.

Tentative 2015/16 Dates: Ski Cooper February; Sugarloaf March; Copper/USASA Nationals April

15. Domestic Program Report: Abbi Nyberg

Junior Development Camps

- Halfpipe/Slopestyle – Successful Project Gold camp held in May in Mammoth with a private pipe, jumps, and airbag setup. 60 + athletes.
- SBX – great camp held at Timberline with the National team; Timberline built a full course for the athletes to train with private lift. Largest SBX camp to date.
- COE Air Awareness Camp – Successful Air Awareness camps at the COE for Project Gold athletes.
- COE Testing camp for SBX and SX – start training, testing and conditioning camp.
- May 2015 HP/SS Project Gold taking place in Mammoth, SBX Project Gold camps TBD based on current snow conditions.

Officials' Education

- USSA and IJC worked closely to prioritize the goals for judges' education
- IJC Nationals Clinic held in Park City in October
- FIS TD Update held in Denver – continue better integration with ski officials

Coaches' Education

US Snowboard Coaches' Education Committee continued great progress. Snowboarding has 95% of its coaches educated, more than any other sport. USASA held several Level 100 and 200 clinics in 2014/15. Level 300 clinic held in Park City in October. First on-snow clinics held; 8 new coaches completed Level 300 certification in HP/SS and SBX.

Junior World Championships

Junior Worlds was held in Yabuli, China. Team of 32 athletes attended. Great team with some standout results.

- PGS/PSL – Maggie Carrigan 16th PGS
- Slopestyle – Nora Healey 1st, Red Gerard 4th, Chandler Hunt 6th
- Halfpipe – Madison Barrett 1st, Clara Jenner 2nd, Maddie Mastro 6th, Toby Miller 2nd, Chase Blackwell 3rd, Nathan Jacobsen 4th,
- 11 SBX athletes (largest team ever)
- 5th & 6th place in the Team Event

16. Old Business: Competition Guide review

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

17. New Business

Revolution Tour

Discussion regarding proposed draft for the Revolution Tour pre-qualified criteria. Good feedback on the proposed criteria. Also discussed the process for the wait list.

Pete Davis will take the proposal to the USASA Executive board for their input and approval.

Once feedback is received from USASA, Nick Alexakos and Sarah Welliver will update the pre-qualified criteria and send to the community.

Snowboard Strategic Working Group

Nyberg updated the group on the Strategic Working Group – primary recommendations from the group. Good input from Pete Davis.

18. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tricia Byrnes, second by Peter Foley