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## **Snowboarding Sport Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 10, 2012

The Park City Marriot Hotel

1895 Sidewinder Drive, Park City, UT

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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Slattery - FIS Rep

Mike Mallon- USASA Rep (via phone)

Tricia Byrnes - Athlete Rep (via phone)

Dylan Omlin – Far West

Chris Davis– Eastern Rep (via phone)

Jon Casson - Chairman

Phoebe Mills - IJC Rep

Peter Foley - Coaches Rep (proxy to Abbi Nyberg)

Jessica Zalusky - Central Rep

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Welliver - USSA

Tom Winters - FIS Rep

Rick Shimpeno – Woodward

Ashley Berger - SSWSC

Ross Hindman – ISTC

Nathan Park - ISTC

Nick Alexakos – USSA

Kate Morton- USSA

Dave Boldwin - Windells

Sheryl Barnes – USSA Membership

Ross Powers – SMS

Jeff Moran – Jackson Hole

Spencer Tamblyn – USSA

Kim Raymer – Park City Snowboard Team /Parent

Stu Rea - Team Utah

Lane Clegg - Team Utah

John Jacobs - Reliable Racing

KC Gandee - KMS

Gregg Davis - Team Breck

Scott Adam - Mount Mansfield

Sasha Nations - Team Summit

Dave Reynolds - Park City Snowboard Team

Ashley Berger - SSWSC

Cath Jett- CJ Timing

Jason Jentsch – Park City Snowboard Team

Kristen Miller – Gteam

1. Chairman's Welcome: Jon Casson

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

2. Meeting Minutes Approval

2011 Minutes approved – motioned by Jon Casson, seconded by Tricia Byrnes

3. Membership Update

Sheryl Barnes gave a membership update.

4. Division Representative Nominations

Casson opened the floor for nominations for the Eastern Rep, Far West Rep, Pacific Northwest Rep and Chairman Position.

- Eastern Rep - Ross Hindman nominated KC Gandee and Ross Powers, Adam seconded. Gandee declines nomination. Casson nominated Chris Davies, Jett seconded. Ross Powers Elected.
- Far West Rep - Dylan Omlin. Casson nominated, seconded by Jett. Elected unanimously.
- Pacific Northwest - Casson nominated Coggin Hill. Dylan Omlin second. Elected unanimously.
- Chairman - Nyberg nominated Jon Casson, Stu Rea second. Elected unanimously.

5. Athlete Report - Tricia Byrnes

Overall this was another great season for the books, progression and success from all athletes and all fronts. There were definitely some issues with weather and scheduling, postponing the European Open on to the same weekend as the Grand Prix and leaving a nearly empty January especially for the ladies with their absence from the Killington Dew Tour. But since the Dew Tour will be dropping down to one event this season I think the scheduling issues of the past will be alleviated.

Halfpipe: Halfpipe riders had another successful year albeit interesting with an almost one month gap in events leading up to X Games. Some complaints about combining skiing and snowboarding into the events especially the early season Grand Prix, seems like a massive amount of riders/skiers in one venue at one time with everyone chomping at the bit to get their tricks back and just missing the old days of standalone snowboarding events, wanting more solo practice time, etc. No real complaints in terms of pipe construction; World Champs had the best pipe but the back and forth from Europe to the States was a bit grueling for most of the athletes.

Boardercross: This season the athletes were happy with the overall US Team program and coaching support with the usual budgetary needs and complaints for wax techs and physical therapist support. The riders main concern and complaint this season was the level of safety at the FIS events and course construction. X Games proved to be an ideal course and if at all possible they would like more courses built like that and want FIS to consult the riders on course design and safety prior to the events.

Slopestyle: Good year for slopestyle with a lot of excitement around the announcement as an Olympic discipline. The usual rider course complaints were voiced at events with a lot of discussion on the women's side regarding jump sizes and eliminating the smaller jump option. Some of the women riders want the smaller option removed from course design and but generally men and women want courses built that take into consideration speed issues during all weather options (snowy days, wind, soft snow etc.) and want weather days utilized whenever possible. European Open seemed to be a favorite course for most of the riders.

WAS: We Are Snowboarding, the riders group set up to create a unified voice of the athletes is still going on but mainly exists as a massive group e-mail with riders hashing out complaints and concerns. Nothing too formal but it's a place for riders to share ideas with every rider e-mail in the industry.... "reply all".

## 6. Regional Rep Reports

### **Andy Gilbert – Intermountain Report**

2012 saw lower than normal snow totals, which meant fewer rider visits at the majority of intermountain resorts. Park City continues to support snowboarding in major ways, hosting events both industry and sanctioned. Its I Ride Park City campaign continues to promote snowboarding in a good light. Sun Valley hosted many private photo shoots including a week with the Burton team and should be showcased in next year's videos prominently. Jackson Hole is continuing to support and host events and the Stash parks have been a big hit. Other areas in the region, Brighton, Snowbird, Bogus Basin, etc. all seem to have thriving local snowboard scenes and held some level of event during the past season. 2012 saw a new level of cooperation between the clubs in the region, which saw an improvement in the quality of regional events being held. Oh and Travis Rice made a pretty cool snowboard movie as well.

#### Events:

- 18 USASA snowboard event days (30-120 riders depending on discipline)
- Gatorade Free Flow Jackson Hole Jan 21-22
- Grand Prix BX Canyons Feb 7-11
- Dew Tour Snowbasin Feb 9-11
- North Face Masters Apr 12-15

#### USSA Membership:

- 94 regional members
- 58 national members
- 34 coaches
- 41 officials
- 18 member clubs

#### Coaches Education:

- Lane Clegg continues to offer USASA clinics each season
- Level 300 clinic and coaches symposium in Park City

#### Athlete Accomplishments:

- Kaitlyn Farrington overall Grand Prix Halfpipe Champion, National Halfpipe Champion

- Graham Watanabe announced his retirement after a very successful career with US Snowboarding

Next wave:

- Ryan Roemer USASA Open Class Overall National Champion
- Max Raymer participated in the Youth Olympic Games
- Chase Josey, Ryan Roemer invited to Project Gold Camps for halfpipe and BX
- Chase Josey 2<sup>nd</sup> Gatorade Free Flow Halfpipe Finals, 4<sup>th</sup> FIS Junior World Championships halfpipe (top American).
- Intermountain Snowboard Series was second in total medals at USASA Nationals.

Challenges: Continuing to grow snowboarding at the grassroots level. Free skiing has taken a bite out of the number of kids transitioning into snowboarding and member clubs need to work with local resorts and snow sport schools to make sure kids are getting the opportunity to try snowboarding. Developing new venues to host quality events is always a challenge but new cooperation between the major players in our three state region looks to be improving those concerns.

Looking Ahead: The region is producing great young talent and the clubs in the region are also doing well. Riders between 11-14 seem to be leading the charge in that respect. Each of the resorts in the region seem to have their own scenes and flavor, which is a good sign and it will be key to try and bring all the “tribes” together to try and grow snowboarding as a whole in the Intermountain Region.

### **Dylan Omlin – Far West Report**

Contrary to the 800 inches of snow that fell in the Sierras last winter, it hardly snowed at all this season which made for tough conditions to train or compete in regardless of discipline. There were only a handful of good powder days, no jumps over 40’ until March, very little halfpipe access, and no SBX course to be found all season. Last year a number of resorts stayed open until the end of May and into June, but with the lack of snowfall this season all resorts except Mammoth are either completely closed or nearing closure.

Good Things: Mammoth hosted a stop on the Grand Prix tour this season. The weather was a challenge with wind and snow cancelling practices in both venues. Despite the stormy conditions, the pipe event went well and the slopestyle course was one of the best we saw all winter. The course had even better flow than last year and it was reflected in the quality snowboarding displayed by the athletes.

For the 4th consecutive winter, the Revolution Tour journeyed out west. This time Northstar stepped up to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> stop of the circuit, which was very nearly cancelled due to lack of snow in Tahoe. Ultimately, SBX was the only cancelled event and halfpipe and slopestyle were carried out as planned. Considering the poor conditions, Northstar did an outstanding job and made the best of it.

Woodward at Tahoe! Those of us out west are only a few weeks away from having a new Woodward campus in our backyard. There currently stands a nearly-finished Woodward building in the Boreal parking lot! This will be a huge benefit for western athletes as it gives teams and individuals a place to train in the summer and during slow winters such as this past season. It will also save time and money as teams will not have to travel for training resources such as foam pits, trampolines, and indoor skateboarding.

Educational Things: There was only one clinic held in the Far West this winter (unless Mammoth held one?). Donald Nyberg hosted a Level 100 clinic in late March just prior to USASA Nationals. There were a dozen or so coaches certified at the clinic. The West is in dire need of more clinicians (especially on the ski side) and resorts willing to get involved and host them. It's always the same people and places hosting these clinics, and we need some variety.

Tough things: The West needs other teams in the region besides ASC, Mammoth, and Squaw to get involved in all parts of the process. We need to find a way to get South Lake Tahoe teams engaged, like on the Far West ski side. Northstar has begun to show promise with several athletes beginning to compete in USSA events and by hosting the Revolution Tour. 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.

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. The athletes on the grassroots level need strong local events to prepare them for working their way up the pipeline. Hopefully the addition of Woodward at Tahoe will develop a larger pool of young competitive athletes, but as of now their numbers are shrinking at an alarming rate.

On the freestyle ski side of Far West, there are numerous teams and highly talented athletes who are constantly trying to find training and competition avenues. Things are improving with the recent combination of freeski and snowboard events at Revolution Tours, Holeshots, and Nationals. Several crews still feel a bit isolated, but once they get involved with USASA and USSA on more levels than just appearing at contests, inclusion will follow.

#### Future Things:

- 1) Continue hosting events in the region: Grand Prix's, Holeshots and Rev Tours.
- 2) Continue supporting education and bring some legitimacy to the Far West region and its teams.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Reach out to the South Lake Tahoe groups and get them involved in the process.
- 5) Use the new Woodward facility and its current buzz to rejuvenate the pool of young athletes, and with those athletes establish a stronger and more cohesive pipeline in the Far West region.

#### **Chris Davis – Eastern Report**

With three USSA events on the East Coast this season, this was one more than last season. The events were, The Race to the Cup at Hollimont NY, The Revolution Tour event at Mt Snow VT and new event The HoleShot Tour, NorAm at Killington.

Continuing the theme from last year, the Eastern coaches are still concerned with the lack of USSA events east of the Mississippi. Although The Hole Shot was welcomed, it's inclusion still makes it only one USSA event per discipline on the East Coast.

Some coaches and teams are heading North over the border, to the many FIS events (that are being held within a 6hr drive of central New England) or Toronto area. These FIS events are numbered at approximately SBX 11, PGS/PSL 7, HP 5, SS 4.

#### East Coast Events

Race to the Cup: Held in Hollimont NY, the venue and mountain were very good, and the events went off with very little incident. The men's field for both GS/SI was approx 42, and the female

field for both was approx 22. These numbers were up from last year. In both cases, more than half the field was foreign, mostly Canadian.

Revolution Tour: Held at Mt Snow VT, this was a central location for the East coast and Mt Snow provided some great terrain for this event.

The slopestyle fields were 18 ladies and 53 men, similar numbers to last year.

The weather was warm, but the Carinthia staff did a great job keeping the slopestyle course in great shape. The rail section was considered "easy" which promoted lots of spinning on and off the rail features.

The halfpipe field was 14 women and 39 men, again about the same numbers as last year. I do not have any details about the Halfpipe event

Holeshot NorAm Killington: This was the first USSA boardercross to be held at Killington for some time, and much of the course building was being done the day before practice. The weather was very hot and this was a challenge for Killington park staff.

The course was narrow, and was basically a series of bank-turns. Some coaches were a little disappointed with the scale of the terrain for a NorAm course, and it was suggested that ski resorts should have to do a Rev event before holding a Holeshot....?

The field of competitors for the snowboarders was 43 Ladies and 59 Men. And the event went off with little incident.

Education: The East Coast was not as strong this season, after a very big season last year, with the amount of clinics offered, and the attendance at those clinics. The numbers were down by more than 50% to a total of 45 participants at 6 clinics. Eastern clinicians included myself (Chris Davies) Mike Mallon, KC Gandee, Neil Sunday and Sean Naughton.

Also this year, as Phoebe Mills proposed at last year's Snowboard Committee Meeting, there was a North American FIS Clinic held at Burton HQ. This was particularly successful as it was attended not only by judges, but by a handful of current "coaches".

The "judges" found this helpful, as there was great discussion about the different aspects of competition and criteria. Burton also toured the group around their R&D and factory facilities. A great opportunity that I hope will be repeated in the future.

Conclusion: Below was written for last year's report.

*"The Eastern Division is strong, with capable riders and coaches, with great potential. With riders from the East Coast continuing to have success all across the US and the world, Seth Wescott, Jonathan Cheevers, Alex Tuttle, Jackie Hernandez, Scotty Lago, Chas Guildimond, Kelly Clark etc. With continued cultivation the next crop may well come from the East Coast with the assistance of USSA."*

I believe this still to be true, and that the consensus of opinion amongst the coaches in the snowboard community on the East Coast, is that we are doing good things in all areas of the sport, and that the presence of USSA on the East Coast, although improved, is still a little sparse, and due to this fact, taking the opportunities offered to them North of the border is becoming very appealing. This is by no means a threat of exodus to Canada, but merely logistically/financially a better option for some.

*Note – The opinions, information and comments in this report were from a collection of coaches in the East area, when asked for their input.*

### **Jessica Zalusky – Central Report**

The Midwest had unfavorable winter weather and snow wise, low snowfall totals and unseasonably warm weather. As a result, ski areas had shorter seasons and a few ski areas were not able to build their parks to spec or even have a halfpipe as planned initially.

A few coach clinics were held throughout the Midwest.

Michigan hosted a successful Revolution Tour.

The Central region had a successful season for competition.

In North American events, we had several top finishes from the following riders:

Emma Crosby	Jack Taylor	Mikaela Casey
Benny Milam	Zachary Lulavy	Haile Soderholm
Brady Lem	Tyler Anderson	Karly Shorr
Hunter Murphy	Paul Brichta	Jack Dryer
Meghan Graham	Peter Brichta	Easton Gilman

Additionally, we had several riders qualify and compete at Junior Worlds in Spain as well as invited to the Project Gold Camp for this summer.

Future Items:

- 1) We would be very interested in hosting a higher level USSA event in Minnesota, whether it is a Revolution Tour or Race to the Cup.
- 2) The Midwest lacks in Halfpipe and Boardercross courses and there is a great demand and need for these so that our athletes can remain competitive.
- 3) To continue to support and provide education opportunities for coaching professionals in the Midwest. There is a need for more coach trainers and clinics in the Midwest and we are working with the US Snowboard Coach Education program to do this.

### **Paul Krahulec - Rocky Mountain Region**

The 2011-12 season:

- Poor snow conditions until you don't want snow
- Plenty of man made
- Skier/rider visits were down at all resorts making for tight budgets
- Resorts are interested in hosting events. Understanding & backing the "pot of gold" principal where athletes must attend events even in a poor snow year when the public is not showing up was noticed by all resort COO's!
- Copper, Keystone, WP & Breck all had excellent terrain parks
- ISTC Training Center proving to be a solid program with both high level & development
- SBX/ SX, HP & SS kids, thanks to Ross, Nate, Brette & Jim
- SSWSC Alpine program producing winners at all levels of competition through the dedication of Thedo
- Breck Freeride a growing threat thanks to Chris
- SSCV skiers & snowboarders continue to improve with the help of Nikita, Elana and Ben
- WP continues to produce amazing young skiers with Jeremy leading the way
- G Team new to town, Jessica Z leading the way as always
- Skier participation in freestyle and cross events continues to grow at all levels.

#### Events:

- 18 USASA snowboard / freeski event days @ Breck, Copper, WP & Vail
- Slopestyle & Cross events most popular
- Race To The Cup: 1st ever 3 PSL, Event was very well received and could not have happened without the help of Mark Ballard, Mark Fawcett, Sylvain Jean, Andrew Boorman, Thedo Rummelink & the cut and paste prowess of Cath Jett
- Grand Prix / Rev Tour: Definite attendance benefits with an early season Rev Tour
- HoleShot SBX / SX: Extremely well attended
- Look for separate dates for 2012-13 schedule to accommodate large interests and offer better venues (2 time trials / discipline-specific courses)
- An over abundance of snow and the lack of electricity could not conspire to cancel this event. Thanks to Ritchie, Bill, & Abbi
- Dew Tour: Biggest event in Breckenridge
- USASA National Championship: Record setting attendance

#### Athlete Accomplishments:

- Numerous, kids are devoted and producing outstanding results

#### Rocky Rider Highlights:

- Hernandez WC podium
- Trapp wins first ever NorAm Triple Slalom
- Gulini, Hernandez, Krahulec sweep women's USASA Nationals SBX podium
- Wiencke, Graham, Wagar sweep women's USASA Nationals SL podium
- Reiter, Trapp, Allen sweep men's USASA National SL podium
- Wagar, Graham, Wiencke sweep women's USASA National GS podium
- Muss, Allen, Reiter sweep men's USASA National GS podium
- Rocky Mountain Snowboard Series , the largest USASA series
- 74 snowboard & 19 skier medal at USASA Nationals, top medal winning series in the nation for the 5th consecutive year

#### 7. Team Report

Spencer Tamblyn gave the Snowboarding Rookie Team report. Overall it was a great season with two athletes moving from the Rookie to the Pro Team (Maddy Schaffrick and Benji Farrow). Looking forward to a great year with a couple of team athletes. At this point all of the Rookies have been a part of the Project Gold Talent Development Project.

#### 8. Judging Report – Phoebe Mills

##### Overview

The snowboard competition season saw the biggest change in judging since 1999 when the IJC moved to the Overall Impression system (FIS/USSA started using OI around 2004). The Burton Global Open Series and most 6-star TTR events used the new Snowboard Live Scoring system (SLS). In general, the SLS uses four Trick judges for individual hits in a halfpipe/features on a slopestyle course and two Flow judges for the overall composition of a run (similar to overall impression). The scores are then weighted 60% on the trick scores and 40% on the flow scores.

The SLS system is great for television and provides more specific feedback to riders, but it has some challenges to overcome in the halfpipe including the variation between judges among individual trick scores. USSA should consider using the SLS system for some of its events to

remain relevant and at the forefront of our sport, and USSA may be required to use SLS as well as judges knowledgeable with it if any Grand Prix become TTR 6-star events.

There were only two Grand Prix events for halfpipe and one for slopestyle this season. The field size and depth was good at Copper, but the field was smaller and not as deep at Mammoth. This is often the case in a post-Olympic season. Scheduling of these events so they don't conflict with other major events is a challenge, but USSA's decision to change the schedule in Mammoth to accommodate those attending the US Open was appreciated by many riders and coaches.

The biggest frustration for judges at the Grand Prix is the antiquated scoring system. All of the other major events use an updated scoring system allowing Head Judges to see results, rankings and ties prior to approving the scores. The newer systems also allow for judges to see their individual rankings. I strongly urge USSA to upgrade its scoring system since it will improve accuracy and efficiency of judging, which is important when there is so much at stake for these competitors.

Judging for the Revolution Tour was good, but most of the slopestyle courses required judges to be split along the course. Judging from split panels continues to be a challenge in terms of providing a true overall impression score and thus achieving the correct ranking. Either the courses need to be shorter or there needs to be a video feed so the judges can be together and judge the same thing.

The scoring system for the Rev Tour needs to be upgraded to an electronic system with judging keypads and a computer screen for the HJ to see all scores, rankings and ties. This will ensure accuracy and efficiency in scoring and make the events better for everyone.

The addition of skiing to the Revolution Tour brought new opportunities and challenges regarding judging. Ski judges were scheduled for each stop, but none of the events had a full panel of ski judges because there are not enough educated ski judges yet. Regional clinics will need to focus on skiers so we can increase our pool of ski judges for these events.

#### Head Judges

The Head Judges for both of the Grand Prix events were from Canada and both did an excellent job. For the Revolution Tour, we used the same Head Judge for all of the events (same HJ for both snowboard and ski events). Having one Head Judge for the Tour seemed to help with the overall quality of judging and organization of the judges. In the future, it would be ideal to have a ski HJ for the Tour as well a snowboard HJ.

#### Judging Quality

The overall quality of judging at the Grand Prix and Rev Tours was good. There were some new judges at both of these events. At the Grand Prix level, the new judges did a great job and were very knowledgeable. Many of these judges also judge Dew Tours and BGOS events so this helps consistency of judging at different pro events.

Judging at the Revolution Tour events was more of a challenge because we had split panels on the slopestyle courses and snowboarders judging skiers. While the basic concepts and criteria are the same for judging either sport, skiers simply prefer to be judged by other skiers.

#### Judge Education

The IJC held an international Pro Judge clinic at Copper Mountain, CO in November. For the first time, both snowboarders and skiers attended the clinic. The clinic was very well attended with about 35 judges from the U.S. and 3 from Norway. Almost half of the attendees were skiers. While there was limited ski video footage available, the Association of Freeskiing Professionals (AFP) provided some video for use at the clinic. Several AFP judges attended the clinic.

The FIS held a North American judge clinic in Calgary, CA with 5 U.S. judges attending. FIS scheduled one U.S. judge at the World Championships in La Molina, Spain and one U.S. judge at three different World Cups.

#### Future Planning

The IJC will continue to educate and develop more high-quality judges as well as prepare updates to the materials to incorporate SLS judging. The IJC is also working with the AFP to develop ski-specific education materials and clinics. In conjunction with TTR, IJC will likely hold a North American clinic to educate judges on SLS. In addition, there will be a North American FIS Clinic in the eastern U.S. in September or October 2011.

9. Industry Report: Jon Casson

Jon Casson reviewed the report that was submitted by Marty Carrigan.

10. FIS Report: Bill Slattery and Tom Winters

Slattery discusses FIS proposals. Some of the hot topics will be the Olympic Judging Panel, Quotas for the coming season. Nyberg commented that the US along with other nations are proposing separate panels for Snowboarding and Freeskiing events.

Slattery mentioned that there will most likely be a push for Triple Slalom, rather than PSL in Sochi, as the Russians seem to like that format.

Nathan Park asked if there will be 6 across in SBX at the Olympics. Slattery responded that there would be 6 across at the Olympics, but they won't increase the field size.

Tom Winters discussed the TD assignments for the Olympics and for the coming season. The TD assignment calendar will be sent out in early fall.

Bill Slattery also discussed that Team SBX will be added to the Junior Worlds and World Championship events.

11. Grand Prix Event Report: Nick Alexakos

**U.S. Grand Prix –Canyons, UT. – February 10-11, 2012**

Location: Canyons, Park City, Utah

Event: Men's and Women's Snowboardcross and Skicross with The North Face Junior Jam

Entertainment: Saturday afternoon concert with national recording artist Ozomatli

Spectators: Approximately 8,300

USSA VIP's: 357 (comprised of sponsors, athletes, industry VIPs and other USSA guests)

Broadcasts: NBC Rating: .6 – aired Saturday, February 18 at 3:30p.m. EST  
Uni Sports: .24- aired Sunday, February 12 at TBD EST (SX)  
NBC Sports Network: .28 – airs Sunday, February 26th at 3p.m. EST (SBX)

NBC Sports Network: .21 – airs Sunday, February 26th at 4p.m. EST (SX)

Live Webcast: SBX Sunday, February 11th on ussnowboarding.com, ussnowboarding facebook page, universalsports.com and Snowboarder magazine.

Results: National Champions SBX: Nate Holland (4th Place) and Faye Gulini (2nd Place) crowned national champions.

SX: Langley McNeal (2nd place) and Joey Swennson (6th place)

Highlights:

- Grand Prix hosts inaugural Skicross
- Dominique Maltais-X Games champion takes the win
- Faye Gulini returns from injury to make strong podium appearance
- Faye Gulini and Nate Holland were awarded Green Jackets as U.S. Champions
- Canyons pulls out all the stops to deliver another great Grand Prix event
- Spectator friendly program on Saturday in Canyons base area with Skicross > Jr Jam > Ozomatli concert
- Quality International fields in both SBX and SX with eight nations represented
- Great base area finish venue with perfect VIP access/viewing
- Canyons makes improvements to venue which result in a world class cross track in USSA hometown.

**Sprint U.S. Grand Prix – Copper Mountain, CO - December 7-10, 2011**

Location: Copper Mountain, CO

Event: Sprint U.S. Grand Prix: men's and women's Snowboarding and Freeskiing HP; The North Face Jr. Jam, Paul Mitchell Progression Session: Urban Rail

Entertainment: Live Concert with Digital Underground- Saturday Night following PMPS

Spectators: Approximately 7400 (FS HP Qualifier: 600, SB HP Qualifier: 800, FS HP Finals: 1600, SB HP Final: 3200, PMPS: 1200)

USSA VIP's: 132 (comprised of sponsors, athletes, industry VIPs and other USSA guests)

Other Event Participants: Approximately 629 (Sponsors, international and domestic athletes, coaches, technicians, officials, industry representatives, media, broadcasters, volunteers)

Broadcasts: Television Broadcasts:

NBC Rating: .06 – airs Sunday, December 18th at 12:30pm EST (Snowboarding and Freeskiing HP)

Versus Rating: .22 – airs Saturday, December 24th at 3pm EST (Visa U.S. Freeskiing Grand Prix)

Versus Rating: .22 – airs Saturday, December 24th at 4pm EST (Sprint U.S.Snowboarding Grand Prix)

Versus Rating: .18 - airs Saturday, December 31st at 3pm EST (Paul Mitchell Progression Session-SS)

Website media: Live Webcast of all events on Fuel TV, Grind, Snowboarder and Freeskier Websites, Yahoo! Sports, Transworldsnow, Snowboard, Mountainzone, Outdoornews, Skipressworld, onthesnow, alpinezonenews, TTR world tour

Top-3 USA Results: SB HP: Kelly Clark 1st, Maddy Schaffrick 2nd, Luke Mitrani 1st, Louie Vito 2nd, Greg Bretz 3<sup>rd</sup>; FS HP: Brita Sigourney 1st, Wing Tai Barrymore 1st, Torin Yater Wallace 2nd, Duncan Adams 3rd

Other Highlights:

- ESPN Article states that SB HP was one of the top Halfpipe contests ever
- Podium sweep for U.S. Men's Freeskiers
- Incredible weather with large international fields in the competition
- Quality live Webcast's of all events
- FS HP debuts as a World Cup at the Grand Prix
- This event marks the start of the 16th season for the Grand Prix
- Quality PMPs capped off by a great concert

**Sprint U.S. Grand Prix Snowboarding/Freeskiing – Mammoth, CA March 1-4, 2012**

Location: Mammoth, CA

Event: U.S. Grand Prix Snowboarding and Freeskiing - featuring Men's and Women's HP competitions and Slopestyle Competitions

Entertainment: Live concert with Shiny Toy Guns

Spectators: Approximately 8,900 (Friday 1,800, Saturday 3,500, Concert: 1700, Sunday 1,900)  
Public at Resort (Main Lodge): 19,400 (Friday 3700, Saturday 11,000, Sunday 4700)

Other Event Participants: Approximately 538 (Sponsors, international and domestic athletes, coaches, technicians, officials, industry representatives, media, broadcasters, volunteers)

USSA VIPs: 168 (comprised of Sponsors, Industry VIPs, and other USSA guests.)

Broadcasts: Television Broadcasts

NBC Rating: .7 – airs Saturday, March 10th at 12pm EST (SBHP)

NBC Rating: .7 – airs Saturday, March 10th at 1pm EST (SHP)

Versus Rating: .24 – airs Sunday, March 18th at 2pm EST (SBHP)

Versus Rating: .21 – airs Sunday, March 18th at 3pm EST (SS)

Versus Rating: .25 - airs Saturday, March 31st at 3pm EST (VISA U.S. Freeskiing Grand Prix)

U.S. Team Results: Snowboarding HP (2nd Greg Bretz, 1st Elena Hight, 2nd Kaitlyn Farrington, 3rd Eillery Hollingsworth)  
Snowboarding SS (1st Chas Guldmond, 2nd Sage Kotsenburg)  
Freeskiing HP (1st David Wise, 1st Brita Sigourney, 3rd Maddie Bowman)

Freeskiing SS (1st Tom Wallisch, 2nd Joss Christensen, 1st Devin Logan)

Highlights:

- "The only thing more perfect than the weather was the meticulously groomed pipe and slopestyle course" quoted by ESPN.com
- US Snowboarding Women's Halfpipe Team sweeps podium
- Torin Yater Wallace executes History making Switch 1800 in Freeskiing HP Competition
- Despite a windy storm that shut down the mountain for three days, the Organizing Committee and staff pulled off a world-class event
- Set the bar with dual sanctioning in both Snowboarding (FIS NorAm & TTR 5 Star) and Freeskiing (FIS World Cup & AFP Platinum Level).

Nick Alexakos gave a recap of the season. They are working to confirm the schedule for next season.

Casson asked if the Park City Grand Prix and Canyons events could be tied together. Alexakos responded that there would be a sponsor conflict, but could be a potential.

Ashley Berger commented that the Copper training was hectic and suggested that keeping snowboard and skiing separate would help.

Nathan Park asked if the SBX Grand Prix would happen in the Olympic qualification year. Nyberg responded that no, there would not be one in 2013-14.

Nyberg mentioned the Telluride World Cup will just be an SBX and Skicross World Cup this season, no alpine.

Alexakos mentioned there has been discussion about moving the Grand Prix to World Cup events to secure Olympic Nations spots.

Ashley Berger asked about the quota spots if the Grand Prix are World Cup events. Alexakos responded that we are hoping to obtain a higher quota from the FIS and this would only be the 2012-13 season.

Alexakos mentioned the Revolution Tour was shooting to have all 22ft Halfpipe and bigger slopestyle jumps. He thanked all of the clubs and programs for supporting the Revolution Tour.

Alexakos asked the coaches their thoughts regarding TTR or FIS sanctioned, as it looked like the ability to dual sanction might be going away.

Dave Boldwin said the dual sanction is best if possible. Sasha Nations said it depends on the athletes' goals and which direction they are taking.

12. Domestic Events Report: Abbi Nyberg

Race to the Cup

Copper, CO November 14-15	PGS – 51M/34W	3PSL - 47M/34W
*First triple slalom event		
Steamboat Springs, CO December 20-21	PGS - 31M/34W	PSL - 31M/30W
Holimont, NY February 23-24	PGS – 41M/18W	PGS – 43M/21W

Summary: Solid turn-out for all races. The Copper and Steamboat races had great turn out with a World Cup field. U.S. races continue to have large participation numbers, and high point's value.

Prize money this year was divided among top three for both disciplines. We worked in cooperation with Canada to develop a cohesive schedule.

**Tentative 2012/13 Dates:**

Race to the Cup:

Copper, CO Nov. 13-14

Steamboat Springs, CO Dec. 14-15

Holimont, NY January or February

HoleShot Tour – SBX/SX NorAm:

Copper, CO January 21-22                      69M/39W x 2

Killington, VT March 7-8                      59M/41W x 2

Mt Hood Meadows, OR March 23-24                      40M/20 W x 2

Summary: Great second season of the Hole Shot. 3 stops with 6 events total. Hole Shot Tour also included Skicross this season. Huge increases in both the women's fields and total field sizes. Prize money distributed to top three for both disciplines.

Tentative 2012/13 Dates:

Copper, January

Killington, VT March 5-7

Mt Hood Meadows, OR late March

Nyberg commented that the Hole Shot Tour experienced another good season with the women's fields increase. The series seems to be working bridging the gap between NorAms and World Cup events. Great to see Jackie Hernandez win a World Cup this season. We are also looking for a builder for the season to help with course consistency.

Nathan Park asked if there can be some sort of overall Tour winner to recognize the top athletes. Nyberg responded that yes that was a good idea and would look into that for next season.

Dylan Omlin asked if there could be more training days next season. Discussion ensued and Nyberg stated that will be worked in to included more training days and get the notice out early so all athletes have the chance to attend.

13. USASA Report: Jon Casson

Jon Casson gave a quick USASA report in the absence of Jason Toutolmin. It was a great season for USASA which saw the numbers continue to improve in both Snowboarding and especially in Freeskiing. Implemented background screening for all coaches and 342 coaches were screened in the process. It was a big financial undertaking for USASA, but well worth it. USASA Nationals was held in Copper with almost 1,200 athletes.

14. Domestic Program Report: Abbi Nyberg

Junior Development Camps

- Halfpipe – Successful Project Gold and Junior Gold camps held in May camp in Mammoth with a 22" pipe.
- 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.
- Slopestyle – first slopestyle camp held in July in Hood. 30 plus athletes trained at both High Cascade and Windells.
- Alpine – Great camp with a new batch of young riders. Training camp held at Hood in July.

#### COE Air Awareness Camp

- Successful Air Awareness camps at the COE with both Project Gold and Junior Gold athletes.
- May 2012 Project Gold HP and Junior Gold camp scheduled in Mammoth, SBX and Alpine Project Gold camp scheduled in June at Hood.

#### Officials' Education

- USSA and IJC worked closely to prioritize the goals for judges' education.
- US judge on the Olympic judging panel in 2014.
- A National IJC clinic was held in Vermont at the Burton HQ.
- Rulebook has been updated to better match current events.

#### Coaches' Education

- US Snowboard Coaches' Education Committee continued to progress.
- USASA held several Level 100 and 200 clinics.
- Level 300 clinic held in Park City.

#### Junior World Championships

- Great Jr. World Championship team represented the USA in Sierra Nevada, Spain.
- Arielle Gold – 1st HP, Indigo Monk 2nd SS, Brandon Davis 3rd SS.

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

Nyberg asked for any changes to the competition guide be sent to her by June 30. Thanks to Cath Jett for all of her hard work last season on the Competition Guide.

#### 16. New Business

##### Olympic Selection Process

- Jon Casson gave an overview of the Olympic Selection criteria. Criteria is being drafted now and must be approved this summer and will be finalized in October.
- Casson, Foley, Forster, Jankowski and Danny Kass make up the criteria committee. If athletes are interested in understanding the process and having a voice, they should reach out to Danny Kass.

##### Concussion Policy

- Nyberg mentioned the new concussion policy and asked for any feedback.
- Jeff Moran said it worked well this season and was happy to see a couple of TDs taking care of the athletes.
- Cath Jett thanked the coaches for educating the parents on concussion safety.

##### Coaches Education

- Casson gave a coaches' education update. USASA initiated background checks for coaches, implemented quickly, and worked really well. Casson also discussed the Fast Start program: that coaches' education is putting in place. Focus on responsibility, ethics, ASEP course, still not a certified coach but will have gone through basic education, leads into their level one certification.

##### USASA/USSA Action Committee

- Casson stated a group is being formed to continue working together on how the pipeline can be made more seamless. Potential of joint marketing, sponsorships and keeping the dialogue open between the two organizations.

#### Safe Sport Program

- Nyberg stated the USSA will be implementing the USOC Safe Sport Program next season.

#### Other

- Scott Adam asked about Rookie Athlete Development and if it is age appropriate timing to pull kids out of their basic structure and up to the next level.
- Spencer Tamblyn said the Rookie Team looks at each athlete on an individual basis. For example, Gabe Ferguson is 13, so next season he will still travel with his mom and brother and probably won't do the entire event schedule.
- Dylan Omlin stated that it is up to the coach to make sure they involve themselves in the situation and understand the plan for their athlete.