



## **Speed Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Thursday, August 29, 2024**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm**

### **In Attendance:**

- Mikey Ratliff
- Robin Pendergast
- Sammy Johnson\*
- Jay Ingram\*
- Deb Alpers
- Kelly Springer
- Tosha Hill
- McKenzie Browne
- Patty Leazier
- Brian Talley
- Darian Orozco
- Erin Jackson\*

### **Declaration of Conflicts**

- Patty - Parent of a Team USA member, associated with Bont, current and previous Team USA staff member, hosting large event in US, board member of USARollerSports, involved in coating BPP
- Tosha – Official at upcoming events, World Skate official, affiliated with events that occur in the Southern region.
- Mikey –owns a skate company that does business in the US and sponsors athletes, current and previous Team USA staff member
- Kelly – Parent of a Team USA member, owns a skate company that does business in US and sponsors athletes and events, current and previous Team USA staff member.
- Darian –owner of skate company that does business in US, husband is a coach and Team USA Manager.
- Brian –official at indoor and outdoor Nationals, represents different skate companies
- Jay – coach clinics around the world, previous Team USA staff member
- McKenzie – no conflicts at this time
- Robin – no conflicts at this time
- Deb – no conflicts at this time
- Sammy – no conflicts at this time

### **Residency Event Recap**

- Kelly – amazing gift to be able to do this again after so many years of not being able to do it. It was a lot of work and drama, but the actual event was amazing for the athletes. All were left in a better position for worlds
- Patty – helped remotely but did not attend. Going forward, team manager needs to be included in everything. The kids did benefit from this event. Having track time and being together as a team was valuable. Athletes are waiting for feedback. We took a hit on the list of invites.

- Brian – looked like it went well. In future we need to be more transparent – specifically around who is invited to attend. Some experienced skaters maybe can come in for a couple of days where they are fresh to help push to limits.
- Darian – attended as an athlete. From athlete standpoint, it was one of the best team trainings that she has seen. Got a lot of race prep and watched videos. Last year for the first few days the new kids needed a lot of time to learn things, being able to do that at residency gives them much better preparation, and allows the staff to focus on other things. Helped with team bonding. Some of the newer athletes were able to reach out to ask questions of the veterans as to what to expect. Logistics were messy. A hotel for the entire group would have helped getting the kids to/from the track and to coordinate food.
- Deb – very beneficial for the athletes. Need to have criteria for selection of athletes attending. It was confusing for the athletes around what to do upon arrival. Rules for athletes when they leave so one isn't left to clean up. Number of beds did not match number of athletes. Overall great experience.
- Sammy – Great for the kids, but need to do a better job of selecting athletes. Unclear who to direct questions to.
- Jay – This was a great event for the kids and is beneficial to all attendees. Sent staff some ideas for things that the skaters at the top do, but our skaters do not do. Need to have just Team USA at times, and have other top athletes come in fresh to challenge them, but not be there all the time. We can make this event much better. We have all kinds of resources to enhance the training.
- Erin – Went great, was there in the middle of the stretch of dates. Good to keep this going if we can. Race simulation is really good. Being specific about the drills so that they apply to races instead of just going out and skating.
- McKenzie – based on online comments, she saw positive comments and people enjoyed having a camp again. Important to have them all together.
- Mikey – For the first couple of sessions kids had a lot of nerves and didn't know what to expect. Starting 2<sup>nd</sup> day things started looking better. Overall it was amazing. Last year at Worlds too much time was spent teaching how to skate the track, and didn't leave time for race prep. Team culture change contributed to more positive overall experience. Having time to hang out and bond without racing was valuable.
- Tosha – More prepared as a country than we have ever been because of this. Removing the athletes' shell shock is huge benefit. We will look more cohesive as a team when we get to Worlds. Speed Committee members got a lot of heat for who was invited... need to be more structured next year. Team Travel manager needs to be included in logistics. Being able to do race simulations were good method to remove anxiety about Worlds.
- Robin - Team USA Staff has authority to control team training like this, but the Speed Committee could have been helpful in some areas. Travel manager could have been a big help with logistics.

## **RFP for 2025 ODN**

- Some of the wording needs to be updated.

- Have a sub-committee work on it and finalize once everyone is back from Worlds (9/24)
- Sub-committee will send draft to those in Italy to review.

### **Grand Premier Pilot Program**

- Premier men had 5 entries, Grand Premier men had 3 entries. Grand Premier Women had 2 entries, Premier Women had 1 entry..
- Having Grand Premier affects schedule, and awards.
- If 2 in one division and 1 in another, that's only 3 total. Do we need 2 divisions for 3 athletes?
- Tosha will get us all the numbers for all the Veteran and above and we will discuss on our next meeting.

### **2025 World Team Selection Process Adjustment**

- Would like to propose an interim solution to fix some of the issues regarding current selection.
- Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> positions (alternates) are always a source of contention.
- While we are working on a more permanent solution, if we can make a small adjustment to the current alternate positions, and make the 7<sup>th</sup> position and 8<sup>th</sup> position team members and not alternates.
- We could replace one of the positions with a 100m specialist position that we have been wanting.
- It eliminates the problem of alternates.
- Proposal is just for 2025 while we work on the final
- The 100m Specialist position would need to be the 1<sup>st</sup> position placed on the team...
- We would be using the same race (100m) to select more than one position if we don't change anything else.
- Is having a medal mandatory? It sets us up for the skaters to allow their friends to win a race to get a medal.
- Since the 100m specialist is a sprint spot, maybe the other position could be a distance spot.
- 100m should be its own race and not considered for any other positions.
- Work on both proposals – reminder that we need to get all changes approved by membership and then board and USOPC
- Darian will send out summary. We will use What's App chat to review and finalize.

### **Selection Process Sub-Committee Update**

- Jay/Darian/Sammy/Patty/Erin
- Sub-Committee has talked to each other individually, but not as a committee
- Meeting set for 4:00pm MT/6:00pm ET

### **Other Updates**

- Next meeting will discuss clinic schedule/locations, and Grand Premier pilot program
- Tosha made a motion to adjourn, Patty seconded. Adjourned 8:30pm ET.**