



## Alpine Sport Committee

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Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – Via Zoom Meeting

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### Agenda

Meeting Chair: Karen Ghent

#### Alpine Sport Committee

Karen Ghent, Edwards, CO ..... Chair / BOD Alpine Rep  
Warner Nickerson, Tilton, NH ..... Vice Chair / Athlete Rep / BOD Athlete Rep  
Darryl Landstrom, Minneapolis, MN ..... Recent Past Chair  
Mike Bowman Winter Park, CO ..... R/C Regional Representative  
Bill Brooks, Spokane, WA ..... Regional SC Chair  
Charles Christianson, Anchorage, AK .... Athlete Rep  
Julia Ford, Canaan, NH. .... Athlete Rep / BOD Athlete Rep  
Doug Hall, Maryland, NY ..... Technical SC Chair **absent**  
Dan Henry, Spokane, WA ..... Western Region Representative  
James Jensen, Hart, MI ..... R/C Regional Representative  
Breezy Johnson, Jackson, WY ..... Athlete Rep  
Ted Ligety, Park City, UT ..... Athlete Rep **absent**  
Dan Marshall, Manchester, NH ..... Eastern Regional Representative  
Jon Nolting, Steamboat Springs, CO ..... Education SC Chair  
John Norton, Lake Placid NY ..... Eastern Regional Representative  
Aldo Radamus, Edwards, CO ..... Development SC Chair  
Laurenne, Ross, Bend, OR ..... Athlete Rep  
Leanne Smith, North Conway, NH ..... Athlete Rep – **absent**  
Paul Van Slyke, Lake Placid, NY ..... FIS SC Chair  
Andrew Weibrecht, Lake Placid, NY ..... Athlete Rep - **absent**  
Chip Knight, Park City, UT ..... USSS Development Director  
Patrick Riml, Park City, UT ..... USSS Alpine Director  
Anouk Patty, Park City, UT ..... USSS Director of Athletics  
Bill Slattery, Buffalo Grove, IL ..... Honorary - **absent**  
Tom Winters, Tucson, AZ ..... Honorary - **absent**

#### Guests

Darlene Nolting, Paige Roberts, Lucy Conklin, Bill Gunesch, Beat Hupfer, Jeremy Ueland, Roger Kimball, Todd Brickson, Jeff Weinman, Mike Ginsberg, Heidi Voelker, Karen Korfanta, John Higgins, Arnie Huftalan, Tom Sell, Chuck Hughes, Samantha Streletsky, Rob Lipton, Joe Paul, Brad Wall, Ellen Tolstad

1. Welcome and call to order. 10:01am
2. ASC roll call  
Karen notes that Will Brandenburg needs to step down as Western Region representative and has vacated that position; she thanks him for all the work he has done.
3. Review and approval of agenda  
Karen notes that Anouk needs to be added to agenda, she will be inserted after item 6.1 and item 7.2 ASC Operating Procedures will be moved to immediately follow Anouk. Karen asks if there are any objections to this change, there are none.  
Aldo requests adding Entry Fee Task Force update after his Health of Sport Task Force update. Karen asks if there are any objections to this change, there are none.

4. Review and approval of the May 17, 2023 minutes  
Karen received message from Doug Hall with respect to 6.7, it was not a unanimous vote in favor, he opposed it. No other comments offered regarding May minutes.
5. Review of the 2023 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Congress schedule
  - 5.1 Monday, May 9-17, 2024, Park City, UT – similar format as last year, first meeting beginning Thursday will be on zoom, then rest in person.
  - 5.2 Deadline for proposals: Monday, April 25, 2024.
6. Reports (5min ea.)
  - 6.1 Board of Directors – Karen Ghent  
Spent most of her time on Operations Procedures update; participated in some meetings Anouk hosted with clubs; she notes that Kip Nelson was re-elected to a second 4-year term.
  - 6.2 Anouk Update (inserted into agenda)
    - She has spent the last few months looking to get more connected to clubs; to get their feedback and be able to provide better service and support.
    - An alpine working group was formed consisting of staff (Anouk and Chip), all regional directors, Karen joined for some, Gus Kaeding, Bob Poehling and Warner Nickerson as athlete rep. Working group has met with about 25 clubs thus far, more will be communicated with.
    - She recognize that our country has a different set of challenges than other smaller countries do because of our size.
    - She notes that mission of clubs and USSS is often not aligned; clubs may be focused more on participation or helping athletes get to college, not necessarily moving them on to US Team (although there are a few clubs which are very performance focused).
    - There is a lot of respect for our Alpine Development regional staff, but they often feel disengaged from the National organization.
    - It is impressive how some of the larger clubs are very well resourced with gyms, college counseling, coaching, psychology, etc; this means the bar has been raised and any programming we at the national level offer must surpass what athletes might have at their club level.
    - Cost of sport issues; this is an expensive sport and it is recognized that the pool of athletes we draw from tend to be those who can afford to live in ski towns, this is a very difficult issue.
    - General question is raised by the clubs – what do we do as the NGB? There is confusion about what we do at national level, development side and as the NGB; as an organization we need to clarify what we do.
    - Recognizes there has been a cultural shift regarding the NDG camps; people realize that if they cannot attend a camp, does not mean they will be omitted from the talent pool; still need to strive to get schedule of NDG camps out early. Clubs support NDG camps, but note that they need to offer more than the clubs can offer.
    - NCAA age waiver feedback; universal support to get age waiver changed.

insert 7.2 ASC Operating Procedures Update

- The ASC has a directive from USOPC, Legal Department at USSS and Anouk to reduce the size of the committee to comply with good governance.
- Darrel, Chip and Karen worked on this together with the legal department and Anouk. They will continue to work with subcommittees.
- A redline version of the Operating Procedures will go out and another meeting called to get feedback.
- Anouk notes USSS is looking for consistency across their sports
- Anouk notes she is in favor of pushing the work down into the WG's

- It is noted that Operating Procedures were last updated in 2016.
- Proposal for updated structure to go out by end of February.
- Please see Karen's slide deck for further detail.
- Warner provided clarification regarding athlete representation: Representation needs to be 20% 10-yr athletes and 13% needs to be "10-year-pus" athletes. Requirement at the ASC level only
- Nolting: regional representation is important on the ASC

### 6.3 FIS Reports – Patrick Riml

- There has been pushback from IOC regarding format of Alpine Team Combined; it will not be in the next Olympics; athletes put forward a different format.
- Athletes proposed different format with one athlete doing speed, another tech athlete doing SL for both men and women with WC points awarded in DH and SL for those skiers; this proposal passed and is supported by IOC; it was put on schedule for 2026 games.
- A letter was submitted by athletes from smaller countries who might not be able to make up a team; proposed that athletes be able to make up matches between countries; due to controversy with this topic a WG will be formed to develop it further; this event is pulled from this year's FIS races.
- Flouro ban is effective this season, there will be random testing at COC and WC.
- There is a lot of controversy surrounding this especially with testing equipment producing different results and athletes/techs being outspoken about using flouro on their equipment.
- A midterm calendar has been created for the next two years, which includes some races in North America.
  - Question from Breezy; how many machines are available at FIS races? Patrick admits it will be a very big challenge, there will be cheating, issue has been raised at FIS level.
  - Breezy states there were people clearly using fluouros in S. America; what is procedure for bringing a complaint. Patrick responds it would be handled same way as any equipment protest; formal protest must be made and equipment confiscated and sent to Switzerland. It is clear this will be a very big challenge, especially if skis must be shipped for testing; this takes skis away from someone for an indeterminate amount of time.

### 6.4 Alpine Director Report – Patrick Riml

- Conditioning camps over the summer were successful.
- Challenges going to S. Hemisphere for training with snow conditions.
- Women's NZ group were going to pull out, but continued on and had an excellent training session. Good results at ANC.
- Two unfortunate injuries among women athletes; Nina rebroke her leg and Ava has a torn ACL; both will be out for the season.
- Women speed group went to S. America; even though conditions were not always good, they did have a good training session.
- Very warm in EU; mixed conditions for training.
- Satisfied with preparation period work. Saw good improvements.
- Looking forward to races in US.

### 6.5 Alpine Development Director – Chip Knight

- Busy summer, very large national team requiring reallocation of resources from national development program.
- NDG/National criteria are focused on head to head competition.

- Youth Olympic Games will be held in S. Korea; we have long list of 20 men and 20 women; targeted towards U18 athletes.
- U16 Development exposure will be expanded with addition of Alpe Cimbra to Opa Cup and Whistler Cup to provide 3 international trips.
- Speed development for FIS and U16 level athletes will take place at Copper with 3 projects.
- A calendar including all regional events has been created for those who wish to see what is going on around the country in a single graphic.
- Please see Chip's slide deck for additional detail.

## 6.6 Regional Director Reports

### 6.6.1 Western Region – Bill Gunesch

- Managers decided on AdminSkiRacing for event registration.
- Rewriting criteria for WR team.
- U14 and U16 summer camps had excellent conditions for training at Mt. Hood and Valle Nevado.
- Staffing changes include addition of coaches Brad Saxe and Randy Pelkey (funded by WR ACC).
- Please see Bill's slide deck for additional detail.

### 6.6.2 Rocky Central – Darlene Nolting

- They will be using SkiReg as registration platform.
- RC calendar has been posted.
- They currently do not have a regional coach; larger clubs will be supplying coaches to lead projects in leu of a regional staff member; plan is to have a consistent approach for athletes heading to NorAms.

### 6.6.3 Eastern Region – Sam Damon

- Spring projects had good attendance.
- Exploring better way of reporting SkillsQuest scores.
- Will be holding a Coaches Ed Conference; a lot of interest in that.
- Will be running women only speed week at Sugarloaf; interest from Canadians for attending as well.
- Calendar complete; attempting to provide enough opportunity in region so athletes don't have to travel elsewhere.
- Please see Sam's slide deck for additional detail.

## 6.7 Membership – Sheryl Barnes (absent)

- Chip reads message on her behalf
  - Center for Safe Sport is updating their system on October 25, any partial progress made towards completion will be lost on that date.
  - Changes will come to membership after October 15 deadline to comply with Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. More information to come.

## 6.8 Sport Education –

- Chip responds that Dave McCann has recently been hired to the Sport Education Director position.
- Fall Sport Education Symposium is underway on Wednesdays in October.

## 6.9 Athletes – Warner Nickerson

- No proposals to put forward.
- He thanks Aldo for work on Entry Fee task force.
- Very concerned about fluoro rule and how it will affect athletes.
- His tenure will be ending in May.

Karen asks for a **Motion** to approve staff and athlete reports as presented; **Motion** to approve by Warner Nickerson; **Second** Darryl Landstrom. **Motion carried** unanimously.

#### 6.10 ASC Subcommittee Chairs

##### 6.10.1 Jon Nolting – Education Subcommittee

- No actions to report.
- There will be work to do getting coaches level 100 certified to able to access race venues; he will work with Dave McCann on any issues there.

##### 6.10.2 Aldo Radamus – Development Subcommittee

- No new business to bring forward.
- Tabled proposal involving course specifications for different age groups, currently under study by U14 working group.
- Meetings underway at the subcommittee level; There will be bi-monthly meetings throughout the winter; he commends those athletes participating in those meetings for taking the work seriously.
  - Health of Sport Task Force – met early this summer to create a survey to send to clubs; plan on getting it circulated this fall; welcome input from those clubs at the grassroots level, not just the high performing clubs. Note that Brad Saxe has stepped away as the chair of this committee due to his new position with Western Region.
  - Entry Fee task force met twice to review that tabled proposal; it has become clear that there are many challenges with the proposal. Hope to have an action item in the spring

##### 6.10.3 Doug Hall – Alpine Technical Subcommittee

- Doug is absent, Karen reads his statement to recognize and thank work done at subcommittee level and in particular the input from Lucy Conklin, Laura Sullivan and Thelma Hoessler
- Educational materials are complete and awaiting last minute updates.

##### 6.10.4 Paul Van Slyke – FIS Subcommittee

- Working with FIS TD candidates getting them ready for exam in the fall. Also working on calendaring and assignments
- Electronic version of ACR may be launched soon.
- Precisions from S. Hemisphere are out; N. Hemisphere will be ready soon.
- FIS rule changes; 614.2.3, no more hiking in FIS SL.
- 801.2.3 – Delays min. distance
- SG – can use a panel that is a different color if Jury decides for visibility
- Airbags recommended this season for WC speed, will become mandatory next year. Recommended at Continental Cup season 24-25 / mandatory at CC and above in 25-26
- Courses WG – work in progress – thanks for all the hard work
- FIS TD update Oct. 20-23 in Nashville

##### 6.10.5 Bill Brooks – Regional Subcommittee

- No new business to report.
- Commends Anouk for interviewing clubs; much needed.

Karen asks for a **Motion** to approve ASC Subcommittee reports as presented; **Motion** to approve by Bill Brooks; **Second** John Norton. **Motion carried** unanimously.

7. Old Business

7.1 Review of proposals approved at 2023 Congress – Ghent

- Key proposals presented include:
  - RAs must attend an annual workshop.
  - Random seeding allowed for scored and non-scored events.
  - Lift pass and entry fee will be separated on race fact sheets.
  - U18 tech start limits shall be 30 for first year and 35 for second year. Exceptions still in place
  - Random seeding will be used at U16 Nationals.
  - U12 and U14 SG must include training runs unless decided otherwise at TCM.

7.2 ASC Operating Procedures Update – already addressed

8. New Business

8.1 2023-24 Precisions – no new precisions from FIS or ACR

9. Terms and Elections – Landstrom and Subcommittee Chairs

10. Discussion – Guest comment and feedback via Zoom Chat

Karen asks if there is any discussion; there is none.

11. Next Meeting – Thursday May 9, 2024

12. Adjournment – 12:10pm

**Motion** made by Chip Knight to adjourn, **Second** by Bill Brooks. **Motion** carried unanimously.