

## U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD FREESKI SPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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2021 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Congress  
Virtual Meetings - Go To Meeting Platform

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### SPORT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Tom Yaps - Chairperson  
Ashley Deibold - FIS Representative / Freeski Sport Development Manager  
Ben Ryerson - Far West Representative  
Coggin Hill - PNSA Representative  
Tyler Conway - Intermountain Representative  
Greg Ruppel - Rocky Representative  
Martin Sundquist - Central Representative  
John Kimble - Eastern Representative  
Jeremy Forster - Freeski Sport Director  
Tom Wallisch - Athlete Representative SS (BOD)  
Brita Sigourney - Athlete Representative HP  
Joss Christensen - Athlete Representative BA  
Whitney Gardner - Athlete Representative SX  
Maggie Voisin - Athlete Representative At Large  
Keith Shipman - Coaches Representative  
Wes Preston - R&O Representative  
Mike Mallon - USASA Representative  
Dan Shuffleton - At-Large Representative  
Chris Haslock - At-Large Representative

### **Freeski Sport Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Virtual Meetings - Go To Meeting Platform

Meeting Chairman: Tom Yaps  
Committee Members Present: 15  
Committee Members Excused: 1  
Management/Team Members Present: 8  
Additional Attendees: 15

#### **1. Chairman Calls the Meeting to Order**

Tom Yaps called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

#### **2. Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum**

Ashley Deibold made a roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

### **3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Mike Mallon moved, and Chris Haslock seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from 2020. There were no comments and the motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Membership Report - Sheryl Barnes**

[See addendum 1.](#)

### **5. U.S. Ski & Snowboard Events Update - Sarah Emery and Nick Alexakos**

- a. Thanks for everyone's efforts this season.
- b. Aspen 2021 - Grand Prix and World Championships Recap ([see addendum 2](#))
  - i. Planned the World Championships in 47 days.
  - ii. 20 World Championship/World Cup competitions, 400 athletes, 35 nations, and over 4,000 COVID tests.
  - iii. Allowed us to keep US Olympic Freeski and Snowboard ski team qualifications intact.
- c. Tentative Events Schedule
  - i. Dec 1-4: Looking for Big Air location
  - ii. Copper freeski and snowboard halfpipe events
  - iii. Jan 3-9: Slope and pipe at Mammoth culminating with team naming
  - iv. Olympics
- d. Holeshot Tour 2020/21 Recap
  - i. Thanks to Copper, Mike Mallon, Ted Martin and Corely for making it happen.
  - ii. For 2021/22:
    1. Trying to deliver a NorAm level course, but there is some conflict between the two sports—can they run on the same course at that level, etc. Continuing to evaluate what makes sense for the sport and events.
    2. Copper and Gore Mountain committed to hosting events.
- e. Virtual TCMs/registration by appointment only
  - i. Hatch: Got a lot of good feedback about virtual TCMs and there is desire to continue that route.
  - ii. Nick: I think we will continue down that path. If we need them in person for weather or such, we can do that.
- f. Rev Tour
  - i. Aspen 2020/21 Recap
    1. Running Rev Tour on a made for TV course was

- challenging in terms of judging.
- 2. With the World Champs the week after, we were stuck with what we had for Rev Tour and there were concerns about jump sizes and modifications.
- ii. Copper 2020/21 Recap
  - 1. Copper stepped in at the last second and held the pipe and slope second event for Rev Tour.
  - 2. Able to test video judging during slope. There's a lot to work through financially and technically, but we learned a lot from using the system and hoping to use it at slopestyle comps in the coming years.
- iii. 2021/22 Info
  - 1. Pipe and Slope at Aspen on Feb 12-17.
  - 2. Mammoth and Copper are other two locations but TBD on dates—ideally one in late January and one in early March and hoping to coordinate a Futures tour around those events.
  - 3. New partnership with Aspen and collaborating to bring snowboarding back to the Aspen Open.
  - 4. Freeski Aspen Open will be on X Games courses.
  - 5. There will be a petition to start for those who want to qualify for next year but weren't able to compete last year due to COVID.
  - 6. Hoping to have a conversation in subcommittee meetings about the pre-qualified list for next year and how we incorporate USASA rankings since there were no Nationals this past year.
  - 7. Futures Tour
    - a. Last season we honored carryover spots and with the landscape of events, we will continue to do that next season
  - 8. There will be a petition process for athletes who weren't able to compete due to COVID, travel restrictions, etc.

## **6. Freeski Department Update - Jeremy Forster**

- a. 2020/21 Season Update
  - i. Congrats and thanks to everyone for working through COVID and adapting to a unique season last year.
  - ii. Lot of time and money spent on COVID protocols.
  - iii. World Championships were originally going to be in China and then it was split between sports so different nations started taking different components. Canada was supposed to host halfpipe, slopestyle, and big air but that fell through due to their COVID restrictions so we had the opportunity to host it in Aspen.

- iv. Hosting World Championships backed up with the World Cup as part of our designated Olympic tryout event was a big opportunity.
- b. Fundraising & Foundation
  - i. Direct grants from existing funds in the organization.
  - ii. Piloted and seeded the neck gaiter concept so that we can prove it and sell it in future years to help with travel costs.
  - iii. Fundraiser at Aspen around the World Cup raised \$50,000.
  - iv. Podium incentive program at all different levels from NorAms up to World Cups for athletes that are wearing Spyder or Volcom gear.
  - v. We are able to commit on the frontend of this season to reimbursing pro team athletes for airfare, lodging, and camp fees for the upcoming season.
  - vi. The Davis fund has made a commitment to help support freeski and snowboard athletes.
  - vii. Very encouraged at the efforts that have taken place—still work to be done.
- c. Welcome Elise Saarela as new team manager.
- d. FIS Update
  - i. Going to review team criteria this summer and try to bring forward some age to rank criteria in halfpipe, slopestyle, big air to provide another pathway for objective qualification into the teams.
  - ii. OWG criteria
    - 1. FIS meetings are ongoing.
    - 2. Evaluating various points list and how COVID impacts those. We'll review those changes when the coaches are back and potentially look at making any amendments to Olympic criteria based on those revisions and other impacts that were unforeseen going into this season.
- e. OWG Update
  - i. There was talk about removing logos from neck gaiters but Tiger stepped in to ensure it didn't happen.
  - ii. Typically a 24+ month process to plan everything but this year it has become a 7-9 month process due to limited access to China and the Tokyo games this summer.
  - iii. Anticipating China will be strict with access and protocols.
  - iv. No decision on families or spectators yet and the decision will likely come after the Tokyo games.
  - v. OWG are a week earlier than usual with snowboard slopestyle and ski big air as the first events on Olympic schedule with training dates starting on Feb 2 and Feb 4, which backs right into the X Games week. We've been talking to Aspen and X Games about that and they are evaluating their schedule.
- f. Development - Ashley Deibold
  - i. Development camps

1. Most of our development activities got interrupted by COVID this past year so our focus is to get development camps going again this year.
  2. No Project Gold camps planned yet but hoping to move in that direction.
- ii. Events
    1. Main goal is to get the NorAm tour going again.
    2. Continuing to invest in Futures Tour events.
  - iii. Coaches Roundtables
    1. Hoping to move these up a bit into the beginning of the summer so folks can learn from each other and take it back to their program planning for the upcoming season.
    2. Stay tuned for details.
  - iv. Personal Spots
    1. Proposed that the personal spots that athletes won for winning the NorAm overall tour in 19/20 get carried forward for those athletes to the 21/22 season.
  - v. FIS points list modification
    1. FIS base points list will be calculated from end of 18/19 season through end of 20/21 season so base points will come from a two year performance.

## **7. Coaches Education Report - Gar Trayner**

- a. Level 100
  - i. Reduced content to one day delivery to reduce travel and overnight stays and number of people in a clinic was reduced.
  - ii. Removed in-person classroom elements and had conference calls on front and back of the one day assessment for candidates.
  - iii. Done a lot of work to deliver the new Level 100 curriculum.
- b. Level 200
  - i. Last summer we pushed hard into level 200 development and we're really close to finishing that for snowboard and freeski.
  - ii. Hoping to have the content ready to coaches moving into this winter.
- c. Two other courses built out:
  - i. Coach developer training
    1. Scalable and replicable process for consistent content delivery to coaches.
  - ii. One for existing coaches gain access to updated curriculum
- d. Club Development Program
  - i. Great organic growth.
  - ii. Is a resource and support to clubs and gives them an assessment tool to climb the ranks from a bronze to silver to gold club.
- e. Community outreach
  - i. 27 webinars from last summer to last December and 8,000 people attended.

- ii. Some were sport education specific, some informed of best practices and guidelines during COVID.
- iii. Zoom is a great way to communicate with the entire membership and will continue to be a part of our strategy even as we move back to in-person experiences.

## **8. USASA Report - Mike Mallon**

1. National Championships
  - a. If we can't do National Champs this year, Regional Champs is plan b
2. College membership
  - a. Working with USCSA to provide further discounted athlete membership for college students to keep athletes engaged and make it easier for them to keep competing
3. Points adjustment
  - a. Last year we applied national points adjustment across the board, which created a two year average and so this year we had a massive inequality—had to turn kids away and oversold events so there was an inability for kids to compete equally.
  - b. Going forward, the only logical solution is to bring everyone back to the same starting point by having all athletes begin the season at zero points.
  - c. Three best season results averaged will qualify you for Nationals.

## **9. Committee Appointments**

### **PNSA Representative**

Mike Hanley was elected by acclamation for PNSA representative. Mike Hanley abstained from vote.

### **Rocky Representative**

Greg Ruppel was re-elected by acclamation for Rocky representative. Greg Ruppel abstained from vote.

### **Central Representative**

Leaving it open for right now.

### **Big Air Athlete Representative**

Willie Borm was re-elected by acclamation for Athlete Big Air Athlete representative. Willie Borm abstained from vote.

### **SX Athlete Representative**

Whitney Gardner was re-elected by acclamation for SX Athlete representative. Whitney Gardner abstained from vote.

### **At Large Athlete Representative**

Maggie Voisin was re-elected by acclamation for At Large Athlete representative.

Maggie Voisin abstained from vote.

#### Coaches Representative

Keith Shipman was re-elected by acclamation for Coaches representative.  
Keith Shipman abstained from vote.

### **10. New Business**

- a. Comp Guide Review
  - i. Ashley: I'd like to propose to work with TDs to go through the freeski/freestyle book looking at the freeski rules to see which, if any, we can eliminate and reference back to FIS rule book to eliminate confusion. After we go through and redline things, we will send it back out to the committee to review and vote on before we go to print.
- b. SX Funding Discussion
  - i. Mike: This is a motion to ask the U.S. Ski & Snowboard leadership to re-evaluate the national team funding model for SkiCross and report back to us with their findings.
  - ii. Jeremy: The idea of equal funding across the sports isn't realistic—funding is based on performance, etc. It's less about equal funding and more about having enough funding to support programs. But I think it's good to make sure this evaluation is a point of topic for the board and new CEO.

Brita Sigourney moved, and Chris Haslock seconded the motion to support Mike's motion about Ski Cross and bring it to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard board. There were no comments and the motion passed unanimously.

### **11. Floor Open for Comments/Questions**

Mike Yaps asked if there were any questions.

### **12. Closing Comments & Motion to Adjourn**

There being no further business, Ashley Deibold moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Erin McNeely, Secretary of Meeting

**Addendum 1**

# Freeski Sport Membership Categories



Membership Category	Age Category	SafeSport	Screen	Avalanche	Sanctioned Competition	Notes
General	0-17					Restricted to those 17 & Under
Non-Scored Athlete	18-100	X	X	X	X	<b>Meets compliance requirements for corresponding USASA membership category</b>
Competitor U11 & Under	0-10				X	
Competitor U13	12-13				X	
Competitor U15 & Over	13-100	X	X	X	X	<b>Meets compliance requirements for corresponding USASA membership category</b>
Official	18-100	X	X	X		<b>Meets compliance requirements for corresponding USASA official's membership category</b>
Coach w/Official	18-100	X	X	X		<b>Meets compliance requirements for corresponding USASA coach and/or technical secretary membership category</b>
Volunteer	18-100	X	X	X		<b>Meets compliance requirements for corresponding USASA membership category</b>
Short-term	0-17				X	Restricted to those 17 & Under
Short-term Foreign	18-100				X	Available to foreign athletes coming to the U.S. for an event
						All short-terms are restricted to 1 event per season

**Where requirements are noted, they apply to anyone turning 18 at anytime during the season**

Family Cap Refund is \$500

Additional memberships may be purchased at the cost of the highest membership

# Membership Updates



Important Reminders:

- Membership renewal deadline returns to October 15th
- Membership cards will only display those memberships for which all requirements have been met
- Those with incomplete requirements will remain on pending (ineligible) status until all requirements have been met\*
- Members on pending status are not eligible to participate in U.S. Ski & Snowboard events until all requirements are met
- FIS registrations will be activated once all U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership requirements are successfully completed
- Membership business hours – Sunday coverage to be determined

# Background Screening



Members turning 18 **at any time during the season** (July 1 – June 30 annually)

- Those turning 18 at any time in the season must register for screening at their 18th birthday
- There is a 45-day window for screening to be completed and for U.S. Ski & Snowboard to receive a green light determination
- On the 46th day the member will be placed on pending status and prohibited from participation in U.S. Ski & Snowboard events and **will be dropped from any points list occurring during pending status**

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# Background Screening



- All adult members, excluding some alpine masters and short-term foreign members, are required to undergo background screening every other season (term subject to change)
- A green light screening determination is required to fulfill this requirement
- Please allow several weeks for the screening process to be completed
  - Individual screening times will vary
  - Foreign screenings may take a month or more
- Other requirements such as SafeSport training, Introduction to Avalanches Course, and Coaching Fundamentals may also apply
- **Must be completed to activate FIS License**

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# Coaching Fundamentals



- All coach members, excluding those Certified Level 100 or higher, are required to complete Coaching Fundamentals every two seasons
- Final exam score of 70% or higher is required
- **Members have 30 days to complete the course. If the course isn't completed within 30 days, the members access will expire. At that time members will be required to repurchase the course at \$10**
- Completion of this course is a prerequisite in order to be certified as a Level 100 Coach
- Other requirements such as background screening, SafeSport training and the Introduction to Avalanches Course may also apply

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# SafeSport Training



- **All members turning 18 & older at any time during the season are required to complete SafeSport training through the U.S. Center for SafeSport to activate your membership. Substitutions are not permitted.**
- SafeSport Course and Refresher Schedule
  - Year 1 – Core SafeSport Trained Course
  - Year 2 – Refresher 1 Course
  - Year 3 – Refresher 2 Course
  - Year 4 – Refresher 3 Course
  - Year 5 – The training schedule begins again
- **All SafeSport Courses have been moved to new Learning Management System (LMS) Platform - <https://safesporttrained.org/>**
- **Members will be required to reset their password**

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# SafeSport Training



- Those turning 18 at any time during the season will be required to complete SafeSport training upon registration
- Members may use training from other NGB's and affiliated entities under USOPC and/or U.S. Center for SafeSport umbrella
- Please use the same email on SafeSport as you do for your my.us skiandsnowboard.org account
- Other requirements such as background screening, Introduction to Avalanches Course and Coaching Fundamentals may also apply
- Must be completed prior to FIS License activation

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U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

# Introduction to Avalanches Course



- This brief course was developed through a partnership between the Utah Avalanche Center, BRASS, and U.S. Ski & Snowboard
- The purpose of this course is to make you aware of avalanche and snow safety, and to make you think twice before going off-piste or entering the backcountry without the proper gear and training
- All members turning 18 and older are required to complete training to activate membership
- Other requirements such as background screening, SafeSport training and Coaching Fundamentals may also apply
- Must be completed prior to FIS License activation

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U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

# Club Registration Process



- The deadline for club registration is December 31, 2021, after which a \$50 late fee will apply
- All club minimum standards must be met in order for clubs to be in good standing
- Please plan ahead. Early registration is key!

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U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

# Club Minimum Standards Update



## Club Membership Requirements

- Ensure those in a position of authority over or in regular contact with athletes are members at a level which triggers background screening and SafeSport training. This includes board members, staff, adult athletes, and volunteers.
- The club volunteer membership is sufficient to fulfill Board membership compliance
- Club must provide a list of board members for auditing purposes. Club must provide updates to board member list as changes occur
- All club coaches regardless of participation in U.S. Ski & Snowboard events must be members.

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U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

# Club Minimum Standards Update



## Athlete Safety Compliance

- MAAPP:
  - Club must adopt and enforce U.S. Ski & Snowboard Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) and provide education to all constituents including club board members, staff, parents, athletes and volunteers on limiting one-on-one interactions between certain adults who have regular contact with authority over minor athletes.
  - Club must offer and give training to minor athletes with parent/legal guardian consent using the U.S. Center for SafeSport's youth athlete online trainings (available from the Center and in age-appropriate categories).
    - Parent and age-appropriate training may be found on the [U.S. Ski & Snowboard's SafeSport Resource page](#).
  - Club must certify to U.S. Ski & Snowboard that it has implemented MAAPP and, when required, has obtained the appropriate parent/legal guardian consent as allowed under the MAAPP.
- Adhere to U.S. Ski & Snowboard's concussion policy.

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# Club Minimum Standards Update



## Business Entity

- Provide evidence of legal existence in their state of primary business operations.
  - For example, clubs must show that they are a licensed business entity in good standing.
- Examples of documentation may include a current business license, certificate of good standing from state in which the club is incorporated, a link to the business' page in the Secretary of State's business lookup in the state you are incorporated or other proof of business existence.

## General Liability Insurance

- Demonstrate club possesses general liability insurance.
- This requirement may be satisfied either by joining U.S. Ski & Snowboard's CLIP program or providing U.S. Ski & Snowboard with satisfactory evidence of coverage with minimum coverage substantially similar to what is provided by CLIP.

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U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

# Club Minimum Standards Update



## CLIP Requirements

- Membership is required for club members/participants. All club participants (board members, staff, all athletes, officials, and select volunteers) must hold an appropriate and current U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership
- The low cost "General Non-Competitor" membership option is available for those 17 and under who participate with the club but do not need a competitor's membership

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# Important Dates and Info



- October 15<sup>th</sup> - Early bird registration deadline
- December 15<sup>th</sup> – FIS late fee goes into effect
- Weekend Coverage (Sunday TBD) runs October – March
- Contact Information
  - [membership@usskiandsnowboard.org](mailto:membership@usskiandsnowboard.org)
  - 435-647-2666
  - Online Chat

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U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

## Addendum 2

### U.S. Ski & Snowboard Event Report

### 2021 FIS World Championships- Snowboard & Freeski

Aspen, CO

March 10-16, 2021



*Colby Stevenson & Alex Hall- Men's Slopestyle Chloe Kim and Maddie Mastro claim 1st and 2nd in HP Amid pandemic, Aspen hosts a successful FIS WSC*

## EVENT FACTS

**Location:** Buttermilk Mountain, Aspen, CO

**Event:** 2021 Aspen FIS World Championships

**Disciplines:** Snowboard Halfpipe (3/12) | Snowboard Slopestyle (3/13) | Snowboard Big Air (3/16)  
Freeski Halfpipe (3/12) | Freeski Slopestyle (3/13) | Freeski Big Air (3/16)

**# Athlete Participants:**

<b>Snowboard Slopestyle:</b>	56 men (29 countries)   29 women (18 countries)
<b>Freeski Halfpipe:</b>	22 men (10 countries)   15 women (9 countries)
<b>Snowboard Halfpipe:</b>	27 men (12 countries)   18 women (10 countries)
<b>Freeski Slopestyle:</b>	50 men (18 countries)   24 women (15 countries)
<b>Snowboard Big Air:</b>	58 men (29 countries)   27 women (18 countries)
<b>Freeski Big Air:</b>	51 men (18 countries)   26 women (16 countries)

**Top USA Results:**

<b>Snowboard Slopestyle (women):</b>	Jamie Anderson - 2nd
<b>Snowboard Slopestyle (men):</b>	Redmond Gerard - 4th   Dusty Henricksen - 7th
<b>Snowboard Big Air (women):</b>	Jamie Anderson - 7th
<b>Snowboard Big Air (men):</b>	Judd Henkes - 7th
<b>Freeski Slopestyle (women):</b>	Marin Hamill - 5th   Rell Harwood - 10th
<b>Freeski Slopestyle (men):</b>	Colby Stevenson - 2nd   Alexander Hall - 3rd
<b>Snowboard Halfpipe (women):</b>	Chloe Kim - 1st   Maddie Mastro - 2nd
<b>Snowboard Halfpipe (men):</b>	Chase Josey - 5th   Chase Blackwell - 6th   Taylor Gold - 8th
<b>Freeski Halfpipe (women):</b>	Hanna Faulhaber - 4th   Brita Sigourney - 5th   Devin Logan - 6th   Svea Irving - 10th

**Freeski Halfpipe (men):**

**Birk Irving - 3rd | Alex Ferreira - 4th | Aaron Blunck - 5th | David Wise - 10th**

**Freeski Big Air (women):**

**Maggie Voisin - 9th**

**Freeski Big Air (men):**

**Mac Forehand - 4th | Alex Hall - 7th**

**Credentialed Attendees: 624 (comprised of athletes, coaches and other U.S. Ski & Snowboard guests)**

**Media Recap:**

In efforts to follow local health guidelines to limit gatherings and exposure to both international teams and local personnel, all media was managed by a collaborative team of Aspen and U.S. Ski & Snowboard onsite who distributed photos, videos, news, etc to over 60 outlets off site.

[Event Media Center](#)  
[Media Report](#)

**Event Photos:** [Freeski](#)  
[Snowboard](#)

**Broadcasts:**  
**Domestic:**

<u>AIRDATE</u>	<u>Network</u>	<u>TIME (est)</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Household</u>	<u>Total Viewers</u>	<u>Cumulative Households</u>	<u>Total Cumulative Viewers</u>	<u>International dist</u>
3/13/21	NBC Sports	12:00 PM	1.0	0.39	470,000	987,000	470,000	987,000	574,000
3/13/21	NBCSN	12:00 AM	2.0	0.03	21,000	44,100	21,000	44,100	26,000
3/14/21	NBC Sports	12:00 PM	1.0	0.47	573,000	1,203,000	573,000	1,203,300	708,000
3/16/21	NBCSN	12:00 PM	1.5	0.01	14,000	29,400	14,000	29,400	19,000
3/16/21	NBCSN	1:30 PM	1.0	0.27	333,000	699,300	333,000	699,300	474,000
3/16/21	NBCSN	3:30 PM	1.5	0.02	26,000	54,600	26,000	54,600	28,000

4/11/21	NBC Sports	2:00 PM	1.0	0.27	333,000	699,300	333,000	699,300	474,000
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International: