



ALASKA DIVISION ACC MEETING - MINUTES
June 9, 2026 at 6:30pm AKT – Continued to 6.24.26

In attendance: Tasha Foster (ACC), Amy Guse (ACC), Bucky McDonald (ASC), Luke Clement (Arctic Valley), Kara Norby (Arctic Valley), Conor Lynch (ACC), Kevin Stell (JSC), Chris Maynard (ACC), Reini Neuhauser (FSC)

- Approval of meeting minutes from March 31
 - Bucky Approves / Conor Lynch 2nd
- Approval of agenda
 - Conor Lynch approves / Bucky 2nd
- Chair Report; Jheren Svoboda
 - No report
- Finance Update; Chris Maynard
 - Everything has migrated over to Northrim Bank.
 - Checks have arrived to Tasha.
 - Deliverables Chris is working on:
 - Line of Credit (working with Tasha for what the ask will be).
 - Working with Mary on final transition for our tax filing.
- Division Update
 - Division Manager Position and Upcoming Relocation
 - Will Brandenburg is the new WR Director.
 - Website Discussion
 - Conor Lynch and Tasha will meet to go over some updates that can be done to website.
 - Out of Division Travel
 - Head Tax & Membership Summary
 - [HT - Division Alaska 2026.xlsx](#)
 - [Alaska Data File May2026.xlsx](#)
- Action Item Follow Up
- Club Round Table – UPDATES
 - AVST – It's summer! Actively looking for a program director/head coach.
 - ASC – Summer Camp went well. 10 days on snow. Over 90 kids and 12 coaches. Good relationship with the resort. Summer dryland is going. Summer camp is into its second week. ASC has a couple of job openings. Tanaka Tee Off is tomorrow.
 - HART – No report.
 - JSC – Ended the season on a good note. Eaglecrest is owned by the City and Borough of Juneau. Eaglecrest was on the chopping block at the end of the year. Luckily, Eagle Crest is on the ballot to be funded in October. A little bit up in the air what JSC will be able to do next year. Needs a GM at Eagle Crest to keep it going.
 - FSC – Summer! 3 – 4 kids went to summer camp. Loved it.
 - UAA – No report.

- Official's Report; Conor Lynch
 - USSS Congress Report Discussion [2026 USSS Congress Summary](#)
 - Highlights
 - Will Brandenburg did a great job at Congress. Stepped right into the role. Came from Sun Valley.
 - Alaska was the only Division that was able to submit 100% of their TDTRs. Huge shoutout to Randy and Mary! 2nd year in a row!
 - Younger coaches are really helping to drive the sport. Conor was the youngest official in the group. People are trying to get kids involved in the sport and keeping them in the sport.
 - U10s: talk about hard shell helmets in GS at races. Don't want them in too big of helmets but want to make racing safer for younger ages. Conor will follow up if that was tabled.
 - 3-run SL was talked about. It must be approved, can't be changed to that on race day. This would allow hills like Hilltop to be able to have a scored race. 3 Combined Runs, Start lists have to be input a specific way.
 - Live timing clarification has been cleared up when U14s are "skiing up" at a U16 and up event. Live timing CAN be displayed at U16 and up events even when U14s are skiing up. U14 and under events, Live Timing cannot be displayed until the run is over. It will be posted between groups.
 - Full Proposal Packet [2026 Congress Proposals](#)
 - Budget: [AK 2026 Congress budget](#)
 - Make plan to reimburse Conor & Boda
 - Boda has been reimbursed.
 - Working with Conor to reimburse him very soon.
- Coaches Working Group update; Rob Carte – No Report.
 - Should have the coaches working group talk about the new rules.
 - Wants to feed him topics to be able to talk about on a meeting. So when people have ideas, bring notes forward to Rob so they have discussion points.
 - Calendaring – there are notes about how races are scheduled so other clubs can get some better dates for races.
- YSL Update; Luke Clement –
 - Should do a meeting during the summer to get clubs on board.
 - Juneau would still like to host a YSL race.
 - Shout out to FSC for knocking their race out of the park at SkiLand.
- Coach Education; Jen Danza – No Report.
 - Does want to target a level 100 and 200 the first couple of weekends that Alyeska is open.
- Old Business:
 - Non-profit application status
- New Business:
 - Open floor to any new business

- Tasha is moving to Bozeman at the end of July. She is willing to continue her roles and responsibilities until we find someone to fill the role. She will also help with transition to a new person.
- Chris would like to make a motion to have Tasha keep the role going for now until we have a new person.
 - 2nd by Luke
 - 3rd by Kevin!

Motion to adjourn: Luke Clement / 2nd Chris Maynard

Upcoming Meetings

July 14, 2026 @ 6:30 PM AKDST

August 11, 2026 @ 6:30 PM AKDST

September 8, 2026 @ 6:30 PM AKDST

Below is a report/summary of the major outcomes and discussions from the 2026 USSS Alpine Congress held May 11–14, 2026. Boda and I can provide more detail at the next Alaska ACC meeting.

Full proposal packet:

[2026 Congress Proposals](#)

Proposal Outcomes

Approved

- *Proposal 1 – US Alpine Championship Quotas*
- *Proposal 5 – U14/U12 SG Training Run*
- *Proposal 7 – U12 & Younger GS Start Interval*
- *Proposal 9 – U10 & Younger Hard Ear Helmet Rule*
- *Proposal 10 – Live Timing (West Proposal)*
- *Proposal 11 – Live Timing (Health of Sport)*
- *Proposal 13 – Health of Sport Mission Statement*
- *Proposal 14 – Three-Run SL*
- *Proposal 16 – SL Gate Judge Proposal*
- *Proposal 18 – Devices for Exams*
- *Proposal 19 – AO Certification Matrix Changes*

Not Carried Forward

- *Proposal 2 – Out of Division Entries*
- *Proposal 4 – U14 Course Setting*
- *Proposal 6 – U14/U12/U10 Start Interval Rules*
- *Proposal 8 – U12 & Younger GS Interdiction/Hiking*
- *Proposal 17 – Officials Education Task Force*

Tabled / No Action

- *Proposal 3 – Equipment Control (Tabled)*
- *Proposal 12 – Sprint Format (No action taken)*
- *Proposal 15 – GS Panel Color (Tabled / Covered by FIS regulations)*

Major Takeaways for Alaska

Competition & Rules

3-Run Slalom Approved

- *Three-run SL formats received broad support nationally.*
- *Events must be planned and approved in advance through Competition Services (Jeff).*
- *Cannot be implemented last-minute except under force majeure situations.*

U14 & Younger GS Start Intervals

- *Irregular intervals approved for U14 and younger TRS/non-scored GS events.*
- *Starter still uses standard countdown procedure.*

- Racers may start as soon as the course is clear rather than waiting the full interval.

Live Timing Clarification

- Updated language primarily limits live timing at U14 and younger events.
- Results should still be posted between runs along with referee reports and protest periods.

SL Gate Judges

- Language was relaxed from gate judges in SL being a “must” to a “should.”

Officials Exams

- Digital ACR use is now approved for officials exams.
- Search functions and AI use are discouraged.

Equipment Control

- Ongoing national discussion around stronger equipment regulation and enforcement, particularly at FIS races.
- Focus areas include boot stack height, binding stack height, and ski radius.
- No clear implementation or enforcement process yet.

Health of Sport

Health of Sport continues to be one of the primary national focuses.

A major theme throughout Congress was balancing:

- High-performance athlete development
- Long-term athlete retention
- Creating positive team and community environments

Sasha Rearick emphasized the importance of developing both elite performance pathways and a sport culture athletes want to remain part of through the U14–U18 years.

Officials & Education

National Officials Calendar

- A centralized national Google calendar/document for clinics launches this season.
- AO Chairs will be able to update clinics directly.
- Includes tracking for out-of-division attendance.

Referee & JA Education

- Divisions may choose whether Referee and JA courses are combined or taught separately.
- Alaska may continue using a combined format where practical.

Referee Shadow Program

- Alaska, PNW, Boda, and Rob Cravens will help develop/report back on a referee shadow and checklist training concept.

Recruitment & Retention

- Nearly every division reported ongoing challenges with recruiting and retaining officials and coaches.
- Continued national focus on improving education pathways and reducing administrative barriers.

Alaska Notes

- Alaska was recognized for 100% TDTR compliance.
- Continued encouragement for Alaska to develop additional inspectors and leadership pathways.

Coaching & Club Development

Coaches Education

- No Level 50 certification planned for 2026–27.
- New “Intro to Sport” endorsement available through the Sport Education Academy.
- Level 300 certification now includes:
 - Expanded online coursework
 - Four-day in-person component

- Application process

Club Development & Racing Opportunities

- National focus remains on strengthening in-division racing opportunities, especially FIS racing.
- Continued concern about excessive out-of-division travel when comparable opportunities exist locally.
- LTAD and SkillsQuest materials continue to be updated and integrated into IFIT.

Timing & Technology

Timing Systems

- Continued transition toward newer ALGE and Microgate systems.

Wireless Timing

- Wireless timing systems require annual approval for every race.
- Alaska has not submitted approval applications in the last two years.

Classification & NCAA Updates

Classification

- FIS still requires 3 international results.
- USSS remains at 2 due to opportunity limitations.
- Continued discussions around result validity and course-setting variability.

NCAA Eligibility

Major NCAA eligibility changes are expected:

- Athletes projected to have 5 years of eligibility beginning at age 19.
- PG years are effectively being phased out.

Sessions Attended

Monday, May 11

- Alpine Officials Education Working Group – Lucy Conklin
- Alpine Western Region ACC – Devin Gill

Tuesday, May 12

- Alpine Club Working Group – John Norton
- Alpine Classifications Working Group – Dave Waller
- Alpine Courses Working Group – Doug Hall
- Alpine U16 & Older Working Group – Joe Paul
- Alpine Rules Working Group – Matt Howard
- Alpine Coaches Education Working Group – Stacey Gerrish

Wednesday, May 13

- Alpine Health of Sport Working Group – Joe Paul
- Alpine Timing Working Group – John Jett
- Alpine U14 & Younger Working Group – Bo Maciejko
- Alpine FIS TD Working Group – Carl Guenzel
- Alpine Technical Subcommittee – Carl Guenzel
- Alpine Development Subcommittee – Aldo Radamus

Thursday, May 14

- Alpine Sport Subcommittee – Karen Ghent

Congress Budget Summary

The attached spreadsheet includes the full travel budget and receipt documentation.

Total Expenses: \$1,729.62

Boda Total: \$364.00

Conor Total: \$1,365.62

Travel Notes- [CLICK HERE](#)

- Brian Hartman donated miles and \$500 toward flights
- Conor utilized 37.5K miles for airfare
- Receipts included for parking, truck rental, fuel, and lodging

In summary, Congress discussions continued to show a strong national focus on athlete experience, safety, education, and creating stronger long-term participation pathways within

the sport. One of the clearest themes throughout the week was the idea that community and performance both need to be developed intentionally — sometimes as separate goals — while ultimately working toward creating an environment where the two successfully overlap. Developing high-level athletes remains important, but so does building a culture and community that people genuinely want to stay involved in long term. Many of the discussions aligned closely with challenges and priorities we continue to see in Alaska, particularly around official development, retention, race opportunity balance, and Health of Sport initiatives.