

Eastern Alpine Competition Committee
Fall Meeting

Killington Ski Club, Killington, VT
Saturday, October 7, 2017 9:00 am

Minutes

Committee Members Present (Voting):

Dan Marshall, Chairman; Dan Chayes, Vice-Chair; Bev Oliver, Secretary; Tom Sell, Development Committee Chairman; Diann Roffe, PARA; Laurel Lashar, ME; Laura Sullivan, Tri-State; Doug Hall, Alpine Officials Committee Chairman; Julie Woodworth, VT; Dirk Gouwens, NY; Tao Smith, At-Large; Peter Girardi, Athlete; Chris Frank, Athlete; John Dwyer, College; Andrew Gannon, NH.

Committee Members Present (Non-Voting):

Dan Marshall, High School

Committee Members Absent:

Absent: Sally Utter, Children's Committee Chairman; Sean "Stumpy" McGee, SARA; Mike Davenport, EASEF; Nadine Price, Masters; Connie Webster, past EACC Chairman; Rob Dowd, NJ; Roger Brown, Athlete; Doug Williams, At-Large; Horst Weber, Emeritus.

Staff Present:

U.S. Ski and Snowboard: Patti Nichols, Eastern Alpine Program Manager
U.S. Ski and Snowboard: Chip Knight, USSA National Alpine Development Director
U.S. Ski and Snowboard: Eastern Development Director, Tim Maguire,

Guests:

Sandy Crenshaw, SARA; Ken Corrock, MARA; Schone Malliet, NJSRA; Phil Goodwin, NJ; John Jacobs, NY; Lucas Masi, NJ; Peter Cornish, VT; Kathy Okoniewski; ECC;

I. Welcome and Call to Order, 9:05 am – by Dan Marshall, EACC Chairman

- Thank you to KMS and Killington Ski Club for hosting the EACC Fall meeting.
- Roll Call

II. Administrative Announcements –None.

III. Committee Membership

- Roll Call.

IV. Minutes of the Spring Meeting

- Correction: spelling for Tri-State abbreviation – TSSARA not TSARA.
Motion: To accept the minutes of the EACC Spring Meeting 4.23.17 as corrected.

L. Sullivan/D. Hall/Unanimous.

V. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda.

L. Sullivan/D. Hall/Unanimous.

VI. Reports

A. Development Committee Chairman – Tom Sell.

- The EDC has done a considerable amount of work over the summer, meeting several times face to face but also by teleconference. The goal was to streamline and revamp the Eastern FIS racing schedule. The details were discussed in the EDC meeting on Friday. Talks began last spring over the direction the East should take regarding the best athletes in the region.

Analysis of data has shown that the East is not doing a great job in advancing their athletes. This combined with logistical issues, i.e. FIS entry procedures last year and previous years, resulted in the decision to overhaul the system. Additional data revealed that although Eastern U16s are skiing very well, the present system does not provide opportunities for advancing these athletes to improve rankings which result in good start positions very well.

- The Eastern Region Goal is to get as many of Eastern Region Juniors to advance to get to top 10 World ranks as possible. The problem is designing a system that will facilitate this goal.
- Three levels still exist: 1) Eastern Cup Series truly elite level of racing, 2) Development FIS Series, and 3) Open FIS racing. However, a few things have been changed.

Eastern Cup Races: To be a field of 90 athletes. Eligibility for skiing in ECS – overall NTSM of 50 athletes from the top 35% of the ranking in the technical events (roughly between 60-70 points Men, 75 – 90 Men & Women). On top of this is YOB quota. Training before the ECS races is an important component; training projects have been put together at the host sites for the juniors who have been selected. There is an effort under way to make these events affordable.

Development FIS Races: Athletes will be chosen from YOB quotas first and then from athletes remaining after selection from the ECS – NTSM using USSA points. There is an avenue for ECS qualified athletes to ski in these races via a development request, i.e. for athletic need such as return from injury or improvement in an event that the athlete is not doing well in. There will be 3 M/3W divisional (state) quota spots for these races.

Open FIS Races: These are truly an Open Races. There is to be a ceiling of 150.00 points the technical event to be contested in order to enter an Open FIS Race. If the field is not full 10 days out, all Eastern FIS athletes are eligible regardless of point profile. Application will be first come, first serve.

- Results of Discussion and Questions:
 1. Penalty for No Shows: There will be no refunds if an athlete does not show up at a race.
 2. Note: There are no intents, just pulls for coaches. Confirmation equals payment.
 3. Targeted field for ECS is 90 Men/90 Women. YOB athletes do not have to meet the cut-off.
 4. Open FIS races: There is no point cut-off for SG.
 5. Men's NPS selection: Eastern selection is based on USSA points; the rest of the nation is using FIS points. EDS did not address this as the focus was on streamlining the system. It was noted that a high percentage of Eastern athletes have not been able to get into FIS races.

- EDC Motions:

Motion: To move that in Open FIS races athletes must have 150 or fewer USSA points in the technical events to be contested. If the race isn't full by 10 days before the first TCM all Eastern FIS athletes are eligible regardless of their point profile.

L. Lashar/ D. Roffe /Unanimous

Motion: To approve the Eastern Region Handbook for 2017-2018.

L. Sullivan/J. Woodworth/Unanimous

- Discussion of budget dated 8/24/17: request for transfer of monies from direct athlete support to support regional projects for roughly 30 athletes per project. After a brief break for handout to be printed, the request for transfer of monies was thoroughly reviewed.
- Thoughts, Future plans and Direction for helping Eastern athletes perform better.
 1. Projects getting more elite athletes together for training, more European trips with adequate staffing, reducing the number of single gender races.
 2. Tom Ashworth: Presently working on competition pathways.
 3. Development of a 3-5 year plan for athlete development, including financial blueprint.
 4. It was noted that the Eastern Region Travel Budget is grossly inadequate for the staff in the region. The Travel budget needs to be able to support the staff. The allotted amount has decreased significantly over the past few years.
 5. Dan Chayes: The question really is: “Are we spending the monies we get because that is what we are raising in fees?” or “Do we have a significant shortfall and where will this money come from?”
 6. The EDC was asked to look at this for the Spring meeting.
- Motion: To approve the revised budget as presented by Tom Ashworth for the transfer of monies to support regional project costs, roughly 30 athletes per project.
L. Lashar/D. Gouwens/Unanimous

B. Children’s Racing, Kathy Okoniewski or Sally Utter.

The ECC has conducted business over the summer as well.

- The ECC had no action items to present to the EACC for approval.
- ECC Meeting Discussion Topics.
 1. The importance of the role of Youth Coordinator for the region.
 2. Tom Ashworth gave a project review and selection processes for the projects.
 3. ECC has one spot open – NJ. Jim Backman’s term is expiring. Names are being accepted from NJ for a replacement.
 4. Interstate projects – states/divisions working together.
 5. Dual format – new rules in the scored environment.
 6. Racing mixed gender races for the U10 age groups. This proposal was accepted at Congress.

C. Eastern ACC Chairperson, Dan Marshall – deferred to Chip Knight, National Alpine Development Director, who had just returned from FIS meetings in Zurich.

Chip expressed thanks to Connie for her many years of service on the Eastern ACC. She was a tireless member of the EACC for many years.

- There was a lot of transition in the Eastern Office over the summer: Many thanks to the partnership with Dan, Tom, and Sally who lead the EACC, the EDC and the ECC. We are excited to have Tim Maguire back on board as Eastern Alpine Development Director. A Youth Development Coach will be announced soon.
- The locals are looking forward to the World Cup at Killington in late November. Many thanks to the Killington Ski Club, in particular Tao Smith and Chuck Hughes, for their role in this event as well as the Fall EACC meetings.
- Teams are still training in Chile, other teams are in Solden, and training in Colorado as well.

- FIS level
 - Fairly quiet on the youth front.
 - Discussion on a proposal for FIS points overhaul – moving to elevated minimum levels at Continental Cup, FIS level, and ENL. Basically this would mean spreading out the FIS points, putting a premium on scoring at the higher levels. This would not have a huge impact on the younger levels.
 - There seems to be traction toward phasing out the Alpine Combined event by 2021, moving toward more parallel events, in particular parallel GS.
 - Age change- no discussion. Totally quiet, although Austria is still interested in the idea and trying to influence the US to agree. Strong opinions on this issue should be sent to Chip as they may help in final decision making.
- USSA equipment regulations have been streamlined – basically the U16 level. Revised course setting regulations mirror the equipment regulations. The vertical drop requirement has been revised, now based on min - max distance. The goal has been to simplify the rules, synchronize the rules and get more consistent completion at the national level.
- There is no more USSA. It is now U.S. Ski & Snowboard. There is a new logo and there will be a new website, to be rolled out approximately November 1st.
- Development Camp – really good camp held in June 2017. Thirty athletes and a number of coaches from across the country attended this 9 day project, mostly SL but a little GS as well.
- Two Quad Long term plan (next 8-10 years) for overhaul of the development pipeline, loosely called Project 26. The purpose is to look at what needs to be done to breed the next generation of athletes. Presently the U.S. is in a bit of a lull it and does not have many medal threats going forward.
 - A few themes are being focused on going forward. The most relevant at this time is discussion relating to the relocation of assets to support the top performing athletes, the ones who can win medals (Level 4 & Level 5 athletes). Level 5 is defined as defending the globe in multiple years. A Level 4 athlete is a top ten athlete in multiple years (top ten in the World Cup). A Level 3 athlete is top 30 in the world in multiple years. The next level athlete is one who is on track in the performance band (average metric of athletes who have been in the top 30 and were as Juniors). The last level is everyone else. Going forward the focus will be on the athletes who can win medals – National Team Level.
 - ✓ The focus is on maintaining 3 levels of programming: 1) World Cup level, 2) Europa Cup level, and 3) Nor-Am level. The goal for a Junior level athlete: 1) World Junior medals, 2) Nor-Am titles, 3) top 10 World Age Rank.
 - ✓ At the Nor-Am level there is a big shift away nationally from athletes who are not performing. Top 10-15 ranking in Nor-Ams – athletes will be managed by the club. They will still be exposed to high level projects (D Team) but home base is the club. This is a big shift from talent identification present the past few years moving to talent development,
 - ✓ A substantial amount of resources will be reallocated and directed to the development level by ensuring the best coaches at the C Team level. Substantial monies will also be going into sport education.
 - ✓ Regional initiatives: the above to be super imposed upon regional programs. The D team level is relatively porous – the EDC will need to take a good look at what level athlete is on the Regional Team. This will be the pool from which very high level athletes will be selected to the D Team project. Approximately 50% of

athletes will be invited to a D team project on a project by project basis. (*Note: that a 3-5 year plan tasked for the EDC fits into this nicely).

- ✓ The Summer Youth Development Program at Mt. Hood will continue.
- ✓ Notes from Discussion: 1) Less than 10% of D team athletes have moved up the ladder, 2) Training with the home club is very important at the younger levels, 3) Age at which the National Team picks up an athlete is radically different for men and women (data shows 18 year old women are winning at the World Cup level), 4) NPS Projects for U16s at the national level – nothing for this year, under discussion moving forward, 5) U16 calendar is almost the same as last year, 6) Mixed reports on a European trip (Eastern Region is already doing this).
- Observations: Diann Roffe
 - ✓ Supports keeping athletes in their home programs longer, but the region needs to be open to allowing more athletes to train in small blocks with pace within their own clubs. Athletes who go somewhere else for a training block should be allowed to return to their home clubs without repercussion.
 - ✓ Supports a national training project where the best U14s in the various regions were brought together in the spring in the West somewhere. This would need to be in May, not in June. This is a cultural exposure and could have a huge positive impact on this age group.
- Calendar
 - Nor-Am Level
 - ✓ Early season Nor-Am races – middle of November
 - ✓ Mid-season – middle of February (after the World Juniors)
 - ✓ Speed week at Copper: end of February-beginning of March

No longer emphasizing speed performance at a very young age but encourage speed development.

In previous years it has been relatively easy to make the team in speed. To address this, the SG criteria have been tightened. Next year's criteria are likely to be a very high age group ranking (probably top 5) in speed and a validating technical events world ranking as well.

Still need speed training, but are looking for well-rounded skiers.

Tom Ashworth: The Eastern Region will continue emphasis on speed training for U14s and U16s.
 - NPS Schedule
 - ✓ Exactly the same for the U16s, December at Copper; January at Burke.
 - ✓ U19 Men – at Copper in November, Vail in December, Waterville in February.
 - Jr. Nationals – in Sun Valley after the U.S. Nationals
 - U16 Nationals – at Mission Ridge
 - 7 Nations Cup – Lichtenstein in early February. Qualification via NPS at Burke in January.

D. Eastern Region Alpine Development Director- Tim Maguire.

Glad to be back . . . working on developing a strong partnership with U.S. Ski and Snowboard. The selection of an Eastern Youth Development Coach should be finalized soon.

E. Patti Nichols, Eastern Alpine Manager

There is going to be a new website due out on November 1st. It promises to be better for smart phones. It has a better search engine. For desktop computer use the advice is to “Scroll down”. Tom Horrock is in charge of this project.

Patti is looking forward to working with the new staff in the Eastern Office and with all in the region who make her job easier.

F. Tom Ashworth, Eastern Development Coach

Tom presented an overview of the U16 projects for the 2017-2018.

- Time Trial at Copper in November – slightly different than last year, as there will be no qualification from Copper to the 7 Nations Cup.
- January: 2 SL/2 GS – at Burke and Waterville. Qualification races to the 7 Nations Cup. Also, in January: speed training on Narrow Gauge and race at Sugarloaf.
- Stowe - GS/SL on Main Street. Hoping to ramp up the intensity, focus and volume. Selection of athletes, those who qualify through NPS as well as results from prior year’s Eastern Championships.

Also will be looking at venues for ECS training.

G. Eastern Youth Coordinator:

There are a number of applicants. A decision will be made soon. The official designation is Youth Development Coach.

VII. Update on the World Cup – Tao Smith.

World Cup returns to Killington on Thanksgiving weekend. Hosting a party this year to honor the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Olympic team. Friday has been added as a day of events – opportunities to meet athletes, public athlete signings, presentation and free concert Friday night, as well as others throughout the weekend. Other amenities have been improved also such as an increased number of busses, doubled number of restrooms, increased number of buses. There will be two parades this year – a VARA parade (1, 000 plus athletes) on Saturday and on Sunday for an Eastern Region parade. Pete Davis is the contact person for the Sunday parade. A contact person needs to be named for each state for planning purposes.

Killington lost a lot of money last year hosting the World Cup event. To address this, particularly since this is to be a multi-year event. So a partnership between some U.S. Ski & Snowboard trustees and KMS, the local non-profit .has been set up to create a fund that will help address this. In addition a Grant Application Committee has been created by the KWCC to facilitate the process of providing monies for costs borne by various sources, including World Cup. Refer to the Killington web site for details as well as press releases as they emerge. Two things can be applied for: 1) development of training and race Infrastructure and 2) any program that will grow the base of the sport.

VIII. Committees and Working Group Reports

A. Alpine Officials Committee - Doug Hall.

- Info and a 20 question course official quiz and a 41 page reference packet have been posted on the U.S. Ski and Snowboard website. Web site.
- TDs will be taking a larger role at events this season working with the ROC to ensure that the event will take place in a proper manner.

B. High School Racing – Dan Marshall

- Last year the Eastern High School Championships were held at Attitash. Ten states were involved – 230 athletes. Friday was a training day. Saturday a GS was held followed by a banquet at night

and on Sunday a SL was held. There were 3 great days of training and racing. Vermont won both the Men's and the Women's event.

- This season the event moves back to Cannon at the Mittersill facility. The GS on Baron's Run and the SL on Taft. A T-Bar services Taft. There will be a new timing shack this year. The Peabody Lodge is used for belongings as there is no lodge at Mittersill presently.
- Michigan has expressed interest in attending the event this season.

C. College – John Dwyer

- All is well in EISA, NCAA and CSCA. Mexico and Alaska have been reinstated this season. No programs have been lost and Johnson State is trying to bring back their program by endowing a head coaching position with a million dollars and putting it in George Tormey's name. They would probably join probably in USCSA but is yet to be determined.
- NCAA Championships are at Steamboat this season. Next season, UVM and Stowe will be hosting in the East and in 2020-2021 Middlebury will host.
- Interesting statistics – in the US right now there are 4 women in the top 15 GS world rank, 2 of which are skiing in college in the East. The East also has 1 college graduate, David Chodounsky, who skied at Dartmouth, ranked 28th in the world and Mark Engel, who skied at Utah, is ranked 36th. Tommy Ford graduated from Dartmouth, ranked 25th in GS world rank. The U.S. has 4 Men in the top 50 . . . two of whom are college graduates.
- Collegiate skiing is a good avenue for many, and college skiing can continue to produce athletes and put them at a higher level, particularly through Nor-Am circuit.
- Colleges continue to work with Chip on training camps and other training opportunities in the summer for college athletes.
- FIS and FIS-U adopted new rules changes to limit the age of participants at FIS-U races to 25 years, which means a FIS age of 24 years. Chip is working with NCAA and U.S. Ski & Snowboard to grandfather those athletes who may be affected by this rule in order to give these athletes four years of eligibility. College skiing has discussed this issue. Age range of college athletes across the nation varies from 17 -25. The wording of the rule needs to be such that there is not age discrimination.

Chip: FIS-U is the organization that governs the World University Games. They adopted an age range of 17-25 last spring. An exception request has been filed to allow four years of eligibility. That proposal was spun in a lot of different directions and was voted down by FIS. It looks like FIS-U will be moving away from the FIS ruling and toward establishing its own standard.

It should be noted that part of Project 26 is to better utilize collegiate skiing. There are 3 athletes this year on the U.S. Ski Team who are fully enrolled in college.

D. Masters – no Nadine Price.

E. EASEF – Dan Chayes for Mike Davenport.

- Mike's report shows the balances in each of the four funds that EASEF administers. Dan reviewed this information with the EACC.
- There is an EASEF meeting calendared for November 4th, 2017.

IX. State Associations/Reports

- Vermont – Julie Woodworth
 - Summarized the VT written report: The Gala- Kelly Brush was inducted into the VT Hall of fame.

- Reviewed the two functional movement sessions conducted at GMVS in August and September with the purpose of changing the mindset of coaches and parents to address performance of exercises correctly.
- Maine – Laurel Lashar
 - Membership is slow signing up this year.
 - Programs are up in numbers; MARA needs more programs.
 - Saddleback has been bought by an Australian Company and may have a program next year.
 - MARA has a new President.
- New Jersey – Phil Godwin for Rob Dowd
 - There are just a few programs in NJ. Tuxedo Ridge is closed for this season; Campgaw does not have a race program this year; Mountain Creek will have a race program; Mt. Peter will be back; NJWAC (used to be Hidden Valley) is an incredible facility; Skylands will have a race program.
 - There are roughly 400 racers in New Jersey.
 - Processes have been revamped for functioning in the 21st century.
 - NJ needs to elect a representative for the ECC.
- New York – Dirk Gouwens
 - NYSSRA is happy with the equipment changes that were approved in May. This means that in NY more athletes will be able to continue ski racing at the high school level as well as the USSA level.
 - Membership numbers are holding but will know better after October 15th.
 - NYSSRA Youth Coordinator, Kathy Okoniewski, has been working hard on running interstate and in state projects, i.e. U12 Super Stars event, NY/VT SL camp, in state U12 and U14 Fundamentals camps, etc.
 - The U19-U21 Finals event at Gore needs to be fixed in regard to the selection process for this event. State quota allocations need to be reviewed and adjusted. Some States are not filling their quota spots and are not relinquishing them in a timely manner.
 - Regional U19 Working Group – Dirk Gouwens is the chairman. This group is in the process of being built out will be working on issues relating to USSA track athletes versus FIS track athletes.
- New Hampshire – Andrew Gannon
 - NHARA has hired a Youth Coordinator – Fred Turton. His plan this first year is to focus mainly on visiting programs as opposed on being a coordinator but more on being an educator. There will be a number of projects that will be focused on SL.
 - Waterville is hosting a U19 NPS project this winter at Mittersill.
 - Memberships are coming in – deadline is October 15th. Younger age group and new member numbers are on the rise.
- Pennsylvania – Diann Roffe
 - There has been a significant increase in the younger age groups – U8, U10, U12 levels. There has been a drop in U16 and U19 membership.
 - Thank you to Dirk and Kathy for reaching across borders. A goal is to address coach development programs across the state. Most of the coaches are part timers and do not have the time to go to 3 day education programs in season.
 - There are some cultural challenges relating to focus on skills acquisition versus gate time.
 - Weather was a problem last season.

- SARA – no Stumpy and no written report - Sandy Crenshaw
 - Echoed Diane and Dirk’s comments.
 - Weather was difficult, but did give more opportunity to work on skills.
- TSSARA – Laura Sullivan
 - Membership numbers – 2, 100 members, some of which may not have been active, as of 2/1/2017. There are still 600-800 BWL as well as a few college athletes who are not Tri-State members.
 - TSSARA has purchased another 60 rolls of B-net; currently has 400 rolls.
 - Homologations are on the rise – Blue Hills; Powder Ridge; Catamount.
 - Experimented with plastic surfaces over the summer.
 - U14 Banquet – trying to get Doug Lewis and Chris Waddell as speakers.
 - Working on club program development.

III. Old Business – none.

IV. New Business.

- A number of items were addressed earlier in this meeting.
- Dates for the Spring meetings: April 20, 21, 22, 2018.

V. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

D. Hall/D. Roffe/Unanimous

The meeting ended at 12:38 p.m.

Submitted by,

Bev Oliver

Recorder