



Alpine Sport Committee Meeting #2

Friday, May 6, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. MDT

Meeting via Zoom video-conference

Meeting Chair: Darryl Landstrom

Alpine Sport Committee

Darryl Landstrom, Wayzata, MN (Chair and Alpine BOD Representative)
Paul Van Slyke, Lake Placid, NY (Vice Chair and FIS Subcommittee Chair)
Mike Bowman, Winter Park, CO (Rocky Central Region Representative)
Bill Brooks, Spokane, WA (Regional Subcommittee Chair)
Charles Christianson, Anchorage, AK (Athlete Representative) - **Absent**
Julia Ford, Canaan, NH (Athlete Representative)
Karen Ghent, Edwards, CO (Development Subcommittee Chair)
Doug Hall, Maryland, NY (Technical Subcommittee Chair)
Tim Hinderman, MT (Western Region Representative)
Beat Hupfer, Mammoth Lakes, CA (At-Large)
James Jensen, Hart, MI (Rocky/Central Region Representative)
Breezy Johnson, WY (Athlete Representative)
Chip Knight, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Development Director)
Karen Korfanta, Heber, UT (At-Large)
Ted Ligety, Park City, UT (Athlete Representative) - **Absent**
Dan Marshall, Manchester, NH (Eastern Region Representative)
Warner Nickerson, Tilton, NH (Athlete and Alpine Athlete Rep to the BOD) - **Excused**
Jon Nolting, Steamboat Springs, CO (Education Subcommittee Chair)
John Norton, Lake Placid, NY (Eastern Region Representative)
Patrick Riml, Heber City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Director)
Laurenne Ross, Bend, OR (Athlete Representative)
Bill Slattery, Buffalo Grove, IL (Immediate Past Chair)
Leanne Smith, North Conway, NH (Athlete Representative)
Jim Tschabrun, Park City, UT (Western Region Representative) - **Absent**
Andrew Weibrecht, Lake Placid, NY (Athlete Representative)

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Staff

Anouk Patty, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport)
Jeff Weinman, Bill Gunesch, Darlene Nolting, Sam Damon, Kristina Revello, Jeff Pickering, Paige Roberts, Scott Graham, Fletcher McDonald, Kathy Okoniewski,

Honorary (non-voting)

Tom Winters, Tucson, AZ - **Absent**

Guests: John Manderfield, Tami Strong, Caryn Jones, Dan Chayes, Gladys Weidt, Jeff Jenkins, Ron Kipp, Tyler Sheherd, Roger Kimball, Shawn Smith, Stephen Mergenthaler, Steve Lathrop, Todd Brickson, Dan Henry, Claudia Yamamoto, Aldo Radamus, Hilary Lindh, Rogan Connell, Andy Locke, Chuck Hughes, Dave Galusha, Jill Firstbrook, Laura Sullivan, Arnie Huftalen, Tami Strong, Tina Buchheister, Mike Ginsberg, John Rust, Jeremy Ueland, Roger Kimball

1. Welcome and call to order - 1:02pm MDT
Opening remarks - D Landstrom welcomed everyone and thanked U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff, WG chairs and Su-committee chairs for their time and hard work over the past two weeks
2. ASC roll call (indicate above with ASC membership)
3. Review and approval of agenda
Darryl asked to move agenda item 6.6 to follow item 6.3
Motion to approve agenda as amended: B Hupfer / D Marshall - **Unanimous**
4. Review and approval of minutes
Motion to approve meeting minutes from 5/2/22: B Brooks / P Riml - **Unanimous**
5. Staff Reports
 - 5.1 Alpine – Patrick Riml (5 min)
Thanked everyone for their time and effort to move our sport forward. Impressed with the process of meetings and governance
 - 5.2 Alpine Development – Chip Knight (5 min)
Thanked everyone for joining and all their work over the past two weeks, Heard some encouraging conversations during the meetings. Thanked Darryl for his ASC leadership
6. ASC Reports – Action Items
 - 6.1 Awards Committee – Bill Slattery (2 min)
Alpine award recipients were announced:
Beck International Award - Ryan Cochran-Siegel
Russell Wilder Award - Youth Sports Alliance
Bud & Mary Little Award - Jeff Weinman
Westhaven Award - Greg Johnson
Team Coach Award - Forest Carey
Club of the Year - Mammoth Mountain Ski & Snowboard
Athlete Giving Back - Keely Cashman
 - 6.2 Judicial Committee – Bill Slattery (1 min)
No activity
 - 6.3 Nominating Committee – Bill Slattery (2 min)
Proposed Karen Ghent for ASC Chair and Warner Nickerson for ASC Vice-chair
Beat questioned process of nominating chairs and appointments to the ASC
Motion to approve ASC chair appointments: B Slattery / B Brooks - **Unanimous**
Motion to appoint B Slattery as an honorary member to the ASC:
D Landstrom / K Korfanta - **Unanimous**
 - 6.4 Alpine Education Subcommittee – Jon Nolting (10 min)
Thanked Darryl for his ASC leadership
Club Working Group -
Taskforce looking into Forest Services fees potentially charged to clubs operating within resorts under Forest Service permits
Coach Education Working Group -
New taskforce discussing opportunities to streamline education requirement for former USST athletes entering the coaching profession
Level 100 coaching requirement has been delayed for two years due to Covid. The requirement will take effect the 2024-25 season. 1st year coaches will have a 1-year grace period, JR coach memberships are exempt. This requirement applies to race venue access. WG will work with staff to streamline this process.

Steve Nynam and Laurenne Ross were appointed as new athlete reps to the subcommittee

J Nolting and R Kipp were re-elected as chair and vice chair, respectively

Motion to accept the Alpine Education Subcommittee report

J Nolting / B Brooks - **Unanimous**

6.5 Alpine Development Subcommittee – Karen Ghent (20 min)

Thanked Darryl on behalf of Alpine community

Collegiate Working Group -

No action items. World University Games will be contested in Lake Placid in 2023.

Taskforce in place working on collaboration and lines of communication between college associations and US Ski & Snowboard.

U14 and Younger Working Group -

Proposed creating a taskforce to consider details to provide free entrée fees to athletes needing financial assistance

Proposed a pricing and fee structure limit at national and regional championships, capping entry fees and lifts at \$75/day, and double occupancy lodging at \$150/night.

Tabled for further study and assigned to the athlete-need taskforce mentioned above

Motion to support the goals of the taskforce

K Ghent / B Johnson- **Unanimous**

Proposed that vertical drop for U14 competitions be increased to the current vertical drop for U16 competitions, aligning with FIS specifications. A question was asked about vertical drop requirements at multi age-class races, U14 and younger. The existing rules remain in place.

Motion to raise vertical drop at U14 Slalom and Giant Slalom competitions to match U16 vertical drop. See ICR 801.1.3 and ICR 901.1.4

K Ghent / J Jensen - **Unanimous**

U16 and Older Working Group -

Proposal to allow the use of SG skis by U18 athletes at DH races below the Continental Cup level

Motion to support the use of SG skis by U18 athletes at DH races and ask our US Ski & Snowboard FIS representatives to present this proposal at the upcoming FIS meetings

K Ghent / J Jensen - **Unanimous**

Proposal to remove protected quota from each region's U16 NC selection reserved for 1st-year U16 athletes. Region's will rank athletes, regardless of age, by counting an athlete's best two World Cup Pt results (SL, GS or SG) from regional U16 championship races.

Motion to remove protected YOB quotas from regional selections to the U16 National Championship

K Ghent / B Hupfer - **Unanimous**

Proposed to give each region five spots in each 15-athlete seed at the U16 National Championships. A final seed of fewer than 15 athletes may be necessary, depending on the number of qualified foreign athletes, and athletes selected by the national development quota. Each seed will be randomly drawn. Each region will rank all its selected athletes by National Pts in each discipline in order to fill seeds.

Motion to support proposal giving each region five spots/seed at the U16 National Championship

K Ghent / B Hupfer - **Unanimous**

Proposal to prohibit 1st-year FIS athletes from competing in FIS events prior to the start of the North American FIS competition season. Primarily affects races conducted at indoor ski halls in Europe. Keeps 1st-year FIS athletes on an even playing field when beginning their FIS years

Motion to prohibit 1st-year FIS athletes from competing in FIS races prior to the start of the North American FIS competition season.

K Ghent/ B Hupfer - **Unanimous**

Proposed to begin the U16 and younger racing season no earlier than December 15th.

This will curb the need for expensive travel to early season training camps and early season "training-to-compete". This proposal amended the original proposal submitted to the U16 and Older WG by the Athletes Committee with a start date after Dec 25th.

Motion to set a competition start date of December 15th for U16 and younger athletes

K Ghent / P Riml - **Amended**

Central Division expressed a concern that the proposed start date would reduce the available weekends to host races, due to the division's short season

Amended Motion to set a start date of December 1st

B Hupfer / J Nolting - **Withdrawn**

Much discussion followed. C Knight questioned the necessity of the amended proposal. A Weibrecht stated the amended proposal completely negates the intentions of the original proposed by the Athletes Committee.

Amended Motion to begin racing the 2nd full weekend in December for U16 and younger athletes

C Knight / A Weibrecht - **Unanimous**

Quotas & Selections Working Group -

Proposal to automatically include U18 athletes scoring NAC points in their appropriate U18 NC regional quota. The regional quota is not expanded. NAC points can be earned from any discipline excluding AC.

Motion to accept this proposal: K Ghent / D Marshall - **Unanimous**

New business -

Proposal to limit U18 athletes to 30 tech starts/season. Much discussion followed regarding appropriate number of starts, historical start numbers, and how this limitation will be enforced.

Motion to limit the number of tech start for U18 athletes to 30 starts/season

K Ghent / J Jensen - **Approved**, M Bowman and J Nolting opposed

Old business -

Karen reported that two items of old business had been withdrawn; Flipping the entire field for 2nd runs, and field size limitation which was a carryover from the Covid restrictions. Also, elections for the Development Subcommittee chairs had been postponed, pending the outcome of new ASC chairs. Finally, one at-large position to the subcommittee is open. Aldo Radamus has been appointed to replace Steve Berlack on the subcommittee.

Motion to accept the report from the Development Subcommittee

J Jensen / B Brooks - **Unanimous**

6.6 Alpine FIS Subcommittee – Paul Van Slyke (10 min)

Thanked all the volunteers for their hard work this season. And a special thanks to Jeff Weinman and JJ Ehlers for keeping track of all the FIS event changes

FIS TD Working Group -

Two new TDs have joined the ranks of FIS TD; Darlene Nolting and Andrew Gannon
Proposed a per diem increases for U.S. FIS TDs and Course Inspectors, increase from \$120 to \$180/day. PV pointed out there had not been an increase for at least 30 years. This increase will also help recruit new TDs, and will help TDs cover the annual expense to maintain their license.

2022 FIS TD updates: Denver October 21-23 and Bromont QC October 28-30

FIS TD WG elections - Carl Guenzel, chair, Paul Van Slyke, vice-chair

Courses Working Group -

PV thanked Brad Ghent for all his years of service

There are updated procedures to become a new course inspector. A taskforce is in place to recruit new inspectors.

Course Working Group elections - Doug Hall, chair / Ron Bonneau, vice-char

Rules Working Group -

Clarified and updated rules under U621, U605 and U1233. Updated U707, U807, U907, U1007 and ACR p.156 as follows: "Soft ear protection is only allowed in SL. Soft ear protection is not allowed in Parallel events," aligns with FIS. Discussion followed. It was decided not to strike the wording in U1233, "Special Rules for Cups may also be applied."

Rules Working Group election - Matt Howard, chair / John Jett, vice-chair

FIS Subcommittee elections - Paul Van Slyke, chair / Carl Guenzel, vice-chair

Motion to accept the report from the FIS Subcommittee. B Brooks stated opposition to the TD per diem increase and the additional amount of money it would take from OCs. D Landstrom asked if the increase could be phased in over a couple years.

P Van Slyke / B Hupfer - **Approved**, B Brooks opposed

6.7 Alpine Technical Subcommittee – Doug Hall (10 min)

Alpine Officials Education Working Group -

Certification matrix for TDs has been updated to include other Jury assignments.

Clarified Referee mentoring must include two different mentors. Education materials remain available on-line until June 1st, at which time they will be updated. There were 13 individual officials upgraded to Level 4.

U.S. TDs Working Group -

14 TD advanced through the system to Level 3 and 4

Timing Working Group -

Three new timer homologations coming from FIS. New timing guidelines for parallel and new guidelines for wireless timing are also coming from FIS. A five-year extension is coming from FIS for some of the TAG timers. Start clock requirement for Level 2 and up FIS races.

Classification Working Group -

The WG has Used the same metric for past 8 years to identify exceptional races. Five races were identified as possibly exceptional, of which, three races were determined exceptional. Adders were applied to the following race codes:

U1480 - 9 point adder

U0188 - 28 point adder

U0098 - 15 point adder

Motion to apply adders: D Hall / B Brooks, **Unanimous**

A taskforce will be looking into possible changes to the point system that could prevent the unintentional results of an exceptional event

New business included discussions about on-line education and the pending coaches Level 100 requirement

Motion to accept the Alpine Technical SC report: J Jensen / J Norton- **Unanimous**

6.8 Alpine Regional Subcommittee – Bill Brooks (10 min)

Reported there were many common elements in the reports from the regional ACCs.

Numbers appear to be returning to or exceeding pre-Covid levels in the regions.

Access to venues is becoming more difficult as resorts experience greater numbers of skier visits.

Proposed to put into writing the process used when a club desire to move affiliation from one division to another

Proposal to guarantee each region has up to two at-large members on the Alpine Development Subcommittee when needed to keep membership balance between the regions.

Proposal to grant *Winter 4 Kids* one more trial year to participate in NYSRA as a member club.

Motion to accept the Alpine Regional Subcommittee report: B Brooks / P Riml - **Unanimous**

6.9 Athletes – Warner Nickerson (10 min)

Andrew Weibrecht presenting for Warner Nickerson (who is enjoying fatherhood)

The athletes committee are working with US Ski & Snowboard executive staff on issues important to the athletes; culture, communications, cost of racing, development systems. Support the efforts to help former USST athletes enter the coaching profession and streamline coaches' education requirements. Several of this year's proposals came from the athletes committee. Athletes now comprise 33% of committee seats, allowing their voice to be better heard. Athletes' perspective is important and often different.

Motion to accept the Athletes report: A Weibrecht / D Hall - **Unanimous**

Motion to approve the Alpine Sport Committee reports as submitted:

C Knight / J Jensen - **Unanimous**

7. Old Business - No old business

8. New Business - No new business

9. Discussion

9.1 Comments from Chair

Darryl thanked everyone for their support over the past 8 years, and congratulated Karen Ghent and Warner Nickerson on their appointments to ASC Chair and Vice-Chair. He thanked Bill Slattery who returned to the ASC as Immediate Past President after the passing of Bob Dart. Darryl thanked the staff. He was very encouraged after his meeting with Sophie and Anouk, stating they are going to be extremely supportive.

9.2 Comments from committee members and guests via chat

Many "thank-yous" to Darryl

10. Next meeting – October 2022, date and time TBD

11. Adjournment - 3:35pm MDT

Motion to adjourn- J Norton / B Hupfer