Eastern Alpine Competition Committee Fall Meeting

Cannon Mt., NH - Brookside Learning Center

Saturday, October 20, 2018 9:00 am

Minutes

Committee Members Present (Voting):

Dan Marshall, Chairman; Dan Chayes, Vice-Chair; Bev Oliver, Secretary; Sally Utter, Children's Committee Chairman; John Norton, EDC for Tom Sell; Sean "Stumpy" McGee, SARA; Diann Roffe, PARA; Laurel Lashar, ME; Laura Sullivan, TSASRA; Doug Hall, Alpine Officials Chairman; Doug Williams, At-Large; Julie Woodworth, VT; Dirk Gouwens, NY; Andrew Gannon, NH.

At-Large member seat is available with Sam Damon stepping down.

Committee Members Present (Non-Voting):

John Dwyer, College; Dan Marshall, High School

Committee Members Absent:

Absent: Tom Sell, Development Committee Chairman; Tao Smith, At-Large; Peter Girardi, Athlete; Chris Frank, Athlete; Mike Davenport, EASEF; Nadine Price, Masters; Connie Webster, Immediate Past EACC Chairman; Rob Dowd, NJSRA; Roger Brown, Athlete; Horst Weber, Emeritus.

Staff Present:

U.S. Ski and Snowboard: Page Roberts, Eastern Alpine Competition Manager
U.S. Ski and Snowboard: Eastern Development Director, Sam Damon
U.S. Ski and Snowboard: Brad Farrell, Eastern Regional Development Coach
U.S. Ski and Snowboard: Kathy Okoniewski, Eastern Youth Coach.

U.S. Ski and Snowboard: Chip Knight, USSA National Alpine Development Director

Guests:

Julia Ford, NHARA; Lori Ford, NHARA; Beatty Schlueter, NY; Finn Gundersen, VT; Fred Turton, NH; Richard Hanbury, TSASRA; Mikaela Fera, NH; Alex Krebs, VARA; Michael Browne, VARA; Stephen Merganthaler, NY; Schone Malliet, NJSRA; Ed Bassett, MA; Roger Kimball, TSASRA< VARA; Brennan Smith, NHARA; Jill Firstbrook, NHARA;

I. Welcome and Call to Order, 9:01 am – by Dan Marshall, EACC Chairman

- Welcome to Cannon Mountain. Brief review of changes to the area over the years.

II. Minutes of the Spring Meeting

- Motion: To accept the minutes of the EACC Spring Meeting 4.22.18 as corrected.
  D. Marshall/L. Lashar/Unanimous.
- It was noted that there have been a lot of changes since the meetings last spring.

III. Committee Membership

- Roll Call.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda. D. Marshall/L. Sullivan/Unanimous.

V. Committee Reports

A. Development Committee Chairman – John Norton for Tom Sell.

- The EDC met yesterday: only three members as most of the EDC is in Europe. So the meeting consisted of review and discussion of ideas that have been addressed this fall.

  New payment system: moving from Alpine Reg to Ski Reg. The move promises to better take care of the region's needs.

  FIS Series pretty happy when the systems already in place work. Problems arose with coaches' or staff issues, not meeting deadlines, and things backing up.

- Three levels still exist: 1) Eastern Cup Series the topnotch level of racing, 2) Development FIS Series for 1st and 2nd year FIS athletes as well as college athletes not at the top of the NCAA circuit and 3) Open FIS racing.
- More tangible things discussed:

  The inability to fill a field when spots became available. A lot of discussion took place regarding encouraging access rather than restricting access to the right races, allowing Eastern Cups to be filled with adds from the waiting list in order.

  There was interesting discussion regarding point cut-offs: Last year there was a maximum point cut-off to enter an ECS event; yesterday a minimum point cut off was discussed regarding entry into Devo FIS events. The idea is to drive the penalties in Devo FIS events into the 35-40 range.

  No real major changes in selection methods are anticipated at the FIS level. There will still be group protected quotas for each of the series. The committee is happy with the system currently in place, just would like to see it working correctly.

  Some discussion took place regarding quotas for the U16 and U19 National Performance series.
- There was a request that EDC Committee minutes be sent to State Chairs if possible.
- Review of Division/State Quotas

  Division/State Quotas remain at 3 M/3 W. Unused state quotas go into discretionary requests. The committee felt that age group quotas fulfill most of what needs to be done.
- EDC – Dani Koch, Mike Morin; Tom Sell, John Dwyer, Roman Connell; John Norton; Roger Kimball; Michaela Holland, Rich Smith, and non-voting members, Dan Marshall, Sally Utter, and Terri DelliQuadri.
- Dan Chayes: Re the process for reviewing quotas – final approval of aa quotas is by the EACC. There has been a period of time whereby approval resulted from approval of the Eastern Handbook. This does not make for a very clear process or opportunity for some feedback. State representatives should be allowed to sit in on EDC and ECC conferences calls as well as receive minutes of the meetings. Meetings conducted are worth zero.

  John: EDC meetings are not closed. The meetings are not intentionally exclusionary. There needs to be a better job of sharing information. The EDC meeting held yesterday (4 hours worth) did not have a quorum. This is a hard time for coaches to attend meetings as most are away. There are no motions from the EDC to be voted upon.
- The Handbook will not be voted on today.
- Question: Quotas at FIS races: specifically speed events where there are very small fields and there are athletes who would love to get into these races but my not be on the waiting list but have a point profile well within the point profile of those who are competing. Is there any

thought to open up these races? This was referred to Sam Damon's report for answering. There will be a lot that will change with the new registration system.

B. Children's Racing, Sally Utter.

- Membership review

  Three people stepped off the committee: Sam Damon, Athlete Rep, Gerd Reis, terms are up and Roger Kimball, changing to U19s. The ECC is composed of U14 and under, boots on the ground.

  New members are: Matt Purcell, NH; Julia Ford, Athlete Rep; and Richard Hanbury, CT (TSASRA).

  Misconceptions re the ECC make up. The committee is not composed of a rep from each division. Members are voted in via nominations. Those who are not committee members can be placed on a distribution list by request to Sally Utter. It was mentioned that voting members of the EACC should be on this list without having to ask.

- Updating the governance-current info on the Eastern website is lacking.

- Ski Racing safety initiatives

  Stop the Bleed presentation by Shell Davis and the Shelly Brush Foundation tomorrow. Attendance is highly recommended. Also, if you cannot attend this presentation, they will also set up a program at your area upon request. The presentation introduces small medical kits with clotting agents that will easily fit in a coach's back pack. Maintenance of 1st responder certification is recommended as well.

  Additionally, POC has developed cut proof underwear; the first batch is almost sold out. Write the company to request that another batch be made available for purchase (expensive but worth it).

- U14 Quotas

  These quotas were passed at the EACC2018 Spring meeting. NH-35; VARA -57;NYSSRA-24;ME-13;-TSASRA-14; PA-11; SARA-6; NJ-6.

- Best practices for U12s and initiatives moving forward.

  There is now a national group as well as a regional group to address U12 issues.

  1. Sharing of ideas (games on snow, physical fitness, mental games; nutrition; skills video, evaluation, etc.
  2. New Pocket Guide will be available soon. QR code is available in label form which can be printed out for the current guide enabling downloading of videos.
  3. U12 issues get the least amount of time and the least amount of resources, but U12s are the largest membership group in USSA.
  4. A Facebook page is being developed to help with the sharing of ideas.

- U14s Skiing for Points – Action Item

  Considerable discussion ensued relating to U14s skiing for points which resulted in a new proposal as follows.

  It was noted that scored racing needs to be monitored by the division/state. Points will not be filtered from Park City as they have no way of filtering out.

  Motion: To allow 2nd year U14s to ski for points: the Southern Divisions, (TRISTATE, NJSRA, PARA, SARA), beginning March 1st, and the remaining divisions (MARA, NHARA, VARA, NYSRRA) after the Eastern Championships.

- Points will not be used for any U14 selections or seeding at any non-scored U14 race.
- No out of region scored racing except for U14s attending U16 Nationals.
- No out of division scored racing during the "regular season" for U14s.

S. Utter/D. Hall/Unanimous

It was noted that everyone should reread the original proposal put out by the ECC over the summer. That proposal is what the other regions of the country are doing and it seems to work for them. It was suggest that the ECC take a look at this again after some time has gone by under the system that was just approved.

C. In the interests if tune, Eastern ACC Chairperson, Dan Marshall deferred to Sam Damon, Eastern Alpine Director who gave his report through a PowerPoint presentation.

- EASEF Budget.

  Sam reviewed the current version of the budget. Budgets have been built for all of the projects for the year. An effort has been made to keep the cost of projects reasonable.

  Review of Eastern Region projects and review of National projects to be posted on the website.

  - U14 projects-on the calendar.
  - Discretionary spots and divisional quotas based on population.
  - Staffing is a problem – will need help from the divisions.
  - U16 projects calendared prior to NPS projects.
    - ✔ 2 days of training, 2 days off, then a free ski day in front of the NPS project.
    - ✔ Regional Tec projects, gender separated, targeted at 40 athletes each or more. One full day of training next to a USSA National event in the same discipline. Selection was briefly addressed: somewhat points based, but a divisional minimum of three, as well as 5 discretionary spots plus 2 spots for Hard Chargers (U14 Easterns, U16 Easterns and U19 Finals.
  - Eastern Regional FIS projects
    - ✔ Women's Speed Week – Burke
    - ✔ Men's Speed Week - Sugarloaf
  - NPS Schedule
    - ✔ Exactly the same for the U16s, December at Copper; January at Burke.
    - ✔ U19 Men –speed at Copper in November, Jackson in December.
  - U16 Nationals – at Breckenridge.
  - Nor-Am events at Panorama.
    - ✔ Nor-Am Prep camp at Mittersill for men and women.
    - ✔ Events in Canada.
    - ✔ Similar projects out of Jackson and Sun Valley
  - In region, US Nationals- and Nor-Am Finals. Prep projects for each of these.
  - Two 3-5 training blocks in the spring –possible sites are Sugarloaf, Burke and Killington.
  - Eastern Cup Pace
    - ✔ Goal for ECS is to make it an elite level series.
    - ✔ Comp the top 3M/3W at any ECS ?. . . TBD. Region would need to cover the expense, not the host.
    - ✔ Target for Devo penalties . . . 40-45 pts. 30 pts or leas in the event to be contested – ineligible for that Devo race.

- ✔ Women are not showing up for spring racing.
- ✔ Running a parallel evet, scoring for SL.
- ✔ Possibly a BBQ; announcer . . ., etc.

End of Budget . . . . remaining bills to be addressed: servicing radios, paying for broken gates.

The present iteration does not athlete support requests. No vote was taken as the budget still needs to be revised to include direct athlete support. EASEF Funds are a critical component.

Quote: "Figure out the program that you want, figure out the cost, and then we figure out how to pay for it!". Head taxes; grant writing, sponsorships, other options, etc.

- ECS Sponsorship: World Cup Supply decided not to renew this due to a number of reasons (missing equipment). However, due to intervention World Cup Supply has agreed to sponsor the series for the coming season.
- FIS Entry system is all new – Ski Reg.

  Possibly the largest registration company in the US. They do all kinds of events across all sports. They are creating a customization for the region within that framework.

  Basically . . .
  - Registration opens 2 weeks before the race.
  - There will be a 2 week window to register; put on a list with other registered athletes.
    - ✔ Green line is set by Paige/Sam (based on number of people to be in the race)
    - ✔ Green line automatically moves. Above the line the racer is in; below the line the racer is not in.
  - 5 days before the race registration closes. Those above the green line have their credit cards charged. Below the green line, the credit card does not get charged (waiting list).
  - Selection methods remain the same:
    - ✔ Protected YOB quotas.
    - ✔ 2 event NTSM and 3 event NTSM.
    - ✔ Regional discretionary spots: 10 ECS; 5 DEVOs.
  - Race Fee structure: roughly 5.5% - .70-$1.00 per race (a small increase).
  - Approximately 36 FIS venues were lost in USA this year – lack of homologation renewals.

D. National Alpine Development Director- Chip Knight.

Chip also gave his report using a PowerPoint presentation.

- Review of Staff
  - A lot of transitions nationally:
    - ✔ Jesse Hunt: National Alpine Director

      Working on fostering better team culture:

      1) Team building and getting staff and athletes on the same page.

      2) Addressing athlete funding issue and are making headway - more monies will be available this year. The B team will be fully funded this year. There will be a trickle-down effect to the C and D teams as well from some of the fund raising efforts.

      3) Fostering competing teams at every level (Opa Cup in SUI as well as Project 26, a long term development program).

4) Technical and tactical statement – Phil McNichol is taking a consultant role in developing consistent terminology and focus on teaching skiing, roughly a 6 month project.

- ✔ Project 26 and other projects–coaches are Sasha Rearick and Marjan Cernigoj
  1) Reaching out over 5 years of birth, basically all FIS Juniors. Goal is to better prepare Juniors for higher level ski racing. Requires a high level of communication between clubs, Sasha and Marljan and Chip.
  2) Live Webinars have been run on many of these projects. These have been posted on the Eastern website.
  3) Themes coming out of the webinars: Fundamental skill development concepts, Conditioning . . . not good enough, general lack of basic conditioning needed to volume at ski camps,
  4) Region Development coaches attend the national projects . . . carryover effect, tying the regional program with the national program. Brad has also been involved with a collegiate program this summer.
  5) Project announcement page is posted on the website-contains synopsis of the plan and lessons learned.
  6) Monthly newsletters have been sent out over the past 18 months.
- ✔ Regional and National Goals
  1) Medals at World Juniors
  2) Nor-Am World Cup spots by Juniors
  3) Age groups ranks in the world

- Eastern Staff: Sam Damon, Paige Roberts, Kathy Okoniewski, Brad Farrell.

- Other news
  - FIS has a new Safe Sport policy – U.S. is a leader, along with Norway and Great Britain, in regard to this.
  - Parallel format.
    - ✔ A big issue for discussion at the FIS level. They have not come up with a long term plan for this discipline yet. Right now it exists as a single run single pole qualification run which can be scored to the SL FIS point list. From the qualification run you can run paneled heats bracketed elimination heats. The US has limited authorization to run a few of these events this year, basically 1 per region: 1 each region, 1 at Nor-AM, 1 at the National Championships. Much more clarity is expected going forward next spring.
    - ✔ There are 3 different formats at the World Cup level. What is being dis cussed right now is some sort of SL/GS hybrid.
    - ✔ Single run SL requires all the combinations and is the qualifier for the parallel event. Basically two venues . . . requiring a total reset.
  - Speed development continues to be an issue at the FIS level. There have been very diminished field sizes. It is an international problem.
  - House cleaning issues:
    - ✔ New FIS point minimums –shown in a column at the end on the new list. Will be the new points next spring.
    - ✔ FIS point lists are published every 2 weeks this year.

- ✔ Plumbs are valid again this season.
- ✔ Injured athletes need to get on the injured protection list early.
- ✔ Sport Ed:
  1) Have moved off U Tube to a new website: http://videos.ussa.org./coetv.
  2) New Alpine Fundamentals guide as well as new QR codes for the present guide.
  3) Copper Coaches Symposium- November 16-19.
  4) TD update in Quebec next week.

o Domestically:

- ✔ New domestic format for the parallel event. Developed in contrast to the FIS version and is a more sensible format.

  Panel qualification runs (1 or 2) to qualify for bracketed elimination heats which must meet SL requirements. If it is a panel 2 run qualification event it can be scored to the SL list but must meet the minimum vertical and time requirements. Separate list is a 2 year phase in, requiring more clarity from FIS.. Rules will be spelled out in the new precisions guide.
- ✔ Revised eligibility standards for the Nor-Am Cup. Under 100 FIS points in either SG or DH in order to race in a Nor-Am Downhill (or participate in a National Development Speed Project.
- ✔ Revised NPS quotas: Increased the U16 quotas from 5 to 7.
- ✔ Copper Speed Project: U16s and U19s in early December, focusing on SG/DH for U19s and SG for U16s.
- ✔ 1st and 2nd year FIS athletes will be going to Europe. In January. These projects will run in parallel with Sasha and Marjan's projects which are focused on World Jr athletes.
- ✔ Working with Kathy O. on getting World Cup slip crews (U14s and U16s) at Killington.
- ✔ New intent/confirm deadlines: 18 day intent/16 day confirmation, 1 day turn around.
- ✔ Team Scoring is available in the Split Second software.
- ✔ Background screening: will be required every 2 years. Safe Sport certification is also required for anyone who comes in contact with young athletes. Under 18 coaches in training need a mentor coach, a general membership plus $20 for Safe Sport certification.
- ✔ Review of calendar.
- ✔ PowerPoint presentation will be sent to Dan Marshall.

E. Kathy Okoniewski, Eastern Youth Coach

- Report has been sent to Dan Marshall and Sally Utter.
- Getting ready for the Youth Development Workshop at 1:00 pm this afternoon. Roughly 60 coaches who have signed up. There are additional Coaches Education project as well in PA,
- November will be busy will preparations for the World Cup events at Killington (tent, activities for the kids, slip crews, etc.
- Projects – Copper, Southern States, project calendar has been posted. A lot is going on.

- U16 Am-Can event is gone. It has been replaced by an Ontario project west of Ottawa (similar to Whistler Cup). Expectation: includes Para Skiing as well. Events: GS and SL, Team Dual and Skier Cross. The selection process is still being developed event. Is this to be geared to first come, first served towards those not going to U16 Nationals? or divisional quota? Dates are March 28-31, 2019. A Team Leader is needed.

F. Brad Farrell, Eastern Development FIS Coach

- A lot of what he has been doing has already been covered.
- D Team Camp in November- working with regional athletes alongside of Sasha.
- Maintaining a region presence and providing training opportunities for all the scheduled camps.

G. Eastern Competition Manager-Paige Roberts introduced herself to the committee.

VI. Committees and Working Group Reports.

A. Alpine Officials: Doug Hall.

Not much to report. The Clinic schedule is out and is still being updated. Education materials are available.

B. High School Racing – Dan Marshall

- This season the event will be at Attitash, Bear Peak, March 6-9, 2019. Twelve states will be involved, 250 athletes. Interest has been expressed by Minnesota and Ohio as well.
- From a national perspective, there is a committee looking into the feasibility of creating regional championships and also a national championship for high school.

C. College – John Dwyer

- Not much to report. There have been no new teams added nor have any teams been lost. There has been some turnover in coaches.
- There was a summer collegiate project staffed with Peter Dodge and Jake? (the latter working at Colby). The project was attended by 5 girls and 9 guys approximately.
- The biggest change being seen in our area right now EISA has gone forward and hired a permanent referee for the entire 6 race series. This will allow the coaches to spend more time with their teams and also eliminates any bias or questionable decisions. Jay Marshall is the permanent referee. The cost will be split with the EISA and the Host of the carnival.

D. Masters – no Nadine Price.

E. EASEF – Dan Chayes for Mike Davenport.

- Dan reviewed Mike Davenport's report, reporting the balances in each of the four funds that EASEF administers. A regional reserve fund has been created that has not been funded yet.
- It was noted that there should be some way to put monies into the Greg Bartlett Fund.
- Dan will be working with Sam on creating this year's budget.

VII. State Associations/Reports

- Maine – Laurel Lashar
  - Memberships are pretty much the same this year.
  - Nothing much new..
- New Jersey no report
- New York – Dirk Gouwens
  - Membership numbers are up roughly 10% at this time, pretty much across the board. The equipment changes seem to have kept many of the U16s in the pipeline.
  - Steve Mergenthaler has taken the position of NYSSRA Youth Development Coach.

- NYSSRA is having a tough time getting officials for races due to unwillingness to attend clinics. NYSSRA would like to see AO education have an on one version. There are at least 10 sports have their officials education programs completely on line.

- New Hampshire – Andrew Gannon
  - It is great to have Fred Turton as NHARA's Youth Education Director. Great programming and he has made himself available to everyone in the state.
  - NHARA is hosting a number of regional projects this year at various areas as well as US National technical events at Waterville in the spring. Volunteers will be needed to run this event.
- Pennsylvania – Diann Roffe
  - Membership is growing, just under 1500 members so far, mostly in the U12-U14 age groups. The challenge is the 30% attrition rate from U14 to U16 and another 30% after that.
  - PARA does not have a specific youth coordinator but does have a Youth Committee formed to look into team races for U10s, parallel events between GS and SL events in PA State Championships.
- SARA – Stumpy
  - It is still summer..
  - Working on getting AO meetings and SARA meets in a couple of weeks.
- VARA– Julie Woodworth
  - Coaches Education is October 27th. Shelly Davis will give a presentation about the training kits developed for first aid –"Stop the Bleed" gel pads.
  - The Gala is November3 – Jimmy Cochran will be inducted into the VT Hall of fame.
  - Last year membership was up 8.4% and is up currently now.
  - Alex has run two excellent dryland camps at the OTC already. One issue is getting coaches to commit and follow through with their commitment events.
- TSASRA – Laura Sullivan
  - Membership numbers are up– 2, 114 members.
  - Working on new By-Laws, homologations, B net support, finances.
  - Children's Committee andU16 Committee with new chairmen.
  - Working on club program development and projects.

VII. Old Business – none.

VIII: New Business

- At Large Vacant position: Athlete Rep. Names/nominations will be accepted by Dan Chayes to be presented for vote at the EACC meeting in the Spring. So far Julia Ford and Brennan Smith have been nominated.
- Dates for the Spring meetings: TBD. USSA Congress is May 14-18, 2019.

II. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. D. Hall/D. Roffe/Unanimous

The meeting ended at 12:26 p.m.

Submitted by,

Bev Oliver

Recorder