

USTSA BOD Conference Call

May 1, 2008

Attending: Christopher Ulm – President, Russ Hobbs – Treasurer, Tory Hauser – Events Director, Paul Lamb - Vice President, Mike Foote

Absent: Eric Lamb

Agenda:

1. Brief discussion of web site review process
 - Linda Hobbs and Eric Lamb put together a draft layout of a revised USTSA web site, incorporating the various changes suggested over the last season. Linda sent this to the BOD on May 2, along with a document describing the proposed changes.
 - Each member will forward their comments or suggestion back to Linda to consolidation into a new draft. Christopher suggested members also include references to other web sites that have similar features to the suggestion. That will make it easier to understand the scope of the suggestion.
 - Once we have a “wish list” for the site, Christopher will prepare a “retail” estimate of the cost to make the changes. The BOD can then prioritize changes and evaluate funding alternatives.
 - Once we have a plan for updating the site, we will look for volunteers to help with the typical changes that need to be made to the site during the winter months when Christopher’s time is very limited. The extent of skill required will vary based upon the design changes the BOD approves.
 - We will focus on the web site on our next call.
2. 2009 race schedule update – FIS / USTSA
 - Jim should have an updated FIS race schedule after the spring FIS Telemark meeting in Zurich May 8 and 9.
 - Tory continues to pursue US race venues for Nationals and World Cup events. Several locations have expressed interest in holding 2009 Nationals and the BOD will need to consider a formal bid process before awarding the event. This can be a very lucrative event for the sponsor and it is important that USTSA share in the profits.
 - Linda Hobbs prepared a draft Race Organizers package for Tory’s review. He has a few changes and then the package will be distributed to the BOD for approval. The plan is to have this document available on the USTSA Forum so that a potential race organizer can get all the requirements and background in one place. We will also maintain a link to the FIS race organizer information in the Forum.
 - Mike Foote asked about USTSA sponsorship to help finance the expansion of an eastern race series. Russ will forward Mike the USTSA sponsorship package.
3. 2009 team selection
 - Russ presented revised points calculation that excluded the World Cup Women’s Classic races. The BOD unanimously endorsed this calculation.

- The following explanation will be included on the bottom of the points summary page when it is posted on the USTSA Forum. The BOD will send any comments back to Russ before he posts the final points.
 1. This is the final 2008 USTSA race season points calculation. There are two changes from prior year or preliminary 2008 points calculations to be aware of:
 - Women's points have been "zero'd out" so that the leading women racer has 0 points. In the past, we zero'd out the men and used that same factor for the women. In 2007, the top racer was reported with 46.3 on the GS points list. For 2008, the top women's racer will have 0 points. As the points system only reflects the **relative** performance of racers, this change will have no impact on team selection or racer ranking.
 - Women's World Cup race results have been excluded the USTSA points calculation because the women did not run the same course as the men during these races. For all races, women's points are calculated based on the men's results because we do not have enough women at most races to have a meaningful points calculation. One of the key factors in the race points calculation is each racer's time difference from the winner racer. As long as every racer runs the same course, the relative differences are meaningful. If there is a shorter course for women in some races and the same course in others, the points for the races where the women run a shorter course will be artificially lower. Accordingly, the USTSA Board of Directors determined that the Women's World Cup Classic race points will be published but will be excluded from the final USTSA Points Calculation.

- This calculation revision did not change the ranking of any racer.
- Potential team members were agreed to by the BOD. Tory will contact each potential member to confirm their willingness to meet the contractual obligations of their position on the team. The list of team members will be sent to the BOD under separate cover and posted on the USTSA Forum after the individuals have been contacted.
- The BOD agreed to two changes to the racer contract.
 1. Each racer will be required to solicit 3 corporate sponsors for the benefit of USTSA.
 2. Contracts and other information will be sent directly to Tory Hauser.

New Business

1. We need to start accumulating suggestions for updates to the USTSA Competition Guide. Tory suggested that we need to revise the length of course requirements. Please forward other revisions to Russ and he will present them to the BOD in a consolidated package at a later meeting.
2. Peter McMahon volunteered to help coordinate uniform procurement and will be invited to participate in future calls.

3. The Active registration site needs to be updated for the 2009 season. The BOD needs to agree on any revisions to the registration process and then Christopher will update the site and open registration for the next season. As there was no discussion of changing the membership fee structure at the AGM, the BOD agreed to maintain the current fee structure for the 2009 season.
4. Our next call will be May 15 at 7:00 MT.