



Speed Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 1st, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm PST

In Attendance:

- Robin Pendergast
- Darian Orozco
- Deb Alpers
- Mikey Ratliff
- Kelly Springer
- Brian Talley
- Tosha Hill

Not in Attendance:

- Erin Jackson

Declaration of Conflicts

Reminder of types of conflicts for new members – Sponsor, Vendor/Supplier, Official, Coach with athletes in positions that may be topic of meeting, Team USA staff that may be topic of meeting. The committee determines that those with conflicts can/cannot participate in discussions or vote/not vote on certain topics.

- 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, previous Team USA staff member
- Kelly – 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 applied for Team USA Manager.
- Jay Ingram – current and previous Team USA staff with athletes trying out for Team USA
- Brian Talley – official at indoor and outdoor Nationals, represents different skate companies, wife is a Classic division athlete
- Deb – No conflicts at this time
- Erin – no conflicts at this time
- Robin – no conflicts at this time

Selection Process Follow Up

Have committee start looking at a new selection process document for review. The meeting focused on reviewing and discussing a new selection process for Team USA Inline Speed Skating Trials. The scoring system for different events, including time trials and group sprint races, with points weighted more heavily for group races.

Discussion on how to handle time trials and potential crashes during qualifying events. Decisions would need to be made by an unbiased committee, potentially including staff members and outside officials, to ensure fairness and compliance with USOPC requirements. The team also addressed concerns about athletes competing in multiple race categories at the World Championships, explaining that the selection process

would take into account multiple races and times to make decisions.

League Championships

Committee members working on ideas for a League Championship Event. Discussed organizing a league championships event, with debate over whether to include beginner races and the insurance implications of using Starskate memberships.

Committee member discussed skills-based competitions as an alternative, sharing her success with skills course events that attract new grassroots skaters. The group agreed to consider implementing skills competitions at the league level first

National Team Qualification System Overhaul

Discussing changes to the national team and tryout system, whereby using a 36-month rolling qualification window instead of the current 3-season system. The new system would allow athletes to maintain their national team status longer, with updates after each championship event rather than 4-5 months later.

There were concerns about perceptions of rolling over world team spots. Committee agreed this system would help retention and maintain fairness for both experienced skaters and new entrants.

Outdoor National Division Structure

Discussion around the structure of Outdoor Nationals and the inclusion of junior and senior world-class divisions while keeping separate divisions to maintain competitive levels and attract international skaters.

The committee discussed how to shorten the event by possibly eliminating some standard events. Concern over how this may affect National Team Selection and athlete opportunities.

It was concluded that while eliminating some standard divisions could reduce the event's length, maintaining separate world-class divisions was crucial for competitive integrity and participant numbers.

Helmet Covers – Moved to Next Meeting

World Skate Academy Applications

Agreed to hold a meeting on Wednesday 10/8/25 to review candidates
Request that members send their nominations for level 1,2 & 3 certifications to Chair and Vice Chair

Speed Committee Application Review

The committee discussed several candidates for upcoming positions

Meeting Adjourned – 7:15pm