

## Eastern Children's Racing Committee Meeting

Killington Ski Club, Killington, VT

Friday, October 6, 2017 - 1:00 pm

### Minutes

#### Committee Members Present:

Voting: Kathy Okoniewski, NY; Gerd Riess, NH; Roger Kimball, Tri-State; Mariel Meringolo, VT; Diann Roffe, PA

Non-Voting: Alex Krebs, Past Eastern Youth Coordinator.

Absent: Sally Utter, VT; Sam Damon, Athlete Rep, VT; Craig Niiler, ME; Stephen Mergenthaler, NY; Jim Backman, NJ; Sean McKee, SARA.

Guests: Dan Marshall, EACC Chair; Jill Firstbrook, NH; Dirk Gouwens, NY; Lucas Masi, NJ; Phil Godwin, NJ; John Norton, NY; Dave Edry, VT; Sandy Crenshaw, SARA; Schoen Malliet, NJ; Bev Oliver, NH, Recorder.

#### USSA Staff:

USSA East: Tim Maguire, interim EACC Chair; Tom Ashworth, Eastern Region Development Director

I. Call to order: 1:00 p.m. by Kathy Okoniewski, designated chair.

II. Amend/Pass 9.18.2017 Conference Call Meeting Notes

Motion: To approve the notes of the 9.18.2017 Conference Call Meeting as amended.

M. Meringolo/D. Roffe/Unanimous

- The amendment corrected wording regarding the Eastern Region financing a Youth Coordinator again. Changed the wording "EASEF does not have the \$ to hire one" to "The Eastern Region will not fund one."

III. Review of Agenda not much to discuss.

IV. Tim Maguire – Eastern Region Development Director

- Briefly addressed his goal: To bring back a really solid partnership with US Ski and Snowboard as well as fulfill the job requirements.
- There are some really good candidates for the regional Youth job. Hoping to finalize this and make an announcement shortly.

V. Tom Ashworth – 2017-2018 Project Review.

1. Projects for U14s: Selection will be based on top 30 results at prior year U14 Eastern Championships. Development Selections will be considered (send to Tom). No more than 30 athletes (15 boys/15 girls).
2. January 22-23 GMVS-GS Utilize Brambles to focus training on trail turn and blind transitions for the younger athlete, emphasize inspection skills, anticipation of terrain. The date may shift to January 19-20.
3. January 31-February 1 GMVS SG Utilizing built terrain work on proper jumping fundamentals with phantom and actual jumps, active and accurate movements in terrain building confidence as we increase the challenge

4. February 23-24 NWAC NJ, Skills based learning with strong focus on fundamental skill development with stations, focused and deliberate practice. Work with coaches to understand the value of this as opposed to just running gates.
5. Other U14 projects
  - ✓ Selection criteria for the U14 Can-Ams: is defined in the Eastern Region Handbook.
  - ✓ Selection of U14s to the U16 National Champs at Mission Ridge 3/31-4/4 requires winning an event as well as an additional podium finish.
  - ✓ Out of region results are purged. Foreign athletes may qualify but do not bump others.
6. Considerable discussion ensued regarding selection processes.

#### IV: New Business

1. Jim Bachman's term is up. NJ will submit a name or names after their BOT meeting to Sally.
2. Cross Border State Projects Discussion.
  - ✓ Cross Border State projects are strongly recommended. This concept works for some divisions but not all.
    - NYSSRA has sent out invitations to Tri-State, NJ and PA to participate in a cross border project in NY.
    - NHARA has hired Fred Turton as their Youth Education Director. He is putting together projects within NH for this season. Information to what NHARA is doing will be posted on the NHARA website in the form of a non-race event calendar ([www.nhalpine.org](http://www.nhalpine.org), Coaches and AOs, NHARA Calendar). It is quite extensive.
    - PA, SARA, NJ – PA will be hosting a U10-U14 event (parallel slalom). This was successfully run last season. It encompassed a 2 run qualifier race followed by a round of sixteen within each age group. This was very successful and led to a lot of fast skiing, a lot more than one sees in a regular race. This season plans are for a Skills Quest event on Saturday followed by a race on Sunday, January 7. There is a possibility that a Level 100 Coaches Ed could be run as well.
  - ✓ Dirk: Review of new dual SL rules. Duals can now be run as a scored event. Info is supposed to be in this season's competition guide. The process is pretty much the same as how the Sugar Slalom has been run in recent years (separate timing on each run). NY will be experimenting with this event with their scored racers as well as allowing the system to trickle down to some non-scored U14 and U12 events as well. A form of the dual event will be in the Olympics this season. It will be a team event. Every division is allowed to run up to 2 events this year. Report will be sent back to Congress for review in the spring.
 

It was noted that it could be a dual panel or single pole event. 80-100 meter vertical was recommended and the usual SL rules. Can be used as a qualifier (bracketed 16). Unscored duals may be run any way the organizer wishes to run the event.

Patti said the info has not been included in the current Competition guide (perhaps awaiting review of this season's experience before including in the Comp Guide.
  - ✓ Colorado – Last season began exploring and tracking U10s & U12s Trial Racing with mixed gender, boys and girls racing together (promoted by Debbie Armstrong). The results have been

very positive at this level. Proposal that was put forth was for U10s only. It should be noted that this concept is not new – dates back at least to the '80s.

- ✓ NJAC-NJ – possibly running a project 2 days of training for the younger age groups prior to the FIS Races during holiday week. Invitees would be primarily for close proximity attendees (NY, NJ, and PA) plus others who may be interested. Curriculum has not been defined yet.
  - Finish has been extended to 167; top of the hill is at 175.
  - Perfect for duals.
  - Lighting and homologations are in the works. It was noted that Proctor has some experience dealing with this.

V. Old Business – None.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

M. Meringolo/R. Kimball/Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at: 1:52 p.m.

Submitted by,

*Bey Oliver*

Recorder