

**** MINUTES from Meeting ****

Eastern Children's Committee
Virtual Meeting Agenda

October 15, 2021, 12:00 PM

Connection Information:

EASTERN CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE (ECC)

Online: <https://usskiandsnowboard-org.zoom.us/j/84713410905>

Dial In:

- +13017158592,,84713410905# US (Washington DC)
- +13126266799,,84713410905# US (Chicago)

Invitees: All ECC Members and Ex-Officio Members, USSA Regional and National Staff

I. Call to order (Diann Roffe):

II. Roll call (Matt Purcell):

Committee Members			Ex-Officio Members			
Diann Roffe - Chair	VARA	P				
Mariel Meringolo	VARA	P	Laural Lasher	MARA	P	
Julia Ford	NHARA	P	Dan Marshall	NHARA	P	
Richard Hanbury	TSASRA	P	Tom Sell	NHARA	P	
Sean McKee	SARA	P	X Scott Graham	USSS	P	
Matt Purcell - Vice Chair	NHARA	P	Kathy Okoniewski	USSS	P	
Stephen Mergenthaler	NYSSRA	P	Sam Damon	USSS	P	
Craig Niiler	MARA	P				
Beatty Schlueter	NYSSRA	P				
Schone Malliet	NJSSRA	P				

Erik Backund	PARA	P			
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III. Review/Approval of Fall 10-12-21 minutes (Diann Roffe)

Richard Hanbury was P just 30 mins late - adjusted in minutes (BS)

IV. Old Business

A. Quotas for 21-22 Eastern U14 Championships

Quotas: A few anomalies from last year

The rolling average takes into account multiple years of data.

How do we integrate the loss of 2 years of performance data? Is the performance data directly correlated to population data?

Erik/Richard volunteered to review and model the data over the previous years to see how it would impact the data. Suggested to connect Erik and Richard to connect with Mike Leach. Need to provide Erik the historical spreadsheet and the policy.

Discussion tabled until additional analysis is completed.

B. Discussion on Eastern Finals (Steve Mergenthaler/Schone Malliet/Erik Backund)

Loss of Finals last year. Committee charged Erik, Steve and Schone to develop a proposal to create an event.

Steve presented their preliminary thoughts of event format.

Emphasis to provide athletic development and focus on 1st year U14 athletes but allow 2nd year athletes to participate. The late season scheduling is difficult to retain athletes, especially from the mid-atlantic region.

The intent to be inclusive and allow 2nd year U14 athletes to either compete for points

Motion: To create a U14 Finals the last weekend of March 26/27 as an open event, with the intention as this is a pilot event to determine how this event will work in the future. The intent is to prioritize the event to those athletes who did not qualify for the Eastern Championships. The organizing committee will be established to review the details. Motion proposed by Steve Mergenthaler. Motion was seconded by Schone Malliet. Vote was unanimous.

Discussion: (Sam) Need to establish event sizes and gender allocation. Concerned that it will sell out quickly, SkiReg does have the ability to allow for a lottery system.

C. National Suggestion for Open Regional Championships - (From Darryl Landstrom, Covid tabled it)

Does the Eastern Committee want to move forward with investigating how we move forward with an OPen Championship?

Concern about the quality of this event? Whatever we do needs to have high quality. Extremely high numbers of athletes!

Need to consider (Sam):

- Likely to have +/- 800 athletes, thus we'd limit locations that could host. Multiple events at the same time.
- Does this preclude the CanAms? Can you take the CanAm selection process out of this event?
- The numbers will not be as big of an event as we would expect as when there is not any teeth and it is all inclusive then there is less interest.
- Create a special quota for athletes to participate in the U14 Championships. Then have a lottery of those who signed up. Generally, people will self-select. Suggested that the quota size is 20.

Motion: To add a lottery seed of 20 to the U14 Eastern Championship for athletes who did not qualify through their divisional process. Motion proposed by Beatty, Schone 2nd. Majority voted for the proposal (10 for, 1 against)

Discussion: Concern expressed about this proposal creating an open event eroding the prestige of the event. Does this become a watered down event. Suggestion to table the discussion to see how the season goes and what happens with the Finals. Suggestion that this get cleared within the divisions. Potentially this does not include SG and only technical events. It is believed that there will be self selection.

D. State of Coaches retention/education/hiring

This is an important issue and we need to focus on the lower age level coaching staffs. We need to think strategically how in 5 years we are able to deliver a good product. Education is an important component.

Kathy O: This is a big issue. It is critical to create quality coaches and sport education is intent on creating and retaining quality coaches. The requirement feels tough for applicants but it is critical to gain knowledge and improve their coaching skills. Understand there needs to be a lot of clinics throughout the year and spring. It is unfortunate that this requirement is potentially hindering people from entering the field. Clubs need to identify the coaches who are not certified to participate. This is a national issue. There are weekly conference calls to train the coach developers.

As a regional committee, we want to work on getting as many people as we possibly can but what do we do next year when someone doesn't get certified? What do we do for those new coaches? They will create a way to have a season to complete the program. It is not written in the Comp Guide that way and needs to be addressed by Congress. Consider a stepped system, where it is not required for U12 and under coaches. The Level 100 modules are directly related to those new coaches at the U10/U12 level.

Concern related to the insurance requirements with clubs will need to require their coaches to be certified to remain in compliance with the insurance.

Can we get PSIA examiners to be L100 clinicians? Kathy to discuss with Gar and Chris.

NHARA education summit at Bretton Woods is open to all in the division and has participation from across the East.

V. USSS Eastern Staff Updates (Sam, Kathy, Paige, Scott)

- A. Children's Development Position - Scott Graham
- B. Eastern U12 and U14 Projects

VI. ECC Membership- NJ rep, taking nominations for a Spring vote. Committee is at max of 11.

We have received 1 submission as a NJ rep. No action required.

VII. New Business

- A. Division Reports - Plans for 2021/2022 Season

1. VARA (Diann): re-establishment of U12/U14 projects that will be free for U12's. Setting up projects at Quechee and Okemo. Quechee: SL Skills Station and Environment (including coaches BBQ).

2. TSASRA (Rick): Speed camp for U14 - U19, taking efforts based on last year that will separate the age groups. Education department creating a group of coach mentors

3. NHARA (Matt): Series of U12/U14 camps including a U12 and U14 pace camp and U14 speed camp. Creating inclusive 2 tier championship event.

- 4. SARA

5. NYSSRA (Steve): Improving communication getting information out to parents and athletes. Creating pathways for awareness. Competitive skill development is critical and all mountain skiing improved their athletes. Higher focus on skills development. Percentage of race starts are down for the lower age athletes. Have a number of projects scheduled throughout the state. Using the virtual platform to increase coaches' education. Using projects to provide coaches' education.

6. MARA (Craig): Excited to be racing with full size rosters. Proposing 2 camps one for U12 and one for U14. Saddleback is back as a potential venue.

7. PARA (Erik): Returning to the new normal. Still working on scheduling working on a big push on coaches' education. Erik has developed a slide deck that he can share related to coaches' ed. Looking for a back up speed venue.

8. NJSSRA (Schone): Focused on continuing education. 1:8 Coaches/Athletes. Focused on creating a strong coaching workforce. Using former USCSA athletes and reaching out to them when they graduate and focused on a 70 mile radius to NY metro. Also focused on ALI fees and expenses for certification and attendance to national project and will hire them. Also researching housing with an intent to mitigate costs. Need some support for their clinics that are held on weeknights and weekends. Working on assisting them with negotiating the online content.

Currently only 1 club in the NJ and hoping there will be a 2nd.

- B. Eastern Coaches Ed strategic initiatives - Kathy Okoniewski

- C. USSS Pocket Guide - Brief summary of guide, goals and initiative (Matt Purcell)

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Mariel 2nd Schone 2nd

Meeting Adjorned at 3:54PM