



## ALASKA DIVISION ACC MEETING - MINUTES

Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6pm AKT

*In attendance: Tasha Foster (ACC), Amy Guse (ACC), Julie-Pierre Leclerc (ACC), Jheren Svoboda (ACC), Mary Thomas (ACC), Conor McDonald (ASC), Kevin Stell (JSC), Conor Lynch (HART), Luke Clement (Arctic Valley)*

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Approval of Minutes December 9, 2024 (see attached from email)

- Motion to Approve – Kevin Stell
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Conor McDonald

Approval of Agenda January 21, 2025

- Motion to Approve – Conor McDonald
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Kevin Stell
- Chair Report– Jheren Svoboda
  - Not much to report.
  - Ram Cup went off well, got a few timing hiccups, but worked through it. Lighting on the course worked out good.
  - Tracking Coca-Cola and YSL coming up this weekend.
- Club Round Table – UPDATES
  - AVST – Trying to open this weekend! Rope tow and chair 2 are still down, Chair 2 shack got hit hard by the wind. T bar will have to get off at Tower 6 and Chair 1 is in good shape.
  - ASC – Interesting year. Challenging conditions. Trying to work through it. Thank you to everyone supporting this fluid schedule change. Coca-Cola next week – would love to see cold temps and more snow.
  - HART – Ram's Cup – good debrief and good for first night race in Alaska. Got lucky with the weather. The wind hit hilltop really hard and blew the magic carpet away. Good surface at Hilltop, good training.
  - JSC – Thanks to Alyeska and HART for letting everyone jump in to train. Great feedback from parents and athletes that came up for the week. Still struggling with snow at Eaglecrest.
  - FSC –
  - UAA –
- Official's Report – Julie-Pierre Leclerc / Brian Hartman
  - Not much to report. Races were changed and was in touch with Bucky for reassignments needed.
  - Juneau homologation – SEE NOTES BELOW
- Finance Update – Mary Thomas

- Bank account is started.
- For Coca-Cola, refunds are being processed on Friday, Jan. 24
- Haven't heard back about the YSL only account.
- Working on following up on the credit card.
- 501c3 update to come soon.
- Coaches Working Group update – Conor Lynch
  - Last meeting was Jan. 12 to debrief on Ram's Cup. Quite a few people showed up to the meeting.
  - Schedule ran smooth. Good surface. Lighting was adequate. United Rentals sponsored and lit up the hill more.
  - Did not do live-timing during the active runs. Thought it worked pretty well. Just need to educate parents better in the future so they don't think live-timing is down. Small field. Course sets were great, kids had a great time.
  - Improvements: more time for inspection for younger age groups. Need to communicate jury reports. There were some timing issues with U14 males. It delayed the Ref reports. Had to clean up and make sure everyone was comfortable with the DQs. Need to keep jury open until next morning when something like that could affect the results.
  - In the past for starts, we have done a randomized for the first run, butterfly flip for second day. For Coca-Cola, we will start over again, not carryover.
  - Talked a little about stubbie vs. gates. U12s will stay as stubbies for Coca-Cola Cup.
  - Volunteer Coordination – long term goal is to develop a platform across all clubs, but this season, we will just keep filling roles by calling each other and making sure we have as much cross-club coordination as possible.
  - Alyeska lost a lot of snow, but hopefully we can get all the races off.
  - Next meeting, Jan 30, 2025
- YSL Update – Luke Clement
  - New YSL bibs arrived today.
  - This weekend's YSL race, awards will come from stash at Arctic Valley.
  - Boda is trying to fill volunteer positions.
  - Hilltop is hosting this weekend.
  - Next race is Arctic Valley, Feb. 8
  - Juneau will work on getting their race announcement out ASAP for State Champs so people have plenty of time to plan.
  - YSL is a package \$30 for the entire series. State Champs is a separate fee.
- Admin Ski Racing –
  - No report or updates.
  - Please do ask people to add their clubs into Admin Ski Racing.

- Coach Education – Jen Danza
  - All candidates were successful for level 200.
  - Will touch base in the end of February to see if there should be another offering in the Spring. There are a few Jen knows of that are interested.
  - Level 100 should be in the fall for new hires. HART does have some coaches interested in Spring if it is held.

#### Action Item Follow Up:

- CWG -
  - volunteers from all clubs at races – Ongoing with Nick, Conor, Luke and Kevin.
- Avenues of Resources, letter to division
  - sent out on 12/18/24 – Task completed!
- Boda and Jen: was document filled out for DNO Insurance?
  - Jen needs to meet with Boda and they will get this taken care of together.
- Head Tax Chart
  - updated on the website. Task completed!

#### New Business:

- Academic & Athletic Team Alaska
  - certificates being made
  - have buffs from last year
  - 1 Team A member- free entry to AK Division Races
- U16/U18 AK State Champs
  - awards for each discipline and overall
  - Winner of each first event of each discipline win the discipline.
    - ASC has footed bill in past, discussing with ASC currently – ASC Splitting the awards this year with the Division.
- Open floor to any new business – NOTHING NEW

#### Old Business

- WR Championship trip planning
  - upfront costs of booking on a debit card. What was done last year?
  - Alaska Division will control all of the coats with a team first mentality. There is a donor willing to help with the costs. All races will have the same coats, TriDs will have different Branding from Western Regions.

#### Standing Items:

- Homologations updates
  - Juneau due next year. USSS is supposed to come late this year in 2025 and take care of the one needed by Carl. Would be best in March if snow is needed.
  - ASC Glacier Bowl is due, so that should be done in the spring as well. We can do USSS, but if FIS is needed, someone of a different national team will need to come up. Paul has done the re-certs the last few years.
- Website Discussion

- AK ACC Mission Statement and vision- stated in by-laws. Holding off on posting until everything is officially approved.
  - Board Member Terms: Can we confirm all dates on table in structure doc.
  - Will continue to send race announcements and changes through our MailChimp and seems to be going well. Well-received.
- Out of Division Travel
  - FIS are traveling quite a bit.
  - U16s are headed to a speed series and Laura Flood
  - U12s are headed to Monroe Cup
  - Some U14s are headed to Mt. Hood soon
  - Juneau would like to see if they can present some of these to their athletes. Tasha – send races to Kevin so he can see what the options are.
- Becoming a 501 ( C ) 3
  - Updating signatures
  - See above Bylaws Discussion/Finance
  - Need to fill out the application sooner, rather than later.
- DNO Insurance status update –
  - Payable via check.
  - American Specialty Insurance recommended by USSS: [https://www.amerspec.com/usskiandsnowboard\\_cov/](https://www.amerspec.com/usskiandsnowboard_cov/)
- Fundraising Chair initial discussion
  - Tabled until Bylaw Discussion is done/ become 501c3
    - Brainstorm who would be a good fit for this role so we can have them ready when we become a c3.
- 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.
- Discussion Tabled for next month – Amy and Mary – Coming to the end of term-limit. Need to discuss.

Set Next ACC Meeting – Monday, February 24 @ 6pm

## APPENDIX

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### 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.

##### GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Bylaws- Reviewed every two years at the Annual Meeting.

Affiliation Agreement

Organizational Structure Document

##### 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	2017		
Conor McDonald "Bucky"		ASC Rep.	2023/24		
Luke Clement		AVST Rep.	2016/17 – 2017/18 rejoined 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 rejoined 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

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