PARA Annual Spring Meeting – Saturday May 9, 2015

Ski Roundtop Mountain Resort, Ski Patrol Building

Meeting called to order by Bill Dunstan, President, at 9:30 am.

Roll call of voting members. The following board members were present: Bill Dunstan, Kurt Zwally, Jon Tate, Curt Schramm, Eric Updgrove, Bill Filling, Michael Jacobson, Dan Chayes, Bruce Bedell, Dave Bond, Rob Lipton, Scott Book, Amato DePaulo, Tom Yen, Bruce Wickersham, Patrick Wende, Brue Newman, Bill Hosie, Jim DiBiase, Eric Hessinger, Charles Donnellan, Fred Wright, Derek Berger, Matt Stuckey

Absent: Chris Klebe, Jim Davenport, Gus Picariello, Pam Kolba

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve. Lipton/DiBiase/Unanimous
2. Presidents Report – Motion to approve Unanimous
3. Treasurers Report - Motion to increase annual stipend for USSA Congress for this year by $250. Motion for next year's stipend to be for two attendees at $1,000 per person. Wickersham/Chayes/Unanimous. Motion to approve Treasure report Lipton/Chayes/Unanimous.
4. Membership and Quotas Report – Motion to approve Chayes/Lipton/Unanimous
5. Alpine Officials Report – Motion to approve Chayes/DiBiase/Unanimous
6. Gate Judge Report – Motion to approve Lipton/Newman/Unanimous
7. Coaching Report – In order to facilitate coaches becoming referees, Rob Lipton will help coordinate a clinic or clinics in preparation for taking the Referee exam at the update. Regions may contact Rob to schedule clinic. Motion to approve the report. Unanimous.
8. ACC Report – Discussion around what post season events fit our athletes. Motion to approve the report. Unanimous.
9. Affiliates Agreement – Final version was accepted. Unanimous
10. Age Chair Reports – U12 report accepted. Unanimous. U14 report accepted. Unanimous. U16 report accepted. Unanimous. Discussion around alignment of the age group chairs to the host mountain of the age group championship. The President appointed the following age group chairs and they were confirmed by the Board Unanimously:
    a. U12 – Tim Brown
    b. U14 – Kristen Ehringer
    c. U16 – Tom Yen
11. Web Site report

NEW BUSINESS

12. Reviewed PA Cup participation for U16s - 2nd year U16s with coach's approval are permitted to race in PA Cup races 1-5. 1st year U16 who were on the

previous year's U14 State Team with coach's approval are permitted to race in PA Cup races 1-5. The racer will not be able to accumulate PA Cup points.

13. Reviewed Derby/Championships –

   a. No location changes for 2016

   b. Field Size – Motion to increase percent of population to 40% for U12 and U14 Championships. Updegrove/Wickersham/Unanimous.

      i. U16 – 50% of population, with minimum field size of 70 and maximum field size of 90. This includes 5 discretionary athletes – No Change from last year.

      ii. U14 – 40% of population, with minimum field size of 70 and maximum field size of 90. This includes 5 discretionary athletes.

      iii. U12 – 40% of population, with minimum field size of 70 and maximum field size of 90. This includes 5 discretionary athletes.

   c. PA Cup Schedule as Unanimously accepted:

      i. PA Cup 1 & 2 - January 9 and 10, 2016 – Seven Springs Resort

      ii. PA Cup 3, 4 & 5 – January 29, 30 and 31, 2016 – Blue Mountain

      iii. PA Cup Finals (6, 7, & 8) – February 19, 20 and 21, 2016 – Elk Mountain

   d. Championships:

      i. U12 – February 26, 27 and 28, 2016 – Tussey Mountain

      ii. U14 – March 4, 5 and 6, 2016 – Seven Springs Resort

      iii. U16 – February 26, 27 and 28, 2016 – Blue Mountain

   e. Reviewed Scoring and Seeding –

      i. The U16 Championship will consist of 1 SG run on Friday, 1 slalom race on Saturday, and 1GS race held on Sunday. Each event will be a Scored USSA race (SG pending USSA approval) with the event result deciding the discipline champion. The overall champions and state team selection will be decided by the cumulative total of each run (5) using New World Cup points.   Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method. Weather and unavoidable circumstances may reduce the total number of possible runs or for use in determining the final rankings.

ii. Proposal for "Collegiate Seeding" of the U16 Championship - This is the same method used to seed the first runs at the Eastern U16 and U16 Championships as well as the first run at many collegiate "Carnivals." Split Second timing software easily accommodates this method.

Using the athlete rankings from each region, athletes would be placed into seed groups and randomized within their seed group for each run. "Group A" would always run first, "Group B" would always run 2nd, "Group C" would always run third, etc. The first four athletes from each region would be placed in Group A. The second four athletes from each region would be in Group B. The third four athletes from each region would go in Group C, etc. (While regional quota sizes will differ, the regions with larger quotas will just have more athletes in the bottom seed group.)

To accomplish the randomization in Split Second, the athlete "Nation" field would be populated with the athlete's seeding group (e.g. Group A, etc.). Split Second allows one to first list athlete by "Nation" (e.g. Group A athletes first, Group B second, etc.). From there, Split Second also allows one to randomize athletes of the same "Nationality."

The second run in GS and SL will use standard scored USSA flip 30.

Motion Zwally/Newman/Unanimous

iii. Unchanged from 2015 - The U14 Championship will consist of 3 runs of slalom and 3 runs of GS, and an optional SG skills day on Friday. New World Cup points would be assigned for each run and State Team and post-season event selection would be based on total New World Cup Points from the six runs. Discipline awards will also be given for slalom and GS champions based on total New World Cup Points from all three runs of each discipline. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method".

iv. Unchanged from 2015 - The U12 Championship will consist of 3 runs of slalom, 3 runs of GS, plus an optional skills challenge day on Friday. New World Cup points would be assigned for each run and State Team & post-season event selection would be based on total New World Cup Points from the six runs. Discipline awards would also be given for slalom and GS champions based on total New World Cup Points from all three runs of each discipline. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method".

14. Speed Camp –

a. U16 Speed Camp – Blue Mountain, February 4 & 5, 2016. U16s and U18s only.

　　b. U14 Speed Camp – Blue Mountain is working with their mountain to hold a camp the week of February 11, 2016. Details will be announced as they become finalized.

15. Regional Breakout Sessions

16. Coach of the Year – Nominations – Corey Dein, Elk Mountain and Matt Dembinski, Jack Frost Race Team. Motion to award two awards and split the award stipend. Wickersham/Unanimous.

17. Alpine Official of the Year – Nomination of Bill Dunstan. Unanimous.

18. Budget – Budget approved. Unanimous.

　　a. Motion to defer 2017 Membership fee increase to the Executive Board with a cap of $10 per category since USSA requires a decision during the spring of 2016 before the annual meeting.
　　Wickersham/Lipton/Unanimous.

19. PARA B-Netting Grant Initiative – Kurt Zwally presented a proposal to create a matching grant proposal. Member clubs will need to submit their application by July 1st to the Executive Board with a decision by August 15th. Any unused netting funds will be rolled over to the next budget year.
Wickersham/Lipton/Unanimous.

20. Creation of a By-Law Committee to align PARA's by-laws with USSA Affiliates agreement. Bruce Wickersham will chair this committee.

21. Clarification that the distribution of the Regional Championship slots for U12, U14 and U16 will be based on USSA race starts in Pennsylvania by the first Monday in February as provided by the Regional Chair or their designee.

22. Creation of a Mid Atlantic Race Exploratory Committee. Members of the committee are Bruce Bedell, Bruce Newman, Steve Antal and Curt Schramm.

23. Election of Officers

　　a. Vice President – Kurt Zwally was reelected. Unanimous.

　　b. Secretary – Jonathan Tate was reelected. Unanimous.

　　c. President – Dave Bond was elected to fill Bill Dunstan's remaining term. Unanimous.