

PNSA Nordic Competition Committee
Fall 2009 Meeting
October 17, 2009
Tyee Middle School
Bellevue, Washington

Attendees:

George Bryant (Mt. Spokane), TJ (Wenatchee Ski Club), Chris Clark (Methow Nordic Club), Steve Devin (NCC Chair), Ben Husaby (Bend Endurance), Marla Husnik (Snoqualmie Nordic), Joe McNulty (Kongsbergers) Pete Speers (Leavenworth), Tim ??

Agenda Revisions

None

Previous Minutes

The minutes were reviewed, and were approved, subject to four corrections.

Page 2, USSA Race Sanctioning / TDs

- First paragraph -- "Hachison" was correct to Hatcher (John).
- Second paragraph, last line was revised to read "Also, USSA is going back to points based on qualifying times FOR SPRINTS. (added "for sprints".

Page 4, JO Qualifying Standards 2010, under Criteria

- Second line revised to read, "Top 20 on list at Senior Nationals among Juniors attending."

Page 5, 2010 Race Calendar,

- Mt. Bachelor/Bend corrected to J3 Championships (from JO championships)

Budget

Reviewed the 2009-2010 budget drafted by Steve for presentation to PNSA Board.

Head Tax - budgeted amount was \$2,700. There was discussion about lowering the amount due to changes in the calendar (KSC dropped Stampede this year), impact from the Olympics, and the Super Tour. Amount was left unchanged.

Membership -- more kids in program may raise amount slightly (+\$50). Left unchanged at \$1,600.

Club Dues -- may be lower, \$680 vs \$650. Amount left unchanged.

Coaches Travel -- Ben proposed and committee agreed on budgets for Senior Nationals (\$500), Junior Olympics (\$500) and Regional Camps (\$300). This raised the line to \$1,300 from \$1,050.

There were no changes to projected income. Expenses increased by \$250 to \$4,750. Net (contribution) decreased to \$50 from \$500.

TJ moved to approved the budget, 2nd by Marla. Unanimously approved.

JO Selection Criteria

Discussion about discretionary selection & specifically about "What is the definition of outstanding results?" The guidelines regarding results & selection with respect to injury and sickness were not changed.

George raised the point that the committee decided not to use SOHO. Steve said the division needed to figure out a way to take advantage of that event. Everyone agreed that it was a long way to go, but it was the second best venue for junior racing, behind the JOs. It's an eye opener if you haven't been

there. Point was made that even with "free points" a racer still had to qualify in the other races.

Some discussion about Nationals. There are no "free points" deal for Sr Nationals. Some kids who go to Sr Nationals shouldn't and lose a weekend of qualifiers where they might do well.

Ben moved to include SOHO as an optional JO. TJ seconded. "A skier who attends SOHO automatically receives two qualifying races." Motion carried, one opposed.

Summer Camp Reports

Regional -- no camp report

Trout Lake -- as always, a good camp. Excellent lodging at Black's house. 36/38 attended

Far West Combined Camp -- There was a lot of skepticism going into the camp, and none coming out. Total of 25 kids, 14 PNSA, 11 FW.

Ben proposed to do a joint camp again & his proposal was informally accepted. He has an action to find a place in our division & coordinate with FW.

Planning for Summer Camps 2010

TJ -- can we set up a north camp. Most of the time, everyone is traveling south, so some kids don't go. It would be nice to have something north.

After some discussion, an outline of a camp schedule was approved (no motion)

June - North - Winthrop or Wenatchee.

July - Middle (Trout Lake)

August - South, with FW

Schedule will be firmed up for approval during the Spring meeting. TJ and Flash will work out details on North camp. Ben will contact Far West & work out details.

Race Schedule

Reviewed JO distances & approved the schedule below:

Monday, March 8, 2010
Classic Sprint (1000-1250 meters)

Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Classic mass start - 5km J2's, 10km J1/OJ G, 15 J1/OJ B

Friday, March 12, 2010
Freestyle interval start - 5km J2 B, J2/J1/OJ G, 10km J1/OJ B

Saturday, March 13, 2010
Freestyle 3 x relay - 3km J2, 5km J1/OJ

Steve will look for a place that will run a novice race for kids that are just working into competition.

J/O Planning and Logistics

The JOs are in Presque Isle, Maine, which is not near to anything. The plan is to fly to Portland on Friday, and then the drive to Presque Isle over two days. The target budget is \$1200 per competitor. The current budget is:

500	Plane Ticket
4,000	Vans

	800	Fuel
	8,200	Lodging
	4,500	Meals
	500	Snacks
	<u>500</u>	J/O Hat or Sunglasses
Total	19,000	

Team will be staying about 15 miles north of the Nordic Center, which is about the same distance as Presque Isle.

Ben asked permission to buy plane tickets now. Plane tickets required names at the time of purchase. The coaches discussed who they were 100% confident would attend, and came up with a roster of 20, including coaches & cook. The NCC expressed approval of purchasing tickets early, to maximize discounts (no vote). Steve said he would present a request to the BOD for \$10,000.

J/O Uniforms

Uniforms are good for this year, but need to be re-done for next season, though they could be pushed for a second season.

J/O Coaches

Ben, Flash, TJ, and George were approved. Brenna Knowles wrote a letter of application, but was not approved.

Senior Nationals

Ben will coach, assuming that there are enough juniors to warrant sending a coach. Nationals are at Kincaid Park, Anchorage. Budget is \$550 per racer, based on free use of a condo.

Other Discussion: Future of PNSA Nordic:

How do we make the sport grow?

(1) Transportation is difficult -- the division is larger than New England.

Marla commented that Snoqualmie Nordic has lots of kids, but that overall parents aren't willing to put out the extra effort to get kids to races all over the division. Ben strongly (put that "STRONGLY") recommended buying a van, preferably a good used van & recommend the Ford F150 (aka E-Series).

Suggested insurance provider <http://ehrenfeldinsurance.com>.

Suggested <http://www.plazatrucks.com/> for locating a van.

"The Van is the Thing that Makes the Team Work."

(2) Year around training -- builds commitment and attachment to people and the sport. (This ties back to having camps north and south.)

(3) Issues: "not really a cool sport." You see kids getting into the sport because of / with their parents, but they drop out when they get to high school. High Schools don't actively oppose cross country skiing, but it isn't a normal extra-curricular activity, except in places where it's already strong.

(4) Not enough teams. Places that could have teams: Ellensburg (KSC), Anthony Lakes, Sandpoint, Omak (Loop Loop Pass). These places have groomed areas nearby, but no coach to jump-start a program.

(5) Finance: skis are expensive. There are a number of models around, which seem to center on some kind of leasing. 2nd Ascent in Ballard has a lease program, as does Winthrop Mtn Sports. Other areas have swaps that keep equipment in circulation.

Other

The BOD expressed again their interest in NCC following procedures.

J. McNulty
11/30/2009