



## Alpine Sport Committee

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Meeting via Zoom video-conference

Thursday, May 20, 2021, 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. MDT

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### Minutes

Meeting Chair: Darryl Landstrom Present

#### Alpine Sport Committee

Darryl Landstrom, Wayzata, MN (Chair and Alpine BOD Representative)	Present
Paul Van Slyke, Lake Placid, NY (Vice Chair and FIS Subcommittee Chair)	Present
Mike Bowman, Winter Park, CO (Rocky Central Region Representative)	Present
Bill Brooks, Spokane, WA (Regional Subcommittee Chair)	Present
John Buchar, Park City, UT (Western Region Representative)	Present
Karen Ghent, Edwards, CO (Development Subcommittee Chair)	Present
Doug Hall, Maryland, NY (Technical Subcommittee Chair)	Present
Tim Hinderman, MT (Western Region Representative)	Present
Jesse Hunt, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Director)	Excused
Beat Hupfer, Mammoth Lakes, CA (At-Large)	Present
Breezy Johnson, WY (Athlete Representative)	Present
Jess Kelley, Park City, UT (Athlete Representative)	Present
Chip Knight, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Development Director)	Present
Karen Korfanta, Heber, UT (At-Large)	Present
Dan Marshall, Manchester, NH (Eastern Region Representative)	Present
Warner Nickerson, Tilton, NH (Athlete and Alpine Athlete Rep to the BOD)	Present
Jon Nolting, Steamboat Springs, CO (Education Subcommittee Chair)	Present
Joe Paul, Bloomington, MN (Rocky/Central Region Representative)	Present
Bill Slattery, Buffalo Grove, IL (Immediate Past Chair)	Excused
Tao Smith, Bethel, ME (Eastern Region Representative)	Present
Andrew Weibrecht, Lake Placid, NY (Athlete Representative)	Absent

#### U.S. Ski & Snowboard Staff

Tiger Shaw, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard President/CEO) Present

#### Honorary (non-voting)

Tom Winters, Tucson, AZ Excused

#### Guests

Thelma Hoessler, Curt, Kristina Revello, Ron Kipp, Jeremy Ueland, Chuck Hughes, Don Stellin, Tao Smith, Matthew Dawson, Dan Henry, Torey Greenwood, Brewster McVicker, Terry DelliQuadri, Tyler Shepherd, Andrew Becker, Carma Burnett, Darlene Nolting, Steve Berlack, Arnie Huftalen, Todd Brickson, Andy Locke, Benjamin Roberts, Leanne Smith, Matt Howard, Will Brandenburg, Roger Root, Tony Olin, Kathy Okoniewski, Roger Perricone, Mike Ginsberg, Gar Trayner, Edward Wipson, Jeff Pickering, Claudia Yamamoto, Jill Firstbrook, Lucy Conklin, William Dewey, Tory Amorello, Laureene Ross, Justin Rackley, Jim Tschabrun, Leanne Smith, Karen Ghent, Breezy Johnson, Ellen Adams, Gar Trayner

1. Welcome and call to order  
 Darryl Landstrom called the meeting to order at 11:03p.m. MDT.  
 Thank you all for carving out some time today to participate in the Alpine Sport Committee (ASC) meeting, this will be our final meeting of Congress 2021. Particular thanks to the working groups chairs who spent all of last week meeting and vetting the various proposals and pushing them up to the Subcommittees to review this week. Thanks to Staff, in particular Chip and Jeff for their work these last few weeks in getting everything organized.
2. ASC roll call conducted by Darryl Landstrom and confirmed a quorum.
3. Review and approval of agenda: one edit under Staff Reports, to add 5.3 Gar Trayner-Sport Education  
**Motion: Van Slyke; Second: Nolting; Motion carried unanimously**
4. Review and approval of the May 17, 2021 minutes  
**Motion: Bowman; Second: Hall; Motion carried unanimously**
5. Staff Reports

Tiger Shaw - just wanted to check in and say hello to everyone and express thanks and appreciation to all of you for your efforts and contributions of the past year. Congratulations to everyone for the successful season you all pulled off, it has been extraordinary. Thanks to everyone for their contributions this week and am excited to move forward.

Darryl – Thank you Tiger for your support and leadership.

5.1 Alpine Director – Jesse Hunt  
 No Report - excused

5.2 Aline Development Director – Chip Knight  
 Thanks to everyone in the community for what has been an extraordinary year. We all went through a lot reorganizing the sport and finding a way to operate. Excited about the year ahead, encourage everyone to recharge themselves this spring and reflect on the huge success of getting through the pandemic year.

Thanks to the Subcommittee and Working Group chairs for running efficient and productive meetings these past two weeks, thanks to all of you for your leadership through the process.

5.3 Alpine Sport Education – Gar Trayner  
 Thanks to the Sport Education Team along with the Working Groups & Committees for their hard work during this past year of challenges and hurdles, with the cooperative work between staff and the Alpine Community we were able to get a lot of productive work done in the field.

Highlights from the past year included delivering on the Alpine Guide to Ski Fundamentals, it has been met with a warm reception and believe it was worth the wait. Moving into the next year we hope to return to some form of normalcy providing opportunities for our coaches in the field to gain certification and continuing education. We strive forward to our goal of spring 2022, where we will be looking to have full compliance of all coaches who are accessing the competition venue for the season of 22-23, to be a minimum of Level 100 Certification or more. We are working together with all sport staff as well as all sport committees and working groups on providing strategies on how we can roll

this out in a progressive and not punitive way so ultimately the benefactors of this initiative are the athletes; looking to collectively raise the bar and provide deeper and wider opportunities of learning for our youngest athletes. Looking forward we will continue work on our levelized system for coaches, finalizing development of the new Alpine Coaches Level 200, as well as other documents, assets, and support mechanisms for our coaches.

## 6. ASC Reports – Action Items

- 6.1 Awards Committee – Darryl Landstrom for Bill Slattery  
Awards Committee announced Alpine Awards on Tuesday: Alpine Team Coach of the Year - Mike Day; Development Coach of the Year – Mike Bansmer; Athlete of the Year – Mikaela Shiffrin; Alpine Club of the Year – Green Mountain Valley School; Westhaven Award – Karen Ghent; Paul Bacon Award – Aspen Organizing Committee. Jeff Weinman announced that Darryl Landstrom was the recipient of the Julius Blegen Award.
- 6.2 Judicial Committee – Darryl Landstrom for Bill Slattery  
No issues to report
- 6.3 Nominating Committee – Darryl Landstrom for Bill Slattery  
We will not be filling the one At-Large position up for re-election; it will remain open as we review our operation procedures in light of the of the USOPC directive to increase in athlete participation.
- 6.4 Alpine Education Subcommittee – Jon Nolting  
Thanks to Gar and his team for all of their work, we work closely together. We have added Marco Sullivan as an athlete rep to our committee, excited to have Marco on board. There were no action items out of our subcommittee, but we did have robust discussions in regard to the Level 100 coaches mandate by 2022-23 season. Hope everyone has the same philosophy behind bettering our coaches with the ultimate goal of helping our athletes. Believe what Gar and his team have developed in the level 100 curriculum, particularly what they have built into the on-line platform is really impressive. We have a gap of 1800 coaches in the system that are not Level 100 certified, we have a lot of work to do especially in light of being set back by COVID last year. We are working with staff, along with our Club developers, to address the challenges of implementation. For coaches currently in the system that do not have their Level 100 certification, we strongly encourage them to get this completed this season before the mandate goes into effect for the 2022 – 23 season.

Mike Bowman question – any thought to including the Alpine Level 100 certification fee into the coaching license without incurring an increase. Gar – appreciate the philosophy but do not think it is practical as the cost does pay for the development of education programming and materials but will take your suggestion on board and have a conversation around it.

**Motion: To accept the Alpine Education Subcommittee report as presented.  
Moved: Smith; Second: Marshall; Motion carried unanimously**

6.5 Alpine Development Subcommittee – Karen Ghent

We had some really interesting and productive meetings in our Working Groups, thanks to all of you for your hard work and I look forward to presenting all of their work to all of you here today. There has been some turnover in leadership on the Working Groups of this Subcommittee due to expiring terms. Thanks to the Working Groups for increasing athlete representation on groups and recognizing and creating Regional equality.

6.5.1 Collegiate Working Group – Peter Dodge is stepping into past Chair position and JJ Johnson will be taking on the Chair position, thanks to Peter for his many years of leadership. There was restructure within this Working Group to ensure athlete representation and that the three collegiate associations had equal representation as well. Discussion and proposal topics included:

Successful collaboration with Chip and Jesse (USSS) in incorporating USSS sponsored collegiate development opportunities in future projects.

To rework the criteria for the World University Games in Switzerland December 11 – 21, 2021.

Proposal to include a new working group to be inclusive of all divisions of snow sport in the collegiate community – agreed to in principle but amended it to create a task force that will report back to the CWG.

Proposal to NCAA regarding Age Restrictions: Competitors must be at least 18 and no older than 25 years of age on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the year of the event - complete 4 years of eligibility within 5 years of completing High School. Thought is this would help our US athletes and be good for Development. The CWG will report back in the fall

JJ Johnson was elected new Chair of CWG, and Jay Moyer was elected as Vice Chair.

**Motion: To accept the Collegiate Working Group report as submitted and proposals as presented.**

**Moved: Hall; Second: Nolting; Motion carried unanimously**

6.5.2 U14 and Younger Working Group – Thanks to Jim Hudson for leading this group for the past 4 plus years, Jeremy Ueland will be taking the Chair position. This group had good discussion and proposals which included:

Proposal for U14s Slalom events, poles should be FIS type B and be 60” or 72” in height off the snow surface. After good discussion, did not pass.

Proposal to eliminate access for U14s into U16 Nationals – passed.

Cleared up language in the course setting specs table in back of the ACR concerning Vertical Combinations: U12 & younger will allow Vertical Combinations up to 3 gates and U14s Vertical Combinations up to 4 gates.

**Motion: To accept the U14 & Younger Working Group report as submitted and proposals as presented.**

**Moved: Nolting; Second: Brooks; Motion carried unanimously**

6.5.3 U16 and Older Working Group – Thanks to Todd Brickson for his work chairing this group. Great discussions that were very productive and thought provoking.

Endorsed two proposals regarding Gate Judges and single panel SG which will be brought up under the FIS Alpine Subcommittee Report.

Proposal to bring U18 Nationals back into the system, with an amendment to add quotas realigning equalization for Men and Women – proposal carried.

Proposal to eliminate the U19 designation and go back to U18; aligns with FIS and also better development age range for direction we are going – proposal carried.

Proposal from Chip Knight for two-tiered FIS Competition at the Regional level – proposal carried.

Proposal to limit field size to 140 for races. After discussion was tabled for more discussion and research. Will be taken up by the Health of Sport Committee.

**Motion: To accept the U16 & Younger Working Group report as submitted and proposals as presented.**

**Moved: Hupfer; Second: Hinderman; Motion carried unanimously following discussion below.**

There was interesting discussion around the single panel SG proposal with a lot of questions, especially from the athlete group as well as the Officials Group, on if this is really the direction we want to go. Discussion will be followed up on in the Alpine FIS Subcommittee report for review.

6.5.4 Quotas & Selections Working Group – Thanks to Beat Hupfer for chairing this committee. Four items that were looked at:

To establish a U18 Nationals quota – carried forward

U16 NPS quota reworked as there were no U16 National held this year – carried forward

US Nationals quota to provide equal access for Men and Women – carried forward

To rework the World University Games quota – carried forward

**Motion: To accept the Quotas & Selections Working Group report as submitted and proposals as presented.**

**Moved: Nickerson; Second: Hall; Motion carried unanimously**

6.5.5 Athlete Council - Warner gave a brief report on Development from the athlete's perspective which was appreciated and well received. Thanks for providing this perspective Warner.

#### 6.5.6 Old Business

Revisited the Start Limitation recommendation for 1<sup>st</sup> year FIS athletes that was put forth from Health of Sport last year by the U16 Working Group. Jeff provided numbers and only about 10 athletes exceeded the start recommendation of 35. Will go back to Health of Sport for further evaluation.

Test Event to Flip the entire field for a scored USSA event to equalize the field was discussed. The East was the only region that conducted a test event and little positive feedback was received. Asked that a few more test events on scored races occur where entire field is flipped for further feedback.

Discussed an item that bubbled up from Classification regarding minimum penalty for races under minimum Vertical Drop. Currently the minimum penalty is 75 and the proposal is to lower to 60. Development committee endorsed and will be brought up under Alpine Technical Subcommittee. Development Subcommittee would like to note that this should mirror the ENL verbiage from year to year.

Health of Sport Task Force Report generated little discussion. We will continue to work on Health of Sport issues. Would like to note that Mike Morin is on the Health of Sport Committee and thank him for his contributions. Also, thanks to Angie Brown for taking minutes for this Subcommittee.

**Motion: To accept the Development Subcommittee report as submitted and endorsements as presented.**

**Moved: Van Slyke; Second: Hall; Motion carried unanimously**

Darryl – thank you Karen for a wonderful job, the Development Subcommittee is in a good place under your leadership.

#### 6.6 Alpine FIS Subcommittee – Paul Van Slyke

Extend congratulations to Karen and Darryl on their awards. The Alpine FIS Subcommittee is made up of the FIS TD Working Group, Alpine Courses Working Group and Alpine Rules Working Group, thanks to all for their hard work at this Congress and throughout the year.

##### 6.6.1 Alpine FIS TD Working Group – Thanks to Carl Gunzel for his leadership of this group, the following action items were put forward for approval:

Darlene Nolting and Ron Rupert nominations were accepted and approved for FIS TD testing in October 2021

Kristina Revello nomination was accepted and approved for testing in October of 2022, with the requirement of officiating an out of division higher level race.

James Jenson re-nomination was accepted and approved for testing in October 2021

**Motion: To accept the Alpine FIS TD Working Group report as submitted and nominations as presented.**

**Moved: Brooks; Second: Bowman; Motion carried unanimously**

6.6.2 Alpine Courses Working Group – Thanks to Doug Hall for your organization and leadership with this Working Group.

Nomination of Ron Rupert and Paul Van Slyke as FIS Inspectors

The Courses Working Group determined that Trevor Wagner, Ellen Galbraith, and Ted Sutton be added to the list of Technical Advisors

Thanked Stanley Goldschmidt for his many years of service to the Courses Working Group and as a retiring inspector.

Paul Mahre has resigned from the working group and as a FIS inspector. It was noted that he will be missed, and he was thanked for his 17 years as an inspector.

**Motion: To accept the Courses Working Group report as submitted and nominations as presented.**

**Moved: Brooks; Second: Hupfer: Motion carried unanimously**

6.6.3 Alpine Rules Working Group – Thanks to John Jett for leading the meeting as Rogan Connell resigned due to personal reasons.

There were two proposals, the one from the Eastern Region was tabled due to lack of substance. The second one from the Western Region was carried forward with a modification of rule 669 by adding U669.3, **The jury along with the support of the Organizing Committee may opt to not use Gate Judges for DH, DH Training, SG, SG Training & GS, provided they take measures to cover the entire course with sufficient jury members, jury advisors, eyes of the jury and connection coaches.**

Virtual TCM Proposal from the AOEWG and Health of Sport Task Force. Modification of rule U604.3 in accordance with ACR 213.4 and 216 - *the time and location of the first team captain's meeting and of the draw must be shown in the program. An actual meeting, attended in person, **or held online**, by tea captains, jury and race officials is an inseparable part of the competition and is important for communication of jury instructions, support of the OC, OC requests and information as well as critical element for risk management and liability related matters.* This rule amendment mirrors the rule that was approved at FIS meetings last week, it also applies from flexibility for our grassroot programs.

Official Notice Board Proposal brought forth from the AOEWG and Health of Sport Task Force. Modification of U617.2.1 – *As soon as possible after completion of the race, unofficial times and disqualifications must be published on the official notice board, **at the finish.*** Intent that the Official Notice Board will be wherever the OC and Jury deem it to be.

Single Gate SG proposal (U617.2.1) to permit Single Gate SG. This proposal has generated a lot of discussion and concern from the athlete community as well as Alpine Staff, Darryl opened the floor for further comments. Warner Nickerson - the athlete group talked a lot about this, and they believe the outside gate is crucial to SG event. Athlete group

does not feel good about this. Breezy Johnson – as far as preparing our young speed skiers for SG having an outside gate is helpful. Believe we should keep the written rule as it is. Chip Knight – Jesse and I have spoken at length about this and do not support this proposal. Speed, terrain, and visual cues on the hill are crucial for SG and feel the outside gates are necessary. Believe the current rule as written, allowing discretion for the jury to remove an outside gate(s) if necessary, continues. Darryl thanked the athletes, Chip and Jesse for their comments and hope the committee appreciates these comments. Noted that this proposal will be voted on separately.

Helmet Camera Mount Proposal (U606.4 and pg 161 of Comp Guide) – the committee struck the wording: In all events, ~~helmet cameras may not be worn~~ and replaced with: **The helmets shall have no spoilers nor protruding parts.** This wording amendment will be followed through for U707, U807, U907 and U1007, as well language on Page 161, paragraph 6 of the Comp Guide will be updated. It was noted that this wording comes out of the FIS Equipment Rule Book. Breezy pointed out that some helmets such as Briko have safety features built into the helmet. Paul replied that as long as the helmet is FIS approved there should be no problem and fall within the rules.

US Ski Team Coaches Education Proposal to add a second bullet point to U601.4.10 – **National Team coaching staff members must attend a Continuing Officials Education Clinic prepared and presented by qualified UST staff.**

**Motion: To accept the Alpine FIS Subcommittee report as presented.**

**Moved: Nolting; Second: Ghent: Motion carried unanimously**

**Motion: To accept the Alpine FIS Subcommittee proposals as a block, with the exception of the Single Gate Panel proposal.**

**Moved: Nolting; Second: Hupfer; Motion carried unanimously following discussion below.**

Karen Ghent asked why the East proposal on gate judges was tabled and not withdrawn. Paul – because the author from the East was not present to withdraw. **Dan Marshall (East Representative) – Motion to withdraw East Gate Judge proposal. Marshal/Van Slyke/Unanimous**

**Motion: To approve the Single Panel SG proposal as presented.**

**Moved: Smith; Second: Nickerson; Motion failed unanimously**

## 6.7 Alpine Technical Subcommittee – Doug Hall

Would like to congratulate to Darryl and Karen on their awards. Thanks to all members of the Subcommittees Working Groups: AO Education, Timing, USA TD Working Group and Classifications.

### 6.7.1 AO Education Working Group

Recommendation for advancement of Eric Price to: CO4, CR4; RF4

Elections: Lucy Conklin as Chair and Laura Sullivan as Vice Chair for another term. Matt Howard and Laura Sullivan as At-Large members for another term.



#### 6.7.2 Timing Working Group

Proposal from Masters Group to eliminate TDTRs for Masters races – not carried

Elections: John Jett was elected as Chairman and Paul Mahre as Vice Chair

#### 6.7.3 USA TD Working Group

Four advancements: Matt Howard and Marci Iverson to Level 3 TD; Bob Mangiacotti Level 4TD, and Stanley Goldschmidt is retiring so he is moved to Level 5.

Elections: Chuck Hughes as Chairman, Brian Hartman as Vice-Chair, Ron Rupert, and Jake Treadwell as members at-large.

#### 6.7.4 Classifications Working Group

Proposal to lower the Minimum penalty for under Vertical Drop minimum, will mirror the FIS ENL minimum penalty - carried

Two spring races were identified as exceptional races this year. The same metrics and procedures that we have used in past years were utilized for identification. Adders were proposed for these two races - carried

#### 6.7.5 Elections Alpine Technical Subcommittee

Doug Hall Chair, Chuck Hughes Vice-Chair, along with John Manderfield and Gretchen Ransom were approved as members at-large.

**Motion: To approve the Alpine Technical Subcommittee report as presented and proposals as outlined.**

**Moved: Ghent; Second: Van Slyke: Motion carried unanimously**

#### 6.8 Alpine Regional Subcommittee – Bill Brooks

This is a new committee comprised of 7 representatives, two from the three geographic regions: and one from the Masters ACC. We will also be adding athlete representation and will look to do this over the summer. This committee was charged with two tasks: to review the Governance Documents across the country and review the Cost of Entry Fees, Head Tax and Lift fees across the country.

Review Governance Documents – have not moved forward as we need some supporting documentation/lists to be able to accurately conduct this task. Hope to tackle this summer with the help of Legal, Darryl and Jeff.

Cost of Entry Fees, Head Tax and Lift Fees across the country. We gathered extensive data from across the country, results of this data can be viewed in this committee's minutes on the FTP site. Findings found extremely diverse operating procedures around the country; financial impacts are vastly different. Appears that each organization financially and operationally have figured it out for themselves and it works for them. Moving to consolidate to a "one for all system" will have its challenges. Will continue the discussion and realize that we cannot control all of the factors.

In discussing Mid-week vs Weekend races, it surprisingly turned out to a non-issue.

**Motion: To approve the Alpine Regions Subcommittee report as presented.  
Moved: Hinderman; Second: Bowman: Motion carried unanimously**

Darryl – thanks to all of the Committee and Working Group chairs who have termed out. You have all been very instrumental in the ASC.

6.9 Athlete Council Report – Warner Nickerson

No proposals from this committee. Jess Kelley's term ends this year and will be replaced by Leanne Smith in her place.

Communication, Culture and Athlete Representation are the three areas of interest of this committee. Athlete liaisons (Breezy Johnson, Steven Nyman, Tommy Ford, and Nina O'Brien) were a fantastic addition for this group in having a sounding board with Jesse and US Ski Team, we are extremely happy with how this has rolled out. Thanks to Andrew Weibrecht for starting a virtual chat with the liaisons, this was super fun and effective.

Athlete Discretionary Nomination to the Team that was initiated this year was another huge step in communication between athletes, coaches, and US Ski Team leadership.

Major focus right now is the USOPC new By-Law increasing athlete representation from 20% to 33.3%. The athlete representatives are made up of two groups: Ten Year Athletes, comprised of any athlete who has been in the top 50% of US Nationals in the past 2 years or attended a World Champs or Olympics in the past ten years – this group comprises 20%. A new athlete representative group that will comprise 13.3% is the Ten Year Plus Athlete and is comprised of any athlete who has ever competed at a World Cup (in addition to the Ten-Year Athlete). We are excited but a bit nervous to see how will work. It is a bit complicated with a few moving parts on how these changes will be implemented and exactly which committees will be affected. We do have a bit of time as this needs to be implemented by 2022.

Chip – thanks to Warner for all of his work on athlete representation, looking back on when I was an athlete representative it was not so inviting, you have helped change this.

Darryl – thanks to Jess Kelley for her time on this committee and on the ASC Executive Committee. Look forward to you staying on the u16 and older working group committee.

7. Old Business- None

8. New Business

One new proposal from the Women's Ski Coaches Association on gender equity. Darryl opened the door for discussion.

Jess Kelley – in theory great but in reality, there are just not the number of Ladies actively in coaching to make it a reality right now. In competitive skiing the genders are pretty equal so not sure why this is not translating into coaching.

Karen Ghent – believe mentoring and leadership will help bridge the gap. Feel that those of us in leadership positions need to reach out and mentor young women coming up, it is our responsibility to help support women coming up through the ranks.

Karen Korfanta – this is a global issue across the world. Because of some rules being put in place such as in Women's World Cup you need a lady TD this has helped. It comes from the grassroots level and it comes in baby steps. We need to nurture female athletes to stay into sport and move into coaching and leadership roles. Norway has made some huge steps.

Ellen Adams – encourage anyone interested in helping tackle and move forward on this issue to please reach out to her.

**Motion: To endorse the Women's Ski Coaches Association's initiative to support equal gender representation in coaching.**

**Moved: Landstrom; Second: Paul; Motion carried unanimously**

Comment: Nolting -can we take an inventory on equity/equality across the committees and working groups? Darryl – this topic will be included in our review of operating procedures this summer.

9. Discussion and Comments

Darryl extended his appreciation to Beat Hupfer for his dedication and efforts to the ASC over the years. Beat was very congenial when informed that we would not be filling the at-large position on the ASC at least for the near future, but he will remain active on the Quotas & Selections Working Group.

10. Next meeting – October 2021, date, and time TBD (hope these meetings will be in person)

**Motion: Hall; Second: Hupfer; Motion carried unanimously**

*Respectfully submitted: Gail Barber*