



Alpine Sport Committee

Thursday, May 17, 2023, 13:00 – 15:00 MDT; in person and via Zoom

Meeting Chair: Karen Ghent

Alpine Sport Committee

Karen Ghent, Edwards, CO (Chair and Alpine BOD Representative)
Warner Nickerson, Tilton, NH (Vice Chair, Athlete Representative, and Alpine Athlete BOD Rep)
Darryl Landstrom, Wayzata, MN (Immediate Past Chair)
Mike Bowman, Winter Park, CO (Rocky Central Region Representative) - **Zoom**
Will Brandenburg, Sun Valley, ID (Western Region Representative)
Bill Brooks, Spokane, WA (Regional Subcommittee Chair)
Charles Christianson, Anchorage, AK (Athlete Representative) - **absent**
Julia Ford, Canaan, NH (Athlete Representative) - **Zoom**
Doug Hall, Maryland, NY (Technical Subcommittee Chair)
Dan Henry, Spokane, WA (Western Region Representative)
James Jensen, Hart, MI (Rocky/Central Region Representative)
Breezy Johnson, WY (Athlete Representative)
Karen Korfanta, Heber, UT (At Large) - **Zoom**
Chip Knight, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Development Director)
Ted Ligety, Park City, UT (Athlete Representative) - **absent**
Dan Marshall, Manchester, NH (Eastern Region Representative) - **Zoom**
Jon Nolting, Steamboat Springs, CO (Education Subcommittee Chair)
John Norton, Lake Placid, NY (Eastern Region Representative)
Aldo Radamus, Edwards, CO (Development SC Chair)
Patrick Riml, Heber City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Director)
Laurenne Ross, Bend, OR (Athlete Representative) - **Zoom**
Leanne Smith, North Conway, NH (Athlete Representative)
Paul Van Slyke, Lake Placid, NY (FIS Subcommittee Chair)
Andrew Weibrecht, Lake Placid, NY (Athlete Representative)

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Staff

Anouk Patty, Park City, UT (U.S. Ski & Snowboard Chief of Sport) - **absent**

Honorary (non-voting)

Bill Slattery, Buffalo Grove, IL - **absent**
Tom Winters, Tucson, AZ – **absent**

Guests

Bill Gunesch, Tim Hinderman, Mike Ginsberg, Peter Lange, Ron Kipp, Kristin Cooksey, Darlene Nolting, Whitney Gardner, Rodney Robinson, Beat Hupfer, Kayla Wieczorek, Heidi Voelker, Steve Burgart, Esther Delli Quadri, Deb Lewis, John Jett, Shawn Smith, Gretchen Ransom, Jo Abbott, Don Stellin, Tyler Shepherd, Esther Dello, Patrick Mich, Jonathan Manderfield, Thelma Hoessler, Laura Sullivan, Jeff Weinman, John Manderfield, Forrest King-Shaw, Greg Gill, Karl Wardrop, Claudia Yamamoto, Gillian Esson, Eric Garayoa, John Rust, Brett Jacobson, Charlie Zeiter, Stacey Gerrish, Brewster McVicker, Paige Roberts, Steve Mollin, Jeremy Ueland, Stephen Mergenthaler, Jeff Jenkins, Sue Schwartz, Alicia Farone, Caryn Jones, Gladys Weidt, L Smith, Diann Roffe, Torey Greenwood,

Evan, Greg Towe, Shannon, Travis Widger, Ned Lazarevic, Caryn Jones, Jess Kelley, Jeffrey Lemerond, Malorie Irvin, Ellen Tolstad

Agenda

1. Welcome and call to order - 1:05pm MDT
2. ASC roll call
3. Review and approval of agenda
Motion by Warner Nickerson; **Second** James Jensen; **Motion carried** unanimously
4. Review and approval of minutes
Motion by James Jensen; **Second** Andrew Weibrecht; **Motion carried** unanimously
5. Staff Reports
 - 5.1. Alpine – Patrick Riml
 - Thanks to all subcommittee chairs and members for productive meetings, their hard work and commitment to athletes.
 - His report as presented last Thursday is on [FTP site](#).
 - 5.2. Alpine Development – Chip Knight
 - Thanks to all for coming and patience with tight schedules and small rooms.
 - Board meeting was scheduled far in advance making it necessary to force 4 days of meetings to 3 days.
 - His report as presented last Thursday is on [FTP site](#).
6. ASC Reports – Action Items
 - 6.1. Awards Committee – Darryl Landstrom
All awards have been distributed. Awards banquet tonight - the first since COVID.
 - 6.2. Judicial Committee – Darryl Landstrom
Nothing to report
 - 6.3. Nominating Committee – Darryl Landstrom
No nominations to present
 - 6.4. Alpine Education Subcommittee – Jon Nolting
 - No action items to report; thanks to all working group chairs.
 - Club WG
 - o Tami Strong stepping down from chair; John Norton voted in.
 - Coach Education WG
 - o Thanked Stacy Gerrish for her efforts; No action items out of this WG
 - o Level 100 coach requirement required to access competition venue in 2024-25
 - o 1 year grace period for new coach
 - o Gar Trayner left in October: he hopes there will be enough support to get infrastructure in place to manage the coaching requirement.
 - o WG seeks an established pathway to encourage former national athletes to become coaches; want no disincentive; currently there is free access to coaching clinics for those athletes.
 - o WG will be reviewing curriculum and standards; seeking consistency.**Motion** to approve report: Doug Hall; **Second** Bill Brooks; **Motion carried** unanimously
 - 6.5. Alpine Technical Subcommittee – Doug Hall
 - Thanked the working groups for their many hours of work on tasks through the year
 - Alpine Officials Working Group
 - o Proposed changes to certification matrix:
 - o **ACTION:** Clarified that for a referee taking level 1 exam, they must complete at least one shadow.
 - o **ACTION:** Race Administrators are now required to attend an annual workshop; and they need AO chair approval if they miss it.

- o **ACTION:** For certifications requiring recommendations, these recommendations must be current - technical event certifications within 2 seasons or speed event certification within 3 seasons.
- o Online referee exam has significant software issues and is too difficult to pass for silly reasons. **TASKFORCE** will be working on it.
- o Issue with unofficial results being posted in a timely manner at races. Information will be added to workshops to help educate.
- o SkillsQuest has caused some to question whether a TD is needed, and if the hill should be homologated. **TASKFORCE** is being created to provide clarity.
- o Proposal for TRS to be used for scored events: concern about intervals, so not approved by Alpine Officials. To be discussed later.
- o Level 3 and 4 Alpine Officials promotions are posted online of those who advanced.
- Timing Working Group
 - o Thanks to Deb Lewis for helping automate review system for technical data reports.
 - o FIS timing booklet will be updated regarding wireless timing.
 - o All timing equipment homologation expirations have been extended to 2027.
- TD Working Group
 - o New Vice Chair is now Mike Brown
 - o Shout out to Laura Sullivan for putting together last 3 years of TD workshops; **TASKFORCE** looking to get her some help.
 - o The "True North" award is presented to Mary Thomas of Alaska.
 - o Please check the [FTP site](#) to see who advanced within the TD level certifications.
- Classifications Working Group
 - o Looking to come up with an automated system to find exceptional results. Beta tested next year; designed to look at races real-time as they are coming in rather than waiting till end of season to identify.
 - o Reviewed TRS proposal, which also failed as written due to concerns about start intervals for GS and speed events.
 - o **ACTION:** This year two exceptional races were identified
 - o Women's GS (U1509) with average 54 point improvement with 75% of field scoring: suggest an adder of 30 points
 - o Men's SL (U0010) with average 33 point improvement with 61% field scoring: suggest a 15 point adder.

Motion by Aldo Radamus to approve changes to certification matrix and adders to two exceptional races; **Second** Chip Knight; **Motion carried** unanimously

- TRS proposal discussion: the original TRS system was implemented years ago for unscored multi-day races. The new proposal is to make TRS available, not mandatory, for scored races as well as single and multi-day races. Consensus in Technical WGs was that many were uncomfortable with having random seeding at scored GS and speed events in which it might be possible for a more skilled racer to overtake a slower racer. WGs made an amendment to the proposal to add recommendation for 40s min interval for GS and 45s min interval for speed events.

Motion by Paul Van Slyke to approve new proposal with amendments; **Second** Bill Brooks.
Discussion:

Breezy: Can an extra interval still be added? Answer is yes.

Chip: This discussion started a while ago to promote fair competition and level the playing field. Initially there was hesitation, but after using TRS there is currently a lot of support within community. Discussion in last couple days has been tied up with safety and what the intervals should be. There are two issues: allowing TRS in scored races, and the appropriate intervals for those races.

Motion by Chip Knight to split this amended proposal into two proposals: 1) the original as written and 2) a second to adopt these two intervals (40s and 45s) for speed events; **Second** Dan Marshall; **Motion carried** with one abstention by Doug Hall.

Motion by James Jensen to accept the original proposal to allow TRS random seeding at scored single and multi-day events; **Second** Jon Nolting.

Discussion:

Aldo: asks Doug for clarification that there was no issue with accepting TRS at scored events? Doug answers no, only concern was for safety at faster events.

Mike Bowman: It is not requiring random seeding? Answer is no: it is allowing TRS to be used in both scored or unscored races if desired.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Chip Knight to accept amendment suggested by Technical subcommittee to have a 40s interval for GS and a 45s interval for speed events for TRS scored or non-scored single and multi-day races; **Second** Bill Brooks.

Discussion:

Bill: suggests friendly amendment split this in to two pieces to separate out scored and unscored races. Non scored races follow ACR; they don't need longer interval.

Paul: questions whether we should make mention of finish interval (next racer is started when current racer crosses finish – could be less than minimum interval). If overall run time is less than 40s, it can drop to 30s intervals as in ACR.

Jon: comments that we are making an excessive requirement and does not vote in favor of this; Jury can manage intervals.

Paul: notes that Jury may decide to change interval at any time during the race. Notes that ACR 622.2.3 states 30s minimum interval for GS and 40s for SG.

Comment from zoom: starter also can adjust interval.

Paul: reminds everyone that the spirit of this proposal is to consider athlete safety. There are many alternative seeding methods, and perhaps there should be a TF investigation to research all together with considerations of the athletes and demographics of varied hill sizes and make recommendation.

Breezy: suggests that this is also an education issue with starters, Jury and coaches to be aware of those who need longer interval.

Paul: mentions that he made a recommendation that the coaches should let starter/jury know that an athlete might come to start that is slower.

Joe Paul: asks if someone from RMD would offer their opinion

John Jett from RMD: random seeding has been used for speed events; he states no issues, has never seen a collision in the years he has been doing this; races at max vertical for a DH and used 40 second interval with TRS no problem. Athletes know if they catch up to the racer in front of them to stop for interference.

Thelma: clarifies that her issue was the word "scored". Her concern is with U16 athletes and the disparity of skill could lead to a possible athlete collision, especially in Downhill. Officials do not want to put athletes in danger.

Jon: we are making this cumbersome, this can be addressed as part of alpine officials education, that Jury must be aware if random seeding is used.

Breezy: worried that this creates a false sense of safety when interval should maybe be longer than 45 sec.

Warner: makes motion to table this issue and form TF to study different seeding methods and whether interval changes are needed. (no second).

Chip: disagrees with need for a TF but agrees with Jon that this is an education issue.

Motion fails: Paul/Bill in favor, all else against; no abstentions.

Karen: notes that education material should be updated if necessary that

TD/Starter/Jury/Coach consider intervals at races using any random seeded method and athletes know they can advocate for themselves.

6.6. Alpine FIS Subcommittee – Paul Van Slyke

- Thanked everyone in his community, who are active all year serving as TDs and doing course inspections around the country. Thanks also to Jeff Weinman and Margo Yatkeman for work on back end.
- FIS TD WG: Congrats to new FIS TD #1240 Lucy Conklin on passing her final practical. Three new TD candidates will move on to their exams in the Fall.
- Rules WG: Several housecleaning items: Rules committee updated several rules which will do the following:
 - Update on the Golden Rule: Add "adaptive athletes are allowed to compete using equipment required by their disability"

- o Edit Kinder Kombi rules to match the educational materials
- o The pending FIS no-hike SL rule (614.2.3, interdiction to continue) will not be implemented by USSS this coming year, it will be a “U” rule when implemented. For FIS, we will see how it works out and will be distributed in the Fall in updates
- o The notice board can be replaced as the official communication to be announced at Team Captains meeting
- Courses Working Group: For new homologations, FIS has moved to supplying resorts with an email with a link to an electronic certificate for homologation, so no paper copy will be given. TD’s/Race Organizers/Course inspectors will need to refer to the FIS website for the current Homologation.
- The FIS no-hike in SL rule likely to be challenged by NCAA, FIS UNI committee (Darryl L., USA rep) will ask for different rule from FIS at the UNI level.
- Coming up from FIS: Fluoro ban to be fully implemented 2023-24 for World Cup, WSC, other major events and randomly at lower level events; procedures under discussion to come up with testing methods (handheld devices will likely be used at finish). We suspect if it will be implemented at NAC, we will be notified in advance and would appear in the Race Announcement
- Coming up from FIS: Implementation for air-bag back protector – strongly recommended for WC speed events 2023-24; mandatory for 2024-25 WC/Olympic/World Ski Championships speed events; will be strongly recommended for COC speed events in 2024-25; mandatory for WC, WSC, OWG, COC speed events 2025-2026. The air bags will need to have a FIS sticker like the helmets.

6.7. Alpine Regional Subcommittee – Bill Brooks

- Seasonal review reports from each region and Masters are posted to the [FTP site](#).
- Two reports concerning high school racing in the Eastern and Western regions posted to [FTP site](#), they are enjoying great success with their programs. Great deal of enthusiasm.
- Winter for Kids has moved from NJ to NY after years of discussion; coming out of that process is that the procedure for a club moving from one state/division/region to another has been committed to writing.
- There were some high-level discussions around Safe Sport.
- Working to get in writing what athlete representation should be at different levels within governance, and what their responsibilities are. Bill asks Warner to get that process going before rotating off as an Athlete Rep.
- Looking at meeting regional balance at subcommittee level. Mentions that Darryl will be looking at this as he modifies/improves policies and procedures over the summer.
- There were 4 proposals; 2 were unanimous, 1 tabled, 1 was 5-3 vote.
 - o 1. **ACTION:** Proposal recommending that entry fee be capped at \$75 and \$75/bed (\$150 per room) for U16/U18 regional or national championships.
 - o 2. **ACTION:** The proposal to define how one club moves from a region/division/state to another was put into writing.

Motion by Doug Hall to approve these two proposals; **Second** James Jensen; **Motion carried** unanimously.

- o **ACTION:** Proposal to separate cost of lift pass from race entry passed on a 5-3 vote. Discussion was very regionally based. Ticket price is unknown and might be folded into entry package, which is most often an issue in the East.

Motion by Bill Brooks to accept this proposal; **Second** Andrew Weibrecht.

Discussion:

Karen: asks for clarification on why there was an issue?

Bill: responds that in the east, there are resorts that own the clubs hosting the race events and they put together a package price for an event, and the lift ticket is not specifically itemized in that package.

Doug: this is trying to make one thing work for entire nation and he does not agree with this premise.

Aldo elaborates: came from the TF formed at Congress last spring. It is to address the fact that many athletes already have a pass, and they should not have to pay for lift access (lift ticket) twice. Also, it would provide transparency for those who are purchasing entry to know where their funds are going.

Sam: comments that this is mostly a challenge in the east since this could cause some awkwardness but not an undue burden.

Jon: good to have transparency.

Motion carried unanimously.

- The announcement that USSS platform for membership would be discontinued prompted much discussion. Jeff Weinman invited to make a statement about this.
 - With new partnership with Outside, it was decided they would be a preferred, official provider. Not mandated.
 - RAs can use any platform they choose.
 - Outside has the SkiReg platform, which is used successfully in Eastern Region.
 - Notes that this will affect Rocky/Central and Western Region going forward
 - Head tax will still be collected but it is not funding USSS platform anymore.
 - SkiReg and Admin Ski Racing are systems which are used in ER. Bill suggests that ER folks help those in WR/RC through forums and social media.
- Reports that regional population has mostly recovered from the declines during COVID
- Proposal from USOPC and USSS to reduce size of the Alpine Sport Committee from 26 downwards. This is a discussion item currently; it will be actionable in the fall. Chip states that there is a desire to restructure the size of the ASC to streamline and make it more functional; perhaps more work can be done at subcommittee level.

6.8. Alpine Development Subcommittee – Aldo Radamus

Thanks to the 4 working groups that report to him. All seven proposals are advancing with unanimous consent. They have been discussed extensively and all proposals will be submitted in single slate:

- **ACTION:** U18 tech start limit will be 30 for first year U18, 35 for second year U18; existing exceptions for higher level competitions remain intact.
- **ACTION:** Proposal to recommend that all calendared FIS races in North America be considered in U.S. Ski Team selection period.
- **ACTION:** Proposal to implement random seeding at U16 National Championships, with SG randomized separately from tech events.
- **ACTION:** Proposal to strengthen language in U1256.4 that U14 and U12 SG training run must be held unless it is decided otherwise after a discussion with all representatives at the Team Captains Meeting.
- **NO ACTION:** Proposal to study U14 and Younger vertical drops across all events.
- **ACTION:** U14 and Younger Race Local proposal:
 - U14 and younger athletes can only compete out of their home region with permission from their coach, divisional manager, regional director, and the regional director of the region in which they are wishing to race.
 - U14 and younger athletes can only compete out of their home division with permission from their coach, divisional manager, and the divisional manager of the division in which they are wishing to race.
 - Divisions may designate certain races as “Open.” These events are open to competitors outside of the division, but from the home region, without the requirement for specific permission.
- **ACTION:** Quotas and Selections WG recommends that ER revise their quota methods for Championship events to include consideration of gender population.
- **Motion** by John Norton to accept this report; **Second** Chip Knight. **Motion carried** unanimously.

6.9. Athletes – Warner Nickerson

He states they have no proposals to put forward. Thankful to be in-person and appreciates all athlete reps; it is a great group and very collaborative.

- Happy to have recommended 33% level of representation at Development Subcommittee level.
- He believes that the athletes are going to be willing to serve.
- He will help define an appropriate number of athlete representation at the different subcommittee levels, as well as what their role and responsibilities should be.

- It is important to define the competition level requirement an athlete must reach. He feels that being an ex-WC athlete is too high of a bar to reach in order to serve. He will work with Darryl and Alison Pitt on this.
 - Always concerned about the cost of sport.
 - Culture and communication is improving.
 - Thanks to Patrick for keeping athletes involved in higher levels of hiring.
 - Appreciates having Anouk in the Director of Sport role; very helpful with her knowledge of the sport.
 - Happy to hear there will be a Development Director coming on.
- Karen thanks athletes for their participation and voices.

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business

8.1. Ski Cross integration: Karen discussed governance structure yesterday and how it will be overseen by staff. It will be part of alpine and is a work in progress. Very early phase of making that transition.

8.2. Operating procedures: Karen explained that the operating procedures will be worked on over the summer, including size of the committee.

9. Discussion

9.1. Comments from Chair: Karen expressed thanks to Karen Korfanta, who will be retiring from the ASC. She is a trailblazer for all of us, not just the women. Has been involved with all parts of the sport for many years.

9.2. Comp Services, Club Development, Membership and SafeSport reports posted on [FTP site](#).

9.3. Comments from committee members and guests - none

10. Next meeting – October 2023, date and time TBD

11. Adjournment: 3:15pm MDT

Motion by Doug Hall to adjourn, **Second** by James Jensen. **Motion carried** unanimously.