

2024 USS CONGRESS PROPOSAL SUMMARY

REVIEW WORKGROUP:	PROPOSED BY:	PROPOSAL SUMMARY:	ACTION	RATIONAL
1	ST & Competition/Events possibly Coaching	Tom Miller Add to Coaching level requirements to follow USS Development track requirements for 10 yrs and younger. I was at first very skeptical of this change, but I can see now the definite benefits to a young athlete's development with learning proper skating position and how to properly skate a track. This also will make it less confusing for the athlete to wonder if the meet they are going to will follow USS recommendations, which I feel needs to change to USS requirements. Yes there are athletes that are beyond the 85m track but the meets can provide a way to graduate out like we have done in the past at some meets where the super final is a 500m on a 111m track. If the skater skates a sub 1:00 500m then if they want they can now move up to the 111m track.	In consideration with changes	USS would like the Meet Directors to be responsible for ensuring a 85m track will be used for at least one race for skaters who submit a seed time over 1:00 minutes. Requirement will go into the sanctioning process of a race. Year 1: USS may or may not sanction your competition if you do not run a 85m track. Year 2: USS will not sanction your competition if you do not run a 85m track. Skaters who submit a seed time of 1:00 minute or slower shall race at least one distance on a 85m track.
2	ST	John Schnor This is a proposal to reinstate the 19-29 Senior age class for Age Group Nationals (abbreviated to AGN for any further use). The current method leaves athletes in this age group unserved and forces any who attempt to participate at AGN into the Jr. A group, leaving both 'Senior' and Jr. A skaters dissatisfied. Depending on number of athletes this could be one group, or split into 2 groups 19-24 and 25-29.	partially approved	USS will rearrange the age groups for ST to reflect separate age groups for Junior A and Seniors (19 to 29) for the purpose of awarding medals. Under review For racing purposes in ST, skaters ages 19 to 29 with a qualifying time for Junior A's will compete in the Junior A group. Skaters ages 19 to 29 with no qualifying time will be skating with one of the masters groups based on their ability. Skaters ages 19 to 29 who compete with Junior A will automatically ranked higher than skaters ages 19 to 29 who compete in a masters ability group. Skaters ages 19 to 29 in a faster masters group will be ranked after those competing with Junior A but before those competing in a slower masters group. If participation numbers allow to form a single racing group for seniors, USS will consider to do so. Past participation numbers in this age class did not justify this and is prohibitive of best racing experience.
3	ST & Masters	Andrew Love Masters Short Track Skaters from other countries be allowed to compete at USS AGN in March of 2025. The Event title is up to the organizers. A good suggestion would be "North American Masters Open" The highest ranking American in each age group/distance will still be the US National Champion. The Organizing Committee should be given great flexibility to allow for international Masters relays to take place, both Gender Specific and Mixed. Country mixed relays should be allowed.	Denied	AGN is reserved for skaters of US citizenship or at least a permanent or temporary residency in the US. By adding an Ability Meet for ages 8 to 14 to the existing AGN we will be limited on time available for racing, so international skaters will not be accepted. If we would allow international participation at the masters level we would also have to allow it at lower levels for purpose of consistency.
4	HoF	Thomas Porter Review the selection procedure for HoF members to vote. How many eligible voters how many ballots sent, vote count per inductee. Information sent supporting a nomination	Tabled for committee discussion	The HoF committee and USS will work together together to better the process from start to finish.
5	LT	Rich Vehe For individual distance events (not team or mass start events), the LT regulations, announcement, and registration will outline standard programs by age (JR/SR/M) and distance (sprint/all-around) to aid event selection. They will specify a maximum event number, e.g. 4 events over a 3-day meet (not counting team and MS events). If needed, skaters may add extra events at \$25 per race. Changes (to remove, switch, or add events) before the close of regular registration would be allowed. Later changes, through the end of the Opening Meeting, would cost \$25 for each event changed. After the Opening Meeting, each event changed (Withdrawal, Entry Change, DNS) would cost \$50 unless there is a medical cause.	In consideration with changes	Specify better in our R & R's on how many distances skaters can compete in. There is agreement that late changes are challenging for the referees and timing deck. USS might consider a penalty fee for withdrawals at the coaching meeting and additions.
6	LT & Masters	Andrew Love I propose that at Masters/Junior Nationals, during the final podium presentations, recognition is given to the oldest and youngest competitors who have qualified for the event. The oldest and the youngest skaters almost never in the final podiums, so this will be a cool way of highlighting the wonderfully unique age range that compete at nationals. My suggested name for this award is the "Janus" award, as the race is often in January, and the that name implies a classical looking both forward and back through time. The great thing about this award, is that it is easy to figure out who has earned it.	Partially accepted	USS agrees to honor generally our oldest competitors in Member News if we receive requests and submissions with information. Recognizing the youngest competitor is not completely in line with our ADM as USS looks less at young age but at developmentally readiness for competition.
7	LT & Masters	Andrew Love To qualify to skate the AmCup races, Masters skaters over 55, both male and female, may qualify for the event via the MAT II timetables, not the D2 AmCup timetable as required for Juniors and Younger Masters	Denied	AmCup two is already in conjunction with John Rose Open, AmCup Final in in conjunction with US Open Masters Championships, where skaters who do not meet the AmCup time standard can register and compete in. This allows participating during the same weekend but will protect the integrity and level of the AmCup. Further USS would like to minimize safety concerns for general and specific warm up sessions. I.e. Jordan Stolz warming up with a skater who race a plus 1 minute 500m.
8	LT & Masters	Andrew Love 2 years ago, the Dutch Masters Speedskating organization (MCLN) had a unique idea on how to classify their 3 race Masters Cup series across age groups and distances. It was a huge success. I will attach their doc. Their method was to convert the time of a skated distance and the Word Record (IMSSC Record) in the age group to seconds. Then calculate the percentage of the World Record in the age group compared to the skated time. They had an excel spreadsheet (hand entered) that could do this. At the end of the meet, a list was generated, specifying who got closest to the masters world record via %. This format crossed all age categories and distances, and produced a fascinating final mens and womens classification. I will provide examples. Skaters final classifications earned them points for the overall MCLN season ranking. https://usspeedskating.org/sharepoint.com/x/5/Governance/E6659KV11A1R1WYrdvssxBfTxrBZH1V4ADQ0NW1Pw7eC98yLc	Temporarily Accepted	Open to try it out for a end of season ranking. There will be no additional awards given. Mostly depends on man power at the AmCup Final as we are also calculating AmCup points at that time. So publishing of the best performance for masters may be delayed and might be recognized in Member News. Ideally a member of the Masters Task Force should take ownership of tabulating these results.