

**USTSA
Officer's Conference Call
Monday, November 20, 2006 7 p.m. MST**

Attending: Christopher Ulm – President, Catherine Crim – Vice President, Paul Lamb – Events Director, Eric Lamb – Secretary, Russ Hobbs – Treasurer, Jim Stein – Uniforms and Equipment, Tory Hauser – Competition Guide Committee, Linda Hobbs – Note Taker

1. **Review Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2006.** Approved with no changes

2. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Equipment - Jim**

No change in status since last meeting. Karbon is still working on uniforms, Jim hopes that the team is reading emails and ordering Scarpa, Crispi and Atomic as directed by Jim. Rottefella is a dead end, but Jim has a line on a good deal on bindings and risers and racers can order through him if they meet his deadlines.

Chis arranged with Smith Optics the ability for a team order at good prices. Kelsey Schmidt-Sommers is coordinating this order, which must be sent as one total order for the team.

Jim asked if Chris would write a letter stating that the racers are USTSA Team Members that racers could use at ski areas to request a “courtesy pass”. Chris will write the letter.
 - B. **Team Members with missing Biographies – Paul**

All biographies have been submitted, except for Peter McMann. He is traveling and cannot be reached. Agreement that Paul will continue to try to reach Peter until uniforms are ready for distribution. Then we will revisit Peter’s status.
 - C. **Sponsorship –Russ**

Linda and Eric are working on a sponsorship policy, but it is not ready for review at this meeting.

Russ previously said that he would send thank you letters / tax receipts to our equipment sponsors. He will work with Jim and is waiting to know the value of the sponsorships.
 - D. **Stickers – Chris is still getting quotes, give him a few more days.**
 - E. **Patches – Eric is working on a quote for USTSA patches.**

3. **Comp Guide**

Since the last meeting, Linda formatted the comp guide and made a list of possible issues for discussion. Following is the list, with the BOD’s decisions typed in bold after each point.

 - 1002.1 Is 6 weeks prior to an event enough time? Is there another timeframe for Insurance that should be mentioned here? **Retain the 6-week timeframe. Delete the sentence that reads, “The sanction form needs to specify the type of event and insurance requirements.”** This information can be included in the Sanctioning documents. There was much discussion about whether USTSA should be obtaining insurance for events or whether it is the responsibility of the event organizer. Based on Tory’s research it appears that it might best be handled by the race organizer, but probably some additional research is needed and perhaps the opinion of an attorney. **Paul will contact Duncan Edwards for advise on this matter.**

- 1002.2 Do we want to include a dollar amount for the weekend license in this document, or should it be part of the sanctioning agreement? **Change the second sentence to read, “Weekend licenses will be available for a fee.”** Discussion about who gets this fee, the race organizer or USTSA. Agreement was that USTSA would get this fee.
- 1002.3** Do we need the organizer to be responsible for providing the race penalty calculation? This also ties in with 1205.6. **Yes, leave this as written.** USTSA needs to provide the software to the race organizer.
- 1204.1 Do we want to state 3 forerunners.....we sometimes are lucky to get 1 or 2? **Change this sentence to read, “Up to 3 forerunners are recommended for each run.”**
- 2302.3** When a racer loses a ski in the Classic event, this says they may put the ski back on. Isn't this only applicable during the SKATE section of the Classic event? **There is no reference to putting a ski back on in FIS. We will make the decision that in all races, once losing a ski, the racer is disqualified. The sentence will be changed to read, “If a racer loses a ski during a race, the racer is disqualified and must exit the race course.”** Discussion on this section led to a review of 2302.2, see next section.
- 2302.2 Agreed to change this section to read, **“with one or both feet without skis if the loss of the skis was caused by a fall at or after the last gate immediately before the finish and the racer fell through the finish during the fall.”**
- 1205.6 Do we want the Chief of calculations to calculate the race penalty? **YES**, we will provide the software and it may be the race organizer or someone else delegated to do the calculation.
- 2500 2506 and 2650 seem redundant. Can these be combined in Results 2506 and then mentioned as an awards category as item 2506? **We will delete section 2650, but we will add the last sentence of 2650 to 2506. This sentence reads, “Ties shall be broken using the combined total time for all disciplines.”**
- 2604** Is our master's category only for “Points” competitors? **Delete the word “Points” in this sentence.**
- 2605 Is age 16 the right age for juniors? Could it be 17 and under? In this paragraph we say under age 16 and we say ages 13 through 16, which is not consistent. Also, **WHEN** is the birthday? 16 and under as of Dec 31 of the race year, or January of the race year, or of the date of the race? **Change this section to read, “Junior categories have been started in some events. Two junior classes shall be used at Nationals and may be used at other events at the discretion of the race organizer. Junior 1 shall be age 14-17 and Junior 2 shall be 13 and younger. Ages for classification are as of December 31 of the race year as defined by USSA.”**
- 2701 Since we have been involved, the points racers have always raced first, Selkirk , Missoula or Nationals. So we need to decide how we really want this and then follow it. **No changes to this section.**
- 2800 Late Entries – We need to add that the late arrival also must have time for their practice jump, during the scheduled jump practice time, or they will not be able to race. **Add a sentence, which reads, “Any racer who arrives after jump practice has closed will not be allowed to race.”**

4004 Gate judges shall have no more than 2 gates per judge? I've only seen that happen at the WC races. Should we be more realistic with 3-4? **Change this section to read, "It is recommended that National events should have no more than 2 gates per judge for GS and Classics, and no more than 7 gates per judge during slaloms."**

4000 Gate judges, can we add two or three more lines? One about what the skier must do if they miss a gate, how they can hike back up between the gates, break the plane with their boots and then continue. *(Note: The group agreed to change this section to read the same as the FIS or USSA rule. Following is the USSA rule. I'm not sure it does what we want. One reason is that it refers to a ski coming off, but no disqualification. Another reason is that it seems vague about hiking back up to get a gate, which was what I was hoping to clarify. Please review this.*

Linda)

Change section 4005 to read, the same as USSA rule 661.4.1.

4005 **Correct passage of gates occurs when both the competitor's ski tips and both feet have passed across the gate line. If a competitor loses a ski without committing a fault, i.e., not be straddling a pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must have passed the gate line. This rule is also valid when a competitor has to climb back up to a gate.**

4005.1 The gate line in GS, SC and Classic, where a gate consists of two pairs of poles holding banners between them, is the imaginary shortest line between the two inner poles at snow level.

4005.2 The gate line in SL is the imaginary shortest line between the turning pole and the outside pole.

4005.3 In the event that a competitor removes a pole from its vertical position before both of the competitors ski tips and both feet have passed the gate line, the ski tips and feet must still pass the original gate line (marking in the snow).

4005.4 Renumber our 4005.1 to 4005.3, which reads, "Failure of correct passage of any gate shall result in a disqualification recorded by that gatekeeper or official.

Another line about the fact that the skier is disqualified if their ski comes off in any event except Classic, and then clarify that the ski can be put back on in just the skate section. **We addressed this in section 2302.3, so we will not add anything redundant to this section.**

Also, can we clarify that it is acceptable for a racer or coach to hand a skier a new pole during the skate, but not the gate judge? **Use the FIS wording in FIS 2511.3, which reads, "It is not allowed to change competition equipment during the race, with the exception of broken pole(s)." This will be number 4007, and the current 4007 will be renumbered as 4008**

4103 Needs to have the FIS wording added here, but I didn't have it. **Change to read same as FIS rule 1803.2.3, "The turns must be linked together in one single, uninterrupted movement from one Telemark turn to the next. This means: as soon as the hindmost foot starts to move forwards, this is the start of a new turn, and the movement must be continued without interruption to a position where the foot is at least one boot length in front of the other foot."**

5602.3 This section makes it sound as though the Super-Tele section is a requirement. My understanding from reading later in the document (5602.5) that this section MAY be included, but not a requirement. **Change this section to be the same as FIS 1902.2, which reads, "The Telemark classic course must consist of (counted in time), 30-40% cross country section and 60-70% Telemark section. Each section will include the appropriate obstacles such as the jump, 360°, whoops, etc. There must also be one or two 360°s – at least one jump and**

other elements, depending on what is possible with the terrain available. Time is based on the time of the top 10 men and top 5 women.”

4. Points – Russ

Following is a completely new Section 7100 proposed by Russ, Eric and Paul. Russ highlighted the major changes and the following discussion, two new sections (7106.1 and 7106.2) that clarify who will have points calculated and maintained and who will not. Also, it was determined that FIS overall points can only be used for men, because all our US and individual races are calculated with men and women together, but the overall FIS points are calculated separately.

Overview:

- A. As documented in the draft, we felt that the 5-racer calculation gives the larger, more competitive races more weight in the points calculation. We have rules that allow calculating points when at least 3 seeded racers participate, but those races should not have the same weight as the Nationals results. The difference in rankings under the 3 and 5-racer calculation are because of some high points from Steamboat or Selkirk under the 3-racer calculation.
- B. While Russ hasn't done the calculations, we also agreed that FIS races will have USTSA points calculated using a 3-racer formula. That will give these races more weight in the calculation. The terrain and level of competition in these races is typically much harder than our domestic races and the race points should be more valuable.
- C. We will have 2 points lists going forward and need to maintain all 4 discipline lists from previous year to help with calculations for racers who did not complete the required races during the year.

7100 USTSA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

7101 The purposes of the national ranking list are:

7101.1 To measure the relative performances of all competitors in the classification system.

7101.2 To serve as a tool to organize race start orders.

7101.3 To provide a method to help with the selection of the US Telemark national team.

7102 Only USTSA licensed members will be ranked.

7103 The USTSA points formula is similar to that of USSA. The “F” factors are altered to best reflect the differing characteristics between Telemark slalom, GS, sprint classic and classic time spreads. For further information regarding points calculations please contact USTSA competition committee.

7103.1 The formula for figuring national points for **USTSA sanctioned events** is as follows:

Race Points + Race Penalty = Racer Result

7103.1.1 **Race points** = ((racers time / winners time) – 1) X F- factor

7103.1.2 The F- factors vary for the different events, and are: 660 for GS and Slalom, 500 for Sprint Classic and 375 for Classic.

7103.1.3 $(A+B-C)/10 = \text{Race Penalty}$

“A” is the sum of the best 5 seeding points at the start of the race, based the most recent list published by USTSA.

“B” is the sum of the best 5 seeding points of the top ten finishers of the race.

“C” is the sum of the “race points” of the 5 best-seeded racers of the top ten finishers.

- 7103.1.4** The five-racer calculation has been chosen to ensure that “larger” races that attract the highest ranked racers will have a greater impact on the overall points calculation.
- 7103.2** The formula for figuring the **Race Penalty** for **FIS / World Cup sanctioned events** is the same as in 7103.1.3 except that the A, B and C factors will be based on a three (3) racer calculation.
- 7103.2.1** The three racer calculation has been chosen because FIS / World Cup races generally have more difficult terrain and a higher level of competition than domestic USTSA sanctioned races. The three racer formula, calculated using only USTSA team members, will ensure that these races will have a greater impact on the overall points calculation.
- 7103.3** USSA rules for calculating the **Race Penalty** will be followed in the following situations:
- 7103.3.1 There are fewer than 5 racers with seeding points at the start of the race
- 7103.3.2 Fewer than 10 racers finish the race
- 7103.3.3 Fewer than 5 racers finish the race
- 7103.3.4 Fewer than 5 racers in the top 10 finishers have seeding points
- 7103.3.5** For USTSA **Race Penalty** calculations, “maximum points” will be equal to the F-factor for the race.
- 7103.3.6** If women and men run the same course, the top ranking women’s seeding points may be included in the **Race Penalty** calculation if required to have 5 seeded racers.
- 7104** USTSA maintains one **National Points List** for the combined disciplines of GS and Slalom and another list for the combined disciplines of Sprint Classic and Classic. They are referred to as the **GS Points List** and the **Classic Points List**.
- 7104.0** USTSA will also maintain **Events Points Lists** for each of the disciplines (Slalom, GS, SC and CL) for purposes of calculating **Current Season Race Points** as documented below.
- 7104.1** Only one sprint classic may contribute to a racer’s **Classic Points**. Two Classic results may be used, but one is mandatory.
- 7104.2** Only one slalom may contribute to a racer’s **GS Points**. Two GS results may be used, but one is mandatory.
- 7104.3** There are three main calculations that determine a racer’s **National Points**. The calculation that provides the lowest points for the racer should be used.
- 7104.3.1 If there are at least two results within the discipline (may be USTSA results or FIS / World Cup results), the two best results are averaged to determine **Current Season Race Points**. These calculated results are then “zeroed out” to determine the **Zeroed Out Current Season Race Points**.
- 7104.3.2 If there is only one result, a double (44%) penalty is added to that result to determine the **Current Season Race Points**.
- 7104.3.2.1 If the single event is a Slalom or Sprint Classic and the racer is thus missing the required GS or Classic result, the double penalty may be applied to the prior year GS or Classic **event points** and then averaged with the single result
- 7104.3.2.2.1 If the racer does not have a prior year result, the maximum points (equal to the F Factor for that event) will be averaged with the single Slalom or Sprint Classic result.
- 7104.3.3 A double (44%) (single (22%) in the case of recognized injury) penalty is added to the prior year’s GS or Classic Points to calculate **Prior Year Carryover Points**.
- 7104.3.4 The racer’s published FIS points will also be considered without any adjustment (for men).
- 7105 The racer’s **National Points** for each of the combined disciplines shall be the lower of the **Zeroed Out Current Season Race Points**, the **Prior Year Carryover Points** or **published FIS points for men**.

7106 The racers **Combined National Points** shall be the total of the **GS** and **Classic National Points** calculations.

NEW

7106.1 Points totals will be calculated and maintained as long as the racer remains an active competitive dues paying member of USTSA.

7106.2 Points will not be calculated or maintained for athletes that are not competitive members.

Linda will update the Comp guide with the changes and send it out for final approval at next meeting. Linda suggested and it was agreed that once completed, we will get a copy of the Comp guide to our Team Members along with a form that must be signed and returned that indicates that they have read, understood and will abide by the rules in this guide. In future years, this can be part of the team member contract.

5. List of items assigned during this call or carried over from last call:

Russ: Send thank you letters to team sponsors

Finalize points for all 2006 Racers, regardless of 2006 membership.

Chris: Follow up on Sticker prices

Write a letter for racers to use in requesting courtesy passes at ski areas

Paul: Follow up with 1 remaining team member profile

Contact Duncan regarding insurance questions

Contact FIS contacts regarding age requirements of JR World Cup

Eric: Continue to pursue UM in regards to USTSA and marketing classes.

Work with Linda on Sponsorship guidelines

Linda: Finalize Comp Guide

Work with Eric on Sponsorship Guidelines

6. Next Meeting, Monday, December 18 at 7:30 MST, for 1 hour

Agenda: Sanctioning Agreement

Sponsorship Guidelines

7. Adjourned at approximately 8:40 MST