



Western Region Alpine Competition Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023

Time: 10:00 – 12:00 Mountain Time, Via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome and call to order T 10:07 BY Will Brandenburg, Vice Chair
2. Roll call and review of committee membership – Lucy Conklin, Secretary
Members: Dan Henry, Will Brandenburg, Troy Price, Lucy Conklin, Tim Hinderman
Lara Hildreth, Jennifer Danza, Beat Hupfer, Mike Ginsberg, Bridger Call, Kristin Waddle,
LaRue Seitz-Dettori, Roy Loman, Justin Rackley, Karl Wardrop, Sparky Anderson, Hilary
Lindh, Brennan Rubie,
Staff: Natalie Osborne, Kayla Wieczorek, Carma Burnett, Claudia Yamamoto, Bill
Gunesch, Jeff Pickering, Heidi Voelker, Randy Pelkey, Brad Saxe, Chip Knight
Guests: Alex Wilson, Jeremy Ueland, Uros Pavlovic, Ben Roberts, Nick Foster, Jessie
Lepel, Justin Rackley, Aaron Atkins, Mike Graves, John Rust, Devin Gill, Anika Angriman,
Todd Brickson, Gladys Weidt, Lester Keller
3. Review and approval of agenda and/or additions
No additions.
4. Review and approval of minutes from June 22, 2023
M/S/A: Mike Ginsberg/Karl Wardrop/Unanimous
5. Western Region Program Updates
 - a. Western Region Director – Bill Gunesch
Randy and Brade are on board. Busy preparing for the Chile project. WR staff
summit in Hood River and calendar planning a few weeks ago. Brad and Pick will
be on the road for club visits. Randy will be focusing on Nor Am and Elite
athletes. Skills Quest sign up links shared in the chat bar and will be emailed out
to contacts later today.
 - b. Western Region Youth Development Coach – Jeff Pickering
No report
 - c. Western Region Head Coach – Brad Saxe
No Report
 - d. Western Region Elite FIS Coach – Randy Pelkey
No report
 - e. Western Region Manager – Heidi Voelker
organized to get Chile project on the road. All good in the office.
6. Western Region Committee Reports and Proposals
 - a. Executive Committee Report – Dan Henry
No report



- b. Treasurer Report – Troy Price
Bill shared the budget on screen
(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1G1vnrULTUfAjEssD7b67vj--nIzQMZ48_7fnGkCoDQo/edit#gid=610497651). Employment obligation creates a tight budget. Wants to leave the travel budget in there to get the coaches out in the field. WEST Team athlete funding is still important to keep in there. May dip into the savings a small bit this season.
Wells Fargo accounts: Checking is at \$160, 836 Savings is at \$144, 379
Motion to approve the 2024 budget.
M/S/A: Troy Price/Karl Wardrop/Unanimous
 - c. Site Selection Committee – Bill Gunesch
2024 Competition Calendar
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fBmdVQuLqvHp54vtgoedRkk4KOffmGhqsBMWr5JnGQs/edit#gid=1861802308>
Thank you to everyone in the WR for getting their schedule agreements in on time. Schedule change SG and DH projects in Copper, U16 project in Sun Valley and Palisades project in the spring has been confirmed.
 - d. Development Committee – Jen Danza
5 meetings over the summer. Two proposals U16 champs' rotation, single vs double board for selection, plus Bill's elite series progression.
Discussions about selection process to the WEST Team. Explored coach education during WR projects and still in the thought process.
Jenn thanked the Devo Committee for a great summer of work for athlete development.
7. National Committee Reports –
- a. U16 and Older Working Group – Todd Brickson No activity
 - b. U14 and Younger Working Group – Jeremy Ueland
Last discussion regarding U10 and U12 course setting, nothing further.
 - c. Club Development Working Group – no activity.
 - d. Coaches Education Working Group – Ben Roberts
Review projects in the alpine training system of the level 100/200/300. New Education head, name has not been announced. Reviewing the language locker. Push towards the level 100 requirement has identified a lead development trainer for each division
Darryl Whitaker – Far West
Jennifer Danza – Alaska
John Rust – PNW
Shawn Smith - IMD
Paul Mannelin - Northern



- e. Quotas and Selections – Beat Hupfer No activity.
 - f. Regional Subcommittee – Bill Brooks No report
 - g. Officials Update – Roger Root
Fall clinic material will be available October 14th. Anyone with a 2022 or earlier is required to participate in an update this season. RA and TD's are required to attend an annual update and a regular review and update does not meet their requirements. At the end of 2023 season there were 2170 Alpine Officials in the WR, excluding X memberships.
 - h. US TD Working Group – Brian Hartman No report.
 - i. Chip Knight – provided project updates: YOG in Korea, 3 U16 projects: Whistler Cup, Alpa Cimbri, Opa Cup. Small scale NDG projects in November/December
8. Old business - none
9. New business
- a. U16 Western Region Site Selection (see attached)
M/S/A: Mike Ginsberg/Lara Hildreth/Unanimous
Discussion: Lara asked about establishing criteria for the host OC a few years ago and curious if the criteria has been released. Devin provided info that the checklist/parameters would be good to develop, Jenn has made a note for the committee to start working on. The committee is also aware that costs can change being two years out bid, especially for lodging.
 - b. Western Region Selection Boards (see attached)
M/S/A: Will Brandenburg/Mike Ginsberg/
Discussion: Troy Price what if all SG's are cancelled
amendment to proposal: If less than 2 SG races are contested within the WR during the season then selection will revert back to a 6 column double selection board.
M/S/A of amendment: Troy Price/Mike Ginsberg/Unanimous
Proposal as amended – approved unanimous
 - c. Access to Western Region Cup (Elite Series) Races (see attached)
M/S/A: Mike Ginsberg/Karl Wardrop/Unanimous
Discussion: question of which races are devo races. Bill reviewed the races for the 2024 season.
10. Motion to adjourn at 11:07 Karl Wardrop, 2nd Justin Rackley
11. Next meeting – TBD



ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

Date:

For consideration by:

Copy to:

Rule reference:

Reference:

Original Version:

The Western Region has abolished rotations for all events as of the 2023 season. Sites may submit bids in successive years. The regional director acts as the calendar commissioner and may solicit bids from traditional sites. Otherwise, it is a responsibility of the divisions to assemble bids from the prospective sites and submit them to the Western Region director, prioritized in order of divisional recommendation.

New Proposal:

When considering the U16 Western Region Championship Events, event location assignments should be done in a rotation process amongst the 5 divisions.

The rotation Process will be done as such:

1. The rotation will be completed by assigning the Championship event two years in advance to the hosting location in rotation.
2. The division will be responsible of ensuring the location and ROC is of appropriate standards to host a successful event.
3. The ROC will have two years time to do the following:
Year 1. Find sponsorships to help lower the costs (ex. hotel and banquet fees)
Year 2. Lockdown hard costs such as lodging discounts and meal plans

If the assigned ROC does not show, during year one, the willingness to find methods to make the event less costly, then the site selection committee has the right to revoke the site assignment.



Comments:

Below are listed the benefits of putting U16 Western Region Championships back on rotation.

1. Promoting ski racing in new locations
2. Promoting athletes to explore different ski areas instead of going back to the same locations
3. Promoting ski racing to local Resorts – help them understand what it takes to host an important event and what are the takeaways of hosting such events
4. Promoting more Officials' training – When hosting such events, the community comes together to lend a helping hand. With this, many young families become more involved in race organizing and hosting of the event. This allows the promotion of race Officials training during the two-year event preparation.

Submitted by:

Devin Gill - Western Region Development Committee



ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

Date:

For consideration by:

Copy to:

Rule reference:

Reference:

Original Version:

National Championships 2023 U.S. Alpine Championship (U18, U21, and Seniors)

The 2023 U.S. Alpine Championship will be hosted at Sun Valley, ID. The championship will include Super-G, GS and Slalom event.

Eligibility

Only those competitors who have participated in at least one race of the Western Region Cup races (*Sun Valley* in January and *Park City/Snowbird* in February) and the *Schweitzer Speed Series* SG races in February, in a particular event, are eligible to be included on the selection board in that event. Competitors who are unable to attend the qualifying races because of participation in a conflicting USST, NDG, or WR project will not be ineligible as a consequence. Members of W.E.S.T. have an exception; see the section describing the regional team.

Quota

The Western Region quota is 14 men and 14 women. The quota is filled using the Western Region Selection [procedure described](#) above with the following modifications:

- A 3-event board will be constructed using GS, SL & SG in that order
- 20% of the quota, rounded up (or at least one slot), will be reserved for discretionary selection. This (these) slot(s) may be filled by the Western Region director for development purposes. If they are used, the discretionary slots will be filled at the time the team is named.
- NAT Point List #18 will be used.

Athletes named to discretionary slots will not be considered in naming alternates to the team. In the case that a discretionary selection does not attend the competition, s/he will be replaced by the next alternate. Additional discretionary selections will not be made.

Racers must notify the Western Region office by confirming on the selection board by the specified deadline if they are interested in participating in this competition. The selection boards for this competition will only include eligible Western Region athletes who have intended.



See [appendix](#) for quotas to the U.S. Alpine Championship

U.S. U18 National Junior Championship (YOB 2005 & 2006)

The 2023 U18 National Junior Championships will be hosted at Mittersill, NH. The junior championship will consist of a Slalom, GS, Super G and Downhill events.

Eligibility

Only those competitors who have participated in at least one race of the Western Region Cup races (**Sun Valley** in January and **Park City/Snowbird** in February) and the **Schweitzer Speed Series** SG races, in a particular event, are eligible to be included on the selection board in that event. Competitors who are unable to attend the qualifying races because of participation in a conflicting USST, NPS, or WR project will not be ineligible as a consequence. Members of W.E.S.T. have an exception; see the section describing the regional team.

***World Cup Point Board**

DH GS SL SG

A B E D
G D Q E
R Z D Q
T Q B M

***National Seed Point Board**

DH GS SL SG

A X D C
F E X Z
Z M Q D
T D C Q

Selection for a 12 person, four-event team would be:

A, B, E, D, X, C, G, Q, F, Z, R, M

Selection for a seven-person, slalom and G.S. team would be:

B, E, X, D, Q, Z, M

*DH is currently excluded from the region’s selection boards

New Proposal:

Western Region Selection Board

The Western Region will use a double selection board for Slalom and Giant Slalom and a single selection board of head-to-head competition (World Cup Points) for Super-G for the US Alpine Sr. Championships, U18 National events, advancement to the Western Region Cup, RTG selection and other national events.

Setting up the Double Selection Board (Slalom, Giant Slalom)

The board has two parts. The first part is composed of World Cup points ranking (1st = 100 points, 2nd = 80 points...30th = 1 point) earned in identified selection races specific to the event. The second part of the board is based on U.S. Ski and Snowboard seed points from the National Points list valid on the selection date.

A column is established for each event on each part of the board. The columns will be listed in the order of GS and SL, which will be the order of selection. The World Cup points portion of the board will be first, followed by the seed-points portion of the board.

Setting up the Single Selection Board (Super-G)

SG ranking will follow GS and SL on the World Cup Point Board and will only include head -to-head results composed of World Cup point ranking earned in identified selection races specific to the event.

World Cup Points (Place Points)

World Cup points are used to determine place points. In calculating WC points, results will be purged of all foreign and non-Western Region competitors. Results will also be purged of USST athletes and athletes who are not of the birth year targeted for the selection. All remaining Western Region competitors will be included when calculating place points. The top 30 competitors will receive place points (100, 80, 60, 50, 45, 40, 36, 32, 29, 26, 24, 22, 10, 18, 16, 15, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1). In the case of a tie for one of the top 30 places, each tied racer receives the points corresponding to that position. The following racers receive the points for their finish position. (e.g., a tie for 2nd: racer 1 – 100 points, racers 2 and 3 – 80 points each, race 4 – 50 points, etc.).

Only half of the races contested per event may be used in calculating each racers place points in that event, if an odd number of races are held in an event, the number of races that may be counted will be rounded up to the next whole number (e.g. – three SL's contested, each racer counts his best 2).

Speed events (SG) – the Western Region Cup Series at the UOP in Park City (January) will count toward the 2024 Sr. National Event selections at Sun Valley **AND** U18 Nationals. The Western Region Cup Speed Series at Schweitzer, ID (February) will **ONLY** count toward the 2024 U18 Nationals event selections.

If a tie in World Cup points exists between two or more racers in a discipline., a racer's single best WC point result will be considered to break the tie. If a tie still exists, a racer's 2nd best WC point result will be used to break the tie. This process will continue through all results of the event. If a tie remains after all results have been considered, a racer who started the series with lower seed points in the event.

Selection Procedure

Selection proceeds left to right on each row starting with place points and ending with seed points – with the exception of SG National Seed points which are excluded from the National Seed Point board. When a racer who has already been picked is encountered in a column, the column is skipped, and selection continues with the next column in the same

row. When the last column in a row is reached, selection continues with the first column in the next row. For example, consider the following selection board:

World Cup Point Board			National Seed Point Board		
GS	SL	SG	GS	SL	SG
A	B	E	A	D	NA
C	G	D	F	E	NA
R	Z	D	B	M	NA
T	Q	B	M	D	NA

Selection for a 12 person 3-event team would be:

A, B, E, D, C, G, F, R, Z, M, T, Q

2024 National Championships

2024 U. S. Alpine Championship (U18, U21 and Seniors)

The 2024 U.S. Alpine Championship will be hosted at Sun Valley, ID. The championship will include Super-G, GS and Slalom event.

Eligibility

Only those competitors who have participated in at least one race of the Western Region Cup races (**Park City/ UOP in January – GS, SL, SG; Snow King in February – GS, SL**) in a particular event, are eligible to be included on the selection board in that event.

Competitors who are unable to attend the qualifying races because of participation in a conflicting USST, NDG or WR project will not be ineligible as a consequence. Members of the W.E.S.T. have an exception; see the section describing the regional team.

Quota

The Western Region quota is 14 men and 14 women. The quota is filled using the Western Region Selection procedure described above with the following modifications:

- A 3-event, 5-column board will be constructed using GS, SL & SG in that order
- Only the events of GS and SL will be using the double selection board for the selectin process (both a World Cup Point Board and National Seed Point Board)
- SG selections will be based off head-to-head results and only show on the World Cup Point Board
- 20% of the quota, rounded up (or at least one slot), will be reserved for discretionary selection. This (these) slot(s) may be filled by the Western Region director for development purposes. If they are used, the discretionary slots will be filled at the time the team is named
- NAT Point List #18 will be used

Athletes named to discretionary slots will not be considered in naming alternates to the team. In the case that a discretionary selection does not attend the competition, s/he will be replaced by the next alternate. Additional discretionary selections will not be made.

Racers must notify the Western Region office by confirming on the selection board by the specified deadline if they are interested in participating in this competition. The selection boards for the competition will only include eligible Western Region athletes who have intended.

U.S. U18 National Junior Championships (YOB 2006 & 2007)

The 2023 U18 National Junior Championships will be hosted at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and Snow King, WY. The junior championship will consist of a Slalom, GS, Super-G and Downhill events.

Eligibility

Only those competitors who have participated in at least one race of the Western Region Cup races (*Park City/ UOP* in January – GS, SL, SG; *Schweitzer in February* – SG; *Snow King* in February – GS, SL) in a particular event, are eligible to be included on the selection board in that event. Competitors who are unable to attend the qualifying races because of participation in a conflicting USST, NPS or WR project will not be ineligible as a consequence. Members of W.E.S.T. have an exception; see the section describing the regional team.

Quota

Western Region has a regional quota of 20 women and 20 men to the Junior Championship, of which a minimum of six men and six women YOB 2007 will be selected. The quota is filled using the Western Region Selection procedure described above with the following modifications:

- A 3-event, 5-column board will be constructed using GS, SL & SG in that order
- Only the events of GS and SL will be using the double selection board for the selectin process (both a World Cup Point Board and National Seed Point Board)
- SG selections will be based off head-to-head results and only show on the World Cup Point Board
- 20% of the quota, rounded up (or at least one slot), will be reserved for discretionary selection. This (these) slot(s) may be filled by the Western Region director for development purposes. If they are used, the discretionary slots will be filled at the time the team is named.

Athletes named to discretionary slots will not be considered in naming alternates to the team. In the case that a discretionary selection does not attend the competition, s/he will be replaced by the next alternate. Additional discretionary selections will not be made.



Racers must notify the Western Region office by conforming on the selection board by the specified deadline if they are interested in participating in this competition. The selection boards for this competition will only include eligible Western Region athletes who have intended.

Amendment: If less than 2 SG races are contested within the WR during the season then selection will revert back to a 6 column double selection board.

Comments:

Submitted by:

Western Region Development Committee - Will Brandenburg

Contact Person:

[Will Brandenburg](#)



WESTERN REGION ACC ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

Date:

For consideration by:

Copy to:

Rule reference:

Reference:

Background:

After discussion, the region's Development Committee wishes to continue advancing athletes to the WRC (Elite Series) using H2H results from the Wrangler Cup. This proposal overwrites item #2 of the attached proposal that was approved at the June ACC meeting. There is no fundamental change in the advancement system from 2022-23, but the entire procedure is explained, below.

New Proposal:

Field Size

Western Region field size to a WRC tech race remains at **80W/80M**

WRC Automatics

40 FIS JR Automatics will be named using the first valid FIS List in November (#10 for 2024) on a **3-event ITS** selection board (GS, SL & SG)

An athlete who is the top ranked Western Region finisher at a WRangler Cup selection race, and who is not already an Automatic, will become an Elite Automatic for the remainder of the season.

For 2023-24 this includes Snow King in Dec, Palisades in Jan, Schweitzer SG in Feb, Sun Valley in Mar

Any Western Region athlete who is not already an Elite Automatic, and who finishes within 6% of the fastest Western Region athlete at a Western Region Cup tech race, will become an Elite Automatic for the remainder of the season. USST athletes, foreign athletes and college athletes are not considered when determining the fastest Western Region athlete

Advancement from WRangler Cup

The remainder of the Western Region WRC field size of 80 will be filled using H2H results from WRangler Cup races on an ITS double selection board

WRangler Cup results used for advancement to the Western Region Cup are cumulative throughout the season

A **5-column double selection board** will be used following the procedure explained in the WestReg Handbook. The **SG NAT Pts column will be omitted**



There is no participation requirement for inclusion on the selection board

For 2023-24 these races will score toward WRC advancement: Snow King in Dec, Palisades in Jan, Schweitzer SG in Feb, Sun Valley in Mar

Comments:

New for this season highlighted in Green

Submitted by:

Bill Gunesch

Contact Person:

Bill Gunesch – bill.gunesch@usss.org



WESTERN REGION ACC ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

Date:

For consideration by:

Copy to:

Rule reference:

Reference:

Background:

Access to regional FIS events via divisional quotas. Quota numbers are based on the Regional Rank Quota Method described on page 26 of the Western Region Handbook.

New Proposal:

1. Divisional quotas to WRangler Cup (Devo) events will be based on a regional field size of 100 athletes/gender. 2023-24 WRangler Cup quotas:

	W	M
AK	6	6
FW	22	27
IMD	40	43
ND	9	8
PNW	23	16

2. The Western Region field size to WRC (Elite) events will remain 80 athletes/gender. Elite Automatics will be determined based on the process described on page 27 of the Western Region Handbook, and comprise roughly half the regional field size. Divisional quotas will be based on 40 athletes/gender. The minimum quota is adjusted back to 4 athletes/division.

	W	M
AK	4	4
FW	8	9
IMD	16	16
ND	4	4
PNW	8	7

Comments:

There are less FIS races on the 2023-24 regional calendar. The Devo field size is increased from 80/gender to 100/gender, allowing more access to FIS events.

The change back to Elite Series divisional quotas is moving away from advancement via H2H results. Is there a way to continue H2H advancement?

Submitted by:

Contact Person: