



ALASKA DIVISION ACC MEETING
Monday, October 28th, 2024 at 6pm AKT

Alaska Division ACC Meeting Minutes -- 10/28/2024 6pm AKT

Members in attendance: Tasha Foster (Divisional Manager), Jheren Svoboda (Chair), Amy Guse (ACC), Jen Danza (ACC), Brian Hartman (ACC), Julie Pierre Leclerc (ACC), Mary Thomas (ACC), Bucky McDonald (ASC), Nick Foster (ASC), Conor Lynch (HART), Kevin Stell (JSC), Mark DeHertough (Arctic Valley), Sparky Andersen (UAA)

Approval of Minutes September 26, 2024 (see attached from email)
Approval of Agenda October 28, 2024

- Chair Report Meet and Greet – Jheren Svoboda
 - Teamwork this season.
- Club Round Table – UPDATES
 - AVST –
 - Ski team kickoff party on Friday the 25th had about 40 families show up, mostly new faces.
 - Total numbers are 90.
 - 1 coach interested in L100
 - ASC – Good fall. 2 good ski swaps. Warren Miller films are at Bear Tooth Nov 6 & 7 (5:30 and 8:30 each day). Tickets online at Bear Tooth. 28 athletes headed to Nakiska at the end of November.
 - HART – List of coaches interested in Level 200 sent to Jen. Got together with Coaches. A lot of parents are interested in officials training.
 - JSC – 26 U12s signed up. Snowed already in Juneau.
 - FSC – No report
 - UAA – Heading out to Canada to train.
- Official's Report – Brian Hartman/Julie-Pierre Leclerc
 - Welcome Julie!
 - Sign ups are in progress for Officials training are in progress.
 - Only the updates can be zoomed. The new courses must be in person.
 - Some things that are normally under officials have been moved under coaches.
 - All the updated materials have been received by Brian and Julie.
 - Study guides are on the website already. RMSRO is already update, but USSS doesn't have them up. <http://rmsro.org/education-materials/>
 - RA updates will have multiple options.

- Finance Update – Mary Thomas
 - Working on transferring everything over.
 - Payments are coming in from memberships.
 - Need to set up a day for Tasha, Boda and Mary to get to a Wells Fargo to set up account changes.

- Coaches Working Group update – Conor Lynch
 - Working through making U14 and U16 qualifiers more consistent.
 - Talk around tall gates – Ram and Coca-Cola will stay with stubbies for U12 since they are so close to the beginning of the season and then will move to 60" gates.
 - Need to clarify seeing verbiage on the website for U14 and U16s so we can add it to the website.
 - With the limited race starts, ASC will still have 2 codexes per day. But the first race per day will be the qualifier. U16 & U18 will be fewer athletes and can run 2 races per day to give them more race starts.
 - Emphasis is on the first two-run races run of each day if two races are run. If conditions warrant, we can pull off two races as long as light, timing and conditions agree. Focus is first race being of highest quality possible and if a second can happen, it will.

- YSL Update – Luke Clement
 - In the process of scheduling another YSL race so that we have 3 in the anchorage area, with the U10 State Champs in Juneau.
 - Working on logos for new bibs, turnaround should be quick once finalized
- Current Schedule as follows:
 - YSL 1- Feb 1st (Hilltop)
 - YSL 2- Mar 1st (Alyeska) – *Need further conversation about Sat vs. Sun. Working with Gordo to come up with solid dates for Alyeska.*
 - YSL Optional March 15 (Arctic Valley?)
 - U10 and YSL State Champs - March 22 U10 (Juneau)
 - Saturday vs Sunday?
 - U10 / YSL State Champs, rotate through?

- Admin Ski Racing –
 - Regional training for all RA's directly from Scott at ASR. Dates TBD.

- Coach Education – Jen Danza
 - Trying to get the assessment of the Level 100 done at the beginning of December (December 14 – only need the one day with a smaller group) and there are 4 (with Bucky's add) that are interested. Should we proceed or see how many we can do in April? Would like to see this happen to have a good positive start to the season. If someone doesn't do well, they can try again in April.
 - Jen is hoping to fly down to Park City Dec 8&9.

- There are 6 people signed up so far for Level 200 in January (is the push). They will not be ready for a Level 200 in December.
- Jen will work with Kevin (JSC) to work through his coaches that are interested.
- MOTION TO APPROVE APPENDIX A: Conor Lynch
- 2nd – Bucky McDonlad
- APPROVED.

New Business:

- Open floor to any new business

Action Item Follow Up:

- By-Laws update by Boda
 - Update on meeting w/ Lara
 - See attachments for different drafts tracking edits from separate parties
 - SPECIAL MEETING DATE will come by EOD on Thursday from Boda.
- Restructure Doc w/ responsibilities per position
 - see appendix b
 - Will be covered under the special meeting

Old Business

- Confirm U12/U14 Champs rotation (Arctic Valley for 2025)
 - 2024 – Arctic Valley 2025
 - 2025 – JSC 2026
 - 2026 – Alyeska 2027
 - 2027 – Fairbanks 2028
 - 2028 – Hilltop 2029
 - 2029 – Arctic Valley 2030
 - 2030 – JSC 2031
 - 2031 – Alyeska 2032
 - Tasha to update to the website.

Standing Items:

- Homologations updates
- Website Discussion:
 - Keep Natalie as manager of the website or pass website management directly to the new Divisional Manager
 - Tasha will be doing the website updates. Doing a great job!
- Credit card possibility brainstorming
 - On hold until Bank Account is sorted out.
- Sanction agreements **deadline November 30**
 - New fee chart needs to be updated.
- Becoming a 501 (C) 3
 - Updating signatures
 - See above Bylaws Discussion/Finance

- On hold until the Bylaws are finalized. At that time we can do some fundraising.
- DNO Insurance status update –
 - To discuss method of payment with Mary – Check payment will be accepted. Hopefully have completed by next meeting.
 - American Specialty Insurance recommended by USSS: https://www.amerspec.com/usskiandsnowboard_cov/
- Fundraising Chair initial discussion
 - Table until Bylaw Discussion is done.

Set Next ACC Meeting – Monday, December 9 – 6pm

APPENDIX

A).

ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL

Date: October 7, 2024

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

Copy to: ACC Board

Rule reference: U16 Qualifications

Reference: [Alaska Division Rules](#)

Original Version:

2024 U16 Western Region Junior Championships Selection Rules

Approved by the AK Division ACC on October 18, 2023. Posted on October 20, 2023.

The Alaska Division quota for the 2024 Western Region U16 Championships is 6 women and 4 men. The quota is determined by the Corrock Method, which factors each division's population and team results at the regional championship from the prior year.

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

- **Coca Cola Classic** – 2 SL / 2 GS
January 14-15, 2024
- **Alyeska Cup Speed** – 2 SG
February 2, 2024
- **Alyeska Cup** – 2 SL / 2 GS
February 18-19, 2024

All races listed above will be used on the selection boards.

In the event we are unable to hold four (4) Slalom or Giant Slalom races, qualification will be done using each "run" versus each "race." In qualifying GS and SL races, racers who do not finish the first run (DNF) or are disqualified (DQ) will be allowed to rerun at the end of the field, in reverse bib order during the second run. This ensures that each competitor will have an opportunity to complete a run if qualification reverts to "by run" versus "by race."

For purposes of the selection board, the racer with the highest number of points from their five best finishes (with no more than three races or runs used in any one discipline) will be ranked first. Each racer thereafter will be ranked according to their total points accumulated in their five best finishes. Ties in ranking will be broken by using the next best race result, without exceeding three races or runs in a single discipline.

Selections will be made by the ACC, and athletes/programs will be notified of selections within 48 hours. Athletes must confirm their intent to participate and submit a deposit within 48 hours of selection.

Any Alaska Division athlete invited to a regional or national quota competition that conflicts with the Alaska divisional qualifiers will automatically qualify for the Western Region quota.

New Proposal:

Alaska Division U16 Championships Qualification Criteria for the 2024 Season

The Alaska Division quota for the 2024 Western Region U16 Championships is 6 women and 4 men, based on the Corrock Method which considers divisional population and previous regional results.

Qualifying Events and Format:

For the 2025 season, U16 athletes will qualify through multiple races. Athletes will be ranked based on their best five finishes using World Cup points across eight designated events (3 GS, 3 SL, and best 1 of 2 SG). The events are:

- **Coca Cola Classic** – 2 SL / 1st GS
January 19-20, 2025
- **Alyeska Cup Speed** – 2 SG (*best if the two will count)
January 29, 2025
- **Alyeska Cup** – 1st SL / 2 GS
February 16-17, 2025
 - Focus is first race being of highest quality possible.

Ranking System:

Athletes will be ranked based on the total number of World Cup points from their best five results. The selection board will rank athletes based on the best four technical (GS/SL) results and their best Super G result.

Contingency Plan:

If fewer than four Tech (SL/GS) and one Speed (SG) are unable to be completed, an alternate race may be chosen to fulfill the qualifications. If fewer than the required numbers of qualifying races are held, the scoring board will be adjusted to reflect the actual number of races held. If insufficient races remain, qualification will shift to individual runs. For example, if fewer than three Slalom or Giant Slalom races are held, each completed run may count separately toward qualification.

Athletes who DNF or are DQ'd in the first run of any 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, the next best run result will be used, with no more than four results from any single discipline.

Selection and Notification:

Selections will be made by the ACC, and notifications will be sent within 48 hours of selection. Athletes must confirm their participation and submit a deposit within 48 hours of the announcement.

Automatic Qualification:

Alaska Division athletes invited to and participating in regional or national quota competitions conflicting with divisional qualifiers will automatically qualify for their respective regional championship.

Submitted by:

Conor Lynch, on behalf of the Coaches Working Group

B).



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 Chair 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