



ALASKA ACC MEETING  
Thursday, September 26th, 2024 at 6pm AKT

Alaska Division ACC Meeting Minutes -- 9/26/2024 6pm AKT

*Members in attendance: Tasha Foster (Divisional Manager), Jheren Svoboda (Chair), Amy Guse (ACC), Jen Danza (ACC), Brian Hartman (ACC), Nick Foster (ASC), Conor Lynch (HART), Luke Clement (Arctic Valley), Reini Newhauser (FSC), Kevin Stell (JSC), Mark DeHertough (Arctic Valley), Sparky Andersen (UAA)*

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Approval of Minutes August 21st, 2024 (see attached from email)

Motion to approve: Jen

2<sup>nd</sup>: Nick Foster

Approved.

Approval of Agenda September 26, 2024

Addition: Clean up on the agenda

Motion to approve: Nick Foster

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jen Danza

Approved.

- Chair Report Meet and Greet – Jheren Svoboda
  - Thanks for everyone’s patience. Working through a learning curve.
  - Been working with the powers that be on base to help with Hillberg and the ski hill out on base. A big program to keep YSL healthy.
  - Message from John Dehaven to the ACC, information that is confidential has been shared and should not have been shared. He feels his reputation has been damaged with HART and in his personal life.
  
- Club Round Table – UPDATES
  - AVST – 30 kids signed up with another dozen or so in the que. First coaches meeting beginning of Oct. Season kick off meeting Oct 25. Head coaching will be a committee this year, with Mash as the most experienced coach on the hill. Marissa wrote up a good training plan and Luke is working on mainly development level.
  - ASC – Nakiska Camp is planned, dates coming soon. Dryland in full swing. Numbers are good for the club – low in Juniors, high in other areas.
  - HART – Things are going well. Numbers are down a little from last year, working through that. Couple of weeks in Copper this fall. Drylands are

going well, internal ski swap in October. Coaches getting together weekly.

- JSC – Registration has been open about 10 days. Numbers are coming in – full coaching staff – 5 devo/6 mighty mite. Way ahead of the game. Drylands start Oct 6. New mountain manager, heard good things. Hopefully he is excited about ski racing.
- FSC – Getting colder, things coming up for ski swap first week of Nov, skiing by Thanksgiving.
- UAA – Swap coming up Oct 19. Bring your stuff to sell! Excited to host the NCAA WR Champs Feb 19 at Alyeska.
- Official's Report – Brian Hartman
  - nominate Julie LeClerc to replace as AO Chair (see new business)
  - Meeting with the AO national meeting is next week. Soon after that all the materials will be out for fall conference.
  - JSC Homologation, Karl Guentzal is coming up for that. He was assigned last week.
  - Nov 2 – 3, space at Firehouse for the Fall Officials Conference.
- Finance Update – Mary Thomas
  - DNO insurance can be paid during check.
  - SEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES to be squared away.
  - Main priority is to get Tasha and Boda on the account so we can switch banks.
- Coaches Working Group update – Conor Lynch
  - Race Schedule Proposal
  - Met Sept 16. Good input – proposals coming in new business. Talking about SL, U14 qualifiers, Rams Cup night race (Wolverine) – Treat the lights like what you would fog/shadows, talked about verbiage of qualifiers (CC SL and Arctic Valley are back up races), and run qualifiers if 2 runs become difficult.
  - Stubbies for U12 at Ram and Coca-Cola.
  - YSL Race Schedule
  - U18 race to use for qualifiers will be the Mt. Bachelor race.
  - REVIEW U16 qualifiers at next group. Make consistent.
- YSL Update – Luke Clement
  - Might change the overall so it stays fun and maybe results only come from best two races of the seasons.
  - Account still has money in it. Bibs should have been ordered by trying to find out the status of that.
  - U10s are lacking in races, so thinking about opening up the Arctic Valley Cup to 2<sup>nd</sup> year U10s. If U10s are involved on the same course, it has to be set to U12.

Current Proposal as follows:

- YSL 1- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> (Hilltop)
- YSL 2- Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> (Arctic Valley) ALYESKA\*?
- YSL Optional March 15 (Juneau)
- U10 and Under State Champs - March 23 U10 (Arctic Valley)

- Admin Ski Racing – Updates?
  - Tasha has a meeting with them next week.
  - Working through membership numbers translating from USSA to ASR
- Coach Education – Jen Danza
  - No updates right now. Attending training on Oct 7 and 8. Pre-meeting should be happening in the next week. Will have updates at the next meeting.
  - Jen’s role will be doing an assessment and will be testing skiers on hill.
  - Jen went through the coaches academy safety training.
  - Every coach that has a level 100 or above needs to be a gold member and register. Must do the safety (avalanche and CPR updates).
  - There are now 10 credits every year now and that equates to 5 hours.
  - Silver is OK for new level 100s and anyone without a coaches 100 can be a bronze. Coaches can submit together and get a discount.
  - It’s \$80 per coach.
  - Positives – cost of actual courses is going to drop. Everything needed to get your re-certifications is included in that Gold memberships.
  - A club will show as inactive on a membership if coaches do not get up to the Level 100s.
  - If doing the Level 100 and getting started, you must register for the coaches academy. It has brought it down to 3 online modules and safety classes and on snow evaluation. If you sign up for the Bronze or Silver, you have to immediately start working towards the coaches 100. You have until the end of 2026 to complete.
  - We are lucky to have Jen as one of the assessors so we don’t have to fly someone up from the lower 48.
  - If clubs can work on a list of Level 100-200 list of coaches so Jen knows how many people she is looking at. And another list for the spring.
  - There won’t be anything on Level 300 until after November.
  - On snow is only for new coaches obtaining the Level 100. Jen can probably travel down to Juneau for the on snow. Same for FBX. PLEASE WORK ON LISTS BY THE NEXT MEETING (ALL CLUBS/COACH WORKING GROUP) – DEADLINE – WEEK BEFORE NEXT MEETING!!

#### New Business:

- By-Laws update by Boda
  - Set Special meeting to review with Lara on the meeting.
  - Motion to table Bylaws for special meeting with Lara present in the next 30 days (before next meeting).
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Nick Foster
  - Approved.
  - BODA TO SEND OUT INVITATION TO GET LARA ON BOARD FOR A SPECIAL MEETING with ACC.
- Restructure Doc w/ responsibilities per position
  - see appendix B, and email attachment
  - post to website

o TABLE UNTIL BYLAWS ARE COMPLETE – then complete this document.

- Brain Hartman to nominate Julie LeClerc as his replacement for AO Chair
  - o Head coach of the Rippers program and has coached at Arctic Valley. Last year did her TD.
  - o Time for Brian to move on and get some new blood in here – Julie is willing to take the position. But must be voted on.
  - o Brian motions to have Julie be the AO chair moving forward.
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> from Luke Clement
  - o Discussion:
    - Will she be guided by Brian? Brian will be giving her a couple of years helping her with everything she needs. Brian will be guiding the fall conference. Will remain on the TD working group and a National Homogater. So Brian is not leaving us. Will always be available to help Julie for the years to come.
  - o Julie LeClerc is the new AO chair with no opposition!
  - o Thank you to Brian Hartman. He's been an amazing additional to Alaska Ski Racing.
- Contract for new Division Manager
  - o Need 3rd party witness for signatures
  - o Jen has volunteered to be a witness, sooner rather than later so we can get things official with Tasha as the new Divisional Manager.
  - o No opposition.
- Open floor to any new business
- CONFIRM PROXY VOTES:
  - o ASC: Conor McDonald – Proxy – Nick Foster
  - o AVST: Luke Clement - Proxy Mark DeHertough
  - o HART: Conor Lynch – Proxy Josh Tokita
  - o JSC: Kevin Stell – Proxy Brock Tabor
  - o FSC: Reini Proxy Dawn Montano
  - o UAA: Sparky Anderson – proxy Anna Berecz

Action Item Follow Up:

- Approve competition schedule
  - o Wanted to make sure what the qualification stuff needed to be. This will be done now that the qualifications are clear.
  - o Motion to approve: Luke Clement
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jen Danza
  - o Calendar is approved.
- Ram Cup
  - o Jan 10 – Night Race
  - o Working through lighting for a night race. U12/U14 (stubbies & 60" gates)
  - o Race line in optimal light/Jury to review.
  - o Homologated Run (Wolverine)
  - o Will keep the hill open a little later, past 8pm so kids don't miss any school.
- U16 qualifier in Juneau

- Talked about at Coaches Working Group. Eventually want to get this back on the calendar. Would like to see it a U16/18 event. Kevin was worried about staffing due to lower U16 and up numbers in Juneau.
- This is a future thing and not a 2025 season thing.
- Would like to go a GS and SL over a weekend, but could make a weekend qualifier out of it.
- This age group will grow significantly in the next couple of years to help with volunteers and staffing. Thinking more 2026 season for holding a good quality race for that age group.
- Boda – Goal is to have more volunteers across the division to help with these sort of staffing issues so all clubs are helping each other out.
- Vote on U14 qualifications
  - see proposal in appendix A
  - Motion to accept: Nick Foster
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jen Danza
  - Approved.
- YSL
  - Updated YSL schedule: Feb. 9 @ Hilltop\*, March 3 @ Alyeska and March 23 @ Arctic Valley (U10 champs)
  - Conflict with Special Olympics at Hilltop race. Special Olympics gets priority
  - Schedule reduction- 5 races to 3 total.
  - Is there enough interest in Juneau to create their own YSL? In the future?
- U10 State Champs, rotate through?
  - Juneau like to host; proposed dates March 15-16 or 22-23
    - perhaps 25-26 season, more time to plan
- Becoming a 501 ( C ) 3
  - Updating signatures
  - See above Bylaws Discussion/Finance
- Fall officials conference- scheduled Nov. 2-3 @ fire station.
  - need to create registration
  - See above. Already booked with Fire Station.
  - Amy to send Tasha what was done in 2023 Fall.
  - Need schedule from Brian and Mary. Mary does TC Sat and Ref on Sun / Brian Sat. – Ref Update and Testing & Sun. TD all day.
  - TASHA Need to send out weekly reminders to capture as many families as possible.
- Homologation Update
  - Only one received is JSC and it is scheduled.

#### Old Business

- D&O Insurance status update – Jheren Svoboda
  - To discuss method of payment with Mary – Pay with a CHECK
  - American Specialty Insurance recommended by USSS: [https://www.amerspec.com/usskiandsnowboard\\_cov/](https://www.amerspec.com/usskiandsnowboard_cov/)
- Fundraising Chair initial discussion

- Table until Bylaw Discussion is done.
- Race Calendar Discussion and vote for Approval
  - Confirm U12/U14 Champs rotation (Arctic Valley for 2025)
  - Amy and Tasha to work on together.

#### Standing Items:

- Homologations round table and status
- Website Discussion:
  - Keep Natalie as manager of the website or pass website management directly to the new Divisional Manager
- Credit card possibility brainstorming
- Remind families about early bird registration Oct. 15
  - Send out ASAP via mailchimp - TASHA
- Sanction agreements deadline November 30

Set Next ACC Meeting – Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024 @ 6pm

#### PROPOSALS

##### ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

Date: August 21, 2024

For consideration by: Coaches Working Group, Led by Conor Lynch

Copy to: ACC Board

Rule reference: U14 Qualifications

Reference: [Alaska Division Rules](#)

Original Version:

The Alaska Division quota for the Western Region U14 Championships is subject to change annually. The quota is determined by each Division's population from U14 USSS license holders who are current on the November points list. The Alaska Division has a minimum quota of 4 women and 4 men for the 2024 U14 WR Championships.

The qualifying races contested will always include two Super G races, four Giant Slalom races, and four Slalom races.

For the 2024 season, the following races will be used:

- Coca Cola Classic – 1 GS / 1 SL  
January 12-13, 2024
- Alyeska Cup Speed – 2 SG  
February 1, 2024
- Alyeska Cup Tech – First GS / First SL  
February 16-17, 2024
- Arctic Valley Cup – 1 GS / 1 SL  
February 10-11, 2024
- Juneau Glacier Auto Parts / Napa Tech Series – 1 GS / 1 SL  
February 24-25, 2024

Each race will be a qualifying event for the selection boards. The racer with the highest number of points, based on their five best race/competition finishes (with no more than three GS events, no more than three SL, and one speed event being used), will be ranked first.

For the Alyeska Cup Series, the first GS and the first SL events will be used, in case the second races do not occur.

In the event we are unable to hold three (3) Slalom or three (3) Giant Slalom races, qualification will revert to using each "run" instead of each "race." Racers that do not finish (DNF) or are disqualified (DQ) in the first run will be allowed to run at the end of the field, in reverse bib order during the second run. This ensures every competitor has an opportunity to complete a run, should qualification revert to "by run" results.

Ties in ranking will be broken by using the next best run finish, not to exceed four runs in any single discipline.

Selections will be made as described above until each quota, including alternates, is filled. The ACC will make the selections, and programs or independent athletes will be notified within 48 hours of the team selections. Athletes must notify their club of their intent to participate and submit a trip deposit payment within 48 hours after selections are announced.

Any Alaska Division athlete invited to and participating in a Regional or National quota competition that conflicts with Alaska Divisional qualifying races will automatically be placed in the Divisional quotas for their respective regional championship event for the current season.

#### New Proposal:

#### Alaska Division U14 Championships Qualification Criteria for the 2024 Season

The Alaska Division quota for the Western Region U14 Championships is determined annually based on the Division's U14 USSS license holders current on the November points list. The Alaska Division is guaranteed a minimum quota of 4 women and 4 men for the 2024 U14 Western Region Championships.

#### Qualifying Events and Format:

For the 2025 season, U14 athletes will qualify using multiple venues and races. Athletes will be ranked based on the highest number of World Cup points earned from their best five finishes across eight designated events (3 GS, 3 SL, and 1 of 2 SG). The events are:

- Giant Slalom (GS) Events:
  - Coca Cola Classic GS – January 17, 2025
  - Alyeska Cup GS – February 16, 2025
  - Juneau Tech GS – March 1, 2025
- Slalom (SL) Events:
  - Ram Cup SL – January 10, 2025

- Alyeska Cup SL – February 17, 2025
- Juneau Tech SL – March 2, 2025
- Super G (SG) Event:
  - Alyeska Cup SG – January 27-28, 2025

Note: The Arctic Valley Cup will only be used as a qualifier if any of the above races are canceled. Additionally, Arctic Valley will host the Alaska State Championships on April 5-6, 2025.

#### Ranking System:

Athletes will be ranked based on their total World Cup points from their best five finishes across the designated events. These finishes will include three Giant Slalom events, three Slalom events, and one Super G event. For the Selection Boards, the racers with the highest number of world cup points based on their best 4 technical (GS / SL) and best Super G Result, will be ranked first.

#### Contingency Plan:

If fewer than the required number of races are completed, Arctic Valley Cup can be considered for an alternate GS and SL start, as well as Coca-Cola SL. If there are still fewer completed races, qualification will be determined using individual runs from completed events. For example, if fewer than three Slalom or Giant Slalom races are held, each run from the completed races may count separately for qualification purposes. "Leave it open if an event cannot be held that another venue can pick up a race, snow and venue dependent."

Athletes who DNF or are disqualified (DQ) in the first run of any qualifying event will be allowed to rerun in the second run at the end of the field, provided butterfly seeding is not in use.

#### Tiebreaker Procedure:

In the event of a tie in the rankings, the next best run result will be used to break the tie, with no more than four results counted from any single discipline.

#### Selection and Notification:

Selections will be made by the Alaska Competition Committee (ACC) based on the rankings described above until the full quota, including alternates, is filled. Programs or independent athletes will be notified of team selections within 48 hours of the decision. Athletes must confirm their participation and submit a trip deposit within 48 hours of the announcement.

#### Automatic Qualification:

Any Alaska Division athlete invited to and participating in a Regional or National quota competition that conflicts with Alaska Division qualifying races will automatically qualify for the divisional quota for their respective regional championship event during the current season.

#### Submitted by:

Conor Lynch on behalf of CWG





## **U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD – ALASKA DIVISION**

### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

#### **ABOUT THE DIVISION**

U.S. Ski & Snowboard - Alaska Division is currently a 501c7 non-profit – EIN 92-6002821. The proposal at the time of this document's approval is to apply for 501c3 non-profit status.

The Alaska Division is one of five western divisions in the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Western Region, established under the authority of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Sport Committee and responsible for the regulation of the sport of Alpine Ski Competition.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Ski competition within the Alaska Division is administered by the Alpine Competition Committee (ACC), which is comprised of representatives from each U.S. Ski & Snowboard member club. The purpose of the Alaska Division is to provide the best opportunities possible for all competitors to ski race and pursue personal athletic goals.

#### **PROPOSED VOTING MEMBERS**

A Board member is entitled to only one vote whether or not he or she serves as an Officer, Club Representative and/or Committee Chair.

#### **Officers**

President and Secretary are voted on in even years. Vice President and Treasurer are voted on in odd years.

President (only as a tie breaker)

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

#### **Chairs & Committees**

According to the bylaws, Chairs are ACC Board members so they already have one vote.

Officials Chair

Coaches Working Group Chair

Coaches Education Chair

YSL Committee Chair

Fundraising Chair (NEW)

**Club Representation**

Alyeska Ski Club (ASC): 1 representative and 1 proxy

Arctic Valley Ski Team (AVST): 1 representative and 1 proxy

Hilltop Alpine Racing Team (HART): 1 representative and 1 proxy

Juneau Ski Club (JSC): 1 representative and 1 proxy

Fairbanks Alpine Ski Club (FASC): 1 representative and 1 proxy

UAA: 1 representative and 1 proxy

**CHAIR ROLES & COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Officials Chair**

The Official's Chair is an ACC Board member that is nominated and voted upon by the ACC. The Official's Chairs is responsible for the following:

- Scheduling and assignment of TD to US Ski & Snowboard events in the Alaska Division.
- Hosting, overseeing and delivering clinics and updates. Responsible for working with the Division Manager and ACC Chair to host the Fall Education Conference in November.
- Tracking of officials and certification levels. Maintaining record-keeping of exams.
- Mentoring and assisting officials with advancement and shadow opportunities.
- Sharing information with AOEWG Western Region representative and participating in working groups.

**Coaches Working Group (CWG)**

The purpose of the Coaches Working Group (CWG) is for each USSS Club within the Alaska Division to discuss and share ideas, with a common goal of improving the Division. This forum is used to discuss and provide guidance to the ACC. The CWG does not create rules or policies. It makes recommendations to the ACC to formally adopt if appropriate.

Annual working group topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Selection Board Rules for WRJC, U16 WR Championships, U14 WR Championships, Tri-Divisionals, and Arctic Winter Games.
- State Championships event rules, course setting, etc...
- Season Calendar Preparation
- Athlete Development

Representation from each club is encouraged. It is suggested that head coaches from specific age groupings should be in attendance to offer perspective and discussion, wherein rules and policies are being discussed for those age groups.

The Coaches Working Group should meet regularly, as needed, throughout the season. The Chair of the Coaches Working Group is an ACC Board member that is nominated and voted upon by the ACC. Meetings ideally would be done in person when possible, but with opportunity for others to join virtually. The Coaches Working Group Chair is responsible for

reporting to the ACC Board and for using an approved upon process for developing and disseminating proposals to the ACC for review.

### **Coaches Education Chair**

The Coaches Education Chair is an ACC Board member that is nominated and voted upon by the ACC. The purpose of the Coaches Education Chair is to disseminate information to the Board from U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Sport Education Department. In particular, the Coaches Education Chair will follow the curriculum being developed by the Sport Education Academy and ensure all Division coaches are following certification requirements. The Coaches Education Chair will be responsible for organizing coaches certification clinics throughout each season. The Coaches Education Chair is responsible for reporting to the ACC Board.

### **Youth Ski League (YSL) Committee**

The purpose of the YSL committee is to ensure the ongoing organized efforts of the YSL program to promote and teach the fundamental skiing skills and ski racing techniques to young skiers. The Chair of the YSL Committee is an ACC Board member that is nominated and voted upon by the ACC. The YSL Committee Chair is responsible for scheduling meetings with the YSL Committee throughout the season and to oversee the finances of the YSL, including distribution of entry fees to participating ROCs. The YSL Committee is responsible for calendaring YSL races, disseminating information to clubs, and providing assistance to each ROC with race logistics and awards. The YSL Committee Chair is responsible for reporting to the ACC Board.

### **Fundraising Committee (NEW)**

The Fundraising Committee plans and develops the financial resources that support the AK Division's mission and objectives. Donations to the AK Division will support all Division initiatives and help pay the salary of the Division Manager. The Chair of the Fundraising Committee is an ACC Board member that is nominated and voted upon by the ACC. The Fundraising Committee will help identify, solicit and steward corporate donors and will brainstorm and execute other fundraising events and opportunities as approved by the committee and the Board. The Development Committee Chair is responsible for reporting to the ACC Board.

## **BOARD MEETINGS**

Regularly scheduled throughout the year with the Annual Meeting and Board/Officer elections occurring in the Spring of each year.

Propose the following standing agenda items:

Chair Report

Officials Report

Treasurer's Report

Coaches Working Group Report

Coaches Education Report

YSL Committee Update

Fundraising Committee Report (NEW)

Out of Division Travel

Education Report (NEW) – Each Board member delivers some form of education on a rotational basis. Topics can range from club development to athlete development to parent education.

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBER TERMS

3-year terms with the opportunity to serve two consecutive terms.

Propose staggered term limits to avoid those currently sitting on the Board from vacating at the same time. All Board members new to the Board in 2024 will begin their service and be eligible for another 3-year term in 2027. The Board needs to fill in “Board Member Since” dates and decide the staggered term limits of the remaining Board members.

Board Member	Officer	Role	Board Member Since	Term Ends	Notes -
Jheren Svoboda "Boda"	President	At Large	2024/25	2027/28	May be reelected to another 3 yr. term in 2027
Brian Hartman	Vice President	At Large, Officials Chair	2015/16	2024/25	
Amy Guse	Secretary	At Large	2016/17		
Mary Thomas	Treasurer	At Large			
Conor McDonald "Bucky"		ASC Rep.	2023/24		
Luke Clement		AVST Rep.	2016/17 – 2017/18 rejoining 2019/20		
Conor Lynch		HART Rep., CWG Chair	2024/25	2027/28	May be reelected to another 3 yr. term in 2027
Kevin Stell		JSC Rep.	2020/21		
Reini Neuhauser		FASC Rep.	2005/06 – 2010/11 rejoining 2019/2020		
Sparky Anderson		UAA Rep.	2000/01		
Jen Danza		Coaches Education Chair	2021/22	2024/25	

## **WESTERN REGION ACC**

The ACC Chair and one proxy from the ACC Board sits on the Western Region ACC and is responsible for representing the AK Division athletes, coaches and officials as well as the development of AK Division proposals.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FOR THE ACC**

Recommend every Board member review the [administrative rules for the ACC](#) and spend time during the fall to discuss potential clarifications and/or changes.

In particular, the following topics arose in 2023-24 and should be addressed:

1. State Championship rules and rotation schedule
2. Out of Division travel procedures
3. Streamlined process for determining annual membership dues and head tax
4. Selection of coaches for Division travel
5. Team Alaska (academic and athletic) tracking, selection, announcement and distribution of certificates and awards
6. Brian Russell Scholarship Foundation Fund
7. Branding and use of the AK Division logo
8. Western Region and Tri Division apparel selection and process
9. More streamlined process for the preparation and distribution of proposals to the ACC Board for review and adoption
10. Development of a shared Division resources Google site for internal ACC use

Submitted by Jheren Svoboda