



Western Region Alpine Competition Committee Meeting

Date: Monday, May 13, 2024

Time: 15:00 – 20:00 Mountain Time

Sheraton Hotel, Park City, UT

Room Location: Prospector 1

MINUTES

1. Welcome and call to order – Dan Henry, Chair
2. Roll call and review of committee membership – Lucy Conklin, Secretary
Voting Members: Dan Henry, Devin Gill, Troy Price, Tim Hinderman, Beat Hupfer, Mike Ginsberg, Jenn Danza, Conner McDonald, Bridger Call, Kristen Waddle, LaRue Seitz-Dettori, Karl Wardrop, Sparky Anderson, Roger Root, Hilary Lindh
Staff: Bill Gunesch, Sheryl Barnes, Matt Lemon, Sharka Fabian, Brad Saxe, Jeff Pickering, Rady Pelkey, Carma Burnett, Claudia Yamamoto, Erin Renna
Guests: Aaron Haffey, Todd Brickson, Bo Maciejko, Becky Stone, Jo Abbott, Deb Lewis, Eric Garayoa, Cameron Smith, Ron Bonneau, Branko Zagar, Jeremy Ueland, Jessie Lepel, Ellen Tolstad, John Rust, Lester Keller, Aaron Atkins, Kristin Cooksey, Shawn Smith, Ron Kipp, Tori Lewis, Brian Tidd
Zoom guests: Lindsay Dowd, Gladys Weidt, Mike Savage, Angie Brown, Kevin Chaffee, Laola, Josh Transue, Carson Ruud, Brian Hartman, Ben Roberts, Jaimie Landwehr, Dave, Peter Girardi, Kenny Wilson, Evan Weiss, Kevin Keane Tami Strong, Mats Boehnke, Carl Guenzel, Bill Brooks
3. Review and approval of agenda and/or additions
M/S/A: Karl/Beat/Unanimous
4. Review and approval of minutes from April 22, 2024
M/S/A: Mike/Beat/Unanimous
5. U.S. Ski and Snowboard Staff Updates –
 - a. Alpine Development Director - Chip Knight
Not available
 - b. Membership – Sheryl Barnes, Matt Lemon, Sharka Fabian
Review of the FY 2025 Membership PPT (on the 2024 Congress FTP Site)
 - c. Competition Services – Margo and Jeff
Not available
 - d. Coaches Education – David McCann
Not available



6. Western Region Program Updates

a. Western Region Director – Bill Gunesch

Report is posted on the 2024 FTP Site

Report reviewed by Bill

Questions and Comments requested, none provided

b. Western Region Youth Development Coach – Jeff Pickering

Late getting the season going, missed volume/length and projects. Burke NPS project 17 to 20 WR athletes in early January. Goal was culture: training and racing together. TRS works well with this project due to snow conditions and field size. Does this always need to be in Burke?

Calendaring: issues of moving from sea level to high altitude. Keep development in mind, where racing/training/rest.

Just finished projects in Palisades, special thanks to Palisades coaches and OC. Look forward to information coming forward regarding summer and fall prep season.

c. Western Region Head Coach – Brad Saxe

Thank you to the ACC and Bill for their leadership, allowing myself to be back in this roll. Used this as an observational year. Attended Regional Elite FIS and a few Devo Series and received feedback from coaches. Thank you to the ROC's and Jackson, Park City and Snowboard especially for picking things up with quick changes.

At the FIS level we have strong skiers, looking to build the broad base level of athletes. Regional athletes attended Nor Ams and World JRs and at U18 Nationals, women on overall podium. Nor Am speed being our Elite Speed Series, we support speed prep projects, will continue to staff. 6 Women finished in top 30 in Nor Am DH standings, men's side 2 in the top 30. 1 WR Woman did score Nor Am tech points.

Structure of WR 2 Tier System is in hands of the calendaring committee, end of season devo series becomes more challenging with numbers.

Revitalize WR European trip, successful project and plan to continue. RTG programming is not going away with the addition of the PG team, July SL camp, Chile, etc Prep calendar is out, reach out with questions.

d. Western Region Elite FIS Coach – Randy Pelkey

Thank you to the ACC and WR Staff for bringing me on, been in observation roll this season. Goal to offer quality projects and work as a Region. Allow the bottom end to come in and train with the top end and do this consistently.

Athletes pretty competitive with the D team, sending athletes to big events – World Jrs, Nor Am. See a strong group of athletes coming forward. Just finished



up Palisades project, lost a day due to 2 feet of snow, multiple trails to train on, opportunity to train on different skis in one day. 10 athletes on the PG team in the upcoming season. Smaller groups allow for some creative training with other teams, addition of WR athletes, etc. The goal is to provide best quality training for WR athletes. Will be testing Sun Valley venues for World Cup Finals with WR athletes.

- e. Western Region Manager – sadly unstaffed, no report. We thank Heidi for her time as the Manager.

7. Western Region Committee Reports and Proposals

- a. Executive Committee Report – Dan Henry

No action since April meeting

- b. Treasurer Report – Troy Price

review of Use of Funds report as distributed (and attached to minutes)

Large increase in head tax as it comes through our account before paying to U.S. Ski & Snowboard with using ASR, this is different from previous seasons.

Closed out accounts payable by end of the Fiscal Year

\$23K loss instead of a budgeted \$40K loss

Question regarding how PG program is budgeted: athletes will be charged team fees and first year will be some difference between income and expense, eventually fully funded by athletes.

- c. Site Selection Committee – Bill Gunesch

Calendar discussion conducted along with adjustments.

Discussion about discretion codex calendaring to use within zones, possibility of moving the codexes.

Request discussion – clear delineation between Devo and Open. Devo and Open allows Divisions to fill the quotas, Elite the Region fills the quota.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UL5m3m_Hr6CLnWpceBvisblt2Ow546TwbrpG6mXuaGo/edit?usp=sharing

Move WR JR Champs to March, allows an Open FIS block against the U18 Nationals.

U14 and U16 Regional Championships discussion:

- adjustments to dates based on feedback

Spring DH Series discussion: run speed before or after nor ams? Coaches state speed in the front to allow Ski Team Participation. Another coach states tech first based on school schedules.

Calendar committee meeting to take place in the next week.

June 6th bids will be due, Calendaring Committee meeting June 7th



- d. Development Committee – Jenn Danza
start meetings after Congress. Any issues can be sent to Jenn via email.
8. National Committee Reports –
- a. Collegiate Report – Sparky Anderson
College calendar reviewed
Colorado January 6-8, World Uni Games in Italy, UOP and Snowbird/Bridger Bowl
Feb 2-8, RMISA Regional Feb 19-22 at Alyeska
NCAA and World Jrs are calendar conflicts in 2025
2026 UNR will come online to host
Questions/Comments requested, none provided.
 - b. U16 and Older Working Group – Todd Brickson
Outside Gate Proposal discussion – good for guidance, prep kids for DH, visual
perception at high speed, could create more issues with an athlete way off
course. Bill points out the gate teaches them line, terrain changes, etc.
WR Does not support this proposal.

WR discussion regarding the two TRS proposals (Development and Precisions).
Beat provided the result of the Classification group vote to pass the Precisions
version.

WR does not support the TRS required seeding for U16 and U14 Regional
Championships. WR Supports the use of the TRS for U16 Nationals.

Proposal regarding Athletes competing in another country – supported by WR,
allows for clarity. The tough part is knowing the athletes that are full time in
Europe and their plans, and that is a different discussion.

FIS season start dates proposal: questions regarding ENL and why so early.
Outside the box thinking and feel that its healthy.
This is a U.S. discussion that we are voting to move forward to FIS
 - c. U14 and Younger Working Group – Jeremy Ueland
SG outside gate removal proposal passed
TRS – development was passed
TRS – Precision was not passed
TRS – TRS Jr Champs passed
Common specs for GS and SG passed (this is housekeeping)
Vertical Drop Proposal Passed
U14 SG Training Proposal with U16's Failed
60" pole height proposal failed.
 - d. Coaches Education Working Group –Ben Roberts
Proposal to change structure of working group. Coaches WG and Club WG would
move under Development Sub Committee



Often items have been moved over to the Development Sub Committee and feel the WG being in that line will work better. WR approves the move
Jeremy brought up that the Club WG approved this motion, too.

Level 100 requirement proposal to decrease requirement for younger level, or weekend, coaches. Discussion: How do you track this? Does it pigeonhole coaches?

- e. Quotas and Selections – Beat Hupfer
Racing outside of the country proposal, previously discussed in this meeting.
- f. Regional Subcommittee – Bill Brooks (Lucy pinch hitting)
Two Masters Proposals are based around Masters, non-discussion at this WG

Regional Representation at Sub Committee level proposal: Concern that restructure is moving Regional Representation off the ASC and how to create balance within the Sub Committees.

Discussion: a bit of confusion on how to create representation on the committees, does it become At Large? Do the members need to be working group members? Does the Chair count towards the Sub Committee balance? Need to chat further with John Norton for clarification

WR Supports the Health of Sport Task Force moving to a Working Group under the Development Sub Committee

- g. Officials Update – Roger Root
AOEWG Approved minor changes to certification matrix for RA's and TDs. TD portion will move forward to the TD WG.
Discussion of TRS proposals, previously discussed in this meeting.
Gate Judge proposal supported
Timing Proposal language clean up supported.
Divisional Managers are working with ASR to improve the platform, hope we can stay with one platform within the Region for continuity.
WR AO Chairs conference call – keeping in touch and working through items together this way.
Further comments requested, none provided

- 9. US TD Working Group – Brian Hartman
Increase in training TD's this season.
TD matrix language being addressed at upcoming meeting
TD workshop and further agenda items to be discussed.
Further comments requested, none provided.

- 10. Old business



11. New business

- a. Codex \$\$ when event is moved – good neighbor policy that cancelled location obtains fees from the new OC.

Regional reschedule or re siting discussion needs to take place with the Region, especially regarding Memorial races is a concern. What is the process if it is a Memorial Race, and is there is a possibility to

- b. Proposals as provided by the ASC – previously discussed
- c. Claudia thanked Carma, Kayla, Natalie, Erin and Heidi for being such a great collaborating team to create solutions, and keep sanity, in the season.
- d. Calendar proposal

Motion that U14 and U16 Regional Championship events are on a 2 year race bid process. (U16's still on rotation, U14's still on open bid).

M/S/A: Troy/Mike/Unanimous

12. Motion to adjourn Bridger/Troy/Unanimous

13. Next meeting – June 7th for Site Selection Meeting (bids due by June 6th)

June 12th WR ACC Summer Meeting 10am Mountain Time