



Speed Committee Meeting Minutes

1. **Date: Thursday, June 22, 2023**

2. **Meeting was called to order at 9:11pm ET by Tosha, Mary seconded**

In Attendance:

- Patty Leazier
- Jay Ingram
- Tosha Hill
- Mikey Ratliff
- Robin Pendergast
- Deb Alpers
- Kelly Springer
- Mary Allmond
- Erin Jackson
- McKenzie Browne

Declaration of Conflicts

- Patty: Coach for ODN and also parent of athlete trying out for team and Pan American, 2 kids in the house (but upstairs)
- Mikey/Kelly/Deb: Coach of athlete trying out for team & Pan Am
- Tosha: volunteer for outdoor events in Florida, family runs the camera/timing system for ODN

Clarification on BPP track (and other track) details:

- The coating and the application of the coating is not USARS funded. This is being funded by private businesses. Volunteers are doing the work.
- The BPP admin has agreed to accept the donation of the coating. They will put this in their fiscal budget for the year, and then county commissioner will need to approve before moving forward.
- The track is also not being endorsed by World Skate, but volunteers are working on getting the track endorsed by USARS.
- Note: It was reported that David Weber is doing his own certification/endorsement from World Skate. We are also advocating for USARS to provide an endorsement to David's track. Once Dave registers the club/sanctions the track, then the track will be a certified/sanctioned location. The decision for both endorsements is out of the Speed Committee's hands and is up to USARS.
- 400m asphalt track in Hagerstown, MD, needs to be re-done, Patty is involved in getting approval from the school board for funding (been working on this for a year). There is a meeting on the 24th of July with Patty, the school board, state senator, and state representative to discuss. Would be open for anyone to use.

Rookie Challenge (Novice/JO):

- Great Lakes region has many new skaters, and very few meets. Should we have a beginner meet at Nationals.
- If this is just Novice Nationals, with a name change, it may just be bringing back something that already failed (why did Novice Nationals get eliminated)?
- Benefit of doing it at Nationals gains skaters for relays.
- Beginners need more meets, but is Nationals the place to start?
- USARS could offer an invitational for beginners at the end of the year. Perhaps calling it a USARS beginners invitational.

- If this was added as an after-Nationals event, will this add a day? Could have beginner after relays for half a day, and then before quad for a half a day. Could cut it down to 2 races. Could eliminate semifinals by qualifying winners and fastest times from heats.
- We kept skaters longer when we had novice at Nationals.
- If we can build numbers in beginner and get them to come in for relays, we would have more competition at Nationals
- Consider a 1 year eligibility for beginner if we bring this back?
- Separate meets for beginners (not at Nationals)? Will coaches go to another event? There are no exclusively beginner competitions now.
- Some teams are all beginners and need some meets in the summer time.
- Is this the only way to not lose beginners?
- Why do we start with offering Nationals as the place to have a beginners competition instead of something not as prestigious?
- Need to talk to beginner coaches to get their perspective and come up with solutions.
- We all want to provide an event for the beginners, what other options are there besides adding them to the National schedule? If they are happening at the same time, they will be in the National program. We could make a separate program just for beginners.
- If held at Nationals, how would entry fees work? If they max out for elite plus relays, would the beginner meet be included? Or separate fee?
- If Speed Committee has ideas, reach out to Regional Reps or prepare a proposal for their respective regional rep to talk about.
- What about ODN – do we add beginner divisions there as well? There are beginner outdoor events in Great Lakes region and beginners are happy. What about if we created a similar indoor beginners program in the regions – where we have a big beginner invitational at some point during the year?

Relay Amateur Cards:

- There are a lot of beginner coaches with smaller teams, but skaters are not good enough to compete at Nationals in division. Can skaters get a separate amateur card just for relays? This may be a means for newer coaches and coaches with small teams who do not have relays, to keep their athletes, and for USARS to keep and grow their coaches.
- We used to have power teams gobbling up smaller teams due to relays, where eventually the coach with the smaller team is no longer coaching. We need more coaches to create more athletes and USARS membership.
- Should we consider a relay card for those skaters that want to skate for another team just for relays? A separate card for each relay if different teams? Both coaches would have to sign off on the potential relay pairs.
- Athletes could represent their home team for division, and if using relay card, both coaches could be part of the process in that relay team. It may keep people from walking away or being placed to the side, or losing an athlete or their team. Teams may not be as easy to be absorbed by the bigger teams.
- There are relay divisions at Nationals now without heats, would this change that?
- They do separate cards for Quad divisions/Inline divisions – where skaters can skate for different teams for each discipline.
- If additional relay teams are created this way, it may fill races that had previously been finals only (creating heats), and could mean additional entry fees to USARS.

Developmental & National Team Fall Clinic (Weber's):

- Jay will be point of contact to work with Jeff Snow on this clinic. Jeff has given ok, and they will start planning.

- BPP possible clinic 11/11 – 11/12
- Indy clinic late September/early October, (Level 1)
- Can we do a camp before the Milton meet in January? Jay will talk to Jeff about that.
- Would South Florida be best location for February due to weather?
- Need to get clinics set through next spring/summer – should be easy with both Florida venues and hopefully Colorado will start responding.
- Clinic races which were historically run after each clinic (called them Jan Porter Memorial races), were popular, and we should explore holding those again. It would be great to bring those back for right after USARS clinics or camps.
- Thanksgiving meet could be a combo indoor/outdoor event, this is still TBD (West Palm)

ODN Updates:

- Budget is with Finance. They made a motion to accept – waiting on formal approval so that it can go to the board.
- Speed Committee needs to accept officials list, Mikey and McKenzie both approved verbally on the call. Erin will look at email and reply.
- Sound is booked.
- Diagrams are done, and have been turned over to BPP.
- Good with track placement, not sure about road (depends on which days we book for the road), may not be able to leave the trailer on the road for that portion. Getting confirmation from USARS, who is checking.
- Officials' AirBnbs all booked.
- Tosha secured shipment site so everything can be sent there instead of to her.
- Trainer will be BJ Steketee, unsure of cost at this time.
- No USARS official on site – collecting deposits for team USA will be Jay/Patty.
- Practice fee collection will also be Jay/Patty.
- Tosha may put a printer somewhere else so results can be printed for better access. Will be posting results via Google/QR code so nobody has to rely on the printer.
- 2018 results are lost, so no digital records. Jay has printed results and will look for them and provide them.
- Be proactive about possible rain options. We could possibly change the order of events.
- If it doesn't rain during rain days, do we want to go ahead and skate if no rain? Rest day for athletes and referees is needed. Will need to publish any schedule changes for Road start date early. Committee agreed to keep rain days as open.
- Need to have a Level 1 clinic before ODN. We will hold this prior to practice (7/31, or 8/1 or 8/2). Jay will run it (he is there early). Patty can help if needed.

Mary made a motion to end the meeting. Jay seconded. Meeting ended at 10:39pm ET