

**Western Region ACC MINUTES**  
**April 19, 2017**  
**9:00-17:00**  
**The Linq in Vegas**  
**Room ICON C, Moved to F after power outage**

1. Welcome and call to order at 9:15
2. Roll Call -
  - Executive – Todd Kelly, Ryan Shorter, Troy Price, Karen Korfanta, Lucy Schram
  - AK – Scott Zahn, Lex Patten
  - FW – Beat Hupfer, Mike Ginsberg
  - IMD – Gordon Perry, Bridger Call
  - NOR – Rick Duncan, Jeremy Ueland
  - PNSA – Dan Henry, Bill Brooks
  - OFFICIALS – Roger Root
  - COLLEGIATE- unable to attend
  - ATHLETES – unable to attend
  - Staff – Bill Gunesch, Gwynn Watkins, Carma Burnett, Shari Hale, Paul Mahre, Natalie Osborne, Chip Knight
  - Guests – Jesse Hunt, Eric Garayoa, Tami Strong, Curt Hammond, Kevin Chaffee, Molly Laramie, John Schiemer
3. Review Agenda / Additions -
  - Club Education Working Group 8.5
  - Regional Sub Committee 8.6
  - National Proposals 11.1
  - SG Training Run U12.U14.U16 Motion11.6
  - USSA Equipment Motion 11.7
  - FIS Equipment Motion 11.8
  - Whistler Cup Discussion 11.9
4. Review and Approval of Minutes –  
**Motion to Approve minutes Karen Korfanta, 2<sup>nd</sup> Beat Hupfer, Passed Unanimously**
5. USSA Program Update – Chip Knight
  - 5.1 Overview of high level results –Top 10 results per age rank measures results for the season. Reviewed these per event.
  - 5.2 Skill Development – SL.GS building blocks then speed fundamentals.  
Skills Quest – for younger level athletes  
Conditioning – fitness assessment as baseline/club level.
  - 5.3 5 National Proposals from staff to be reviewed under new business
  - 5.4 2 task forces –
    - Equipment Regulations- recommending minimum U16 regulations
    - Domestic Development- all levels of clubs opportunity forum
  - 5.5 Prep Projects – Regional in Mammoth May 13-21, followed by U16's.  
In June in Mt. Hood YOB 2000-2004, tech focus  
Early August – Mt. Hood U19
  - 5.6 Competition Calendar, continuous challenges at all levels – Working around World Jrs, Olympic and Nor Am Calendar. Trying to return to Colorado in November, Nakiska in December, Early Jan in East(tech), Feb and March are up in the air. Nor Am finals in Panorama....another tech block during or after the Olympics.  
U19 NPS – 3 touch points, 1<sup>st</sup> in Jan after Nor Am, 2<sup>nd</sup> during Nor Am, then Jr Champs

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U16 NPS – Beaver Creek, U16 Nats trying to be in West, European project in Mid Feb

5.7 Questions fielded by Chip:

\*Lex Patten asked about a possible age class change at the FIS level. Chip provided an updated report that it has become a little more luke-warm since FIS Congress.

\*Jesse Hunt asked about the participation data charts and FIS level memberships and if USSA is reviewing these numbers regarding age change thoughts. Chip provided percentages of drop per age, data from Jeff Weinman. Largest drops are at 18/19 and 20 year olds(40%+).

6. Western Region Program Update – WR staff

6.1 Director's report – Bill Gunesch

Busy year; lots of staff travel. Goal to always have a WR Staff at each of the WR Elite FIS events.

Goal was to continue to improve performance of the Elite Level athletes.

Reviewed ladies results success; gents opportunity to regroup; U16 National Results reviewed.

Reviewed camp projects from the past season and additions to the upcoming season. Looking for more winter training opportunities for the WEST Team. Goal – increase communications between staff and club. Started well and by mid-Feb and beginning of March becomes busier and will work to continue to improve communications during that time frame.

PnP – reviewed the update of the 2016-2017 WR PnP with the links and year out training and development plan.

U16 and U14 Development efforts – lots of focus on skills quest, thank you to Daryl for helping drive this. Budget for 17-18 will include a larger budget for Skills Quest examiners.

Goal of retention – review of participation graphs shows that we have leveled off and not declining at this time.

Calendar – need to become stingy at the site selection and look at venues and ROC's that will help provide best opportunity for success. Work to control what we can control at the event, ie pre race surface prep and course setting.

Need to put together a Regional policy/philosophy page regarding course setting.

Bill Gunesch discussed 16 Parents Forum at U16 Regional Champs – discussion focused on College Racing. College racing has been on the Development Task Force. Parents were not aware of College racing opportunities. How do we communicate the opportunities to the families...WR website will include info.

Thank you to Gwynn and All Divisional Managers for their work this season. Would like to talk to IMD and Far West about trying an ability class race during the 17-18 seasons.

6.2 Manager's report – Gwynn Watkins

Thank you to everyone and will provide a full report at Congress

6.3 Divisional Managers Reports

AK – Interesting year, turnover of Program Director change, smaller clubs

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were all represented at the Tri Divisional Project. Brought the attention of need to communicate with the smaller programs and families. Excited to host U16's next year.

FW – Lots of snow during the season, moved racing out of the month of January due to snow, membership is up, local league growth and looking to transition the kids into U system.

IMD – Good season. All races went off well. Good success at U16 and U14 Regional Champs. Lots of participation at the Tri Divisional Champs. Liked the Split Block in December. Dealing with large field sizes at U10 and U12's; looking to brain storm how to work with these large numbers.

Troy put together a Skills Quest examiner clinic, had 8 that were certified in one afternoon.

NOR – lots of snow, moved one race, and cancelled only one race. Numbers are down approx. 6%. YSL races hosting approx. 200 kids, Skills Quest- after U16 jr champs put together a SQ to U16 results correlation chart. Working to communicate that importance to all clubs.

PNSA – good season, struggles with snow and getting races off, PNSA took control of the calendar where races were every other weekend. Good training blocks. Membership is holding steady. Coaches' symposium in the fall went well and received coaches ed credit. Looking to do venue prep/surface prep education this spring. Growth in U10.U12 age groups. Ability class continues to be successful in the division.

Questions to Divisions:

\*Dan Henry discussion regarding U14 racing- review of U14 age class structure of racing in each division.

7. WR Committee Reports

7.1 Executive Committee Report – Todd Kelly

Pretty slow year requirements, took care of the few items quickly.

7.2 Treasurer Report – Troy Price

7.2.1 WR Finances –

7.2.1.1 2017 financials – this meeting and close of end of fiscal year do not line up. Full report at Congress.

7.2.1.2 Incorporation Update – extension has been filed for another year. In order to complete 501c3 status have to file tax return, which Troy and Gwynn will meet next week to complete.

7.3 Site Selection Committee Report - WR staff

7.3.1 Calendar Review – discussion of Elite Blocks, Open Series blocks. Bill G discussion about the Region owning a Lutsen style event. Discussion to pursue a combined Speed Spring Series with Rocky and will be checked on over the next week. Adjustments made to the attached calendar based on input from the Regional representatives. Strongly recommend that Elite series are run on separate courses. Question regarding locations for U19 NPS events. The locations are tied to many factors.

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- U16 RTG – project 1 in East, project 2 in Rocky, U16 Nationals in the West.  
U16 Regionals will be March 21-25, 2018 Alyeska, AK  
USSA scored Nationals in March, qualifications from within Divisional qualifying process.  
U14 Regional Champs – March 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>
- 7.3.2 Bid process – Package will come from Gwynn and Bill this next week; bids are due Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - 7.3.3 Calendar Committee Meeting: May 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00am at Doubletree (Yarrow) Hotel
  - 7.4 Development Committee Report – Ryan Shorter, nothing to report.
  - 7.5 Officials and Coaches Education
    - 7.5.1 **Troy Price motion, Lex Patten 2<sup>nd</sup> ; Approved unanimously.**  
USSA TD Working Group Proposal: Scott Young and Phil GilanFarr as WR reps to the USSA TD Working Group
    - 7.5.2 Roger Root pointed out that the officials records are not being kept up in reporting and Roger will be discuss with each Divisional AO chair to make sure it is happening in an a timely manner.
8. National Committee Reports  
Chip Knight addressed these new working groups. They can provide agenda items and field agenda items. New Committees will be reviewing through Congress how this works.
- 8.1 Alpine Development Sub Committee – no report provided
  - 8.2 U16 and Older Working Group – Jesse Hunt, Chair; committee has been in discussion about equipment, physical assessment but no recent activity. Will be meeting next week about further topics. Everyone on the current list is actively participating.
  - 8.3 U14 and Younger Working Group – Jeremey Ueland, member; has not been a whole lot going on thus far, when items are provided then there has been active participation.
  - 8.4 Quotas and Selections Working Group – Beat Hupfer, Chair; nothing coming out so far, figured will see proposals coming forward, hoping they will be in place prior to Congress not during the summer.
  - 8.5 Club Education Working Group – Tami Strong and Jon Schiemer are reps. nothing to report at this time.
  - 8.6 Regions Sub Committee – Craig Krueger Chair, Bill Brooks and Todd Kelly are WR reps, nothing to report at this time.
9. Western Region Projects and Events – WR staff
- 9.1 Upcoming projects and events – Review the WR PnP and check the website for an updated calendar. The NZL project has been removed.  
Invitations have not been sent out.
10. Other Old Business - none
11. New Business – chair
- 11.1 National Proposals – Chip Knight: <http://ussa.org/alpine-programs/regions/western-region/governance>
    - 11.1.1 **U16 National Championships Quota** – proposal to increase first year U16 from 3 to 5 for each men and women.

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Increase is based on drop off in U14 Participation.

No comments of opposition provided by WR ACC

11.1.2 U16 NPS Series Quota – bring the national quota down to 6 and each region up to 5.

No comments of opposition provided by WR ACC

11.1.3 U16 National Championship Seeding – to adopt Adopt the FIS ICR rule 621.3.2 for USSA National Championships.

No comments of opposition provided by WR ACC

11.1.4 Foreign athlete selection to National events Providing written documentation to current practice.

No comments of opposition provided by WR ACC

11.1.5 US Nationals quota

Provide collegiate athletes who qualify through NorAms or NPS priority to the Collegiate Quota and give non-collegiate athletes clarity about where they are on the selection lists.

No comments of opposition provided by WR ACC

11.2 Proposal #1 Weather Day

**Motion 1A: Motion Withdrawn**

Mike Ginsberg Motion 1B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Troy Price: All Championship events U16 and above have a weather built into the schedule.

Discussion: Why not add a day at the end if needed? Being scheduled would add cost to trips and not being able to get out of lodging costs. Easier to add lodging vs trying to get out of lodging. This could be addressed as best practices in the scheduling process.

**Motion 1B** - no 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion dies.

**Motion 2** – no 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion dies.

11.3 Proposal #2 Ability Class Continuation –

**Motion by Bill Brooks, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Henry** request one more year of ability class racing before reporting to USSA Classification Group. **Passed unanimously.**

11.4 Proposal #3 SG

**Motion by Mike Ginsberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Beat Hupfer**

With regards to the ‘Children’s Course Setting Specifications Matrix’ for U12, U14 and U16 SG (1000 and U1256), we move to eliminate the direction changes based upon a percentage of the vertical drop. In addition, this would result in the need to eliminate USSA ACR U1256.3

**Passed unanimously**

11.5 Proposal #4 Skills Quest Competition Fee – **Motion withdrawn**

To allow a fee to be charged for Skills Quest Competitions, maximum of \$10. Entry price to be determined at the divisional level.

Discussion regarding guidance from USSA about how to host a SQ event, evaluators’ compensation, sanctioning fees, etc.

IMD compensated their evaluators \$75 each. Western Region has added a larger budget line item to help support the costs of running SQ events at Regional and Divisional Championship events for the 17-18 season.

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- 11.6 **Motion by Mike Ginsberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Beat Hupfer:** To remove training run verbiage from U12, U14, U16 course setting specifications. In addition removing U1256.4. **Motion Withdrawn**
- 11.7 **Motion by Dan Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Brooks:** We move to remove all ski length and ski radius specifications for all USSA scored racing.  
Discussion: coaches can provide guide for athlete ski length on their size and ability. More flexibility to the clubs and athletes.  
Question if there is any data showing that specific equipment is better for an athlete. Rational to fit the FIS equipment into the domestic athletes based on what equipment will be most readily available. Regulations are in place so that athletes show up at least on racing equipment. **Motion Withdrawn**
- 11.8 **Motion by Dan Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Brooks:** We move that Western Region recommends to the USSA FIS representatives to remove all ski length and ski radius specifications for all FIS racing below the Continental Cups. **Motion Withdrawn**
- 11.9 Whistler Cup Discussion – Troy Price will be putting together some data regarding taking U14's to Whistler Cup. Report will be provided at Congress as the Regional Representatives would like to explore this option further.
- 11.10 U16 Quota to Regional Championship – discussion about reducing the size of the U16 Regional Quota. Not supported by the region representatives.
12. Meeting Schedule –  
Congress Meeting, Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 12:00 -17:00 in Ivers/Hearst room
13. Adjournment – 15:00PST







