

USSA Alpine Western Region ACC  
Golden Nugget Hotel, Las Vegas  
Wednesday, April 20, 2016  
9:00am

MINUTES

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1. Welcome & Introductions- chair
2. Roll Call – TK
  - 2.1 Review of voting members from each division
    - Executive – Todd Kelly, Troy Price, Ryan Shorter, Karen Korfanta
    - AK – Lex Patten
    - FW – Mike Ginsberg, Beat Hupfer
    - IMD – Bridger Call, Todd Brickson
    - NO – Rick Duncan, Jeremy Ueland
    - PNSA – Dan Henry, Bill Brooks
    - Officials – Roger Root
    - RIMSA – Sparky Anderson
    - Staff – Bill Gunesch, Gwynn Watkins, Chip Knight, Patrick Riml, Natalie Osborne, Shari Hale, Paul Mahre, Carma Burnett
    - Guests – Tammy Strong, Molly Laramie
3. Review Agenda / Additions – chair
  - Addition of PNSA’s document on U14’s to be added to 9.1.3
4. Review and Approval of March 15, 2016 Minutes – chair
  - Motion to approve Karen Korfanta, 2nd – A WR Gent, can’t hear it in the recording. passed unanimously
5. USSA Update
  - Patrick Riml-
    - Challenges of the season – injuries, snow conditions in Europe, decrease in sponsorship = 10% cut in budget; team rosters will shrink again and taking a look at criteria. Main focus is performance and infrastructure for 17 World Champs, 18 Olympics and Development up to 2022.
    - Believe in 3 Tier Program: World Cup, Europa Cup, Development (combo for training)
    - Staff changes: Men’s side - changing to a Speed Team, GS/SG Team, Slalom Team
    - Women’s side speed team and tech team
    - Europa Cup Team will be a true Nor Am team, oldest will be a 97
    - Reduce staff based on the numbers of athletes, approx. 10 less athletes.
    - Radius Rules addressed, looking for data. Will not change for the 16-17 season, but potentially 17-18 after review of data.
  - Chip Knight –
    - Great to be in attendance to meeting, a lot of listening this season; looking to attend WR events next season.
    - Working NTG alignment and how it fits in the development structure: Integrated the FIS NTG with the D Team program worked well.
    - U16 side – good program this year, full time and hybrid. Going forward looking at not having a full time U16 NTG program going forward, instead running a Regional Training Program.
    - Highlighted results from the season.
    - National Performance Series – for first year it was successful. Provides a National layer for athletes to work up to the Nor Ams. Looking to build on it, would like to lengthen the period of time of the projects 6-8 days, allowing for a rest day prior to competition, 2

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events not just one, etc.

U16 Colorado fall project – feedback was that it was too early this year. Shooting for December time frame next year.

U16 Europe project – train and raced under many conditions, attended the 7 Nations Cup. U16 Nationals was a wonderful 4 days, snowed 2 feet. Thank you to Snowbird. Athlete comradery is outstanding.

# of Proposals going forward; housekeeping: comp guide rules to be cleaned up, etc. Reviewing structure and pipeline, culture:

1. criteria was easier on the speed side, yet data shows strong tech before being a speed skier. Reviewing and making changes to criteria so that Ski Team athletes are coming in with strong technical skills.

-looking for greater variety of training; sound fundamental skiing requires repetition.

2. clear path calendar allowing appropriate level racing for development, NPS, Nor Am, -Regional Performance Series(RPS) – U16 initiative, originally designed as an NTG layer, now needs to rework it. Brings U16's together more regionally.

3. Meaningful layer of USSA competition; Regional USSA Champ to National USSA Champ, would take place of U19 Champs. Evaluating the U19 champs as it currently exists.

-National/Regional projects, including tri regional projects, focus more energy at the U14 and U16 levels.

4. Conditioning Assessment, based on Norwegian Iron Man, medals test, etc. From Elite to U12 athletes and measure themselves against each other. Simple suite of tests: box jumps, pull ups, etc. Timeline: National team will run through it in May, after that a few clubs can then roll it out with their athletes...FIS down to their younger athletes. Roll out in the Fall as a product.

5. Skills Quest road map, need to be proactive about how to roll it out. Regions are tasked with 2 times a year. Having clubs doing a bit of skills and drills as part of their weekly program.

6. Western Region Program Update – WR staff

6.1 Director's report

Thank you to Patrick and Chip for attending the Vegas meetings today.

Thank everyone for their hard work and patience during the transition.

Personal goal is to be in attendance more/communications more.

Good snow year, sometimes too much snow. To the ROC's that worked through the conditions, thank you for your hard work.

New projects this year: European and U14 Regionals, discussion later in the meeting.

Divisional Managers – thank you very much.

Very pleased the way our coaches come together and work as a region.

Thank you to Gwynn for her outstanding work this season and leading the region through the summer and the season; thank you to Pick and Darryl for their work, too.

6.2 Manager's report

Thank you Bill, Pick and Darryl as they worked through the transition. As a staff felt support from all the programs.

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7. WR Committee Reports

7.1 Executive Committee Report – chair

TK thanked the Executive Committee for their work, light year not much

7.2 Treasurer Report – treasurer

Full detail report at Congress. End of February able to incorporate, opened the account. Reconciling this

7.3 Development Committee Report – vice chair

AK – Lex Patten

FW – Eric Garayoa

IMD- Troy Price

NO – Jeremy Ueland

PNSA – Ryan Shorter

2 proposals that are being worked on: Jnr Champs quotas coming out of the same process, and a U14 proposal.

8. USSA Staff Proposals

8.1 Alpine Equipment – reviewed the proposal. Red lined font are proposed changes. Agreed that the equipment rule committee will need to meet each season, in the Fall, to review specs and the market, etc.

Discussion regarding specs for crossover age class racing and equipment to course setting specs

Chip addressed that this proposal is an attempt to close the gap, help athletes navigate the equipment development process.

8.2 Intent Deadline – proposal comes out of Regional Staff. Try to encourage more compliance with registration deadlines. Shifting from 28 days to 21 days. This should align better with FIS lists, too.

Gwynn pointed out that Western Region coaches need to do better heading into next season.

8.3 FIS Competition Access – removes the threshold for North American access, tightens the access to the Southern Hemisphere and European access.

8.4 Geographic Affiliation – passed three years ago, but was not added to the comp guide. This is making all aware that it will be added to the comp guide.

8.5 SL Delayed Gate – removing the minimum distance in the delay gate; this rule is not in the FIS rules. Creating more alignment with the FIS rules.

8.6 U16 Regional Performance Series – still on the drawing board at this time. Will discuss further with the calendar later.

8.7 U19 NPS Quotas – adjusting the quotas of the projects. Refining to make a bit more elite project, returning to the larger quota for the races.

8.8 US Nationals Quotas -

-collegiate quota: remove the overall NCAA Champion from this quota for management purposes.

-rank the intended collegiate athletes on SL and GS only

-clean up language that Nor Am Finals results will not count towards US Nats selections. Nor Am results to be used up to the intent deadline only.

8.9 USSA National Championship

-to revitalize USSA racing. Regional to National USSA championships at the

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U19 level.

Lots of discussion on how, why, retention, etc.

8.10 Status of Course Setting Matrix

Jon Nolting is leading the task force on this. TK requested input on the course setting matrix so that he could take it back to the task force.

9. Western Region Proposals

9.1 National Proposals

9.1.1 Far West proposals

9.1.1.1 60" gate – FW feels that the gate is too short based on the height of athletes. Would like to see the word 'minimum' included into the rule. IMD would also like the flexibility.

**Motioned by Beat Hupfer 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Henry - Passed Unanimously**

9.1.1.2 U14 invitations to U16 Nationals

In favor of U14 Regional Champs, not in favor of U14's being invited to the U16 Nationals.

Chip Knight requested feedback on the Regional Project:

FW – coaches liked it

NO – there was reservation going into it.

PNSA – positive experience at the event, PNSA proposal is that they do not support regional or national competition for U14's. Reservations are cost, time, travel, deselecting, etc. Questioning the reason for the event.

**Motioned by Beat Hupfer 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Ginsberg Passed 6 to 5**

9.1.2 PNSA – Ability-class racing

requesting one more year of data collection as year one was such a bad snow season that there is not enough data to use for evaluation. Bill Brooks provided information on the process from this past season.

**Motion: Bill Brooks 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dan Henry Passed unanimously**

9.2 Regional Proposals

9.2.1 IMD proposal

9.2.1.1 Remove the NJR Classification for the ladies WR Calendar and return it to FIS classification.

**Motion: Todd Brickson 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ryan Shorter Passed unanimously**

9.2.1.2 Create a calendar that considers the closing date of the FIS points list.

No vote needed, just asking for awareness

9.2.1.3 Replace December and March Open FIS races with Divisional FIS races.

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This has been tabled until Congress for further clean up of the proposal and discussion.

### 9.2.1.4 Proposal to standardize Regional Championship event selections.

Same method for U14,U16 and WR JR Champs

-population to take future year athletes

-use all starts contested in the event for the performance piece.

-minimum quota will remain at 4 and 4

Discussion whether all divisions license their U12's.

This has been tabled until Congress as this proposal was not distributed.

please provide feedback to Troy Price prior to Congress.

## 10. Site Selection / Calendar Committee – WR staff

### 10.1 Preliminary Calendar discussion – review of attached calendar. Cleaned up version attach

reviewed calendar committee -

AK – Lex Patten

FW – Mike Ginsberg

IMD – Bridger Call

NO –Jeremy Ueland

PNSA –Dan Henry

Staff – Bill and Gwyn

### 10.2 Levels of racing

Chip Knight- Athlete needs three levels of racing: Home series; Reach Series; confidence layer/series.

Topolino – 6 total athletes

### 10.3 Review Quotas to Open and NJR

Currently 25 and 25

- can quotas be done off of population only? Does it need to include a performance piece?

Proposal can be ready heading into Congress

## 11. Western Region Projects and Events – WR staff

updated project calendar is attached

## 12. Other New or Old Business – chair

## 13. Meeting Schedule – chair

13.1 Congress Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>; 12:00-17:00 in Ivers/Hearst Room

## 14. Adjournment



## ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

Date:

For consideration by:

Copy to:

Rule reference:

Reference:

### Original Version:

### New Proposal:

### Comments:

Submitted by:

Contact Person:



**U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association**  
The National Governing Body for Olympic Skiing and Snowboarding



## ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

Date:

For consideration by:

Copy to:

Rule reference:

Reference:

### Original Version:

Currently 5 boys and 5 girls, from the older YOB, are selected from each of the three regional U14 championships to attend the U16 National Championships.

### New Proposal:

Eliminate the participation of U14 athletes at the U16 National Championships.

### Comments:

The Western Region promotes a regional championship for U14 athletes, and believes this regional event should be the season finale for this age group. The increased expense to families, time out of school, and scheduling conflicts that arise outweigh any benefit to the athletes, and will only cause more athletes to leave the sport at an early age.

Eliminating the qualification element from the U14 Regional Championships will allow the event to be conducted later in March, and in turn, will allow for a region-wide U14 calendar that is more age appropriate; moving from local racing, to divisional racing, and finally to a regional competition.

Submitted by:

Contact Person:



**U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association**  
The National Governing Body for Olympic Skiing and Snowboarding



## ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

Date:

For consideration by:

Copy to:

Rule reference:

Reference:

### Original Version:

PNSA has been conducting trial Ability Class racing at USSA scored events on its divisional calendar for the past two season.

### New Proposal:

PNSA asks to continue the Ability Class racing format for one more season (2016-17) on a trial basis in order to complete the collection of data necessary for a worthwhile report and proposal to USSA for adoption of Ability Class racing as a recognized competition format within USSA.

### Comments:

USSA granted PNSA a trial season in 2014-15, and again in 2015-16, to test Ability Class racing at scored events. The first season was a very poor test with the lack of snow in the Northwest. PNSA was only able to test the system at two events. However, this past season was a very successful trial year of the Ability Class system and PNSA collected very good data.

What's missing in the data is the transition of athlete classification and athlete advancement points into a new season. PNSA would like one more trial year to collect this transition data and be able to make a worthwhile and complete presentation to the ASC at the 2017 Congress.

Footnote: PNSA has collected numerous testimonials from athletes, parents and coaches with regard to Ability Class racing, the majority very positive. PNSA will be prepared to present this feedback, as well as current data, at this year's Congress meetings.

Submitted by:

Contact Person:



**U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association**  
The National Governing Body for Olympic Skiing and Snowboarding



## Proposals for the April 20<sup>th</sup> ACC Meeting

1. Proposal to eliminate the NJR classification for the ladies on the WR calendar and return it to FIS classification. Since we don't have an access issue for the ladies, we might be able to attract some of the older ladies to the races and provide better penalties.

**PASSED Unanimously**

2. Proposal to create a calendar that considers the closing date of the FIS list. We had a number of races this winter scheduled over list closures/openings that meant the kids missed getting their results on the new list and also had to use old points when if things had been shifted a day or two, they would've had the benefit at least one way or the other.

**NO VOTE NEEDED**

3. Proposal to replace the December and March Open races with Divisional FIS races. Previously, when WR had divisional FIS races they were not considered viable because of the small field sizes which made it difficult for the ROC's to justify hosting the races. The proposal includes raising the entry fee and charge an extra 50-100% for divisional FIS races to help cover the costs of the ROC. In addition, run the SL's on the same day, reducing the series from a 4 day series to a 3 day series. The goal is to save the athletes money by reducing travel costs (lodging, fuel/airfare, baggage, food, etc.) and keep them in school more.

**TABLED UNTIL CONGRESS**

## Western Region Championships

The quotas are established through calculations via the “Corrock and Price method”. This method is based on a philosophy of using the average of population and performance for each division to determine Regional Championship quotas.

- The population data will be derived from the divisional memberships on the USSA points list valid May 1<sup>st</sup> using the birth years of the upcoming Championship event. Foreign athletes will not be included in population.
- The performance allocation will be based on the prior year’s performance by each division for the respected event. All races contested are included in the equation. Those competitors finishing within 10 percent of the winning time will be included in each division’s performance percentage. Foreign athletes will be included if they utilized their divisional quota selection to enter the championship event.
- Formula:  $((\% \text{ of Population}) + (\text{Average } \% \text{ of Performance}))/2 = \% \text{ of Quota}$ 
  - Take the percentage of population plus the average percentage of performance from all starts at last year’s championships, divided by 2 to determine the percentage of quota.
  - Then multiply that percentage by the field size for the gender to determine the raw quota.
  - All rounding should review to the thousandth.
  - No division will have a quota of less than 4 women and 4 men. Adjustments will be based objectively from the raw quota to ensure the minimum quota is provided to each division

WRJC – Women quotas – field size of 83 \*\* Example Only\*\*

	A	B	C	D			
		Perf	(A+B)/2	CxField Size			
	<u>Population</u>	<u>Avg</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Raw</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Objective</u>
				<u>Quota</u>		<u>Quota</u>	<u>change</u>
Alaska	2.91%	5.36%	4.14%	3.432	3	4	0.568
Far West	30.23%	30.36%	30.30%	25.145	25	25	-0.145
Intermountain	34.30%	35.71%	35.01%	29.054	29	29	-0.054
Northern	5.23%	3.57%	4.40%	3.652	4	4	0.348
PNSA	27.33%	25.00%	26.17%	21.717	22	21	-0.717
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>83.00</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>83</b>	







## WESTERN REGION 2016 PREP CALENDAR DRAFT 2

		5		6		7		8		9		10		11		12	
		MAY		JUNE		JULY		AUGUST		SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC	
1		1		1		1	U-16 Hood	1		1		1		1		1	
2		2		2		2		2	RTG La' Parva / Depart	2		2		2		2	
3		3		3		3	SL	3		3		3		3		3	
4		4		4		4		4		4		4		4		4	
5		5		5		5	U-16 Hood / Depart	5		5		5	Mt. Hood first choice	5		5	
6		6		6		6		6		6		6		6	Travel	6	
7		7		7		7		7		7		7	Tech Hood	7	Tri-Reg Col / SPD	7	
8		8		8		8		8		8		8		8		8	
9		9		9		9		9		9		9		9		9	
10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	U-19 M & W	10	
11		11		11		11		11		11		11		11		11	
12		12		12		12		12		12		12		12		12	
13	RTG Travel	13		13		13		13		13		13		13		13	
14	RTG GS/Terrain	14		14		14		14		14		14		14		14	
15		15		15		15		15		15		15		15		15	
16	GS / SG / Jumping	16		16		16		16	Travel	16		16		16		16	
17		17		17		17		17	WRT Cond COE	17		17		17	U-19 NPS	17	
18		18		18		18	Travel	18	WRT Cond COE	18		18		18		18	
19		19		19		19	RTG La' Parva	19		19		19		19		19	
20	RTG Train / Depart	20		20		20		20		20		20		20	U-19 NPS	20	
21	U-16 Travel	21		21		21		21		21		21		21		21	
22		22		22		22		22		22		22		22		22	
23	FLT. School	23		23		23		23		23		23		23		23	
24		24		24		24	NC Valle Nevado SL	24		24		24		24		24	
25		25		25		25	NC Valle Nevado GS	25		25		25		25		25	
26	U-16 Train / Depart	26		26		26	SAC Valle Nevado SG	26		26		26		26		26	
27		27		27		27	SAC El Col GS	27		27		27		27		27	
28		28		28		28	SAC La'Parva SL	28		28		28		28		28	
29		29		29		29		29		29		29		29		29	
30		30		30		30		30		30		30		30		30	
31		31		31	Travel	31		31		31		31		31		31	
	Staff = 5 Athletes = 12 & 12				Staff Hood = 4 Athletes Hood = 12 & 12		La'Parva Staff = 6 Athletes = 12 & 12		Staff Cond =1 Athletes = WRT		Staff Hood = 5 Athletes Hood = 12 & 12 Staff Europe = 5						