



## Pacific Northwest Ski Association A Division of US Ski & Snowboard

ACC Fall Meeting – Virtual (Zoom)  
Wednesday September 27, 2023

Justin Rackley called the meeting to order at 4:05p.

### Roll Call:

#### Present:

Justin Rackley; Karl Wardrop; Danasue Kusakabe; Dan Henry; Lindsay Davidson; Matt Morrell; Mike Graves; Jamie Landwehr; Chris Loewy; Shana Sweitzer; John Rust; Roger Taggart; Seth McCadam; Ted McNamara; Alan Lauba; Kent Towleron; Dave Lyon; Katy Loewy; Tim Durkin  
Executive Director: Claudia Yamamoto

#### Present Gallery:

Karen Erikson; Elle Truax; Trevor Tyas; Priska Sorenson; Krisha Charbonneau; Ben Roberts; Bill Gunesch; Mary Gunesch; Carson Ruud; Chloe Lavelle; Rikki Cooper; Uros Pavlovic

#### Not Present:

Jeff Kray; Rob Cravens; Laurene Ross; Roger Root; Nils Eriksson

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #1:** Motion to accept the 2023 ACC Spring Meeting Minutes (June 3rd, 2023):  
Motion: Kent Towleron. Second: Tim Durkin. Motion **passed** with no opposition.

- Document: [Draft - Full ACC spring meeting minutes 2023 - Yakima june 3.docx](#)

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #2:** Motion to accept agenda as presented.

Motion: John Rust. Second: Karl Wardrop. Motion **passed** with no opposition.

### Opening comments

#### **PNW President – Karl Wardrop**

Looking forward to the season. USSS spring conference – several went to. Changes: USSS won't be doing race registration and there is a new system = training for RA's will be coming.

#### **PNW Executive Director - Claudia Yamamoto**

Things moving along. Elite passes are for sale. Virtual auction started on Monday and we are up to \$7k on day 3 – keep putting the word out. Once this ACC and board meetings are done, calendar links will be updated along with the Alpine Competition guide.

#### **Western Region Report - Dan Henry/Bill Gunesch**

(Moving back to this after code of conduct (4:48p))

Dan Henry - Biggest change is that USSS did not fund the regional coach position. Looking at a way to fund our own regional coach. Hiring committee came up with 2 - Brad Saxon / Randy Pelke. Hoping to

be able to hire both. Brad will lead the U16 elite series & Devo; Pickering will lead WR; and Pelke will lead the PG athletes. The kids will remain local club athletes but have coaching support divisionally. Head Tax increased to help fund Brad's position. WR has a fund that will add funding. Randy position funded by... (Dan lost connection)

Bill: Gave a favorable update on the WR Chile project that is currently underway.

Skills Quest fitness registration – please remember it closes next Tuesday. Make sure paperwork is completed (waivers & information). Coaches come help please - Mark Dyer will run coaches through the drills at 2:00, athletes start at 2:20. Please let Justin know if you are coming so he can get you on the list for MAC access. It was asked, if they don't participate in the SQ testing, what does it exclude them from? The answer is that they are excluded from National or NDG projects or being named to the West Team. It is a data point only to the PD's and will not be shared publicly.

Copper speed rankings were built today – sent to Chip who will get it posted. To see the pipeline calendar: on [usskiandsnowboard.org](http://usskiandsnowboard.org) navigate to -

Programs > Scroll down to Pipeline > Alpine Pipeline > Projects and Race Announcements.

- Projects will show up here
- Boards will show up here
- There are 10 regional development spots (M/W total) if not above the green line

Motions approved at last Western ACC meeting.

- Site selection committee approved a rotation for U16 regional champs w/ expectation that the event will be awarded 2 years out to allow for planning & fund-raising
- Selection board modification for the national championships JR & SR – will be a 5-column board instead of a 6 column. Will use GS and SL head-to-head / SL and GS national points. If more than 2 SG will add back to SG head-to-head.
- Clarification for advancing athletes for the Elite series.
  - o Automatics based on head-to-head with devo series.
- Minutes will include these and any other motions not shared today.

Devo advancement will start over, some automatics may be in there. The participation requirement from years past has been removed from the process.

Dan was able to resolve his connection (he is currently in Chile) – Dan reiterated SQ registration. Updated everyone on Valle Nevado project being run by Pick, Saxe, and Pelke. Great venues & surface, previous blocks had national teams there – great for our kids to see that level of preparation & training. Great exposure for the top tier athletes. Great to have Randy and Saxe back. Condor Cup – tradition brought back -Super Combined run today – 4 full SuperG and SI. Also running Skier Cross for fun. Tomorrow going to El Colorado on tour to see other venues.

### **Director of Alpine – Justin Rackley**

Welcome Danasue Kusakabe, new ACC Secretary taking over from Jillian after 10 years of service. Thank you to Jillian for all of your work over the years.

## Old Business

### PNW General Membership Survey – Loewy

Athlete & Parent surveys are ready to go. Chris will get them to Claudia in March to distribute across the division and will report on the results at Spring Convention.

### **2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #3:** Motion to standardize the BWC Awards - Davisson

Motion: Lindsay Davisson. Second: Karl Wardrop. Motion **passed** after presentation with no discussion or opposition.

- Document: [PNW Motion Form - U12 BW Champs Awards - June 2023.pdf](#)
- Presentation: Nothing has changed since presented in June. This motion clarifies what is awarded at BWC year to year.

### **2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #4:** Motion to clarify BWC SkillsQuest parameters - Davisson (Taskforce: Rust, Landwehr)

Motion: Lindsay Davisson. Second: John Rust. Motion **passed** after presentation, discussion, and edit with no opposition.

- Document: [PNW Motion Form - U12 BW Champs Skills Quest description - Sept. 2023.pdf](#)
- Presentation: The goal is to clarify the parameters for SQ at BWC (brought up due to the inclement weather this past year).
- Discussion: Wording to better allow for split venues, would be better if it read "...the events..." instead of "...all events..." Lindsay will update/amend.

### **2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #5:** Motion to revise PNW Code of Conduct - Rust (Taskforce: Lundgren, Durkin)

Motion: John Rust. Second: Seth McCadam. Motion **passed** after presentation, discussion, and editing with no opposition.

- Documents (2): [PNW Code of Conduct Revisions 2023 PNW ACC Motion Form 2023.docx](#)
  - [DRAFT- Alpine 06 Rules Governing Competitors 22-23.docx](#)
- Presentation: The taskforce met throughout the summer to address the PNW code of conduct that was originally brought forward at the Spring Convention. The proposed revisions elaborate on key things related to Safe Sport & wording around the illegal use of drugs; due process rights; USOPC compliance. There was language revision on including home club in procedures during disciplinary actions while traveling.
- Discussion: Does it clarify/consider which rules are followed first? The answer is that the stricter of rules would apply. For example: if the athlete is not represented at that project with their home coach, Divisional rules would apply first. Some thought it was still confusion related to home club rules v. divisional/regional. Some agreed that it should not just fall on the Head Coach of the project, that it should be collaborative, including the home club coach, even if they aren't there – please call. It was requested that the text is updated to add "Strongly consider..."

- Presentation after update (7:18p): Review of the changes showing “Procedure for Violations and Due Process” was updated to read “...strongly consider... determining sanctions”
- Discussion: No further discussion after review of the document changes

***Development of PNW Performance Objectives*** (not currently a motion) – McCadam. (Taskforce: Lyon, Sweitzer, Landwehr, Graves, Uros)

- Document: [PNW Objectives-2023v1](#)
- Presentation: Thank you to Shana, Uros, DL, and Jamie who have been meeting bi-weekly all summer. Great discussion. Used the former document created by DL and Graves. Most of the discussions have been outlined in the original document, which had not been adopted by the division. This is still a work in progress and hoping to set goals for the division.
  - o Key areas
    - Athlete retention
    - Performance markers
      - Create avenues for kids into the elite levels.
      - Fitness evaluation and how it can be incorporated into the divisional programming.
    - Culture of competitive skiing & PNW success
      - Build more confidence in our kids to compete at advanced levels.
      - This can be done from home and they don’t have to leave to succeed
      - Opportunities in marketing
    - Funding
      - Amazing partner in PNSEF
      - Can PNW Team nominations include funding to make it more exciting to be named to the team?
      - This area needs more development.
    - Best Practices
- Discussion: The task force is looking for additional discussions and comments. The taskforce was thanked for taking the time. There was a lot of hard work put into this. Related to retention, what are best practices to create that pool? The culture of success really starts at the U12 level and we should be educating the parents on what the pathway to success is. As this is a living document, is there a place it can be put where other can help to develop it?
- Next Steps: Further work is needed on this topic. Karl will work with Claudia to find a place for this on the PNW Division site for collaboration.

**2024 – 2024 ACC Motion #6:** Motion to standardize Entry Fees calculations – Rust

Motion: John Rust. Second: Jamie Landwehr. Motion **passed** after presentation, discussion and editing with no opposition.

- Document: [Entry Fees Proposal 2023 - PNW ACC Motion Form 2023.docx](#)
- Presentation: John, Jamie, and Roger worked on this motion. Regarding divisional Races – proposing to mirror what is done at Western Region, in an effort to make fees more consistent and easy for ROC's to follow. One clarification is that a problem to solve is that Training fees were all over the map & race fees could also get really high.
- Discussion: In new proposal – strike out “Example”, clean up and make the text to make it easier to move forward through the years so remove actual dollars. The document was amended in the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph – SuperG training would be comparable to the Head Tax for DH it would be comparable to the Entry Fee. (move text from the “example” and move it up to the proposal.)
- Presentation: the re-written proposal was read. No further discussion.

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #7:** Motion to update the 2024 WRJC Selection Process - Landwehr

Motion: Jamie Landwehr. Second: Kent Towlerton. Motion **passed** after presentation and discussion with a unanimous vote of 10 for and 6 against and no hands raised to abstain.

- Document: [2024 WRJC Selection Motion \(1\).docx](#)
- Presentation: This came from the spring WR meetings. Encouraging greater participation for devo type athletes. Last couple of years has been a single selection board. Proposal is to go back to double selection board using head-to-head at the NW Cup series and national points. Need at least 3 NW Cup starts prior to the board, unless WR automatic. Ideally giving devo athletes a reason to stay home and race, hoping to make the NW Cup mean something to devo FIS athletes.
- Discussion: Asking for 3 more divisional starts on top of 36 potential FIS starts is a lot. It might be tough to keep them home forcing these 3 local starts and may have a sense of “holding them back”. The idea is to benefit those who are not going to a lot of FIS races. But making our races mean something to them. Agreed that it is a tough balance. It was suggested to change this to 2 instead of 3, would that make it better? That could help allow for Sun Cup and make it an easier sell. Really comes down to athlete management. Keeping the double board would help to keep it fair. With the double board and multiple age groups racing the same series, points are filtered. Maybe this applies to U18 and not U21? PNW athletes are representing the division, they should race in the local races and 3 is reasonable. At the national level – eliminating all ranking criteria to make the D team relying on Nor-am head-to-head. Chasing points has created a muddy path to achieve the next level. Keeping the participation requirement of elite series starts to the championships. The home series is important with head-to-head focus. It was suggested to change it to 2 starts from 3 and take a vote. The idea of purging was only voted on for 1 year. Last year the new rule was if using the purge scoring system, would need to vote on it. Need to revisit what we had for last year (single selection method).

**New Business:**

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #8:** Motion for U14 Qualifiers to be distributed and represent each zone – McCadam.

Motion: Seth McCadam. Second: John Rust. Motion **passed** after presentation and discussion with a unanimous vote of 12 for and 4 against with no hands raised to abstain.

- Document: [PNW ACC Motion Form 2023 U14raceSeries McCadam.docx](#)
- Presentation: Update the language to propose that moving forward each zone is represented to host U14 qualifiers.
- Discussion: It would ask if the Evergreen Cup finals would count – clarification that this is related to U14 qualifiers only. Asked what happens if there isn't a bid for a zone? Should the proposal be amended for this case? Answer – the calendaring committee should put it back out to that missing zone to re-apply. Calendaring is important. Big picture, this makes sense. Site surveys and weather should be considered. The ACC should have the ability to identify the best possible races for each given block. Should maybe be a recommendation rather than a hard requirement. Having no races in the south is not fair and spreading across zones is important. U14 having races in their zone is important, not all U14 travel, and some are young. The calendaring committee does try to make it fair and provide the best calendar possible.

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #9:** Motion proposes utilization of the U14 series and the Evergreen Cup Finals to advance into the NW Cup Finals – Landwehr

Motion: Jamie Landwehr. Second: Dave Lyon. Motion **passed** after presentation and discussion with no opposition.

- Document: [2024 NWC Finals Selection Motion \(1\).docx](#)
- Presentation: This is a continuation of the existing U14 board to fill in the balance of the quota for NW Cup Finals.
- Discussion: Would this still require participation at the EGC Finals? Yes, if they don't have a good EGC race they had a good qual series, they still get points. This is good for those who may not do as well at EGCF. Would they still get points per run? Yes. EGCF may end up weighted more heavily because the top U14 will not be there and other age-classes would be filtered out to have it scored head-to-head U14 only. This is good as long as we are looking for the fastest racers. This could be a bummer for those kids that are late to crush, but we have been doing a good job getting the fastest kids into NW Cup Finals

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion Deferred:** Motion for Zonal representation with rotation for the ACC age class chairpersons in a 3-year term limit - McCadam

Motion: Seth McCadam. Second: Roger Taggart. Motion was **deferred** after presentation and discussion for a future meeting.

- Document: [PNW ACC Motion Form 2023 TermLimits McCadam](#)
- Discussion: Having been on the EC for a long time, it's a good idea, but should stagger with 1 new per year, so there isn't a whole new crew at one time. Institutional knowledge is good, but clarification of each zone represented. Rotation on Board of Directors in general require 2 years before moving into head chair. There might not be enough people within the division and on our ACC already to make that requirement. We should be careful not to limit someone to come in who would be good as a chair that hasn't been on the ACC already. It was pointed out that this is related to the Age Class chairs. Does this need to be approved by the PNW board or can the ACC decide this? Karl will look this up. This is a big change and we should discuss it further and vote on it in the spring.
- Next Steps: Karl to confirm the need for PNW board to approve this or not. Continue to review this before bringing it to official motion.

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion Deferred:** Motion to assign additional representation to the PNW ACC Calendar Committee – Rust

Motion: John Rust. Second – Seth McCadam. Motion was **deferred** after presentation for a future meeting.

- Document: [PNW Calendar Committee Motion 2023 PNW ACC Motion Form 2023.docx](#)
- Presentation: This would add an asterisk to the calendar process to ensure each zone is represented.
- Discussion: As this is related to other ACC structure motions that were deferred and in acknowledgement of limited time remaining, this was deferred.

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion Redacted:** Motion to revise the PNW ACC Committee Structure – Landwehr  
Motion was **redacted** as related motions were deferred.

- Documents: [PNW By-Laws Attachment A-ACC Committee Structure Revision PNW ACC Motion Form 2023.docx](#)
  - [PNW ACC structure 2022/2023 Update.docx](#)
- Next Steps: All – please review this prior to the spring convention. You can find it on the PNW home page – scroll to by-laws and look for Attachment A from 2014. Filling out of Coaches, Officials, and Rules/Tech sub-committees.

**2024 Meeting Schedule/Format** – Justin

The format has changed over the years. Historically there was a convention over a series of days with working sessions, bids, votes. In the fall at a resort or some sort of destination. Last year suggested to not pass everything right away where present and discuss in the spring and vote in the fall. Thoughts on in

person in the spring with Zoom in the fall?

- What are your thoughts?
  - o Meeting in person in the spring w/ zoom in the fall would be good.
  - o We are more productive in person spring and zoom in the fall. Please give as much advance notice as possible.
  - o Calendaring is hard when USSS and FIS are not out before our spring meeting. Maybe we do zoom in the spring with in-person in the fall
  - o Regional calendars will have tentative blocks and fluid, but the Nor-Am calendar won't be until July or August. Maybe we set it knowing it may need to change. We should be able to get our divisional calendars close, especially with resort scheduling. Having something to share with families earlier is better than later.

### **PNW Level 100 Calendar**

- Document: [Copy of Alpine Coach Developer Trainer/ Coach Developer Contact List](#)

The Board of Directors requested a Level 100 series. John has put a lot of effort into creating this calendar with the division. Hats off to you for pushing this forward. There is a great schedule coming up with many coach developers stepping up to help administer these certs. Goal is to get all traveling coaches with a minimum of L100. Jillian is also offering her time to get these out there. These dates will be put on the PNW site by early next week. This schedule will be presented to the PNW Board next week and we are expecting them to be happy with it.

### **PNW Comp Calendar 2024**

Calendar: [2024 PNW Comp Calendar](#)

- Open Bid for EGC/U14 Finals
  - Bid Form: [2023-2024 PNW Race Bid Form.xlsx](#)

The calendar is up – no changes so far. We are still looking for an ROC for the Evergreen Cup Finals. Jamie noted, on behalf of the EC, with the Evergreen Cup finals, it often gets pushed aside by ROC's, if it needs to move, or be GS/SL only, or... please propose holding this race. The executive committee is comfortable that can do 2GS/SL but cannot do SuperG, please let Justin know.

### **Final notes**

Officials update schedules are on the PNW site, as well as the certification classes in all zones. There will be an RA update important will be scheduled after teaching materials are available. The TD update will come after the FIS TD update.

### **Adjourn**

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #10:** Motion to adjourn @ 7:45p

Motion: Kent Towlernton. Second: Karl Wardrop. Motion **Passed**.