



## Alpine Sport Committee

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Meeting via GoToMeeting Video-Conference

Friday, October 23, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. MDT

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### Alpine Sport Committee

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

### U.S. Ski & Snowboard Staff

Tiger Shaw, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard President/CEO)	Present
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### Honorary (non-voting)

Tom Winters, Tucson, AZ	Present
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### Guests

Kristina Revello, Darlene Nolting, Lucy Schram, Gar Trayner, Angie Brown, Mike Bowman, Sheryl Barnes, Craig Kruger, Sam Damon, Paige Roberts, Mike Morin, Jeff Weinman

## AGENDA

### 1. Welcome and Call to Order

**Darryl Landstrom, Chair**

Darryl Landstrom opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. MDT. He thanked all the volunteers and staff who worked on the task forces all summer. He gave a report on how COVID has affected the Alpine community, with virtual governance meetings, online delivery of educational materials, and new policies and procedures for Alpine races in the coming season.

### 2. ASC Roll Call

All ASC members present except Bill Slattery (excused) and Andrew Weibrecht.

### 3. Review and Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** To approve Agenda

**Moved:** Karen Ghent; **Second:** Karen Korfanta; **Motion carried unanimously**

### 4. Review and Approval of the May 7, 2020 Minutes

**Motion:** To approve May 7, 2020 Minutes

**Moved:** Tim Hinderman; **Second:** Jon Nolting; **Motion carried unanimously**

### 5. Review of the 2021 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Congress Schedule

- May 18-22, 2021 Park City, UT
- Deadline for Proposals: Monday, May 3, 2021

### 6. Reports

#### 6.1 President and CEO – Tiger Shaw

Tiger thanked everyone for leaning into the COVID-19 wind. He also thanked Alpine COVID-19 Strategic Planning Commission for their efforts over the summer to outline new policies and procedures for the year ahead.

He is eager to communicate the message that the upcoming season is on, which he hopes will help Membership close the current 30% renewal deficit.

He supports the fluoro wax ban to be implemented in the current season. He compared the issue to doping, and he noted that, while we are concerned about enforcement, we don't drug test 16-year-olds so that shouldn't stop us from doing the right thing in this case.

He is in support of the gate judge proposal, and on being flexible with officials' certification in order to be safe amidst the pandemic.

He commented that we need to keep reminding the resorts of the economic impact we provide and be good partners in working with them.

#### 6.2 Board of Directors – Darryl Landstrom

The last meeting was September 16. The ACE program continues to be robust with a number of athletes taking advantage of the program. The Gold Pass program is sold out. The NYC Gold Medal Gala will be delivered in a virtual platform this year. Killington and Beaver Creek Alpine World Cups were cancelled but there are a number of Freestyle and Freeski events that will be held. Membership deadline has been extended to November 1. Almost 13,000 people have completed SafeSport online education. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will continue to be objectives for the organization.

#### 6.3 Alpine Director – Jesse Hunt

Big thank you to all the work that has been done over the summer. It has been tremendous.

The Sport Science department has been very helpful in organizing protocols to help us operate and move around to camps at Mt. Bachelor, Copper Mountain, and Mt. Hood domestically, and to Europe this fall. The staff and athletes are appreciative of the work that went into getting it done.

The first World Cup in Soelden was successful and well run; everyone was excited and appreciative to be able to compete. A lot of positives coming out of that event.

There has been a lot of feedback this summer about our selections and how we interact with collegiate athletes and coaches around the country.

Criteria for the coming season has been posted for U.S. Ski Team, World Championships, World Cup and Europa Cup access. There is additional injury protection in the USST criteria, and access to higher levels of the National team through NCAA results.

We are preparing for training at Copper and excited to have the group there.

#### **6.4 Alpine Development Director – Chip Knight**

Thanked everyone both internally and externally for the teamwork and collaboration to put together a successful plan to move forward this year.

The COVID Guidance working document was published September 1. Thank you to everyone on that committee for making a tremendous effort.

Deadlines have been pushed back for membership renewals and event calendaring, along with a refund policy if events are cancelled due to COVID.

Officials Certification: Competition Officials, TD update and CE will be online. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to get this done.

Coaches Education Fall Summit has been ongoing in recent weeks, bringing the USOPC's Apollo project to coaches at the grassroots level.

News from the FIS Meetings: there will be a 2-year FIS Base List next spring, with results valid from June 2019 – April 2021. Our Age Change Proposal generated a lot of discussion but was voted down. The NorAm Cup will adopt top-30 seeding by NAC points, as well as the new World Cup PAR rules.

Calin Butterfield led a SkillsQuest Fitness webinar this fall, and there is a new manual posted to the website. There were no National or Regional level tests given this year, but the USST is performing the tests and many clubs are doing the same.

The NorAm Teams had successful camps in Europe and they will be at Copper starting next week. Huge efforts have gone into making these projects happen and the training has been great for the athletes. NDG projects will also be happening in Copper parallel to the NorAm teams. Due to COVID, these will be the first NDG projects of the year. Similar to how we activate with the USST, athletes will be COVID tested before they arrive and on a regular basis to create a "bubble" environment throughout the camp.

The 2020 U.S. Nationals have been rescheduled to take place November 16-22 – GS, DH, SG, SL – at Copper. There will be smaller quotas due to COVID, but it's a great opportunity for us to have high-level domestic competition to start the season.

The Copper Speed Project will take place November 23 - December 4. U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff will create the environments and control the hill. Club coaches will lead their athletes on the venue.

The World Juniors quota has been revised to 4 men and 4 women and the criteria has been modified given the COVID landscape and based on the assumption that we will not have NorAms before March.

We are working on calendaring a combined NorAm Finals/U.S. Nationals event at Aspen in April.

Lastly, thanks to the regional directors for all their hard work adapting to the new COVID guidance and revamping the domestic calendars.

#### **6.5 Regional Director Updates**

##### **6.5.1 Western Region – Bill Gunesch**

The West canceled all their projects that were planned over the spring, summer and fall, which is hard for the region because we depend on project-based development.

Lots of Western Region clubs trained at Mt. Hood this summer. Regional coaches, Jeff Pickering and Fletcher McDonald, were at Mt. Hood to work with various clubs while they were there. Timberline enforced strict COVID restrictions, with over 44,000 ski visits and no reported COVID cases.

We worked to adapt the regional calendar to fit within the field size restrictions and keep racing more local this year.

Thanks to the Western Region ACC and to the regional staff for all the hard work, flexibility and creativity.

#### **6.5.2 Rocky/Central Region – Darlene Nolting**

Thanks to the regional staff for all their hard work. Kudos to Patrick Mich for securing Mr. Heater as a sponsor for Central races. Kristina Revello spent a lot of time this summer with the National Team, earning valuable experience.

Central GS project was postponed due to fires near Loveland. Will be run as a day camp with strict COVID restrictions.

Still working on calendaring races. Resorts are supportive of hosting, but not quite ready to commit.

Many collegiate athletes are planning to return to RMD for training and racing this year.

RMD has developed two tiers of FIS racing this year to accommodate the smaller fieldsize limits.

Central is able to host racing on the weekend, RMD is not.

#### **6.5.3 Eastern Region – Sam Damon**

Planning and re-planning for the season ahead. It's been challenging but there have also been opportunities to work more closely with the divisions on local solutions. In a world of so much uncertainty, ski racing can provide a healthy environment for kids and families. Interstate travel restrictions are the biggest hurdle we are currently facing throughout the East. There will be less racing and more training this year, which could be another silver lining.

#### **6.6 Membership – Sheryl Barnes**

Thank you to Chip and his staff for their efforts. Membership renewals are surging. Still a lag in compliance with all the requirements: background screening, SafeSport, and Intro to Avalanche. Thanks to Gar and his staff for helping to implement the Avalanche initiative. Coaches need to take care of their membership requirements before they go on the hill. IT is working on updating our membership tools on the website.

#### **6.7 Sport Education – Gareth Trayner**

The efforts of everyone to get the work done over the summer has been impressive and incredible. Thanks to the Sport Education staff for their hard work. We are working on trying to put together in-person one-day level 100 clinics for this winter.

Improved the Sport Education newsletter, which has been impactful.

We have been working on a number of projects over the summer: Glossary of Terms, Fundamentals Guide, Turn Shape Model, Athlete Profile Tool.

Also working with the Alpine Officials Education Working Group to bring some of their educational material online.

Also working on Coach Developer training, reaching the coaches who will train other coaches in the field.

We have brought the USOPC's Project Apollo content to the nation through an ongoing webinar series. 460 coaches have been attending the sessions and it has been tremendous.

There will be a Women in Coaching webinar series October 29 and 30. 15 clubs are currently engaged in the certification process.

#### 6.8 Athletes – Warner Nickerson

Elite athletes are having financial challenges with securing equipment contracts and collecting on those contracts.

**Fluorinated Wax Ban Proposal:** FIS has postponed enforcement of the ban on fluorinated ski waxes, so we need to update the national policy that was approved in the spring.

**Motion:** To prohibit the use of fluorinated ski waxes at all non-FIS level Alpine training and competition in the United States.

**Moved: Warner Nickerson; Second: Paul Van Slyke; Motion carried unanimously**

#### 6.9 ASC Subcommittee Chairs

##### 6.9.1 Education Subcommittee – Jon Nolting

Thanks to Gar and his team for all the work over the summer, and to the Education working groups. There's been some good work on the SkillsQuest Handbook and Level 200 content. Thanks also to Tami Strong for leading some good forums about the challenges clubs are facing with COVID-19. A lot of the clubs are feeling healthy right now, so hopefully that bears out in terms of membership numbers for U.S. Ski & Snowboard soon.

**Prize Money Proposal:** to increase the allowable prize money at a U.S. Ski & Snowboard event. This will incentivize well-organized races and pure competition around the country. It will increase competitive pressure for the athletes. NCAA rules have changed so that collegiate athletes, as well as other elite athletes can benefit from the opportunity to earn money to offset their expenses.

**Motion:** To allow ROCs to apply for an exemption to award prize money in excess of the U.S. Alpine Championships prize purse, up to \$7,500 per race.

**Moved: Jon Nolting; Second: Warner Nickerson; Motion carried unanimously**

##### 6.9.2 Development Subcommittee – Karen Ghent

Thanked the Development Working Group Chairs for all the hard work over the summer.

There were several follow up meetings after Congress: to discuss reducing the impact of points for U16s, potentially changing U16 Nationals to a spring project, how to incorporate Ski Cross in the Alpine program, as well as the ongoing Health of Sport Task Force.

**U16 and U14 Regional Seeding Proposal** – For U16 and U14 regional events, seeding will include divisional representation at least in the first 30 racers, but can go further in the field, in order to deemphasize points.

**U16 Start Order Proposal** – Recommendation that each region runs a test event at the U16 level where the entire field is flipped for the second run, in order to level the playing field at this developmental age.

**Motion:** To approve all Development SC proposals

**Moved: Karen Ghent; Second: Chip Knight; Motion carried unanimously**

##### 6.9.3 Alpine Technical Subcommittee – Doug Hall

Thanks to the Alpine Technical working groups and all the work they have done with certifications and planning for COVID.

John Jett and the Timing working group have presented a new hand timing protocol per COVID guidelines, specifying that events should not have more than one person at the start and one person at the finish, except for Parallel events.

Dave Waller and the Classification working group would like to change the name of a “Sub-Standard” race, due to negative connotation.

**UMV Proposal:** To change the name of a “Sub Standard” race to an “Under Minimum Vertical” (UMV) race.

The Classification WG reviewed minimum penalties for UMV races. Analysis showed that the current minimums are appropriate. No changes are recommended at this time.

Lucy Conklin and the Alpine Officials Education Working Group have put together a COVID policy. The ROC should do everything possible to use appropriately certified personnel for all duties within their event. TD, RF and course setters must be certified. COR, COC, RA, JA, and T&C should be certified, but, if a certified person is unavailable for those positions, the most experienced person available may be used provided they have at least a current CO certification.

The only exam available this year will be the CO, which is now offered online. Further Officials certification exams will not be available until the COVID-19 situation improves, or online solutions become available.

Question from Jesse Hunt: We have a critical need for U.S. Ski Team coaches to become Referee certified. Why are there no exemptions allowed for certification?

Answer from Doug Hall: It has taken us five years to develop the CO exam for online delivery. Bringing these exams online is a large task. It may take several years for that to happen. We cannot degrade the quality of the exams just so someone can be certified.

Answer from Lucky Conklin: The annual update and review is available virtually. The Referee certification exam is not available during this cycle.

Question from Jesse Hunt: If I have someone who needs a Referee certification, are they out of luck?

Answer from Lucy Conklin: Correct. They can mentor and study the Referee guide this year, and then take the exam as soon as becomes available.

**Motion:** To approve all Alpine Technical SC proposals

**Moved: Doug Hall; Second: Jon Nolting; Motion carried unanimously**

#### 6.9.4 FIS Subcommittee – Paul Van Slyke

It's been a busy summer! It was an honor to be part of the COVID Commission. The TD education working group, led by Curt Hammond, put in a lot of work to create a great online National TD update. The Clean Hill initiative presentation, about cleaning up our behavior on the race hill to make it safer for the athletes, will be available for download after tomorrow's FIS TD Update.

Thanks to all the FIS SC working groups, particularly the Courses Working Group, led by Doug Hall, which has done a ton of work homologating hills despite the pandemic.

We will have more flexibility in making TD assignments this year. For example, Karen Ghent will be the TD for the November National Championships at Copper. Normally we would have to assign an out-of-country TD for an event at that level. Please coordinate with any schedule changes this year so TDs can be assigned appropriately.

The Rules Working Group worked with Jeff Weinman to update the ACR for this season.

#### 6.9.5 Regional Subcommittee– Bill Brooks

Thanked Craig Krueger for his leadership of the new Regional SC over the last four years. Thanks also to Darryl for his leadership and guidance. The SC has expanded its membership to be more functional: one Masters rep, one Collegiate rep, two At-large members, and four athlete reps.

Bill is working with Alison Pitt, U.S. Ski & Snowboard General Counsel, to collect documents that are required from the Divisions and Region as being a part of the organization.

SC is working on collecting data on race entry fees from each division and region.

SC would like to be a sounding board for sharing best practices from around the country, so we can all learn from each other.

**Proposal:** Non-Scored athletes who are 18-24 can participate in all Masters competitions.

**Moved: Bill Brooks; Second: Jon Nolting; Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion:** To accept all reports as they have been presented.

**Moved: Paul Van Slyke; Second: Warner Nickerson; Motion carried unanimously**

## 7. Old Business

### 7.1 Review of Proposals Approved at 2020 Congress – Darryl Landstrom

Reviewed all proposals that were approved at the May 2020 U.S. Ski & Snowboard Congress.

### 7.2 Health of Sport Task Force – Karen Ghent

Reviewed the goals of the HOS TF

1. Increase the accessibility to sport, addressing cost
2. Enjoyment of the ski racing experience leading to higher retention and a feeling of success
3. Increase the clarity of systems and pathways to the highest levels of the sport

Presented a standardization of race entries proposal for discussion and assigned it to the Regional Subcommittee to study and bring forward a formal proposal for the May 2021 Congress.

Question from Doug Hall: Do these race entries include lift tickets?

Answer from Karen Ghent: That's a good question. Currently, it's all over the map. Some ROCs include lift tickets, some don't. There is also a question about head taxes. The Regional SC will need to look into this, and we can have further discussion in the spring.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1 COVID Commission – Chip Knight and Darryl Landstrom

Guidance was published on September 1 to help our community chart a path forward to be able to host race events for the coming season. Thanks to Darryl, and to everyone on the Commission for their work over the summer.

1. Work in partnership with host sites and the local health authority
2. Reduction in field size of events
3. Delayed the start of the season
4. Effort to reduce travel for the majority of athletes
5. Solutions to mitigate congestion areas on a race day
6. Requirement of a COVID Coordinator at events
  - a. Daily health checks and contact tracing measures

Question from Mike Bowman: Is a U.S. Ski & Snowboard Volunteer membership required for the COVID Coordinator?

Answer from Chip Knight: Anyone who may have contact with athletes must be a member of the organization.

Question from Jon Nolting: Is there a reference somewhere to having an infection rate below 20/100,000 on a rolling 7-day average?

Answer from Chip Knight: That is a recommendation in our overall organizational guidance – that sites do not host events in, and people not travel from, areas where the infection rate is higher than that threshold. The USOPC has recently modified their requirements along these lines, and we are looking into doing the same.

### 8.2 2020-21 Precisions

The Comp Guide is at the printer now and will be sent out soon. Much of the COVID guidance precisions are included in the 2021 Alpine Competition Guide. Thanks to Jeff Weinman for all his hard work with this. Any further precisions will be posted after this meeting, and as they become necessary.

### 8.3 Proposals

### 8.3.1 Gate Judge Proposal

This is an effort to modernize and streamline how we approach gate judging, and especially during the COVID pandemic.

#### **Proposal:**

1. Athletes must declare their own disqualifying faults
2. Jury monitors all DSQs. If additional people are required, the ROC must provide gate judges.
3. Video of a fault may be used to report or overturn a DSQ without requiring a protest fee.
4. Video control is required at regional and national championship events.

**Moved: Chip Knight; Second: Jon Nolting; Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Amendment:**

This proposal is presented as a COVID policy for the 2020-21 season, to be evaluated for any potential rule changes at the Spring 2021 Congress.

**Moved: Chip Knight; Second: Karen Korfanta; Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Amendment:**

Due to the challenges of COVID-19 which require limiting the number of individuals present in a race arena, the following Gate Judge Policy will be followed for Season 2020-21.

1. Based on the type of event and terrain being utilized, the number of required gate judge positions will be determined by the Jury
2. Jury members, appointed Jury Advisors, appointed connection coaches, and officials in training may act as Gate Judges for gates near their positions for Speed Training (DH & SG), Downhill, Super-G or Giant Slalom
3. For Slalom, Gate Judges are required and positions may include jury members (per item 2)
4. Athletes are required to report to the finish referee prior to leaving the finish, or to the nearest jury member, if they feel they may have committed a fault
5. For all events, video control may be used in place of Gate Judges to address questionable missed gate/incorrect passage issues
6. Prior to the posting of the referee report, a protest fee is not required to submit a DSQ with proper evidence
7. The Jury should limit the number of gate judges to the minimum amount necessary to reduce the number of people in the race arena
8. Video control is required in Slalom at regional and national championships for the top-30 athletes

**Moved: Paul Van Slyke; Second: Doug Hall; Motion carried unanimously.**

**Gate Judge Policy will be reviewed at the Spring 2021 Congress.**

### 8.3.2 U.S. Nationals Quota Proposal

Proposal for equal quotas between women and men at the U.S. Alpine Championships was tabled until the Spring 2021 Congress meeting, to allow for further research and discussion.

**Motion:** For this year's rescheduled 2020 U.S. Nationals, taking place in November at Copper Mountain, to equalize the women's and men's regional and collegiate quotas at 8



women and 8 men, and for any unused U.S. Ski Team quota spots to revert to National Development.

**Moved: Chip Knight; Second: Jon Nolting; Motion carried unanimously**

**9. Terms and Elections – Darryl Landstrom**

Any subcommittee or working group chairs whose term is up in 2021 will need to be reelected, if they haven't termed out, and accept nominations for the position.

**10. Discussion – Guest comments and feedback via GoToMeeting Chat**

No further comments were posted to the chat window

**11. Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion to Adjourn: Darryl Landstrom; Second: Breezy Johnson; Motion carried unanimously**