



To the members of:

- Freestyle Sport Committee

For information to:

- Freestyle Sport Committee
- U.S. Freestyle Division Chairman
- U.S. Freestyle Programs
- Freestyle Coaches
- Interested Parties

Invitation - Committee for Freestyle Sports

Dear Friends,

Please find attached the “**Provisional Minutes**” for the meeting of the Freestyle Sport Committee that took place on **2/18/2025**.

With kind regards,

Mike Page

Freestyle Sport Committee Chair



U.S. SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

Provisional Agenda – for the meeting of the - Freestyle Sport Committee (FSC) Tuesday, February 18, 2025- at 5:30pm MST, Zoom

FSC Meeting Minutes 2/18/2025

Meeting Purpose

To address and vote on the proposal for format changes to the U.S. Freestyle Ski National Championships, driven by Olympic pathway alignment needs.

[Provisional Meeting Agenda](#)

Attendance

Mike Page - Chairman - Present

*Troy Murphy/Emerson Smith - Athlete Rep, BOD Athlete Rep (1 Vote) - Present

*Jeff Lange - At-Large - Present

*Mike Papke - Moguls, Subcommittee Chair - Present

*Jack Boyczuk - Aerials, Subcommittee Chair - Present

*Thom Schaefer - Officials, Subcommittee Chair - Excused

*Deb Newson/ Kris Pepe - Eastern Division Representative (1 Vote) - Present

*David Dreitlein - RM/C Division Representative - Present

*John Kavas - IM/FW/N/PNW Divisions Representative - Present

*Dani Loeb - Athlete Representative - Absent

*Ali Kariotis - Athlete Representative - Present

*Zac Amidian - Athlete Representative - Absent

*Trace Worthington - Athlete Representative - Absent

Sam Tarrant - Guest

Nat Schirman - Guest

Malorie Irvin - Guest

Lauren Benhoff - Guest

Kelly Hacker - Guest

John Gandolfo - Guest

John Grigsby - Guest

Crispy - Guest

Deb Newson - Guest

Craig Matthews - Guest

Christina Buckmaster - Guest

Chris Haslock - Guest

Caleb Martin - Guest

Ann Battelle - Guest



Alex Johnson - Guest

Glenn Eddy - Guest

Matt Gnoza - Staff - Freestyle Sports Director - Non Voting - Present

Maddie Hogg - Freestyle Development Manager - Non Voting - Present

*Voting

Key Takeaways

- The proposal to change the U.S. Freestyle Ski National Championships format passed with a 8-2 vote
- Changes aim to align with Olympic pathways and performance-based qualification.
- Key amendments were made to clarify language and address concerns raised during discussion
- Implementation will require clear communication to stakeholders and careful consideration of impacts

Topics

Proposal Overview and Background

- [Proposal](#) designed by Matt Gnoza and National Office, passed Moguls Subcommittee 8-2
- Driven by need to align with Olympic criteria and ensure fair, performance-based pathways
- Changes qualification process and event structure to mirror Olympic format (Q1, Q2, F1, F2, F3)
- No changes to existing qualification criteria for Nationals; focuses on event format once there

Qualification Process

- Top 16 U.S. athletes from NORAM overall Grand Prix standings qualify
- Top 8 U.S. athletes from World Cup overall standings pre-seeded to finals
- Next 30 ranked U.S. athletes from FSP moguls and duals lists qualify
- Divisional allocations and Junior Nationals qualifiers remain unchanged
- Total field size remains approximately 60 athletes (plus or minus)

New Event Format

- Pre-seeded athletes (top 8 from Overall World Cup and NorAm standings) go directly to finals
- Q1 and Q2 rounds for remaining athletes, with top 8 from each advancing to finals



- Finals will include 32 athletes (16 pre-seeded, 8 from Q1, 8 from Q2,)
- Dual moguls will use top 40 from moguls results (including Q rounds) for entry and seeding

Concerns and Discussion Points

- Mid-season change causing potential disruption to athlete travel plans and reservations
- Questions about the necessity of format change for this season
- Debate over the benefits of multiple qualification rounds vs. single run format
- Clarification needed on language for odd-number allocations and overall standings references

Amendments to Proposal

1. Clarify that extra spots from uneven numbers will go to Q2 round
2. Add "overall" to World Cup and NORAM Cup standings references
3. Strike language about top 60 requirement, as it's no longer relevant

FSC Vote on Proposal

- 10 of 13 FSC Members in attendance in the meeting tonight. - Quorum
- The vote total was 8 Member Vote For the Proposal with amendments, 2 member votes against the proposal with amendments.
- Totals included Thom Schafer - documented voted yes, Ali Kariotis - documents voted yes.

Next Steps

- Matt Gnoza to update proposal document with agreed amendments
- Circulate updated proposal through communication channels to divisions and programs
- Begin discussions with Moguls Subcommittee about selection process for next season
- Develop clear, professional communication strategy for stakeholders
- Address foreign athlete seeding into qualifier rounds
- Implement changes for upcoming U.S. Freestyle Ski National Championships

Action Items

- Update proposal doc - add "overall" to pre-seed criteria, extra spots to Q2, strike #6 re top 60
- Follow up w/ Charles (Canadian team) about NORAM events refund policies
- Circulate updated proposal thru all communication channels to divisions/programs
- Start MSC convo about 2025 U.S. Selections event