

**USSA, Eastern Division - EFCC Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 26, 2008, 9am – 3pm**  
**Killington Mountain School**

Meeting Called to order at 9am

In attendance: Deb Newson – chair, Sherry Albert – Secretary, Larry Titus – Vice Chair, Glenn Eddy – coaches, Nathan McKenzie – Freeride, Pierce Ferris – Sugarbush, Scott Lounsbury – Judges, Noah Labow – CVA, Jonathon Smith – Killington, DJ Montigny – Killington, Mark Sellingham – Waterville, Evan Dybvig – Whaleback, Kip Griffin – Loon, Kelly Watts – Loon, Rob Shnider – Hunter, Amy Shnider – Hunter, Sharon O’Connor – Judges, Vinnie Lewis – Mt. Snow, Dick Stone – Scoring, Nancy Stone – scoring, John Kimble – GA/Sunday River, Doug Horne – GA/Sunday River, Stan Pawlik – Holiday Valley, Mark DePeters – Buffalo Ski Club/Rules & Tech, Greg Wollen – Holimont, Ed Albert – TD’s, Bryan Zemba – athletes, Nick Preston – WVA, Michael Lynn – Whiteface/NYSEF, Michael Lovell – Sunapee, Susan Preston – WVA, Dean Goodermote – Stowe

**I. Chair Report:**

Competition Guide revisions will happen over the summer again. Please look over the guide to find any revisions and/or mistakes. Get any changes to Deb before July 1 to get into new guide for next year.

Parents are showing up with coaches’ cards and trying to get free lift tickets. The following motion was discussed:

**Motion** -Program Directors/Head Coaches must submit a list of their traveling competition coaches to the Eastern office by December 1<sup>st</sup>. This list will be made available to all event organizers on the web site. Additions or deletions from this list must be made the Monday prior to an event where you will be staffing new coaches. No tickets will be given to other “coaches”.

Passed Unanimously

A request was made during this discussion to have coaches clinics posted further in advance. National USSA Freestyle has not been doing this so it was decided that a “save the date” would go on the Eastern website.

Tentative Schedule was passed out. Preliminary agreements need to be sent to Joan. Sanction agreements must be sent to Joan by Nov 1, 2008 so the Chair can check to ensure that pricing and all other aspects of the meet are inline. Some mountains have had the same weekends forever; they get to keep that weekend if they want it. Regional B finals, B champs and A champs have a rotation. If other mountains want to join the rotation they can, the easiest way is when a mountain is unable to host the year they are designated a new mountain can step and take their turn in the rotation. Sunday River is unable to host A champs this year so Waterville has been asked. B champs rotate through the 3 regions. The judges subcommittee has asked to have interaction in scheduling before the schedule is final – discussed later in the meeting.

Nominations for Judges, TD, Coaches, Chair due July 1. Send nominations to Larry at [office@easternfreestyle.org](mailto:office@easternfreestyle.org) for these committees. There will be a process to get the ballots out and the vote done. Can Larry set up a voting system? Eastern Membership can vote for Chair, Judges vote for judges, TD’s vote for rules and technical.

**II. Office Report:**

EQS Points List Proposal: Increase to 3 events for moguls; Use floating point value like FSP list; Make Regional and Champs value 125 vs. 100 for regular season. The idea is to help eliminate ties. Discussion followed about not wanting to make B athletes chase points. Want to support all mountains and a floating points list may not do this. It was the general feeling that the “right” athletes make it to top events and chasing points is not necessary. Regional finals were started so that more athletes could make it to a

championship event. There was some discussion about having age group championships. The first proposal was withdrawn and instead the following motion was made:

**Motion** -The B points list for moguls only will be based on the best of 2 events to make regional championships. The B points list that comes out for Championships (B Easterns) will be based on 3 events. Vote was taken: 4 opposed and 5 voted in favor. Motion carried.

**Motion** -was then made to have a floating points list.  
Vote was taken: 7 opposed, 1 abstained and 1 voted in favor. Motion failed

Invitations Proposal: Expired invitations requesting reinstatement will be listed as an alternate with a 12 hour time limit when invited. Discussion followed that we would try to do a better job informing parents about the invitation process including posting alerts on the web site and making sure coaches watch the list and notify athletes that have not responded.

**Motion** -Expired invitations requesting reinstatement will be listed as an alternate with a 12 hour time limit when invited. Passed unanimously.

Online Registration: Review of this season. Next season? All agreed that this seasons online registration worked well and had enhancements over previous years. Agreed to continue this system next year.

Registration – There needs to be some check or procedure that is included in the meet packet to make sure that organizers review all bibs before running start list. Pre-registered kids that don't show up create two problems; first is trying to track them down and the holes in the start list from their absence; and second is that we set the second run based on registered athletes so if we have 95 registered and 5 no shows, the second run is 75 instead of 80. This idea was discussed and all agreed that accuracy is important so we run the maximum number of athletes.

### **III. Sponsorship:**

Salomon gave us 18 pieces of equipment, The Landon Morley Sawyer Foundation and Eastern Freestyle contributed cash to have a cash purse in A's of \$5000. It was suggested that the cash purse and equipment to winners be posted on our web site in advance so athletes are well aware that prizes are available.

Dean and Evan will make some outbound calls for sponsorship

Team trophy – Should be reimplemented for B's. Larry is going to work on consistency in mountain names for registration so this will be easier. We need to talk about the team trophy process at the fall meeting.

There is a Sawyer Spring fest competition at Winter Park each year and it has been offered by the Sawyer foundation to send 3 skiers at 50% cost. We have never done this. We are going to suggest that instead of 3 at 50% maybe they will send 1 male and 1 female at full boat. The male and female rookie of the year will be designated as the Eastern athletes to attend if this proposal is accepted by the Sawyer Foundation.

Thanks to Suzi, Evan and Dean for all their work in the sponsorship area.

### **IV. Judges:**

Judges would like to look at schedule in terms of staffing. As the schedule stands now on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in January there are 5 different meets. Nearly impossible to find enough judges and TD's given the number of qualified judges and TD's we have available.

We need to produce a larger volunteer base. How? We need to run clinics and document the process involved to be a qualified judge or TD. Eastern freestyle can pay for clinics. Maybe we need to look out of the box and have a panel that is just freeride? Maybe we need clinics in different regions so that people that are interested do not have to travel as far to attend.

Review of ideas

Judges and TD's need the last say on the schedule.

A mountain must have at least 1 TD and 1 judge in the pool.

Run 3 clinics. Eastern will hire proctors to give them. Scott will help get this done

Incentive the process that you need to fulfill to be a judge. For example maybe after you work 2 meets you get your USSA dues and expenses incurred to attend clinics reimbursed. Road map the incentive once determined.

All mountains will be taxed on the head tax form if they do not have at least one judge and one TD in the pool.

A working group of Nate, John, Nick, Noah and Sharon was formed to work on these ideas. A conference call will be held on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Goals of this call are to determine incentives and the roadmap to becoming a judge. Also how to accomplish recruiting and training. All of this will have to be finalized by July 1.

A working group of Ed, Mark S, Mark D and Mike was formed to work on these ideas on the TD side of things. A conference call will be held on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Goals of this call are to determine incentives and the roadmap to becoming a TD. Also how to accomplish recruiting and training. All of this will have to be finalized by July 1.

Broke for lunch at noon and reconvened at 1pm

2 events on same day – additional officials pay. With extra events, especially in the evening, it is quite taxing on the officials. The organizer is getting multiple entry fees and there is no additional per diem or mileage costs. Perhaps a second event on the same day should carry an additional 50% of pay. There may be some issue if a small meet holds two events with 30 kids each vs a major event with 170 mogul runs in the day and 100 big air or halfpipe runs at night.

It was decided that if 2 events are held on the same day, we will pay our judges for 2 events if this makes the number of runs scored over 170. If 2 events are held on the same day but the number of runs is less than 170 they will only be paid for 1 event. We believe that this used to occur.

**Motion** – There will be a discount in head tax when two A events are held on the same day. Discount will be similar to that already in place in B's. Motion passed unanimously.

## **V. Rules and Technical, ECS:**

Kudos to Ed and Mark for taking over late, holding clinics and getting eastern events staffed.

Highlights and recap of the 2007/2008 season: To include but not limited to # of officials, # of events/ days, # of upgraded officials, # of injuries, # of protest, # of jury's, # of competitors by event, Clinics, etc. etc. Ed gave us a rundown of the season.

Major issues:

We held 3 events with no official TD, judges, coaches etc stepped in and fulfilled dual roles

Education of TD's

Communication of the rules to all; coaches, competitors, parents

Issues that may be coming from the FIS level

Backbrace will probably become mandatory

New, more stringent, helmet rules

In order to make things more consistent it appears that USSA will be adopting FIS rules.

**Motion-** made to remove the unwritten rule that a TD cannot be from the home mountain. (Cannot have a dual role in this instance, the jury must consist of 3 distinct voting members.) Motion carried

**Motion-** In EQS the pace set time will be changed to 7.0 and 6.2 which are the times the working group this winter recommended. EQS pace set time will be evaluated on yearly basis. Motion carried.

**Motion-** Competitors and coaches are reminded that they are guests of each mountain during Freestyle competitions. Their conduct is very important to the image that we project to both the skiing public and the host mountain management. All resort rules must be followed. The competition jury can disqualify any competitor or coach from an event for violating resort rules or state laws. Motion passed.

Mark handed out updated Eastern EQS rules section. Read and get back to Mark with revisions. Rules will also be posted on line. Get back to Mark by May 15<sup>th</sup> with changes and revisions.

Things to think about and may need to be updated in the Eastern EQS rules section.

\*Ski Patrol, with a sled must be on site during official training and competition for all events. Currently they only need to be in radio contact for moguls. This change will make sure the response time is reduced in the event of an injury in the moguls. Is this feasible at all mountains?

\*We may want to look at the number of meets during the year. In looking at the schedule for 08-09 Sunday River has 5 meets this should not be allowed. They do not even have a TD in the pool. This was also an issue with the judges.

\*What is the performance requirement for Regional Finals? It is not anywhere in the rules we need to make sure that that is in the comp guide. Based on earlier discussions it will be based on best two events to compute EQS points list

\*Regional assignments should be looked at. Some of the mountains in the Western Region are close to Central and therefore do not come to Western New York. Should we propose a 4<sup>th</sup> region in the east? Need to look at numbers to determine this. There was much discussion about how the Central divisions events are usually performance cuts and this does not happen in the other 2 regions. See later notes

\*Quotas for Championships in aerials and slopestyle is currently 50 as written this is not correct. The current rule states that there will be 18 competitors from each region plus a total of 6 wild card spots from each region this totals 72, which is what I put in on the revision.

Inverts and off – axis need clarification. Inverts and off-axis are allowed in both slopestyle and aerials.

After much discussion about aerials and practice jumps and duplicate jumps It was decided that athletes do not have to train their highest level jump in practice.

**Motion-** EQS aerial events shall consist of a minimum of two practice jumps and two competition jumps with the best jump to count. Jumps may be repeated and must be called down to the head judge. If an athlete does not perform the jump called down, the judges will judge the jump performed. Motion carried.

\*Member mountains without officials in pool. (TD and JUDGES} Discuss a plan to get them in compliance Free ride officials--discuss recruiting and a plan to staff events. Both of these issues discussed earlier

Discuss protest and rule infractions in particular how to file a protest and how to find the applicable rules.

Clinics---Propose a plan to educate New TD'S/ Chief of Comps/ Area organizers; Propose a plan to update our experienced TD's and officials thru a clinic built on situations that have occurred and new rules that have been approved by USSA and FIS; Discuss a plan to update and educate Coaches about the Comp. guide. Will be determined during June conference call. There will be a FIS B level judges clinic in the fall.

A plea by the representatives of rules and technical was made to please carry rulebooks with you.

Missed start in Bs- we tend to be flexible but there is a level of unfairness to those who sit longer in the cold or wet and make their time. Would suggest a penalty for unexcused delays (bathroom, lost bib etc are not excused) of either 2 place point positions (more difficult to enforce), or perhaps a 25% score deduction. I am trying to balance the lowest score people with trying to make sure someone with a questionable re-run doesn't win the event. Discussed and tabled

2. Infractions/behavior log – There appear to be the same kids who miss starts (at least at Stratton and Mt Snow) and keeping an ongoing log- maybe for TDs – that could go to each event. It could change a decision if the same person keeps having the same infractions and we can track it. Discussed and tabled.

3. Mogul seed; top 10 women and top 20 men (in two separate seeds of 10). This allows better competitors to ski in similar conditions and be more closely compared by judges. Plus in event of bad weather and unfortunate cancellation, you could count an event after top seeds compete, refund or partially refund to others, but at least the event is in the books for those who need results. And their points from this can help others at later events so it is a win/win situation. Seeding and keeping track could be a problem or EFCC could adopt a place point simple system for this, though Winfree would create some challenges. Discussed and tabled.

Suzi asked that mountains please run aerial events. She reminded everyone that a flatter course in B's is better. She asked that everyone look for sponsorship opportunities.

### **New Business**

Set dates for coaches, scoring, TD and Judges clinics in the fall. Will be determined during June working group conference calls.

Set date for fall and winter conference calls. Fall conference call will be held on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Brian Zemba the athlete rep carried forward a request from the athletes that there be starting gates for duals when at all possible.

The B meet central performance cut issue was discussed. Caused by a variety of issues. Athletes from other areas that compete in these meets tend to make numbers higher. How to solve? Limit registration to 85? Raise the maximum number of runs judged? Do not allow out of region competitors to enter meets that are historically large?

Motion made that in Feb EQS mogul events judges will watch 200 runs – never brought to vote.

Motion EQS regional chairs are allowed to close 2 events – never brought to vote.

Motion – Cap B events to 85 skiers – determined that this could not be supported by eastern as a committee.

Finally it was decided that the Regional chairs should discuss this issue and try to arrive at a solve during the 6/11 conference call.

DJ Montigny from Killington requested that in all events we try to have qualified coaches or officials stationed on jumps.

Evan Dybvig encouraged all athlete to compete BMX racing at Whaleback as a great cross-training tool.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45.