June 1, 2017

AOA Athletic Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Dave Hunt (NOD), Bill Real (NOD), Patrick Biggs (NCD), Dave Bradley (LSDA), Nick Kwasniak (SOD), Kip Harrington (AOA), Joey Lavigne (AOA), Graeme Buckrell (AOA), Heather Metzger (AOA), Jacques Reid (AOA), Scott Barrett (AOA), Robyn Skinner (AOA), Duncan Gibson-MacLean (AOA)

Agenda:

1. Action items from last meeting
2. Review AOAC Terms of Reference Draft
3. Review Age Group U14/U16/U19 OCUP Schedule Draft
4. Review Age Group U14/U16/U19 OCUP Selection Draft
5. U16 ACA Rising Stars Camp Dec 2-9, 2017
6. New Business
7. Date of next meeting

Kip

- Action items from last meeting are laid out in the following agenda.
- Does anyone have any questions or concerns about the AOAC Terms of Reference? NO

U14 – Jacques

- Regions have been in discussions in regard to mid-season Jan 25-28 in Collingwood and the GP, Osler, Alpine & Craigleith
- Have the ability to split genders for the GS between Osler and GP
- SL instead of a dual has been discussed
- OCUP Finals March 13-17 Searchmont – format and order still needs to be decided – U14 ROC from 2017 is on line and in discussions for U16 2018 – field size is a concern – a quota may need to be implemented
- Kip – can calendar be affected by quota, selection?
- Graeme – discussion needed around what the focus for U14 should be? Community looking for leadership in regard to speed and dual from this committee.
- Jacques – format of dual can be more inclusive and ensure all athletes get 2 runs – the elimination portion can be very small part of the day – small and big final. Dual is a fun format to include.

- Dave B – if it is a competitive schedule athletes and coaches will train it
- Kip - Can we do SG, dual and all other disciplines @ finals?
- Jacques-we struggle to get good training –Mid-season series recommendation - we run a modified SG or GS with U16 guidelines? Finals may be a better event for SG. Mealey would be a speed camp - multi day environment a hug benefit.
- Bill - Will the dual count for points or is this just for fun? Finals dual it wasn't counted for points
- Kip – if we don't have speed will athletes train it? If SG is at can-am and Whistler Cup then we need to include it on our schedule – can-am YES, Whistler Cup NO.
- Jacques – speed skis only available down to 183 – equipment a challenge – train speed skills in GS skis is the way to go – need to be proactive in this committee to train differently USSA Big G - modified GS
- How do we look after this small group of athletes? For the majority training speed skills in GS skis may make more sense
- Graeme-what is an ideal final for each age group? 7 days too long and too costly - last year 4 day event - time crunched due to bad weather
- Kip – **Mid-winter SG, SG, SL and Dual with more speed training at Mealey** – confirm with club – details of Finals need to be flushed out
- Kip - 5 days for finals work with 4 days of racing quota will need to be determined - field size needs to be reduced to 200-can we qualify through mid winters?
- Joey – with no quota at mid-winters, splitting genders at mid-winters may cause a problem for smaller clubs with one coach
- LSDA-will not come to mid-winters so we do not want quota - SOD would rely on clubs to govern - good education for head coaches – only sending kids who have trained speed – needs to be a ceiling of field size
- Dave H – open mid-winter we need to discuss a quota for finals and be aware that having a SL first creates cross ruts
- Jacques-SL, GS, GS, SG, Dual format for finals Kip-**W-GS, M-GS, SG, SL, Dual** - Heather hard to run SL first and destroy the hill potentially
- **Kip-U14 calendar looks good and work to be done on quota-ACTION Item – share ideas on paper an circle back**

U16 - Graeme

- Block racing was the overwhelming feedback from the Athletic Meeting
- Nationals date not ideal
- Seeding is always at the forefront for coaches, not athlete development so we need to address
- Finals will be after March Break to extend the season
- Mid-winter in SOD - after exams - qualifier for national champs - need good data - more than ample time for seeding racing format - SG-GP, GS-GP, SL-Alpine, SL-DG, GS-Osler
- Regional OCUP – consistent branding for families and coaches – doesn't count towards OCUP points – first SOD Regional OCUPS will seed you for mid-winters
- Will bring top kids together before nationals - speed camp, days with OST
- Kip-field size not an issue at finals? No there is not an issue.

- Kip - Nationals one event per discipline-why are we doing 2 GS and 2 SL at our finals? Heather - wants kids to race and not just finish – athletes worried about falling and not qualifying- Kip you guys are the experts-one run doesn't teach them about ski racing – we tend to confuse parents and athletes with single runs – this is a final event – there should be a SG
- Team event can be done but have to be organized
- Kip- 6 days and all disciplines 2 GS and 2 SL – SG training, SG race, SL, GS & Dual – Heather - selection should work based on the events we have not the other way around – could train SG in the am and race in pm for each gender
- Scott-why do we have 2 GS and 2 SL many races @ the end of the season? Value beyond qualification to allow kids to settle in and try again but it's a long event - provides confidence - lots of travel and racing for kids that go to all- by the time they get to Whistler Cup they are spent – Finals will only count toward Can-AM qualification
- Jacques - need to weight full result and single run result if they don't have the opportunity to race 2 disciplines of each – USSA does this
- Tier 1-Nationals, Tier 2-Qualify from Finals to the Europe opportunity, Tier 3-Middle of the bus qualify for the can am - gives top kids opportunity to train more
- Dave B – need an education piece for market to families in regard to opportunities early – great to have something prepared for Sept 1
- **Finals** - doesn't need to be 6 days of racing - **1 day of each with training for SG – all agree**
- NOD could run 2 SG potentially in 1 day
- **Action Item -** Draft circulate for U16 selection

U19\FIS – Joey

- Waiting for QC and USSA for their calendars – early next week hopefully
- Sugarloaf is the only one we are capable of going to - Jan 27 - we may lose in the future - Jay Peak and Mt snow may re homologate
- QC needs us to ensure good points are in the field to attract them. What are good points? 30 is good. NCAA finals is a good time for a series as not all athletes make the finals.
- Looking to get one great series for the OST and QST to attend that is appropriate – all other series can be focused on regional team athletes
- Ontario Winter Games will be March 1-4, 2018 and will be a U19 event. Can be a FIS/ENL race or a national U19 race to promote retention in this age group

Rising Stars

- **Proposal – 4 male and 4 females selected - athletes ranked on best 2 events from Finals (using WC 100 points) All regions good with proposal? Yes –** we are looking for get QC's spots as well
- **Selection of 3 - 2nd year U16 and 1 - 1st year U16 athletes per gender – All agree**
- Kip – athletes should be chosen on merit not age – no data to compare head to head so we have to philosophically choose
- Do we need to send u14 athletes? Benefit for them? Select u14's with more single run data? Great to capture the top U14 athletes and give them an opportunity and have them build confidence

- **New business-selection U14 and U16 and U14 quota – circulate ideas and proposals prior to the next call**
- Graeme - need a strategy to show people we are listening in regard to cost, school, physical conditioning – need to celebrate and be more transparent
- Kip - June 19-21 coaching meeting that Kip, Jacques and Graeme will be a part of so we can move coach development forward
- Kip - vision for Ontario as a team that we can all get behind retention and growth and development of the sport-we need to prioritize how we are going to get there
- **Kip – please share objectives with the committee as members see them**
- June 13 next call at 4pm
- Graeme – we need a coach education liaison
- Scott – Jeff Jones will be working with the DL group moving forward – we have asked ACA if we can take over the DL courses as we do for the EL courses – SX – trying to focus some energy on this during the off season – more updates later in June
- Dave B – thanks for all of the work that has taken place so far – seems to be working really well