

SNOWBOARDING SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

USSA Congress 2014
Center of Excellence
May 15, 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bill Slattery - FIS Rep
Pete Davis- USASA Rep (via phone)
Alex Deibold – Athlete Rep
Tricia Byrnes - Athlete Rep
Ross Powers– Eastern Rep
Jessica Zalusky – Central Rep
Andy Gilbert – Intermountain Rep
Coggin Hill – PNSA Rep
Jon Casson - Chairman
Phoebe Mills - IJC Rep (via phone)
Peter Foley - Coaches Rep
Cath Jett – Rules and Tech (via phone)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jonas Brewer – IJC (via phone)
Sarah Welliver - USSA
Tom Winters - FIS Rep
Elijah Teter – Ski and Snowboard Club Vail
Eric Webster - USSA
Ross Hindman – ISTC
Nick Alexakos – USSA
Michael Bell – PCSBT
Jeff Moran - JHSC
Sheryl Barnes – USSA Membership
Kim Raymer – USASA Series Director
Tommi Ylianttila – Park City Coach
Brandon Hunt - Parent
Anna McIntyre
Caitlin Furin – USSA
Tracy Meier - USSA

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

2013 Minutes approved – motioned by Peter Foley, second by Tricia Byrnes.

3. Committee Member Nominations

- IJC has nominated Jonas Brewer to replace Phoebe Mills.
- Alex Deibold nominated as the Sport Committee Athlete Representative by Abbi Nyberg, motion to approve Pete Davis, second by Ross Powers.

4. Membership Update

Sheryl Barnes gave a membership update. Laura Sharpe is managing background screening. 2014-15 – no change in Snowboard FIS and Nationals Competitor membership costs. Added club participant membership - \$25 low cost membership for young athletes training with a club, but participating in non-USSA events. Also can be used for forerunners.

5. Athlete Report - Tricia Byrnes and Alex Diebold

US Snowboarding Athlete Report

This year was mostly awesome as far as the riders were concerned. The Olympic season is always grueling and crazy, this year was no exception and most of the riders thought the qualification events were the best they could have been, given the weather circumstances that plagued all three disciplines.

Slopestyle- The slopestyle and crew was generally stoked on the program. They would like to see a better course at Copper Mountain for the Grand Prix and more variety in venues (three Grand Prix on the same course in Mammoth, majority of events in Colorado). All the riders seem to love Bill Enos and the US Team program. There seems to be a little confusion about the funding situation/expectation for some riders. Aka they thought they'd get more funding for being on the team. There was a lot of discussion about the Olympic course, some loved it, some hated it but the riders rose to the occasion and made it #spoicy. At the WST meetings at the US Open, I heard some positive feedback for the Olympic/FIS format and how the riders liked that two-day last chance qualifiers format for slopestyle. The US Open course was considered one of the best; built to handle snow, which they had.

Halfpipe- 2014 was the year of the rookie rising. Lots of young talent started peaking in the pro ranks. With the exception of the Breckenridge Grand Prix cancelation there seemed to be little grumbling about venues and pipe conditions or judging, until the Olympics, which was extremely disappointing in terms of pipe maintenance and shape. A lot of riders are more motivated now than ever before to do what it takes to change the pattern of subpar Olympic halfpipe venues, shapers, etc. with the hopes of standardizing something before Korea in 2018. The rest of the US pipe events were amazing and lent themselves to the most progressive riding to date. Riders also liked the one-off creative events like the Red Bull double-pipe.

SLS doesn't work for Halfpipe.

Rookies would like to ride more with the Pro Team. More integration with the Pro Team earlier in the Rookies' careers.

Boardercross- World Cup cancelations due to weather made for an abbreviated Olympic qualifier but the team rode well and made the most of it. The riders would like more North American events and with X Games back in the fold, maybe there'll be more chance for that. Now that Alex Deibold is my partner in athlete representative crime, we can defer to him for a full account of the year and rider insight.

Would like a US event for SBX. More spots and allow the younger athletes to compete in the World Cup.

6. Regional Rep Reports

Pacific Northwest Regional Report – Coggin Hill

Athlete Highlights

- Ben Ferguson narrowly misses US Olympic Halfpipe Team
 - o 3rd at Grand Prix at Copper, 3rd at Grand Prix at Mammoth, 5th at X Games, 4th at US Open in Vail
 - o Nominated for US Snowboarding Pro Halfpipe Team 2014-2015
- Kent Callister Selected to Australian Olympic Halfpipe Team
 - o 11th at Breck Dew Tour, 9th at Grand Prix at Copper, 9th at Sochi Olympics, 5th at US Open in Vail
- Gabe Ferguson competed on the Grand Prix Circuit & in X Games
 - o 12th at X Games Pipe, 3rd at US Open Qualifiers, 6th at US Open in Vail
- Nate Jacobson nominated for US Halfpipe Rookie Team 2014/15
 - o 6th at US Open Qualifiers, 3rd at Rev Tour at Mammoth, 22nd at US Open in Vail, 3rd at USASA Open Class Pipe

Rev Tours and Local Events:

- Increased participation from MBSEF at all 3 Revolution Tour stops, 5 athletes at 7 Springs, 7 at Mammoth and 6 at Sun Valley
- Multiple athletes from Windells Academy at all 3 Rev Tours
- Consistent numbers at all Local USASA events, with a good group of 12-13's moving up and a new group of 8-10's beginning to compete at USASA events
- 12 athletes from MBSEF competed at USASA Nationals and approx. another 15-20 from the PNW
 - o Sean FitzSimons from Mt. Hood took 1st in slope and pipe in his age group
 - o 2 athletes in Top Ten Open Class Pipe and Slope

Camps, Coaches Clinics and Training

- Another great year of June Camps at Mt. Bachelor with Vail Ski and Snowboard Club
 - o Lower snow levels than previous year but this year looks to be better
- Lots of athletes participating in our Fall Dryland
 - o We have been implementing training techniques from last year's USSA Level 300
- Held an early fall USASA Level 100 at Windells and Timberline
 - o Plan on having an annual early season Level 100 at Hood
- Slow start to the season with low snow levels
 - o Travelled to Park City for 5 days in early January due to no large jumps or pipe
 - o Local training was a challenge as large jumps weren't built until early – mid February and pipe wasn't built until early March
- Need to encourage snow making for low snow years
 - o Hood Series and our ETD series barely pulled off halfpipe events for athletes to qualify for Nationals
- Mt. Bachelor hired a full-time pipe cutter in March and it seems that they are making a renewed commitment to halfpipe
- Windells and High Cascade have merged, will be interesting to see how it all shakes out

Summary: Overall it was a great year with many highlights and lots to look forward to in the future. It was amazing to see our Alumni represented on the International level and to watch the new group of up and coming riders get some amazing results. It seems like snowboard numbers are maintaining but the concern still is bringing more young athletes into the sport.

Intermountain Mountain Regional Report – Andy Gilbert

2014 was a banner year for the Intermountain Region even with lower than normal snow totals. The Intermountain was a leader in the hosting of events on both the USSA and Industry fronts. The Intermountain was also at the forefront of athlete development and athlete production at all levels. Many resorts continue to provide great park offerings with Park City, Sun Valley, and Brighton leading the way. Sun Valley and Park city remain committed to their halfpipe programs. Jackson Hole and Snowbird continue to be leaders in the big mountain/ backcountry experience as well. Competitive snowboarding is alive and well in the Intermountain with quality teams, programs and coaches throughout the region. Membership for these programs seems to be at the younger end which bodes well for the future.

Events:

- USASA 5 Resorts hosted events; Sun Valley, Jackson Hole, Park City, The Canyons and Eagle Point
- 6 Boardercross, 3 Rail Jams, 4 Slopestyle, 4 Halfpipe 3 Giant Slalom and 3 Slalom
- Sun Valley Hosted the Rev Tour Final
- Park City Hosted the Holy Bowly event
- Banked Slalom events are growing, with Jackson, Sun Valley and many of the Utah resorts holding events

USSA Membership:

- 69 national competitors
- 44 regional competitors
- 32 coaches
- 38 officials
- 10 member clubs

Athlete Accomplishments:

- Hailee Mattingley FIS Junior World Championships Gold Medal Slopestyle
- Chase Josey Named to US Rookie Team, 1st US Open Qualifier, 2nd Red Bull Double Pipe, Nominated to US Pro Team for 2015
- Sage Kotsenburg Olympic Gold Medal Slopestyle
- Kaitlyn Farrington Olympic Gold Medal Halfpipe

Next wave:

- USASA Big Mountain Series is the 3rd largest in the country with 340 members
- 157 riders qualified to USASA Nationals
- 3 Bronze
- 5 Silver
- 7 Gold
- Cora Kaiser, Clara Jenner, Skyler Ordean, Payton Bacca and Chandler Hunt 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. Having to wait until later in the season to offer good contest venues is a challenge to field sizes which in turn is a challenge to resorts continued participation. Halfpipe and BX venues are limited. Getting resorts to buy in and support these venues in the future will be key. Access to learn to ride programs is very important. USSA clubs need to work with their home resorts to create and support these types of programs.

Looking Ahead:

Growth in the younger age groups at local events is a good sign that snowboarding is doing well. The region is producing great young talent and the clubs in the region are also doing well. The co-operation between the clubs, resorts, organizers and industry is as good as it has been in a long time. This needs to continue down that road to assure the quality of snowboarding we saw this season at all levels.

Far West Regional Report – Dylan Omlin

For the third straight winter it hardly snowed after the Christmas holiday, which made for 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 installing and maintaining a halfpipe for the Grand Prix's, but beyond that Boreal was the only other resort that managed to get a halfpipe built and it was late in the season and only 17 feet. No one managed to build a SBX course for training; in fact the Rev Tour at Mammoth was the only full-length course in the West all season. A number of resorts also scrambled to get their race arenas groomed and trainable until mid-season, and some never even got their arenas raceable. We had such 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.

Good Things:

For the 6th consecutive winter, the Revolution Tour journeyed westward. The tour was supposed to head to Boreal again after a two-year absence but due to the lack of snow, it was moved to Mammoth who stepped up again to salvage another event out West. They even managed to stay within the same dates as the originally scheduled events so that no one had to change their travel plans. With a whole lot of sunshine and a good venue, everyone had a good time and made the best of the change.

WOODWARD at TAHOE! This was Woodward's second full year of operation, and with some changes in management and a year under their belt things went much smoother for all who use the facility. Their summer camps (June 15th - end of July) aren't filled to capacity yet, but seem to again have a decent amount of attendees considering the lack of snow and the changing of several on-snow sessions to dryland only. With the tough snow conditions in Tahoe this winter, it was a blessing for the 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 accordingly.

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 Boreal, to an Olympic qualifier that was originally scheduled for Northstar, then got moved to Breckenridge, only to get cancelled due to weather and was subsequently dumped on the Mammoth crew. All of this was on top of the two Olympic qualifiers that they were originally scheduled to host. Mammoth constructed a terrific park and pipe throughout the season and experienced consistently better conditions than anywhere else in the West, and that success was evident as a number of teams traveled there to train during the season. They are currently hosting a US pro-camp and will also

be hosting the pipe and slope Gold Camps as you read this. Did I mention that Mammoth killed it this season?

Although we had a poor snow year, there were still a large number of Sochi Olympic Team members that came out of the Far West. Even though most of them trained and competed elsewhere prior to Sochi due to the conditions, it was still great to see a number of athletes who call the Far West home make the team and do well.

Educational Things:

I believe there was an early season clinic at Mammoth and an AASI clinic at Boreal towards the end of the season but beyond that there wasn't a lot of education this winter. Again there was scant interest in the Level 100s, mostly due to a lack of new coaches and some shrinking programs. We will need to host a couple of Level 200 clinics next fall since there have been well-attended 100 clinics in the past and most attendees will need to recertify or take the 200 level course for this coming winter. The small number of teams in the western region combined with the recertification cycles means that we do not end up hosting clinics as frequently. There may also be a need for discipline-specific training this coming fall as there are a few 200 level coaches that will need that 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 in 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.

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, the buzz from the Olympic athletes who call the west home and some snow next season 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 three 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, tuition, etc. when it is so bleak in the mountains.

Future Things:

- To continue hosting events in the region: Grand Prix, Holeshots, and Rev Tours.
- 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.
- 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.

Eastern Regional Report – Ross Powers

The East Coast had a great snow year with cold temperatures. Having good snow 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 freestyle event, an alpine event and a sbx event in the east it made for a lot of traveling for the mid to higher end riders. But considering each of these USSA events have 3 stops we were lucky to have one of each of them in the eastern region.

East Coast Events:

Revolution Tour

- Location: Seven Springs PA
- February 4-5
- This Rev Tour had a good set up but unfortunately once again was affected by weather which cancelled 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 19 women and 36 men competing. Slopestyle had a large field especially on the men's side.
- This year The Rev Tour and Burton Open qualifier were separate events which athletes and coaches seemed to like.

Hole Shot Tour/ Nor-Am Cup

- Location: Sugarloaf ME
- March 6-7
- Sugarloaf did a good job building a course and hosting this event.
- Around 30 women and 50 men competed in these 2 SBX races. The women's field was double the size of last year's Hole Shot at Killington which was good to see.
- Athletes and coaches liked the optional training days that were being offered before the Hole Shot Tour events.

Race To The Cup/Nor-Am Cup

- Location: Holiday Valley NY
- January 22-23
- I was not at this event this year but was there in the past. Holiday Valley seems very excited to have the racers at their resort and they have a good race hill.
- This year there were around 21 women and 34 men in both the PGS and PSL which was similar to last years numbers.

Education

- The east offered quite a few level 100 & 200 coaches clinics this year with many of them being in the fall.
- KC put together a coaches' symposium Oct 26-27 at KMS that brought many of the east coach coaches together for a weekend of learning and sharing. Thank you to all the coaches that ran clinics in the east.

Conclusion

- The Eastern Division has a number of great training programs, many USASA series and decent mountains.
- I feel 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 Guldmond, Seth Wescott, Scotty Logo, Hannah Teter, Alex Deibold, Lindsey Jacobellis, Ty Walker and Jackie Hernandez.

- We had seven of these athletes representing the USA at the Sochi Games with two of them bringing home bronze medals.
- With our biggest freestyle events being the Rev Tour and US Open Qualifier 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 any more and only one 22ft pipe there has been a decline in halfpipe riding.
- A discipline that has been growing is banked slalom. This year USASA added banked slalom as a test event in most of their regions and at their nationals. The VT Open shut down registration at 150 and The Sugarloaf Banked Slalom had over 200 athletes.
- At this time the biggest events on the east coast are the three 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

The 2013-14 season:

- Big snow year, lots of challenges running events
- Rider visits were up at all Rocky resorts
- Strong participation from the following clubs:
 - o Team Summit – Freestyle & SBX
 - o SSCV – Freestyle & SBX
 - o SSWSC – Freestyle / Alpine / SBX
 - o Stratton Mtn – Freestyle / SBX
 - o G Team – Freestyle / Alpine / SBX
 - o ISTC – Freestyle / SBX
 - o Winter Park – Freestyle
 - o Team Breckenridge – Freestyle
 - o Eldora – Alpine
 - o Method – Freestyle
- Solid participation in all disciplines, Alpine, Freestyle, SBX & Rail Jam. Riders from Korea, Japan, Russia, Norway, Brazil, Great Britain, Switzerland & China supported training opportunities and participated in both USSA hosted NorAms & USASA Rocky Mtn Series venues.
- USASA Rocky Mtn Series continues to attract grass roots riders from many other regions in the United States and Canada
- Keystone, Winter Park, Breckenridge, Vail & Copper all again featured excellent terrain parks & had them up by mid December.
- Summit county was again home to 3 (Breckenridge, Copper & Vail) of the best 22' HP's on the planet. No where else in the world can your ride 3 different monster halfpipes in one day (located 30 minutes from each other).

Membership

- USSA (approx.)
 - o Competitors – 300+
 - o Coaches - 40
 - o Officials – 60
 - o Clubs – 20
- USASA (verified)

- Competitors - 609
- Coaches - 72

Events:

- Race to the Cup NorAM @ Copper - November
 - Solid participation / 90 rider domestic & international field / popular early-season race venue
- Grand Prix @ Copper – December
 - Winter conditions / Successful televised
 - Featured both halfpipe & slopestyle
- Grand Prix @ Breckenridge - January
 - Cancelled / Challenging winter weather conditions
- HoleShot Tour @ Copper – February
 - Well attended by a domestic & international field
- Burton US Open @ Vail - March
 - Bluebird days ☺
 - Solid riding in both pipe and slope
- 18 USASA Rocky Mtn Series regional events beginning in November.
 - Slopestyle continues to be extremely popular with field sizes upwards to 160 participants requiring a double up judging format.
 - 5 - Slopestyle – Breck x 2 / Winter Park / Vail / Copper
 - 3 – Halfpipe – Copper / Breck / Steamboat
 - 4 – SBX – Copper
 - 2 – GS & SL – Copper / Howelsen Hill
 - 2 – Rail Jams - Copper / Steamboat
 - 1 – Banked Slalom / Steamboat
- USASA National Championships @ Copper – April
 - Continues to be the largest snowboard & freeski event on the planet
 - 6 snowboard events (HP, SS, SBX, GS, SL & RJ) occurring simultaneously over a 5 day period
 - Banked Slalom introduced as new event
 - 4 freeski events (HP, SS, SX & RJ) over a 3 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!

Regional Athlete Accomplishments

Snowboard

- Kaitlyn Farrington – SSCV – Gold Medalist HP Sochi
- Arielle Gold - SSWSC competed in Sochi
- Taylor Gold – SSWSC

- 1st Grand Prix HP Copper
- competed in Sochi
- 1st HP Burton Global Open Vail
- 1st Red Bull Double
- Justin Reiter – SSWSC competed in Sochi
- Faye Gulini – SSCV
 - competed in Sochi / 4th place SBX

Freeskier

- Keri Herman – Breck - competed in Sochi
- Bobby Brown – Breck - competed in Sochi
- Gus Kenworthy – Crested Butte - competed in Sochi
- Aaron Blunk – SSCV – competed in Sochi
- Peter Crook – Crested Butte – competed in Sochi
- Lyman Currier – competed in Sochi

Rocky Mtn Series riders (freeskiers, too) continue to dominate at the USASA National Championship, winning more medals than any other series for the 9th consecutive year.

Snowboard Medals 2014 National Championships

- 32 Gold
- 28 Silver
- 22 Bronze

Membership

- RMS - USSA
 - Competitors – 300+
 - Coaches - 40
 - Clubs – 20
- RMS - USASA
 - Competitors - 552
 - Coaches - 67

Programs

- IJC Judges clinics anticipated again in the fall of 2014. Jonas Brewer has been very successful recruiting entry level judges and providing them with opportunities to judge events (both snowboard & ski).
- Introduced “9 & under FREE” program in the USASA for both snowboard & freeskiers with their paid USASA membership. Basically, become a member and compete in any event free of charge. Super successful and adopted by numerous other USASA regions.
- Introduced “Teach’em to Ride” program in the USASA Rocky Mtn Series. Gave away 4 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 3+ camera as their reward. Wildly successful, we even had one of the lil kids, Jacob Knight come out and compete in the Banked Slalom, even though there was no competition requirement associated with the program. Jacob just wanted to know what was next, so we introduced him to riding the poma lift at Howie!



Moving forward

- Attempting to secure early season SBX / SX training facility along side the USSA Speed Center at Copper. Completed site visit in late April. If all goes well anticipating an early December start. SBX riders need the same type of training facilities afforded to freestyle and alpine.
- Attempting to secure additional SBX/SX venues by utilizing a banked slalom course for lower level USASA riders rather than always racing on the bigger courses that we typically use to run a NorAM on.
- Would like to see the “B” team SBX racers be required to participate in at least two HoleShot events to enhance the available points profiles of the races
- Make the HoleShot a 4 day event:
 - o Day ONE - Official Training - ALL
 - o Day TWO - Snowboard Qualifiers and Racing # 1
 - o Day THREE - Ski Qualifiers and Racing # 1 (morning)
 - o Day THREE - Ski Qualifiers and Racing # 2 (afternoon)
 - o Day Four - Snowboard Qualifiers and Racing # 2
 - o adopt the WC Snowboard seeding of 50% of finalists only make one qualifying run, while the remaining make two runs for the final qualifying spots.
- Award the winners of the NorAM Cup (NAC) an actual CUP Trophy

Central Regional Report – Jessica Zalusky

- The Central Region had a great season.
- G Team and Buck Hill hosted a FIS NorAM Parallel Slalom race in Burnsville, Minnesota. Despite the cold temperatures, a huge field of racers battled for the podiums.
- Additionally, a Junior FIS Parallel Slalom race was held in conjunction with the NorAm and fielded a giant roster.
- Central athletes successfully competed throughout the season. Athletes competed in the Hole Shots, Race to the Cup, Grand Prixs, Revolution Tour as well as USASA. Madeline Wiencke also gave her best in her Olympic run but did not make the team.
- Several Central Juniors were also invited to Project Gold camps.
- Jack Taylor also qualified and competed at the Junior World Championships. Taylor qualified for three categories in the competition: snowboard cross, slalom and giant slalom. He was the top qualifier of the U.S. men’s team in snowboard cross, finishing

18th overall. He was the runner-up for the U.S. men's team in parallel slalom and parallel giant slalom, overall finishing in 25th and 23rd respectively.

- Lacking Halfpipes in the region, ski areas not building HP.

Snowboarding Department and Olympic Overview – Jeremy Forster

- Best in the World performance at the Olympics. 65% of the medals were snowboarding and Freeskiing. Halfpipe men's snowboarding did not perform as expected, first major HP event without a US man on the podium. Continue to dominate the Halfpipe events.
- SBX higher expectations on women's side of the sport. How to grow the women's side of the sport. Challenge to move women into the elite level.
- Slopestyle was a great success for the sport. Looking to add Big Air and Team SBX to the next Olympics.
- Launch of Slopestyle Rookie Team with Dave Reynolds coaching the program with 8 athletes.
- 53 athletes nominated to the Team for 2014.
- Training plan going into the Olympics – triples for slopestyle. Long-term training partners with Mammoth, Copper, High Cascade Snowboard Camp and Camp of Champions in Whistler. SBX worked with the tubing hill at Gorgoza in November, critical to SBX training.
- Olympic Qualification process – great job to the events department running events throughout the season. Challenges with the slopestyle being cancelled. Our community and athletes worked together and reflection of how professional our athletes and staff conducted themselves.
- US selection criteria are the toughest in the world. When our athletes get to the Olympics they are more than ready once they get to the Olympics. It is tough but we are doing the right things.
- Last four years we did not have any staff changes. Grand Prix has done a good job to build out the next Olympic disciplines.
- Engaged in sport science and complemented to help make the athletes better.
- Olympic Quota and nations' quota spots, how we gain is a necessity, but has been difficult to manage.

7. Judging Report – Phoebe Mills

Overview

- Some amazing snowboarding went down this season, and professional judges around the country were prepared and ready to rank riders at each event along the way. IJC and FIS certified judges were involved with the Dew Tour, USO, Grand Prix, Olympic Games, and more. The Dew Tour had a great panel with a mix of new and old judges, and both the Copper and Mammoth Grand Prix events had an American Head Judge. We had a US judge on the Olympic panel after many years without representation. It was an intense season with a lot on the line for everyone involved. Congratulations to all the excellent riders and especially to those on the Olympic podium.
- As I commented four years ago, many judges believe there are too many qualifying events prior to the Olympic Games. With the level of riding even higher than a few years ago, the consequences are high for many of the tricks in pipe and slope. It was clear there was a lot of fatigue by the time the Mammoth events rolled around, and we may be

asking too much of our athletes if we want to keep them healthy and rested prior to the Olympics. We recommend 3 qualifying events prior to the 2018 Olympics.

Judging Formats

- FIS and USSA events continue to use the Overall Impression judging system, whereas TTR and IJC continue to develop the SLS judging system. There is ongoing evolution with SLS for halfpipe, and there is consistent popularity with the system for slopestyle. It would be great to see USSA experiment with SLS next season and be part of the conversation about its effectiveness.
- Again the Copper Grand Prix/World Cup used a double up judging system in Slopestyle without a semi-finals round. The reason this doesn't work well for slopestyle is that it creates two slightly different ranges of scores between the heats. A semi-final would level the playing field with one judge panel and another opportunity for those scored in the lower heat to have another chance. The format used at Copper also creates a big cut between qualifications and finals. The recommendation from judges is to either reduce the number of riders in the event to allow for a single panel of judges during qualifications or add time for semi-finals.

Judge Education

- The IJC/TTR and FIS held a joint North American judges' clinic in Park City, UT last November. Ten judges and coaches attended this clinic. Canada is planning to host a joint clinic next fall with the date and location TBD. USASA will continue to take the lead on regional level clinics. There is still a strong need to develop well-qualified judges for all levels of events. Jonas is looking to recruit regionally for Revolution Tours. Recommend regional judge attend the National Clinic.
- SLS System – would be good to try the system with the Grand Prix this season.

8. FIS Report: Bill Slattery and Tom Winters

- Bill gave a brief description of the proposal being submitted to the FIS from the US and other nations. The big topic at the meetings will be the World Cup quota number.
- New system to include the World Ranking List for the World Cup. Move to use the WRL for the world cups
- Adding new Olympic discipline for the 2018 – Big Air and Team SBX
- Tom Winters – Event TDs stressing snow prep and how manage tough snow conditions.

9. Grand Prix Report: Eric Webster

2015 Goals

- Produce high quality venues for 22' Half Pipe, Slopestyle 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 spectator engagement at events
- Strengthen integration between FIS- TTR - AFP at Grand Prix Events
- Strengthen integration of Revolution Tour and GP competitions

2015 Tentative Schedule:

- December 8-14, 2014 - Copper Mountain, Colorado

- Snowboarding Halfpipe and Big Air – Sanctioning TBD
- FIS World Cup and Platinum AFP Freeskiing Halfpipe and Big Air
- February 2-8, 2015 – Location, TBD
- Snowboarding Slopestyle and Big Air
- Platinum AFP Freeskiing Slopestyle and Big Air
- February 23-March 1, 2015 – Park City, Utah
- FIS World Cup Snowboarding Halfpipe and Slopestyle
- FIS World Cup and Platinum AFP Freeskiing Halfpipe and Slopestyle
- March 2-8, 2015 –Location, TBD
- FIS World Cup Snowboardcross and Team SBX
- FIS World Cup Skicross

10. Revolution Tour Report: Nick Alexakos

2014 Pop Tarts U.S. Revolution Tour

Dates/ Location/ Disciplines

- Feb 4-5, 2014- Seven Springs, PA- HP/ Slopestyle
- Feb 24-26, 2014- Mammoth Mountain, CA- HP/ Slopestyle/ SBX
- March 6-7, 2014- Sun Valley, ID- HP/ Slopestyle

Sanctioning

- HP/ Slopestyle- TTR- 4 star
- HP/ Slopestyle- FIS Level
- SBX- USSA

Total Snowboard Starts

- 2014- 548
- 2013- 568

Pre-Qualified vs. Open

- Slopestyle- 68 pre-qual riders/ 120 full field= 56% pre-qualified
- Halfpipe- 59 pre-qual riders/ 120 full field= 49% pre-qualified
- SBX- 54 riders @ Mammoth Mountain

2014 Overall Winners

- HP- Jake Pates/ Maddie Mastro
- Slopestyle- Jack Herald/ Hailey Langland

2015 Pop Tarts U.S. Revolution Tour

1. 2015 Schedule

- 3 Stops- TBD- Jan, Feb, March

- 3 HP/ 3 Slopestyle/ 2 Big Air/ 2 SBX
- 2. 2015 Rev Tour Structure
 - SBX to collaborate with Hole Shot Tour- 2 stops
 - Include (2) Men's and Women's Big Air events as part of the 2015 Rev Tour
 - Expand pre-qualified criteria deeper into USASA age groups
 - Increase Pre-qualified riders to about 75%

2015 U.S. REVOLUTION TOUR

Criteria for Domestic Snowboard Pre-Qualified Riders

HALFPIPE/SLOPESTYLE

- Top 40 Men / 20 Women from overall 2014 Revolution Tour standings
- Top 50 Men / 25 Women from 2014 World Snowboard Tour Points List as of 5/13/14

**Unless already qualified for the 2015 Grand Prix World Cup*

- Top 20 Men / 10 Women USASA Open Division 2014 Nationals
- Top 5 Men / 5 Women USASA Junior Division (16-17) 2014 Nationals
- Top 5 Men / 5 Women USASA Youth Division (14-15) 2014 Nationals
- Top 5 Men/ 5 Women USASA Breaker Division (12-13) 2014 Nationals

**Athlete must be age 13 by Dec. 31, 2014*

**Spots will not be handed down if athlete is already qualified from another criteria or is held by International athlete.*

**The above criterion is only valid for the 2014-2015 season.*

SNOWBOARDCROSS/ BIG AIR

- Open Registration

11. USASA Report: Pete Davis

Highlights of the 2013-14 Season:

- 25th Anniversary National Championships. Very successful event with robust participation from athletes, coaches, USASA alumni and VIP's. Enhanced package for participants. Free VAST action Photos, Medicine in Motion, Athlete Goody Bags
- Introduction of Banked Slalom discipline and rules at regional level and National Championships
- Expansion of 9 & under Free Program
- Introduction of "Adaptive Free" Program
- Mobile App introduction at series level (limited) and National Championships
- Online Registration
- Re-established SnowOhio Series
- Clinic Scheduling (TS, Coach, Judge)
- Media Campaign, advancement in social networking and PR efforts

- 10% growth - accomplished by 33% of USASA series
- "Menu" marking concept
- SIA presence of USASA for first time in years
- A3 Roadtrip
- Enhanced Member Benefits
- Success of VideoGames / Reel Theory / GoPro Nationwide contest

Challenges from the 2013-14 Season

- Failure of the Golden Ticket Tour launch
- Financial status of the organization
- Cyber attacks and hacking
- Reluctance of some series to embrace new technology and programs
- Continued decline in number of halfpipes at resorts across the nation.

2014 Membership Stats:

- Overall – 3,540
- National – 1655
- Coaches – 528
- Judges - 135

2014 Region Events Update:

- Regions = 30
- Total # of Events = 683
- Gender = 950 Female
= 3847 Male

Moving Forward

- USASA will continue to invest in technological infrastructure with the goals to increase:
 1. Automation for variety for member services
 2. Website improvements
 3. Expansion of the USASA Mobile App to the Series Level
 4. Streamline Event registration process
 5. Online testing and re-certification
 6. Software maintenance and improvements
- Banked Slalom will exercise 2nd year option as 'Exhibition' Event:
 1. Expand presence at Series Level
 2. Introduction of skier of BSL events
 3. Possibly greater presence at National Championships
- Currently reviewing 4 new series proposals at geographically unique locations:
 1. Seattle
 2. Upper Wisconsin / UP of Michigan
 3. Iowa
 4. Arizona
- Continue to expand Coach Education Opportunities via:
 1. Coach clinician training
 2. Increase number of endorsement clinics

- 3. Focus on Level 100 and 200 Clinics
- 4. Scheduling
- Move into second year presentation of Nationwide Video Contest
 - 1. Pending Sponsorship
 - 2. Reel Theory Productions
 - 3. Scholarships and Prizing
- Develop mutually-beneficial partnership in and out of industry
- Introduce USASA Camp Programs
- Grow membership 10% Nationwide

12. Domestic Program Report: Abbi Nyberg

Junior Development Camps

- Halfpipe/Slopestyle – Successful Project Gold and Junior Gold camps held in May camp in Mammoth with a private pipe, jumps, and airbag setup. 80 +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.
- Alpine – COE training/conditioning camp held in October.
- COE Air Awareness Camp – Successful Air Awareness camps at the COE with both Project Gold and Junior Gold athletes.
- May 2014 HP/SS Project Gold and Junior Gold camps scheduled in Mammoth, SBX 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.
- A FIS/IJC Nationals Clinic held in Park City
- 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 coaches are educated, more than any other sport. USASA held several Level 100 and 200 clinics in 2013/14. Level 300 clinic held in Park City in October. On-snow clinics to be held at Mt Hood in June and July.

Junior World Championships

- Junior Worlds was held in Valmalenco, ITA. Team of 30 athletes attended. Great team with some standout results.

PGS/PSL - Slopestyle – Hailee Mattingley 1st, Haile Soderholm 6th

Halfpipe - Zoe Kalapos 2nd, Noelle Edwards 4th, Maddie Mastro 6th, Toby Miller 4th (15 and under award), Ryan Wachendorfer 5th

9 SBX athletes (largest team ever)

Meghan Tierney – 4th

13. Old Business: Competition Guide review

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

14. New Business

- Snowboarding Sport Committee will use the U-Class system. Stop producing USSA points lists.
- Recap of Alpine Development Working Group Meeting
 1. Establish the committee - Andy Coghlan, Lynn Ott, Neil Sunday working to set goals and action plan
 2. Establish funding models – 50% to go towards development and 50% towards elite level world cup athletes.
 3. Building number of athletes in the sport and encouraging them to continue in the sport.
- Recap of Snowboardcross Development Working Group Meeting
 1. Change of the NorAm Rules – 70% of NorAm Results count.
 2. Improve events with better course builds; improve FIS points at the NorAms to secure NorAm personal spots.
 3. Working to improve level of female athletes at a high level. Lots of young girls competing, how we do keep these athletes moving up in the pipeline and to the elite level.
 4. Recognize athletes at all stages of the pipeline; provide incentives at all levels of the pipeline.
 5. Move to build safer courses and provide fewer injuries
- Alex Deibold asked if there was the ability to have an athlete represented at team captains meeting to provide better course changes. Add a connection athlete.
 1. Provide better athlete representation on course features.
- Jon Casson asked what we can do about lack of halfpipes in the country. What can we do to encourage the building of halfpipes?
 1. Encourage resorts to build halfpipes at any size.
 2. Develop a document to send to SAM and encourage building halfpipes.
 3. Encourage AASI to add halfpipe to the curriculum.
 4. Add Halfpipe clinics at resorts, include clinics following or after USASA events.

15. Motion to adjourn

No further business, motion to adjourn by Tricia Byrnes, second by Andy Gilbert