

**USSA ALPINE WESTERN REGION ACC
Teleconference Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2015
10:00AM MST
MINUTES**

Chairman: Karen Korfanta

1. Welcome at 10:04 – Thank you for taking the time to join in today.
2. Call to Order – In attendance:
Executive: Karen Korfanta, Craig Krueger, Todd Kelly, Lucy Schram
Divisional: Aaron Stiasny, Beat Hupfer, Kyle Crezee, Bill Brooks, Bridger Call, Jeremy Ueland
Staff: Gwynn Watkins, Lester Keller, Carma Burnett, Shari Hale, Paul Mahre, Michelle Demschar
3. Review Agenda/Additions – No additions
4. Review and Approval of Minutes, October 15th Conference Call
Motion to approve: Craig Krueger, 2nd Beat Hupfer; approved unanimously
5. WR Manager Report; Gwynn Watkins – challenging snow year; organizers, regional and divisional staff have been working well together. Thank you to Jackson and Mammoth for picking up extra races. U18's had some good results, unfortunately lost regions cup, but will work hard to gain it back. Many athletes at Nor Am finals at this time.
6. Old Business
 - 6.1 USSA/FIS Concurrent DH – Mammoth Apr. 16-19: Still working on a few details.
Lester attended one of these events in Rocky - very positive experience. Paul asked if there will be a limitation to U16's attending the April DH event from the region; Beat requested everyone to stay in touch about numbers, but should not be an issue.
 - 6.2 2016 Selection process for 2nd year U14 to U16 Nationals – Lester reported that the Todd Committee (Kelly and Brickson); sent communications to divisions. Moving forward as a region for a U14 event, variety of ideas being addressed (large vs . small field sizes). Need to make sure all divisions bring forward their information in time for the Reno meeting. Lester will hold another conference call to check in with the Divisional ACC Chairs.
7. Coaches Forum updates: Lester and Gwynn
 - 7.1 Elite Tech 1 Forum – Park City
 - discussion regarding calendaring
 - NJR, Elite FIS racing designation and protecting/exposing the younger athlete
 - college cross over
 - 7.2 Elite Tech 2 Forum – Jackson
 - calendaring: USSA/FIS crossover
 - WR JR Champs being a USSA event this year.
 - U18 Championships coaches forum: discussion about U18 Grand Prix Pre-Proposal.
 - attrition, retention, crossover, etc.
 - Lester attended U14 impromptu forum after a TC mtg: discussion of camp format, more than just a ski race.

8. Development Sub Committee Task Force Proposals:

8.1 Ability Class racing event – Paul Mahre reported; one day happened, feedback was positive; want to continue to pursue it.

Lester reported that Rocky completed one and the feedback was very positive. Rocky put in a lot of effort in educating coaches, parents, athletes in why they were doing this.

8.2 Team Scoring – U14 event in PNSA March 14-15. Emphasis on scoring to the last racer in the event. Promotes team experience.

Lester asked if anyone had used the team scoring written into the split second software.

Shari Hale reported that Northern used it, but you have to either transfer the event into club software or do the scoring by hand.

8.3 New business from Development Sub Committee – Lester and Michelle reported Elite Working Groups formed by Tiger from the Development Sub-Committee, not looking for input from other committees but to provide info and feedback back to committees; working groups bring forth ‘best practices’ recommendations to Development Sub-Committee; Development Sub-Committee will bring proposals to Alpine Sports Committee at Congress. Michelle believes they will be recommendations, not mandates.

Focus: National Team Structure, qualification criteria, development moving forward.

Slalom Group – Patrick Riml Chair; how much clubs train a discipline.

U14 group – Lester Keller, Chair;

College Group – Michelle Demschar, Chair; collaboration of college and ski team system

Regional Training Group – Eric Harlow, Chair; matrix of what is recommended for regions to work towards.

Lester – number of representatives participating; transparent.

Directly the WR ACC will be thoroughly informed before the April 20th meeting.

9. USSA Development Staff Pre-proposals: circulated in October, open circulation

9.1 US National Championships Quota – written openly on purpose to bring forth input

9.2 Point Cut-Off to Canadian FIS races

9.3 Calendar Reform – Sent to coaches directly

9.4 Men’s National NJR Series – sent to coaches directly

Michelle reported - feedback has been received on the pre-proposals; further discussion will be April 13-16th during staff meetings; formal proposals will be moved forward to ASC after that time.

Karen asked if any further proposals are on the horizon. Michelle - only item that could be addressed is first year FIS athletes competing in the Southern Hemisphere.

Lester – discussion period is still open, feedback is still welcome.

Gwynn – will send reminder out prior to USSA staff meetings requesting info on NJR series and National Championships Quotas with divisional/regional feedback in writing.

10. Upcoming Deadlines

10.1 April 1st – RSVP for next meeting for lunch numbers to Gwynn Watkins

10.2 April 1st – Send list of WR ACC voting members from each division to Gwynn Watkins and Lucy Schram: respond with names or members are staying the same.

10.3 April 10th – deadline for proposals for April 20th meeting; to Gwynn Watkins

11 Meeting Schedule

April 20th at The Peppermill in Reno, 11:00 – 4:00; addressing proposals coming from staff and items heading to Alpine Sports Committee; overview of calendar

May 13, 2015 Congress, 12:00-5:00pm – addressing calendaring and regional issues

- 12 Miscellaneous: Aaron Stiassny asked when the preliminary calendar will be sent out.
Lester addressed the timeframe – sent out shortly after the Nor Am blocking meeting being held next week.
Karen Korfanta addressed: US Nationals in Sun Valley in 2016 and World Cup Finals in 2017 in Aspen become cornerstone of Nor Am blocking.
Lester - asking regions to consider a non-conflict of Speed and Spring series in Rocky and Western; proposing open series to become NJR series, how qualifiers are outlined.
Carma - is a call in option for the April meeting; Karen - there will not be a call in option.
- 13 Adjournment 10:55 MST

Respectfully submitted by: Lucy Schram