

2023 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Ski Jumping / NC Sport Committee Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2023; DoubleTree (Summit Ballroom A), Online Video/Teleconference

Martina Lussi, Chair

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

8:05 a.m. Call to Order – Martina Lussi

Mr. Petri took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Members Present: Martina Lussi, Nick Hendrickson, Jasper Good, Colin Delaney, Matt Petri, Paul Jastrow, Decker Dean, Logan Sankey

Others in Attendance: Alan Johnson, Anders Johnson, Zak Hammill, Rex Bell, Tore Sneli, Darryl Landstrom

2. Confirmation of SJ/NC Sport Committee Membership 2022

- Martina Lussi	Chair	5/2023 End of Term
- Bryan Fish	US SKI Nordic Manager	By employment
- Decker Dean	Athlete SJ	5/2023
- Jasper Good	Athlete NC/BOD	5/2026
- Logan Sankey	Athlete SJ	5/2024
- Blake Hughes	National Coach	No Longer Employed 5/2023
- Nick Hendrickson	National Coach NC	5/2023
- Colin Delaney	Regional Rep, East	5/2023
- Matt Petri	At Large	5/2023
- Paul Jastrow	Officials	5/2024

3. Confirmation of the Subcommittees

Executive Committee

Martina Lussi	Chair	5/2023
Bryan Fish	USSS Nordic Mgr.	By employment
Jasper Good	Athlete NC/BOD	5/2026
Blake Hughes	Coaches	5/2023
Paul Jastrow	Officials	5/2024

Judicial Committee

Martina Lussi	Chair	5/2023
Bryan Fish	US SKI Nordic Mgr.	By employment
Jasper Good	Athlete NC/BOD	5/2026
Blake Hughes	Coaches	5/2023
Paul Jastrow	Officials	5/2024

4. Opening comments by Chair – Martina Lussi

5. **Approval of minutes, Spring USSA Congress 2022**

Motion by Colin Delaney; **Second** Paul Jastrow; **Motion carried** unanimously.

6. **Domestic Calendar Report – Alan Johnson**

Mr. Johnson reviewed the process for building the 2023-2024 domestic calendar and reviewed the calendar itself. FIS events are first, starting with the World Cup, Continental Cup, then FIS Cup. Once those events are set, we then build the U.S. Cup around it. Then, the regions fill in their regional events and Junior Olympic qualifiers.

Mr. Johnson indicated that the calendar is 99% complete for this season. We are waiting for the final determination from USA Nordic (USANS) ski jumping and Nordic combined (NC) staff regarding where the tryouts will be for World Juniors and Youth Olympic Games. We should have those finalized in the next 3-4 weeks. Mr. Jastrow mentioned that if one of the Junior World Championship qualifiers do not want to take one, Ishpeming is willing host.

Motion by Matt Petri to approve the 2023-2024 domestic calendar and addendum; **Second** Nick Hendrickson; **Motion carried** unanimously.

7. **Sport Reports**

Men's and Women's Nordic Combined – Nick Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson presented the:

- Individual team members for 2022-2023
- Individual results for 2022-2023
- Team goals and achievements for 2022-2023
- Team highlights and challenges in 2022-2023
- Team recommendations for 2023-2024
- Team focuses and goals for 2023-2024
- His presentation is available upon request.

Mr. Hendrickson reviewed the Youth Olympics age groups and quotas. Typically, they have had ski jumping and Nordic combined during the same time period. This upcoming year, they will be held in separate weeks.

Mr. Hendrickson referred to the discussion that took place the day before regarding the IOC's statement that Nordic combined will not be part of the Olympic Winter Games after 2026. He commented on ways to bring more visibility to our men and women at World Cup competitions to drive greater exposure on social media platforms.

Mr. Hendrickson also described how the US Army World Cup Athlete Program works for those that may have an interest like Ben Loomis.

Men's and Women's Ski Jumping – Anders Johnson

Mr. Johnson presented the:

- Individual team members for 2022-2023
- Individual results for 2022-2023
- Team goals and achievements for 2022-2023
- Team highlights and challenges in 2022-2023
- Team recommendations for 2023-2024
- Team focuses and goals for 2023-2024
- USA Nordic/Hopplandslaget Partnership highlights
- His presentation is available upon request.

Mr. Johnson shared that this was our first year with our partnership with Norway (NOR) and it exceeded our expectations and opened up more possibilities for the future. Tore Sneli was an excellent addition to this team, as was access to NOR sports science and suit-making capabilities.

On top of that, we were able to successfully bring a World Cup event back to the United States in Lake Placid for the first time in nearly two decades which received rave reviews from FIS and many nations.

Youth Development Report – Anders Johnson

Mr. Johnson explained that after Karin Bauer's departure we have a gap, and our focus has been on working with NOR on coaches development via seminars and materials. This will be a priority next season.

8. Proposals and Report from Officials' Subcommittee – Paul Jastrow

Mr. Jastrow shared that we have six judges nominated to National Level FIS status, including four judges from Alaska, one judge from Central, and one judge from RMD. In addition, Eric Hyatt has achieved a FIS Chief of Competition B license.

Mr. Jastrow stated that the Subcommittee:

- Created a manual process for annual rules reviews/test and are ready to go with the test for the 2023-2024 season when each person gets their USSS Officials Membership.
- Assisted the Alaska Division with preparing for the nomination of judges for national level status.
- Will develop and publish detailed officials pipeline materials.
- Will begin the development of level-specific rule guidebooks for officials, coaches and organizers for use at events.
- Work with USANS Venues Subcommittee to create and implement a ski jumping hills inspection process.
- Will create a working group of officials and coaches for equipment control procedures and rules that will form a plan that can be implemented over the winter, which will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

Rule changes that went into effect that we need to adopt:

- Annual age group changes to reflect the year updates.

- Rule 113.2 changed to indicate that one jump judge should be appointed from each division for national championships.
- Rule 105.2 changed to add a 3cm suit measurement tolerance and eliminate waist belt language.
- Rule 164.11 changed to include entry fee increase to \$375 for Junior National Championships.
- Rule 163.2.5 will indicate that an event organizer must present a balanced meal plan that includes nutritional, non-allergy options.
- Rule 405.3.2 will add \$100/day per diem for hill inspections, including one day prior/after for travel costs.

Motion by Colin Delaney to accept above rule changes; **Second** Nick Hendrickson;
Motion carried unanimously.

9. Proposals and Report from Coaches' Subcommittee – Zak Hammill

Mr. Hammill described that the Coaches' Subcommittee meets twice a month on topics ranging from the U.S. Cup (which is moving to the Calendar Subcommittee) to coaches' education. Over the last 18 months a major topic of discussion has been junior development that works for club coaches and national team coaches.

Once a month we have coaches education seminars that are led by national team coaches. We plan to record them and put them on the USANS website. The Subcommittee also advises on the selection criteria for teams (e.g., Youth Olympics Game and Junior Worlds). Every region is represented.

10. Announcement U.S. Ski & Snowboard (USSS) Award Winners

Ms. Lussi reviewed the award winners in the list below (list on page 7 of these minutes).

Additionally, Steamboat Springs won gold for Overall Club of the Year and the Paul Bacon Award for event organization went to NYSEF (Lake Placid, NY) for the second year in a row due to the effort that went into the World University Games, ski jumping World Cup, and NCAA finals.

11. USANS Presentation – Adam Provost/Rex Bell

Mr. Provost shared that his first 9 months were a whirlwind.

- USANS concentration on national teams led to a successful Norwegian ski jumping partnership that may extend to Nordic Combined next season.
- USANS hosted a wildly successful World Cup in Lake Placid with a 3-month lead time in collaboration with the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and NYSEF.
- USANS reached terms with USSS on an operating agreement to partner with them more closely, including moving to their offices, collaborating on sponsor partnerships, and hiring Anders Johnson as a new USSS Sport Director.

Mr. Provost emphasized how important transparency is for the organization which has been a challenge regarding past debts/expenses. Over the last year USANS improved on

expenses but fell short on revenue. USANS' budget will be pulled together in the next two weeks following these meetings. Staff and Board are fully behind both sports.

Ms. Lussi asked questions that she has been asked about the USANS and USSS partnership:

- a. What changes will athletes experience?
 - Mr. Provost explained that there will be no new funding from USSS during this quad cycle, but we will be introduced to USSS sponsors, and we are talking with the USOPC about high performance grants. We will still be under the USANS brand, but our uniform supplier is TBD. In the next quad, we expect more funding opportunities. Sophie Goldschmidt, USSS CEO, wants more World Cups in the U.S.
- b. What are the plans for clubs and development?
 - Mr. Provost emphasized that development and grassroots is important to him. Coaches education is important to trickle down from the national teams to clubs. Mr. Hammill and the Coaches Subcommittee has been supporting this with regular meetings and seminars. The U.S. Cup series is also important for showcasing our clubs. Finally, we need to figure out what is needed before replacing the Sport Development.
- c. How will we communicate the great progress USANS is making?
 - Mr. Provost stated that the focus will be on reaching beyond our already engaged base and clubs to get them involved. Social media engagement is much improved, but we need to look at other means.
- d. Will you be holding parent/athlete meetings?
 - Mr. Provost shared that, yes, we will be announcing in the next two weeks athlete and parent meetings to discuss our programs and costs.

Mr. Bell described the Norwegian ski jumping partnership. He shared that our two program's interests are very much aligned. NOR is interested in sport growth and has resources that we don't have. We spent 4 months discussing what a partnership would look like, programming, how we would cooperate, what we would need for staffing, and how to address equipment and budgets.

We had our first formal activity together in June of 2022 and had some of our male athletes move to Lillehammer. On the women's side, by midseason things were very well integrated. On both the men and women's teams, we are training and competing as one team. NOR got at least as much out of the partnership as we did. There's a lot of confidence in the process within the teams, which made a big difference on the hill over the course of the season.

We had hoped to do more coaches education and sport development, but our staff was stretched thin, so we didn't have that opportunity, but the intention is for NOR to visit some of our clubs in 2023-2024.

Mr. Bell indicated that we spend a lot of time thinking and talking about why last season training jumps were often better than competition. Our thinking is that our athletes made a

lot of technical changes and it's human nature to revert to what is more deeply ingrained when in a stressful situation like a competition.

Mr. Tore Sneli (NOR) shared that from his perspective the collaboration between the U.S. and NOR has been a great experience and so fun to take part in. He saw that during this late summer, our athletes were taking huge steps forward and were performing on a high level. Into the season, it could be that athletes are ending up being more defensive instead of attacking. His observation is that the U.S. athletes have high spirits and high motivation all the time, that they are young, and this is something that with repetition, they will learn and progress.

12. Expiring Terms 5/2023 – Martina Lussi

Martina Lussi	Chair	5/2023 End of Term
Decker Dean	Athlete SJ	5/2023
Nick Hendrickson	National Coach NC	5/2023
Blake Hughes	National Coach	No Longer Employed
Colin Delaney	Regional Rep, East	5/2023
Matt Petri	At Large	5/2023

Ms. Lussi explained that the USOPC made a change so that committee members cannot be employed and vote. The following changes will be made:

- Mr. Hendrickson will become a non-voting member.
- Anders Johnson will replace Mr. Hughes and become a non-voting member.
- Mr. Hammill has agreed to replace Mr. Delaney.
- Mr. Dean came on board during COVID and would like to serve another two-year term.
- Mr. Petri agreed to continue for another term.

Ms. Lussi mentioned that she would like to also add a voting member from the NC community (Johnny Spillane and Dave Jarrett have expressed interest). Mr. Bell expressed the view that whoever fills that position needs to be intimately involved with USANS and take on a real leadership role in taking steps to help save Nordic Combined. She also shared that she asked Rebecca Dayton from ORDA to join the Committee as an event organizer representative. Ms. Dayton is checking with ORDA attorneys.

The USSS Governance and Nominating Committee will select a candidate for Ms. Lussi's successor tomorrow for approval by the USSS Board.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Matt Petri to adjourn; **Second** Colin Delaney; **Motion carried** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m. MT.

US Ski & Snowboard Award Winners 2022/23

Athlete of the Year – Ski Jumping:	Annika Belshaw
Athlete of the Year – Nordic Combined:	Stephen Shuman
International Coach of the Year:	Trevor Edlund
Domestic Coach of the Year:	Adam Loomis
Club of the Year:	NYSEF, Lake Placid, NY
Official of the Year: Mittelstadt Award	Keith Hansen
Paul Nash Layman Award: (NC National Champion)	Jared Shumate
Sons of Norway Jumping Award: (Best Junior at National Championships)	Erik Belshaw
Paul Bietila Award: (Normal Hill National Champion)	Casey Larson
Torger Tokle Award: (Large Hill National Champion)	Casey Larson
Dorothy Graves Award: (Female Jr. National Champion U-16)	Sandra Sproch