

Midwest Junior Meeting Minutes April 19th, 2014

Attending: Reid Lutter - LNR, Chris Sachs and Kevin Brochman - EU, Deno Johnson - Nordicwerks, Bill Pierce, Yuriy Gusev, and Andy Keller - CXC, Steven Gromataka, Mike and Ann Jarzin, ANST, Ben Koenig -- Wausau, Kelli Skillicorn - Winona HS, John Delestry and Bob Schward Chippewa valley nordic, Jack Jeffery Mesabi East, Larry Meyers and Steve Sonneyson - Wayzata HS, James Kyes LSSC, John Dyste - St Louis Park HS, Bonnie Fuller-Kask - Duluth East HS, Chris Harvey and Nicole Lepinski – LNR/Burnsville HS, Bruce Manske – Hayward.

Junior National Qualifier Draft Schedule 2014-15

Dec. 20-21 Houghton

Sat. Classic Sprint, Sunday 10k/5k Skate interval start race

Jan. 17-18 Telemark JNQ

Sat. 10/5k individual Classic, Sun 15/10/5k Skate Mass Start

Jan. 24-25 Battle Creek JNQ

Sat. 15/10/5 Classic mass start, Sun. 10/5k Skate individual start

Feb. 14-15 Wirth JNQ

Saturday Skate Sprint , Sunday 10/5 Classic individual start

Improving race organization/ timing, schedules, website info

- Charlie Keller - talked with about being in charge of cxc page etc.. Keeping consistence among registration , etc.. Same database.
 - also college teams using...
 - could also use for info for JN tickets, trips...
 - discussion on timing systems...
 - needs to be professional
 - needs to be consistent and accurate
 - Registration day deadline... Tuesday..
 - No national rule about when...
 - registration list needs to be up early.
 - database problems might be the cause. Charlie will help with this. consistent
 - proposal reg closed tues midnight, list up by thurs 6pm.. late registration not seeded.
 - Mass Start seeding
 - by ussa points first
 - Midwest points second.
 - then draw
 - U16. current midwest points list only. not USSA
 - College athletes throw a kink in if they are not USSA points... they can get seeded back.
- **Action – add to bylaws, JNQ registration closes on 11:59pm Tuesday and registration list posted at 6pm on Thursday before weekend. Late registration is subject to approval by organizing committee and would not be seeded. (Chris Harvey)**

Schedule discussion, Houghton hosting Senior Nats Jan 4-10, JN Truckee march 5-15

- bill - should we have a race at Houghton... supporting venue, previewing race course, great venue, colleges also present which is good for venue and points/ etc.
- Steve - lots of travel, Houghton closer, spreads out races some.
- Kelly - long travel from Winona, how many juniors would be there...
- Bill - travel is least important reason. good impact and a great course,
- Steve - best course around.. elite level.
- Reid - first race of the year especially difficult, new/ young skiers may not go, then if not at first race then will they show up for other... that is not beneficial for the PIPELINE.
- Delestry - would they host a race if not a JNQ
- Bill - they will host a race no matter what... will find a non-conflicting weekend.. prefer the 20th for a date
- Chris s - are colleges willing to do all these
- James - they happy with the venues
- bill - Joe and chad seem like things can be improved. but willing to do it.
- Chris s - having colleges present is huge for JN's
- Bonnie - tickets for trip is very difficult with a late race
- Reid - late race is good for talent ID.. helps find the best racers who are racing at the right time.
- rest of calendar.. any problems concerns,
- Steve - telemark appropriate width? heated wax areas with size.
- Kelly - telemark does not have nice heated place.. besides car.. not ideal,
- Telemark is Midwest location for JN bid location
- bill - heated space is not the norm all over the US, telemark, JN's at this year. We need challenging course should be a priority.
- 4 distance 2 sprint,
- jack J - Houghton.. 9 meters wide, 2 B climbs on sprint course, tough course should get a chance to race it if we do not go there.
- sonneyson.. college will be in finals week
- Steve - tough courses, other venues are pretty good, worthwhile venue
- Move to make Houghton 1st race... hand vote... passed
- race schedule discussion
 - Kevin - wants to see wants to see 2 skate sprints, 2 classic MS, proposal
 - Houghton Sk sprint MS classic telemark
 - Battle creek MS classic Into skate
 - wirth SK sprint ind cl
 - James - looking for variety.
 - Houghton is currently skate sprint and ind classic
 - Cl sprint will count at seniors nats
 - vote on proposal proposal does not pass
- JN selection rules review
 - U16 athletes - last year we said first races, was not going to count. due to problems we moved to scoring 3 of 6 races.
 - Do we want 4/8 for u16 or 3/8 or remove first weekend.
 - trying to also raise the profile of the U16 trips.
 - bill - reason for doing it was when we had two weekend is Dec...
 - motion passes to go to 4 of 8 races score
- **Action – Add to bylaws U16 mass start races are scored with current CXC points list. (Chris Harvey)**

- U20 rules - makes it more challenging for u20 to make team to go... promotes youth. U20 has senior nats can qual, biathlon, and college list. NE had 20 U20s this year and only 6 U18.
 - was better to reward youth.
 - we need to make this rule more visible and communicated by coaches
 - maybe we need to talk to USSA to increase number from Senior nats qualifiers
 - maybe remove the college prequals...
 - U20 rules stay the same
- Should make motion to USSA to get rid of college point's auto quals and take more from World Junior Tryouts (top 40 or 35).

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Committee bylaws discussion

- bill - wants to add ethics clause.. either USOC or USSA for coaches, we need to step up and have standards out in front
- Yuriy - also athlete safety vid read and sign ethics code that you sign for trip.
- bylaws - coaches need to be level 100 cert... last 2 years.
- level 100 technique clinic.at REG with fish and one in Oct... maybe one in Nov. in cities... level 200 in Oct.
- Steve - lots to do in life... this is another added on expense on life, etc... to pay for licenses.
- there are scholarships etc...
- level 200 in cable, Oct. 17-19.
- Chris H can we strike coaches duties as positions on the list.
- assign age group coaches early.
- Chris s. keep but change wording...
- Harvey - motion to add clarifying language to change wording to these duties will be assigned by head coach. - Passed,
- **Action for Chris Harvey - Clarify by-law language for coaching duties as additional responsibilities of head coach and trip leader to assign these duties and coaches meeting.**
- Senior Nats review
 - Reid - large group.. got a trailer, shared with others. we want to get as many to seniors as possible.
 - with races in Midwest let's get more out to the race.
 - maybe just a couple races the first weekend and then can do Mesabi

JN review

- results best since 1998
- lots of points spread out all over the place.
- Kids very into the midwest group. great atmosphere..
- we stayed healthy
- From coaches reviews
 - communication beforehand needs to be better., roles, how can other coaches help out more.
- U18 educating U16 boys... a hazing incident. coaching staff came down pretty strong against to the athletes. Will add if athletes are doing any hazing, they will be sent home.

- pretty crazy, petty stuff needs to be shut down immediately.
- we have some stuff already in paperwork. USSA code, etc...
- add language about anti hazing / anti bullying into contract.
- maybe add something about consequences for other events.
- cxc can ask for USSA lic to be revoked? some level of consequence with USSA and U20's
- Chris S - let's look at a total rebuild of the policy's etc. that they sign... about this... Chris, bill, yuriy,
 - Kevin - take away first weekend races for the athlete
 - We need to be careful about limiting too much.. possible lawsuits
 - How do we handle multiple offenses?
- **Action – Chris Sachs, Bill, and Yuriy to take lead on behavior contract and send revised policy to Midwest group by mid-May.**
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 - Ann - housing- challenging to supervise. is there any way to change what is done.
 - Ann - travel arrangements. gear, planes, attention to detail needs to look at how it is done... plenty of headaches.
 - Bonnie... some directions given out... many did not follow through.
 - get out there on your own... not good.
 - Diversifying coach's selection, a coach from different teams... not as many from one team.
 - Naming team... and how do you organize based on who makes team.
 - fairly lengthy conversation about how coaches are selected and if we need to change how the coaches are selected and if club should be represented.
 - review of how coaches are selected.
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 - Bonnie review of costs and trip planning
 - \$100 added to kids cost as buffer. extra is often there.. added to fund, used for scholarships, down payments, etc...
 - election of new head coach.. Bill Pierce only to apply
 - Kelli - was not clear an application was not submitted.
 - Bill, it is in bylaws. Stuff is out there... just got to look for it.
 - Bill selected head coach.
 - Level 100 coaches
 - need cert to be named to staff.

U16 trip review

- Kelly 3 top 10 results... good results, felt competitive, very excited group to be a part of things, lots of learning, needs more promotion, good feeder system.
- midwest junior championships... Amy Ch. from MYSL hosts that event.
- U14 not there... why and can we get them there.
- mid-America challenge.. Central, inter and rocky putting together a race.

- yuriy- development trip.. travel racing at a high level, mid-America... maybe this race can happen to allow for more opportunities.
- Bruce - midwest connection to NENSA is a good one. great opportunity..
- Reid - what are the needs on the trip... Kelly and James... put together a list of recommendations.
 - size of coaching staff.
 - added size group... to 8 boys and 8 girls.
- U14 possibility ... maybe more opportunities for high level racing
- **Action - James and Kelli to write up how many coaches and what positions are needed for NENSA trip assuming going up to 16 person team.**
- **Action – Reid add bylaw to add position for trip leader and change MW coaches application**
- **Action – Yuriy and Reid to work with other regions to add opportunities for U16 trip to go other regions at USSA congress.**

JN uniforms

- do we need to have new suits every 2 years
- same design, or longer period.
- do a home rotation schedule. 4 or 5 years between suits... so only need to purchase 2.
- Less expensive trip at home so maybe change suit then.
- new rotation every 5 years... motion passed
- **Action - Add to bylaws uniforms change every home JNs. (Chris Harvey)**

Camps

- REG 5-11 of July
 - level 100 clinic on Sunday.
- NEG
 - oct 4-11 park city or aug 30-sept 7 lake placid
- NTG aug 13-20 Park city.
- J2 last week of july 22-aug3 Jackson hole
 - criteria for camp
 - discretionary choice
 - many girls no boys for this year.
 - how do we select discretionary picks.
 - top boys qualifier. is there a age priority...
 - motion to pick U16 from points list at JN as discretionary... passed.
- **Action - Criteria for discretionary U16 camp selection. Top qualifier from Midwest U16 points list that does not make the objection criteria. (Chris Harvey)**

Telemark JN bid

- condos 90 beds
- Lakewood's... lots
- awards Drummond high school 500 seat
- dinner at gym
- courses - similar to JNQ

- facilities - hytte will not be wax but used
- each team will have a condo to use
- Tents with floor and heating system. and wax trailers.
- snowmaking and stockpiling

Action Item Summary

Bylaw Changes – Chris Harvey to complete by May 9th

1. JNQ registration closes on 11:59pm Tuesday and registration list posted at 6pm on Thursday before weekend. Late registration is subject to approval by organizing committee and would not be seeded.
2. U16 mass start races are scored with current CXC points list.
3. Clarify by-law language for coaching duties as additional responsibilities of head coach and trip leader to assign these duties and coaches meeting.
4. Midwest team uniforms change every home JNs
5. Criteria for discretionary U16 camp selection. Top qualifier from Midwest U16 points list that does not make the objection criteria.
6. Add U16 Trip Leader position

Chris Sachs, Bill, and Yuriy to take lead on behavior contract and send revised policy to Midwest group by mid-May.

James Kyes and Kelli Skillicorn to write up how many coaches and what positions are needed for NENSA trip assuming going up to 16 person team.

Yuriy and Reid to work with other regions to add opportunities for U16 trip to go at USSA Congress