 

**Pacific Northwest Ski Association  
A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard**

**ACC Working Meeting // PNW Convention 2024**

**Saturday, June 1st, 2024 - 9am-Noon, 1pm-5pm PST**

**Columbia River Hotel, The Dalles, OR**

John Rust called the meeting to order at 9:00a.

**Roll Call:**

Present - in Person:

Karl Wardrop, Danasue Kusakabe, Lindsay Davisson, Matt Morrell, Mike Graves, Jamie Landwehr, Rob Cravens, Chris Loewy, Shana Sweitzer, Roger Root, John Rust, Roger Taggart, Alan Lauba, Nils Eriksson, Kent Towlerton, Dave Lyon, Katie Loewy, Tim Durkin, Karen Lundgren

Present - Zoom:

Dan Henry, Laurenne Ross

Present - Gallery:

Steve Maynard, Dean Tonkin, Tom Carter, Trevor Tyas, Jeremy Wood, Uros Pavlovcic, Bill Brooks, Max Kuske, Aaron Ruddick, Jeff James, Libby Brumet, Jennifer Snyder, Kevin McDevitt, Carson Ruud, Catherine Harndon, Doru Nica

Not Present:

Justin Rackley, Jeff Kray, Ted McNamara, Bill Gunesch

**2023 - 2024 ACC** **Motion #11**: Approval of the 2023 ACC Fall Meeting Minutes (September 27th, 2023):

Motion: John Rust. Second: Lindsay Davisson. Motion passed with no opposition.

- Document: [ACC Fall Meeting 2023 Minutes.docx](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZSJaQIrz4LZCTrWMYpsqnHmbl2CUL1-z/edit?usp%3Dsharing%26ouid%3D107471413407005741403%26rtpof%3Dtrue%26sd%3Dtrue&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1716945595061361&usg=AOvVaw2U2QQOzYsvQulGh47JVJlO)

**2023 - 2024 ACC** **Motion #12:** Approval of the Agenda

Motion: John Rust. Second: Dave Lyon. Motion passed with no opposition.

**Opening comments**

***PNW President – Karl Wardrop***

Welcome to everyone. Congratulations to Justin and his wife for welcoming their new baby girl. Everyone is healthy and happy. In his absence, Karl will be facilitating the meeting. Despite the slow start, we had a good season. Thank you to the programs and ROC's for hosting events this year, and to Claudia for keeping the wheels on the bus. Our predecessors put us on a good place and as an organization we are financially sound, where other divisions had a rough go without much in reserve.

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

Thank you to all for attending. Commented on how lucky we are to enjoy and be doing what we do. Main report will be presented at board meeting. There is PNSA and PNW gear on the back table, please take it all home.

***Western Region Report - Dan Henry***

There is a WR Culture presentation that will be made available for everyone to read through. WR in comparison to other regions is doing well with the most members on the national team. Financially, have about a year's worth of reserves. Heidi's replacement has not been finalized yet and may be a shared position. There was positive discussion regarding the coaching structure change resulting in the addition of Brad and Randy last year. Idea was to support regional athletes and help them stay with their home teams. They can continue to collaborate with other regions on projects but gives WR more autonomy to make decisions.

Calendars - the FIS calendar bids are due on the 7th, then Friday or early next week the committee will meet. U16 Championship bids are now 2 years out.

Points Task Force - a study on the relevance of national points is going to get started.

* There is a push for head-to-head qualifications.
* True top tier athletes never use their points for qualifying.
* Massive point discrepancies across the country.
* Discussion
  + National points is a an incremental way to see improvement.
  + PNW uses them for elite passes
  + We used to have divisional points, we could bring that back if necessary.
  + Regional sub-committee asked to provide a resource to participate in the task force.

Other Discussion:

Claudia thanked Dan for helping push the re-write of poorly scripted motions at Congress. From Bill, a thank you for ensuring the governance process was followed related to the Vice Chair taking over for Karen.

There is talk of going back to the AK model w/stipend. Perceived to be an expensive trip, but we don't want to lose them. Working to get new venues across the region. Stevens & Targhee did a great job.

**Reports**

***Director of Alpine/ACC Chair Report – Rackley***

See report as posted.

***U12/YSL Chair Report – Davisson***

Slow season so needed a lot of flexibility with the race schedule.

Buddy Werner Championships:

* 106 men and 102 women were eligible for BWC with the Feb 1 licensing requirement.
* The split gender schedule was successful
* There wasn't as much participation in Skills Quest as expected.
* Awards were presented as updated last year.

May 9th virtual U12 meeting

* Mary presented a motion to only score the 1-7 seeded athletes at BWC. If it passed, it would have been brought to this ACC meeting. It did not pass.
* There was a request for more divisional YSL races in the West, similar to the OR and East.
* Positive feedback on the suggested use of hero gates for U10 and below.
* Chloe moved out of division and will need to be replaced on the sub-committee. Shana suggested to add Garrett.

***U14 Chair Report – Matt Morrell***

Early groundwork brought good years to date so not a lot of changes over the past few years. As with everyone this season, races were met with the need to punt & move. The executive committee considered all factors to make the best decision on changes possible. Thanks to 49 for offering and SARS to host finals. Speed camp was excellent again - thank you Roger and PNWSEF. U14 champs at Targhee went well - good job to Shana for handling the challenging logistics.

Additional Notes

* Inexpensive lodging is key - Targhee & Mission both fantastic as examples.
* Ski up form motion passed and will be added to the ACR next year.
* Ski up and 30m ski issue needs to be addressed.
* Weekday races should be addressed in scheduling. John mentioned they are losing kids because of this.

***U16 Chair Report – Mike Graves***

The year started out slowly. December lost 5 GS start opportunities and 3 SL starts. NW Cup was rescheduled in January, thank you Jamie and SARS for making that work. Moving quickly into Sun Cup then qualifiers #3 then right into Alyeska. There were 8 lower starts than last year, but a good mix for this age group. This group has no new motions at this time.

There is positive momentum for this age group with the numbers of results remaining consistent and a large group. In comparison to last year, WR Champs had not as many top 10 results, but 3 qualified for nationals and 6 to the regional training group.

Looking forward to next season, NWC has become a good series, let's continue to look for new venues that are hard fast steep and challenging.

***U18/U21 Chair Report – Jamie Landwehr***

There is a lot of experience in this group with Dave from the West, Kent from Oregon, and Jamie from the East. It was great to see the teams working together within the division. All of the FIS programs worked hard to get athletes where they needed to be. Slow start, but overall a good season. This year there were 10 less tech and 4 less speed starts than last year. PNW had 3F and 2M of the 20/20 WR quota. The numbers for licenses has remained fairly constant for the men even though nationally is trending down. Encouraging to see the women's licenses trending up. Good participation from U18+ at NWC this season.

Other highlights:

* Payton Wells won an elite tech series (Tommy was the last male to do that from PNW).
* Was great to see elite athletes coming back - Tommy forerunning and handing out awards at NWC. Luke was at Golden Rose getting involved with athletes and helping on the course crew. Class acts for both of them.
* Dan talked about regional staffing for FIS which was good to allow our athletes stay at the club level.

Questions / Discussion:

* How do we stack up against other regions on FIS licenses?
  + Membership is declining nationally, more in Rocky. West has trended the same or up a bit, so we must be doing something right, although when costs are so high to park and get passes, that may be having an affect.
  + East and Rocky don't seem to have the opportunities for FIS to compete at the US Ski & Snowboard level causing attrition. We should keep this in mind to help keep more from moving to HS in OR.
* **Will we keep the requirement of 3 starts for eligibility for WR champs (if not an automatic)?**
  + **This question brought a lot of discussion that needs to be addressed by the working group and continue in the fall meeting.**
    - The idea was to bring points and attendance, creating a meaningful series in our division, but doesn't help their FIS starts.
    - What's the tradeoff? Schedule is more important than the 3 required starts.
    - In the past they came back on their own and we didn't have a need to set a requirement. The idea of athletes going between 2 levels of racing is normal, but 3 is more complicated. This "carrot" to encourage them to come back is good for the next level. Higher level FIS kids used to come back to these races (not that long ago).
    - Historically NWC was FIS, before that was really a U18 series, now, it's more of a U16 series, making it less enticing as some feel they are stepping back.
    - Is there a way to incentivize them rather than penalize them?
    - Maybe put a restriction on who goes to Elite FIS so only those appropriately leveled go.
    - Maybe change NWC to focus on U18 development to go to FIS.
    - Suggestion that we coordinate better as a division on travel logistics and coaching. If we communicate 2-4 weeks out as a group, opting in or out. This may help keep costs down. Especially with Devo races with a lot of kids, creating camaraderie - experience - memories. Elite starts IS next level.
    - Maybe bring back divisional FIS team travel.

***Masters Chair Report – Rob Cravens***

Thank you to the clubs that stepped up to host Masters events (Dean, Nils, Jamie). These events help our divisional revenue as an example, $2k was donated to PNWSEF for speed camp. The Wy'East cup that Scroggins has taken over will donate all proceeds to PNWSEF. Training grants/funding will be offered to some of the top kids to come back to the camps. A change going forward will provide grants only to the speed camps.

Participation numbers are pretty stable, with the new website, there are new athlete information requests handled by Peter Christian, Member Coordinator.

Announcement about the PNWSEF sponsor member plaques - Thank you to Trevor Tyas for stepping up to this. The division's BNet program over the past 3 years has made good progress. They will be split on both sides of the river improving our safety systems, moving some of the older net to tech events and new to the speed.

***Coaches/Ed. Chair Report – Shana Sweitzer***

Chairs are Ted McNamara and Shana Sweitzer.

* The U16 project went great and the U14 champs also went well. Everyone loved the charcuterie plates.
* U14 PNW/FW performance project - Ian did a great job as the head coach. With all of the spring projects being stacked on top of each other, it was hard to fully staff. Suggestion to have teams commit earlier and consider coaches in supporting roles, but for these types of projects, strong coaches are required. **Far West is expecting that PNW hosts next year.**
* PNW SL Camp - Carson will be the head coach. Reservations are made and registration will be open soon.
* Dryland Camp - Shana is talking to Amy Tarnow about a camp during the 2nd week of August. Focus on lifting, mental, Skills Quest, fitness. Learning this early is important.
* L100's - thank you to John for getting so many set up and completed this year. Having quality trainers is important for us to get the certs completed, get involved if you're interested. Some that we currently have are John, Nils, Roger, Jillian. Congress discussed a limited group of trainers to provide a more concise presentation, modeled after the PSIA program.
  + **Question: if someone fails their L100 - will this preclude them from working?**
* New subscription model coming for US Ski & Snowboard education - Bronze / Silver / Gold - as an attempt to manage CE more closely.
  + **Question: will the charging model also follow PSIA where there is a back charge if someone takes time off. Laurenne will take this up the chain.**
  + From the May newsletter, a link to FAQ presentation on this issue.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jp8SloqCPgtMH1thckO8V2ZyalTV7rlXEUEbGdRhi iE/edit

***Rules/Tech Chair Report – John Rust***

Chairs are John Rust & Tim Durkin.

The proposal from Rocky & East at congress to remove outside gates in SuperG failed.

Other changes are still being put together:

* TRS at the national level - 4 run method needs to be used
* Athletes competing abroad - new rules around this
* Course setting specs for U10 = U12
* Gate judges for GS - motion failed, so we will be able to as we see fit.
* Restructuring of the Alpine Sport Committee proposed
* Ski Up Rule - ski specs need to be figured out how this will work.

***Officials Chair Report – Roger Root***

The division has a new TD - Danasue's information has been submitted to US Ski & Snowboard.

The committee needs some work on zonal representation - currently Craig, Jillian, Bill, Roger. There is also a down trend in Alpine Officials where there's growth in Coaches.

Thank you to Roger for providing updates throughout the season getting more officials legal.

Plan for the coming year (Malcom, Karl, Claudia, Exec. Comm):

* Updates will be free with a goal to cover everyone that needs one so we don't run into any issues with Referees or Course Setters next season.
* Membership dues for coaches & officials was increased by 10.00
* New Cert clinics = $25.00
* Get monthly TD calls back on track
* Set up regular RA meetings - building community
* Set up regular T&C meeting - building community
* Scheduled:
  + 10/27 Portland - 1st scheduled new cert clinic. (New cert clinics include the update)
  + 11/3 Seattle - new cert clinic
  + 11/12 National update for USCSA - will meet the requirements for USSS update + added components for USCSA.
  + 11/17 Coeur d'Alene - new cert clinic
  + Updates will be presented on Zoom weekly after 10/27

***PRESENTATION: SCOTT "BOSS" HAUG USCSA***

Scott Haug has been the broadcaster for USCSA Nationals since 2004. The presentation was a promotion of USCSA and encouraging participation. Our local contact, replacing Ron Bonneau, is Rachel Urban. Other ways to connect are through uscsa.org and the National Office is open year-round. Their races are open to 16+, not just college athletes. The head tax is 25.00 and US Ski & Snowboard membership is not required.

**Old Business/Motion topics (discussion):**

***Development of PNW Performance Objectives*** (not currently a motion) - Taskforce (Shana Sweitzer, Dave Lyon, Jamie Landwehr, Mike Graves, Uros Pavlovcic, Seth McCadam)

* Document: [PNW Objectives-2023v1](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A7YjPr5AegY5POAAHJ_OxV6-GJKrlxrySgSN76JzSTU/edit?usp%3Dsharing&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1716945595063350&usg=AOvVaw1YCsbp65FpPT4DjT-VhthT)
* Presentation: The idea behind this is to determine how to measure our success with benchmarks based on what we might be able to control - fitness, training/education, marketing.
* Benchmarks such as:
  + 2 tracks - Performance and Promotional
  + How many do we send to nationals
  + How are we doing with membership
* A development plan needs to be created:
  + Coaches' education & certification
  + Calendaring
  + Projects and Camps
  + Collegiate racing
  + Create a mechanism to track against the benchmarks
* Discussion: There was extensive discussion on how to make this happen.
  + We can reach the benchmarks if we retain athletes in our division by creating social connections and having quality staff.
  + Create a culture of excellence and promote with a consistent message.
  + It's hard to promote alpine ski racing to the general public when they don't know what they are watching.
  + What else can we promote? LIfe skills they can take with them - time management, critical thinking, individual sport with a team sport vibe
  + Testimonials like this from Laurenne: "PNSA taught me to be tough, flexible and adaptable, how to ski in ruts, feel the snow with my feet and body, not rely on vision, and gave me access to great coaches (and so much more). Nils, Kent, and Randy were all instrumental in making this happen and allowing me to get to where I got in my career."
  + Another testimonial - Will Brandenburg said that having a coach like Randy in the West allowed him to stay home.
  + Check out the video that CMAC produced called [Heart & Soul: Pursuit of Sport](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cj9wE6QBBHY&t=10s)
  + Education is often the reason kids leave for academies.
  + Other sports are already recruiting 5-year-olds for travel - we need to keep this in mind.
* **Action Items:**
  + **Create the baseline - evaluate where we really are**
  + **Refine & come up with a development plan in the 2 tracks (performance / promotion)**
  + **drop our egos and work together**
  + **Get more stories from athletes who have reached that higher level who stayed home.**
  + **Meet on Sunday morning to brainstorm further.**

**2023-2024 ACC Motion #13:** Calendar Committee - John Rust (deferred from Fall):

Motion to consider this motion: John Rust. Second: Jamie Landwehr. Motion passed with no opposition.

* Document: [V2 PNW Calendar Committee Motion 2023 PNW ACC Motion Form 2023.docx](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UzHOzNnRVpLvrH-HIzt4DmYjHi7JzrVc/edit?usp%3Dsharing%26ouid%3D107471413407005741403%26rtpof%3Dtrue%26sd%3Dtrue&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1716945595063797&usg=AOvVaw2GjzvjozU0HqcWAElZdxOT)
* Discussion: Strike out the last sentence that defines the time frame. Make a change from Seth to Jamie.

**ACC Structure By-Laws Revision - Landwehr (redacted Fall - move forward to Fall 2024):**

* Document: [PNW ACC structure 2022/2023 Update.docx](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/document/d/1l9UxcFZFaoI_d3AOYZhBdQRd0IV9N51M/edit?usp%3Dsharing%26ouid%3D107471413407005741403%26rtpof%3Dtrue%26sd%3Dtrue&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1716945595064176&usg=AOvVaw3nIBXPZont58EA31Ka77m2)
* Presentation: The last one was done 10 years ago. Justin has cleaned this up and shows how we are currently operating. Please review and be prepared to vote on Sunday of Convention. This was not done so we will move to the next Fall meeting.

**New Business/Motion Topics (discussion):**

**2023-2024 ACC Motion #14:** Championship Team Travel Phone Policy

Initial Motion & Second is in the document. Motion as written failed with only 1 vote for.

* Discussion: Edit the motion to present it as a guideline rather than a hard fast rule. Changing “could” to “would” and allow the coaches of the project to use their discretion on time of removal and return of devices.

Motion: Shana Sweitzer. Second: Jamie Landwehr. Motion passed with 1 opposed and all others approved.

**2023 – 2024 ACC Motion #15:** PNW Comp Calendar Blocks

Motion to approve the blocks: Jamie Landwehr. Second: Dave Lyon. Motion passed with no opposition.

* Presentation: Prior to convention, the regional blocks were received from Bill and Justin/Jamie reviewed in preparation for today. Bids are due to Jamie by 9:00a, June 2, the EC will meet and review, then present to the ACC.

***PNWSEF Presentation***

Kerry Godfrey Scroggins, President of PNWSEF gave a great presentation of the year in review. Sharing their mission, vision, and values to support nordic and alpine athletes to make their dreams come true.

Leaving the board is Rob Rosen, Chuck Kenlan, and Teresa Cravens. Joining the group will be Rena Lunak, Kate Sundquist, and Zeb Millslagle. There is currently diversity on the board in location and gender. They had 100% participation in their annual assessment, which helps to set goals and move forward. The ambassador presence in the cool red puffys has been successful, as well as the coaches party during Golden Rose.

New collateral was available which helped to provide more athlete grants to be given out - this year 37 for $18,500 - higher than last year of 12 for $13,000. In addition, the following was also provided by PNWSEF with hopes of continuing the upward trend.

PNW Division Grants $32500

Concussion program $1000

Bnet $5000

Speed Camp $10k

Alpine Coaches Education $2000

Nordic Jr National Entry fees/wax $11500

Radios for nordic $3k

Awareness & Fundraising brought $15,000 from the digital auction and $18,640 from the annual appeal, which will start earlier this year. Elite passes $18k, Sturtevant's Demo Day $9500, NW Masters Finals $1000, Golden Rose $2500. The Rocky Mountain Elk Club implemented a Member Sponsor program that PNWSEF brought forward - if you're interested, there are really cool plaques.

**2023 - 2024 ACC Motion #16:** Adjourn

Motion - Nils Eriksson moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:07p. Second - Kent Towlerton. Motion passed with no opposition.