



Alpine Sport Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting via GoToMeeting video-conference

Monday, May 4, 2020, 3-5:00 p.m. MDT

Meeting Chair

Darryl Landstrom, Wayzata, MN (Chair and Alpine BOD Representative)

Committee Members Present

Paul Van Slyke, Lake Placid, NY (Vice Chair and FIS Subcommittee Chair)
Mike Bowman, Winter Park, CO (Rocky Central Region Representative)
John Buchar, Park City, UT (Western Region Representative)
Karen Ghent, Edwards, CO (Development Subcommittee Chair)
Doug Hall, Maryland, NY (Technical Subcommittee Chair)
Tim Hinderman, Whitefish, MT (Western Region Representative)
Jesse Hunt, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Director)
Beat Hupfer, Mammoth Lakes, CA (At-Large)
Breezy Johnson, Victor, ID (Athlete Representative)
Jess Kelley, Park City, UT (Athlete Representative)
Chip Knight, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Development Director)
Karen Korfanta, Heber, UT (At-Large)
Craig Krueger, Helena, MT (Regional Subcommittee Chair/Western Region Representative)
Dan Marshall, Manchester, NH (Eastern Region Representative)
Warner Nickerson, Tilton, NH (Athlete and Alpine Athlete Rep to the BOD)
Jon Nolting, Steamboat Springs, CO (Education Subcommittee Chair)
Joe Paul, Bloomington, MN (Rocky/Central Region Representative)
Tiger Shaw, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard President/CEO)
Bill Slattery, Buffalo Grove, IL (Immediate Past Chair)
Tao Smith, Killington, VT (Eastern Region Representative)
Andrew Weibrecht, Lake Placid, NY (Athlete Representative)

Committee Members Excused

Tom Winters, Tucson, AZ (Honorary, non-voting)

1. Chairman Calls the Meeting to Order

Darryl Landstrom called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. He welcomed all committee members and guests. He commented that we are in the midst of an unprecedented coronavirus pandemic, and he thanked everyone who has been engaged in this year's virtual Congress meetings. He also noted that, because of the video-conference format, guest comments would be restricted to the chat window. And he thanked Jeff Weinman, and Chip Knight for help in organizing everything.

2. Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum

Darryl Landstrom made a roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Agenda

Craig Krueger moved, and Paul Van Slyke seconded, the motion to approve the agenda. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Review of 2020 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Congress Meeting Schedule

Darryl Landstrom reviewed the remaining meetings scheduled for the week of Congress.

5. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Bill Slattery moved, and Mike Bowman seconded, the motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 21, 2019. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Staff Reports

Tiger Shaw reported on the cancelation of the end of the 2020 season, and the situation since the coronavirus pandemic outbreak. Lots of financial analysis to end the fiscal year close to breaking even. We are looking into how we return our athletes to training this spring. Many athletic contingencies are being planned. Many unknowns with corporate sponsorships and the outlook for philanthropy. We are running different financial models based on potential scenarios. We are 100% committed to our athletic programs, including athlete travel funding. The goal is to be entirely transparent throughout this process, but he is optimistic about all the support received thus far and about the year ahead.

Gar Trayner reviewed the Sport Education department and its activity over the last year. Certified clubs and Club Excellence attendance were both up this year. Education clinics were down due to the coronavirus pandemic. Currently 57% percent of alpine coaches are certified. All coaches must be L100 certified for the 2022-23 season. New avalanche training course this year for all 17-year-old members and older. Guide to Ski Fundamentals and Turn Shape Model are close to completion this summer. World Cup Winning Runs will be available for free. Offered his thanks to all the partners who work with the Sport Education department.

Karen Ghent asked how much National Team coaches are involved in the development of Sport Education content, so that they are seeing the right skillsets in athletes when they make it to the highest levels.

Gar answered that there is good connection with Jesse, Chip, Sasha and Marjan, and with other National Team coaches when they are available, in the effort to be speaking the same language and to have good alignment up and down the pipeline.

Sheryl Barnes reviewed updated membership levels and requirements for season 2020-21. Background screens and SafeSport must be completed before being on the hill. New Avalanche training requirement for the coming year. \$50 late fee will apply for club registrations after December 31, 2020. All club coaches and board members must be U.S. Ski & Snowboard members.

Jesse Hunt reported that the season was unfortunately terminated early, and we had to bring teams home abruptly from Europe. A good prep period in 2019 led to a strong opening to the racing season, with Mikaela, Tommy and Ted have great results to start the year. Also, four men's athletes finished the World Cup season in the top-20, which showed a lot of depth. We had a great year at the NorAm level, but we have not had Europa Cup results in recent years and will focus on that next year.

The Athlete project was new this year, focusing on engaging with the athletes at a high level in the organization. Athlete mentors and liaisons, and team barometers all provided effective feedback loops. Closing the gap on athlete funding was an important step to fully support our national team athletes. There is new funding coming into Alpine this year to fully support three levels of national team programming: World Cup, Europa Cup, and NorAm.

Chip Knight reported that we have had success with nationally managed programs at the NorAm and World Junior Championships level in recent years, but that the depth of elite junior athletes at the USST and NDG levels in our system has been flat. As a result, we are shifting our D-Team program to be fully-managed and focus on performance at those international levels of competition.

The SkillsQuest fitness program continues to build, with over 750 athletes tested at nationally validated dates. But with less than 20% of athletes passing the overall standard, there is ample room for improvement and especially this spring during the ongoing COVID pandemic. Speed Development continues to be a focus for our development program to provide access to meaningful environments. Excited about the FIS Age Change proposal, which will be considered next fall, and the Health of Sport proposals. Provided an update on current draft of the 2020-21 competition calendar.

Sam Damon reported all the Eastern Region championships were unfortunately canceled due to the COVID pandemic. Ongoing discussion about open divisional and regional U14 championships in future years. U16 Regional Performance Series has been a success for the East in aggregating top athletes relatively close to home. Elite FIS men's depth is improving but depth on the women's side is lacking.

Hosted over 100 FIS events in the region. The best events had the best surface, where athletes with higher start numbers could move forward. New project-based coaches' education was well-received this year. Plan to focus more on coach education and club development visits next year, rather than on youth training projects. Summer training project plan is being adapted based on COVID restrictions.

Darlene Nolting thanked her new regional staff: Patrick Mich, Central Division Manager, and Kristina Revello, R/C Regional Coach. Also thanked the region's club coaches for their support at projects. She reported elite junior development remains strong, but the number of R/C athletes was down this year. The Region was excited to win the Region's Cup at Junior Nationals. Skill development and coaches' education remain a priority in the region. Implemented a regional calendar this year that supported U19 FIS development. Unfortunately having to cancel and adapt summer regional training projects as a result of the COVID pandemic.

Bill Gunesch thanked his staff, including Fletcher McDonald in his first year as Western Region Coach. Also thanked Tim Hinderman for serving as WR ACC Chair. Reviewed individual results and rankings for WR athletes, showing improved depth from recent years. WR PG Team was inaugurated this year. WR events had challenges due to weather.

Reviewed 2019-20 regional projects. Three nationally-validated SkillsQuest Fitness projects were held in region last fall. Club visits and coaches education will remain a priority in the coming year. Discussed the ongoing retention study he has been working on.

Jon Nolting moved, and Warner Nickerson seconded, the motion to approve staff reports. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

7. ASC Reports

7.1. BOD Report

Darryl Landstrom reported that SafeSport continues to be a focus. Review of Ted Stevens Act may require increase in athlete representation on committees and subcommittees.

7.2. Awards Committee

Bill Slattery reported that the Awards Committee will meet on Monday, May 11. Winners will be announced via social media during the week of May 18, 2020.

7.3. Judicial Committee

Bill Slattery reported that the Judicial Committee has had no activity.

7.4. Nominating Committee

Bill Slattery reported there is one At-Large position available on the ASC currently held by Beat Hupfer, which will be voted on at the second ASC meeting on Thursday, May 7.

7.5. Alpine Education Subcommittee

Jon Nolting congratulated Gar Trayner and Ellen Adams for a highly successful virtual Club Excellence this year, reaching over 600 people. The Education Subcommittee will meet on May 5 at noon. Will be discussing the L100 requirement for 2022, as well as club certification and coaches' certification processes.

7.6. Alpine Development Subcommittee

Karen Ghent noted that Congress Development Subcommittee meetings will be Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday May 7. Reviewed proposals being considered in each of her working groups. Pete Korfiatis has stepped down as Chair of the U16 and Older WG and Todd Brickson has taken his place.

7.7. Alpine FIS Subcommittee

Paul Van Slyke thanked his WG Chairs, Darryl Landstrom, and U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff Chip Knight and Jeff Weinman for their work and collaboration. New FIS TD candidate Andy Gannon. New FIS TDs Troy Price and Craig Pannos. The FIS TD updates will likely be October 23-25 in Colorado and October 30-November 1 in Quebec. Reminded sites to stay ahead of any re-homologations, and to bundle multiple homologations to save money.

7.8. Alpine Technical Subcommittee

Doug Hall thanked his subcommittee and working group members for all their work. They have all already met, and the minutes are posted to the FTP site.

7.9. Alpine Regional Subcommittee

Craig Krueger is stepping down and Bill Brooks will be the new Regional Subcommittee Chair.

7.10. Athletes

Warner Nickerson has been reelected for another four-year term on the BOD. He applauded the athlete liaisons – Breezy Johnson, Nina O'Brien, Steven Nyman and Tommy Ford – and the U.S. Ski Team for its new direction for fully funding athletes. One proposal moving forward is to ban fluorinated wax at all U.S. Ski & Snowboard events.

8. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

9. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

10. Future Committee Meeting Dates

Alpine Sport Committee – Thursday May 7, 3-5pm MDT.

11. Floor Open for Comments/Questions

Darryl Landstrom asked if there were any questions in the chat box. There were none.

12. Closing Comments & Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, Bill Slattery moved and Warner Nickerson seconded, the motion to recess the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Alpine Sport Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting via GoToMeeting video-conference

Thursday, May 7, 2020, 3-5:00 p.m. MDT

Meeting Chair

Darryl Landstrom, Wayzata, MN (Chair and Alpine BOD Representative)

Committee Members Present

Paul Van Slyke, Lake Placid, NY (Vice Chair and FIS Subcommittee Chair)

Mike Bowman, Winter Park, CO (Rocky Central Region Representative)

John Buchar, Park City, UT (Western Region Representative)

Karen Ghent, Edwards, CO (Development Subcommittee Chair)

Doug Hall, Maryland, NY (Technical Subcommittee Chair)

Tim Hinderman, Whitefish, MT (Western Region Representative)

Jesse Hunt, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Director)

Beat Hupfer, Mammoth Lakes, CA (At-Large)

Breezy Johnson, Victor, ID (Athlete Representative)

Jess Kelley, Park City, UT (Athlete Representative)

Chip Knight, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Development Director)

Karen Korfanta, Heber, UT (At-Large)
Craig Krueger, Helena, MT (Regional Subcommittee Chair/Western Region Representative)
Dan Marshall, Manchester, NH (Eastern Region Representative)
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Jon Nolting, Steamboat Springs, CO (Education Subcommittee Chair)
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Bill Slattery, Buffalo Grove, IL (Immediate Past Chair)
Tao Smith, Killington, VT (Eastern Region Representative)
Andrew Weibrecht, Lake Placid, NY (Athlete Representative)

Committee Members Excused

Tom Winters, Tucson, AZ (Honorary, non-voting)

13. Chairman Calls the Meeting to Order

Darryl Landstrom called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. He welcomed all committee members and guests, and he thanked all the volunteers who have been engaged in this year's virtual Congress meetings. He noted that, because of the video-conference format, guest comments would be restricted to the chat window, and that reports would be voted on as a slate, unless more discussion was needed on an individual motion.

14. Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum

Darryl Landstrom made a roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

15. Approval of Agenda

Jon Nolting moved, and Doug Hall seconded, the motion to approve the agenda. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

16. Staff Reports

Jesse Hunt thanked Darryl Landstrom and all the committee members for their great work this week, especially in the virtual environment. He announced that the 2021 U.S. Ski Team was named this week – a deeper team than past years, and a fully-funded team. He is excited about the season ahead.

Chip Knight thanked all the volunteers for their extraordinary effort and engagement at this year's Congress, and especially to Darryl Landstrom and Karen Ghent for their leadership.

Dan Marshall moved, and Doug Hall seconded, the motion to approve staff reports. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

17. ASC Reports

17.1. Awards Committee

Darryl Landstrom reported that the Awards Committee will meet on Monday, May 11. Winners will be announced via social media during the week of May 18, 2020.

17.2. Judicial Committee

Bill Slattery reported that the Judicial Committee did not meet during Congress and had no action items.

17.3. Nominating Committee

Bill Slattery reported there is one At-Large position available on the ASC. Beat Hupfer was nominated to continue in that role. There were no other nominations and no opposition. Beat Hupfer was approved for another two-year term.

17.4. Alpine Education Subcommittee

Jon Nolting thanked Tami Strong and Stacey Gerrish for their leadership, and the Sport Education staff for a great Club Excellence. He noted that there is continued good progress and growth with Club Certification, and good discussion about dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. He noted that the new, revised pocket guide would be going to press this summer. A download version will be free to coaches, or for purchase as a printed copy. L200 is being updated. L400 has been a challenge with only a few coaches in the process. L100 certification requirement for coaches will be effective in the 2022-23 season. A Task Force will be deployed to determine the specifics for implementation. All currently uncertified coaches should take a L100 clinic as soon as possible.

17.5. Alpine Development Subcommittee

Karen Ghent thanked Darryl Landstrom and her subcommittee members for their work and collaboration.

- a. Collegiate WG approved athletes older than 24 years old can participate in FIS-U races as part of the Host Nation quota. That quota will be expanded to accommodate athletes who are participating as part of their collegiate team.
- b. Collegiate WG approved a rule to protect injured athletes' ranking within the FIS-U start list, as in the FIS Continental Cup rules. This will move to the FIS University Racers Subcommittee for further review.
- c. Athlete Working Group approved a ban on all fluorinated wax for U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine competition.
- d. U14 and Younger WG approved that the U12 and under one-ski rule applied only within the race arena, which is defined as the area between the fences and including the start and finish areas.
- e. U14 and Younger WG approved no wax benches are allowed in the U14 and younger race arena.
- f. U14 and Younger WG approved that no wax application is allowed at the U14 competition venue, which is defined as the ski resort property.
- g. U16 and Older WG approved a reduction in minimum vertical drop for National GS competition to 200m.
- h. U16 and Older WG approved the Health of Sport Task Force's proposal to:
 1. Recommend ability-matched calendaring of regional races
 2. Recommend head-to-head competition for regional selections
 3. Prohibit racing in the Southern Hemisphere for first-year FIS athletes
 4. Recommend start limitations for 2020-21 season:
 - 25 SL and GS starts for YOB 2005 and 2006
 - 35 SL and GS starts for YOB 2004

Bill Slattery moved, and Paul Van Slyke seconded, the motion to approve the Alpine Development Subcommittee report. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

17.6. Alpine FIS Subcommittee

Paul Van Slyke thanked Darryl Landstrom, U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff Chip Knight and Jeff Weinman, and his subcommittee members for their work and collaboration. He reported that the FIS TD updates will likely be October 23-25 in Colorado and October 30-November 1 in Quebec.

Troy Price and Craig Pannos are new FIS TDs, and Andrew Gannon is a new FIS TD candidate. Inspector-in-Training program that was scheduled during this year's Congress in Park City has been postponed until next year.

All course homologations going forward will expire July 1. Late fees for re-homologation will be applied as follows: \$25 after January 1, \$50 after August 15 for FIS courses, and \$50 after September 1 for National courses. Courses WG approved FIS inspectors must share their inspection report with another U.S. inspector before submission to FIS for final approval.

17.7. Alpine Technical Subcommittee

Doug Hall thanked his subcommittee and working group members for all their work. Alpine Officials Education WG educational material review due by July 1, and the material is valid until May 1. An annual update is now required for U.S. Ski & Snowboard TDs. Timing WG approved removal of U611.2.5 allowing permission not to have backup timing. Classifications WG approved one exceptional race – U0735 Men's GS – to receive a 10-point adder, raising the penalty from 73.09 to 83.09.

Jon Nolting moved, and Beat Hupfer seconded, the motion to approve the Alpine Technical Subcommittee report. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

17.8. Alpine Regional Subcommittee

Craig Krueger thanked his subcommittee members for their work. He reported that Bill Brooks will be the new Regional Subcommittee Chair, and Tao Smith will be the new Vice-Chair. Casper Mountain Racers has been approved to move from the Rocky/ Central Region and Rocky Mountain Division to the Western Region and Northern Division.

Craig Krueger moved, and Tim Hinderman seconded, the motion to approve the Regional Subcommittee report. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

17.9. Athletes

Warner Nickerson thanked the athlete liaisons – Breezy Johnson, Nina O'Brien, Steven Nyman and Tommy Ford – and his fellow athlete representatives – Breezy Johnson, Andrew Weibrecht, and Jess Kelley – for their all of their effort. He also thanked U.S. Ski & Snowboard leadership – Chip, Jesse, Tiger Shaw, and Kipp Nelson – for the shift from a podium-first organization to caring about all the athletes.

Warner Nickerson moved, and Doug Hall seconded, the motion to approve the ASC Reports. There was no comment and the motion passed unanimously.

18. Old Business

18.1. Calendar requests for exceptions

Calendar requests for exceptions to host two technical races in one day, or to award prize money, are due to Darryl Landstrom, Chip Knight, Jeff Weinman, and the respective Regional Director and Divisional Manager by November 1.

18.2. Exceptions List

Chip Knight moved and Dan Marshall seconded the motion to approve the ongoing exceptions listed in [2019-20 Alpine Precisions](#).

19. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

20. Future Committee Meeting Dates

Alpine Sport Committee Fall Conference Call – October 2020, date and time TBD
2021 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Congress – May 18-22, 2021.

21. Floor Open for Comments/Questions

Darryl Landstrom asked if there were any questions in the chat box. There were none. He asked members to contact him afterward with feedback on this year's virtual format.

22. Closing Comments & Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, Chip Knight moved and Karen Ghent seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Knight, Secretary of Meeting