

USSA Alpine Western Region ACC

Monday April 20, 2015

Reno, NV

11:00-4:00 PST

MINUTES

Chair: Karen Korfanta

1. Welcome – call to order at 11:00am by Chair Korfanta
Thank you to everyone for being here.
Review of handouts and location of documents on the WR governance page.
Focus today on USSA and WR Proposals to the ASC.
Introduction of staff in attendance.
2. Roll Call –
Voting members:
AK – Lex Patten, Aaron Stiassny
FW – Todd Kelly, Beat Hupfer
IMD – Bridger Call, Todd Brickson
NO – Jeremy Ueland, Craig Krueger
PNSA – Bill Brooks, Bill Gunesch
Officials – Roger Root
Collegiate – Sparky Anderson
Athlete Reps – unable to attend
Executive: Karen Korfanta, Todd Kelly, Bill Gunesch, Lucy Schram
Staff: Lester Keller, Gwynn Watkins, Darryl Whitaker, Michelle Demschar, Paul Mahre, Carma Burnett, Lucy Schram
Guests: Dan Henry, Jamie Landwehr, Eric Whitaker, Eric Garayoa, Mike Ginsberg, Kyle Crezee, Chuck Harris.
3. Athlete Representatives
Jamie DuPratt nominated by IMD to be an athlete rep; qualifications reviewed. Gina Gassman will be stepping down at May Congress.
4. Review Agenda/Additions
addition: PNSA Ability Class proposal for review
addition: USSA.FIS combined scored speed series
5. Review and Approval of Minutes, conf. call Mar. 16, 2015
Approved unanimously
6. USSA Alpine Program – Lester Keller
Challenging year with the snow. Found a great willingness for ROC's to pick up events.
Full report in May.
7. Darryl Whitaker report – provided a report from U16 Nationals, attached and located on the WR Governance site.
8. Western Region Program – Gwynn
Report will be in May.
9. USSA Proposals
 - 9.1 Point Cut-Off to Canadian FIS Races: Review the updated proposal.
Question: define 'nationally or regionally approved development activity.'
Michelle will confirm the 'quoted verbiage' above with Jeff Weinman before final proposal is sent to Quotas Group as it may need to be removed or adjusted.
The intent of the proposal is to remove the point requirement.

- 9.2 Southern Hemisphere Proposal – removal of the first year FIS athlete restriction to compete in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 9.3 US National Championships Quota 2015/16
Review of the proposed quota. Proposal makes the selection process simpler.
- 9.4 FIS Start limitation removal proposal:
Staff is advocating for this change with FIS. If the limitation is not removed then proposal to bump start limitation up to 30 starts.
Discussion: request to remove the National Championships, U18 Nationals, World Jrs, from the start count.
- 9.5 Allow USSA to field U16 teams to FIS Children’s Competitions through regional or national projects.
Question: how does this relate to Whistler Cup?
Staff is currently not in agreement on attendance to Whistler Cup; other event possibilities: 7 Nations Cup, Hahnenkamm Jr.
Dependent on staff recommendations for development needs.
- 9.6 Equipment proposal (matrix attached) – to adopt FIS equipment rules for U14 and U16’s for 15/16 season. This will be discussed at the Development Committee at Congress and WR members are tasked to bring forth feedback to your representative.
- 9.7 Men’s National NJR Series 2015/16 – in discussion state, informational, not voted upon; recommendations to quotas group.
Changed since pre-proposal: 2 National Projects creating training and head to head competition – 3 SL over two days; 3 GS over two days. Reviewing quotas and protecting younger athlete entry.
- 9.8 Calendar reform – an ongoing discussion, not a proposal. Intention is to create some order to the calendar. Discussion on #’s, targets and levels. Discussion during coaches’ forums. Staff took existing calendar, advice from FIS coaches’ forums, info from National Elite Group Development Committee and created a preliminary WR calendar.
Proposed-
Elite: 2-3 series
Open: 4 series
AK: 2 series
NJR: 2?
WR JR Championship USSA or FIS?
FISU: 2 races
Attached calendar with site recommendations in the right hand column. Any organizer can bid on those races.

10. Western Region Divisional Proposals

- 10.1 2015-16 Children’s Course Setting Proposal
Eric Garayoa, Squaw Valley Ski Team, reviewed the recommended changes to the current course setting specs; highlighted in red. Trying to be less restrictive and accomplish the same thing.
Motion by Todd Kelly, 2nd by Bill Brooks;
Adoption of Children’s Course setting specs, as attached.
Discussion: few clerical adjustments, recommendations and agreements that help allow for flexibility across the divisions and regions. Could be adopted one item at a time instead of as a whole.
VOTE: Passed Unanimously
- 10.2 **Motion: Bill Gunesch, 2nd Craig Krueger**
Western Region will host a U14 Regional Championships
VOTE: 9 Yes; 3 No; Motion Passes

10.3 U14 Regional Championship IMD Proposal

MOTION: Jeremy Ueland, 2nd Bill Gunesch

Discussion – line by line for review and adjustment.

Proposal:

To be hosted either the 2nd or 3rd week of March each year, to be held as a 4 day event.

Bid process is to be an open bid across all 5 divisions annually.

One SL, one GS and one SG (+ SG Training run).

Field size will be a constant 120, having a constant gender split of 60 women and 60 men.

Quotas will be determined by the population of the upcoming U14 age class within each division; by taking the total population within the region and allocating the applicable percentage to each division to determine the field of 60 for the given gender.

-using the current USSA membership of 2nd year U14's only, and the December 1st points list.

There will be a minimum quota of 4 per gender from each division.

Seeding will take place using the Turton method.

VOTE: Passed Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS: to add to the May Congress WR ACC agenda

-how this event will be used to select top performers to advance to a National or International event as representatives of Western Region.

-if U14 Regional Championships will be scored or non-scored

10.4 PNSA proposal Not to Conduct a U14 National Project

MOTION by Bill Brooks, 2nd Roger Root.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

10.5 FW ACC Proposal – Divisional FIS and NJR Series

Mike Ginsberg provided information on the recommendation.

This is to be addressed by the calendaring issue and does not need to head to the Alpine Sports Committee. Moved to the WR calendaring committee.

ACTION ITEM: create 'WR Calendaring Committee', representative needs to be finalized by April 21st, 2015.

PNSA – Dan Henry

AK – Aaron Stiassny

IMD – Bridger Call

NO – Jeremy Ueland

FW – Todd Kelly

10.6 IMD Western Region WRJC, NJR Proposals

Todd Brickson provided information on the recommendation.

Broken down to address Item #1 only

MOTION by Todd Brickson, 2nd by Beat Hupfer

Change the WR JR Championships to an NJR FIS event.

VOTE: 5 yes, 6 no, 1 abstention Motion Fails

20 minutes later – re addressing this item after further discussion and information brought to the table.

MOTION by Bill Gunesch, 2nd Bridger Call

WR JR Champs to be an NJR FIS event, qualifications to come from the divisions.

VOTE: 9 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention Motion Passes

- 10.7 IMD Western Region Automatics Proposal – tabled until May Congress
10.8 IMD Western Region Snow Control Proposal - tabled until May Congress

10.9 PNSA U18 to U19 Age Class Proposal (see attached)

MOTION Dan Henry, 2nd Bill Brooks

Discussion: offers the athlete three years to develop

VOTE: Passed Unanimously

10.10 PNSA Equipment Proposal

MOTION Jamie Landwehr, 2nd Bill Gunesch

PNSA proposes that USSA adopt the current FIS ski specifications for U18 and older athletes for GS and Slalom only during the 2015-2016 season.

PNSA would like to extend the current USSA ski specifications for SG and DH skis for another two seasons. USSA would then adopt the FIS SG and DH ski specs the season of 2017-2018.

Objective

-Utilize the huge abundance of older speed skis that are currently available at this level of competition.

-Enable more athletes the opportunity to run speed

-Reduce the cost of competing in speed events until more used skis with the current dimensions are available.

-understand from that the Development Committee's reco is to postpone equipment changes until 16-17

VOTE: Passed Unanimously

10.11 PNSA Ability Class 14-15 season review

MOTION by Bill Gunesch, 2nd Bill Brooks, to continue the trial of ability class racing, for a one year time frame and report back to WR ACC at the March 2016 Conference call.

Discussion: goes to the classification committee to requests an alternative seeding method for a scored USSA race. Requesting to allow the use of place points, world cup points, along with list points. Allows the advancement of kids via world cup points.

VOTE: Passed Unanimously

10.12 **MOTION by Bill Gunesch, 2nd Todd Kelly**

Continue to allow FIS.USSA concurrent Speed event, and request for 2 per region for the 15-16 season.

VOTE: Passed Unanimously

11. Western Region Calendar 2015/16

initial viewing; heading to above named WR calendaring committee.

12. Next Meeting

Park City, Yarrow Hotel, May 13, 12:00 – 5:00PM, Summit B

13. Adjournment 4:05 PST

Respectfully submitted by Lucy Schram

PROPOSED

2015-16 Course Setting Specifications for U16 and Younger (Scored and Non-Scored)

		U10	U12	U14	U16
Train-to-Race Ratio (strongly recommended minimum)		6:1 (days)		5:1 (days)	
GS/SL Race Days ³ (recommended)		Max. 10 Division/State-organized, all events	Max. 12 Division/State-organized, all events	Max. 14 Division/State-organized, all events	Max. 18 Division/State-organized, all events
Downhill (DH) 700 and U1253	Distance between gates ¹	X	X	50 m max.	As required
	Vertical drop			350 m max	500 m max
	Direction changes			8% of vertical drop	As required
Slalom (SL) 800 and U1254	Distance between gates ¹	Combination 4-6 m, Open 5-10 m, Delay max. 14 m, distance to delay gate min 5m		Combination 4-6 m; Open 6-11 m; Delay max. 15 m	Combination 4-6m; Open 6-12m; Delay max 18m
	Vertical drop	Max. 100 m	Max. 120 m	Max. 140 m	Max 160m
	Additional requirements	Min. of 1 hairpin (2 or more recommended); Min. of 1 vertical combination; Min. of 1 delay			Min. of 2 hairpins; Min. of 1 vertical combination; Min. of 1 delay gate
Giant Slalom (GS) 900 and U1255	Distance between gates ¹	Open 14-22 m; Delay max. 30 m		Open 15-25 m; Delay max. 35 m	Open 15-27m, Delay max 35m
	Vertical drop	Max. 200 m	Max. 250 m	Max. 300 m	Max 350m
	Additional requirements	Min. of 1 delay Variety of terrain suggested	Min. of 1 delay Variety of terrain suggested	Min. of 1 delay Variety of terrain suggested	Min. of 1 delay Variety in terrain is suggested
Super G (SG) 1000 and U1256	Distance between gates ¹	18-35 m		25-40 m	25-45m
	Vertical drop	Max. 300 m		Max. 300 m	Max 450m
	Direction changes			8-14% of vertical drop	8-12% of vertical drop
Additional requirements	Min. of 1 jump recommended Training run recommended Variety of terrain suggested				
Parallel (PL)	Distance between gates ¹	10-20 m		80-120 m	
	Vertical drop	50-100 m			
Kombi - SL/GS U1259	Distance between gates ¹	SL 6-10 m; GS 12-20 m		SL 6-10 m, GS 12-20 m	
	Maximum vertical drop	150 m	180 m	200 m	
Kombi - GS/SG U1259	Distance between gates ¹	GS 12-20 m, SG 18-28 m		GS 15-25 m; SG 20-35 m	
	Maximum vertical drop	250 m		300 m	
	Additional requirements	Training run recommended Variety of terrain suggested		Training run recommended Min. of 1 jump recommended	
Other Events		All of the above plus SkillsQuest			All of the above plus Combined and SkillsQuest
Ski Recommendation		1 pair – Multi-event Length – skill/size appropriate	2 pair – SL, GS Length – skill/size appropriate	3 pair – SL, GS, SG Length – skill/size appropriate	SL, GS, SG, DH

¹ Gate distances correspond to distance between turning gates, with the exception of SL combination distance, which refers to gate width.

² Per USSA ACR U1256.3, based upon hill topography and field ability, the Jury may increase the gates to a maximum of 14% of vertical drop (counting only those requiring change of direction).

³ Does not include Regional or National Championships.

** Crossover between age categories for SL, GS, SG, Kombi and SkillsQuest is encouraged. Where multiple age classes are competing, course setting guidelines will be based on the guidelines for one class older than the youngest class (for example, if a race has U10, U12 and U14 racers, it should use the U12 guidelines) except in DH where course setting guidelines will be based on the youngest class participating.

Proposal as Passed 4.20.15
Replace the U18 Age Classification with a U19 Age Classification

Pacific Northwest Ski Association – April 14, 2015

Proposal

PNSA asks the Western Region ACC to propose that USSA replaces the existing two year U18 Age Classification (16 and 17 year olds) with a three year U19 Age Classification (16, 17, and 18 year olds) and, that the U18 National becomes the U19 Nationals.

Objective

We believe that a change to a U19 age classification will provide several benefits to athletes in this age group including but not limited to the following:

We believe a U19 age class will **encourage retention** by including and **allowing all juniors and seniors in high school to remain in one age class**. Additionally, the U19 age class would reestablish three years of FIS eligibility within a high school age class.

The U19 age class change will also allow athletes **three years to develop as a FIS athlete** and still compete at a National Championship. Under the J-class system athletes could compete at FIS races at 15 years old which provided three years of FIS development by age seventeen (U18). When we switched to the U- class system our U18 athletes lost a year of development at the FIS level. The U19 age class would provide three years to develop as a FIS athlete and still be eligible for a national championship.

We also believe the U19 age class would also **encourage a PG year** with many athletes that graduate high school early. **Besides increasing retention**, this third FIS year would provide an **additional year for “late bloomers” to develop physically** and, provide athletes an **additional year to develop FIS profiles for college racing**.

Narrative

PNSA believes a change to a U19 age classification will benefit our sport and our athletes by encouraging retention and allowing additional time to develop as an athlete. We have not been able to identify any negative aspects to this proposal. From a National Team perspective, this age class change will not delay talent identification of early maturing athletes, however, the U19 age classification would potentially increase the talent pool by promoting retention of late bloomers.