



Speed Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

In Attendance:

- Mikey Ratliff
- Robin Pendergast (left 15 minutes early)
- Kelly Springer
- Brian Talley
- Darian Orozco
- Tosha Hill
- Patty Leazier

Missing

- McKenzie Browne
- Deb Alpers
- Sammy Johnson*
- Erin Jackson*
- Jay Ingram*

Declaration of Conflicts

- Patty. 2 trying out for World Team including her child, associated with Bont, former staff member, hosting large event in US, board member of USARollerSports
- Tosha – Official at upcoming events, World Skate official, affiliated with events that occur in the Southern region. Has been voted in as ODN official.
- Mikey – coach of athlete trying out for team, owns a skate company that does business in US and sponsors athletes trying out for team, previous world team staff member, planning on applying for Team USA staff.
- Kelly – coach of athlete trying out for team, owns a skate company that does business in US and sponsors athletes and events, past staff member.
- Darian – athlete trying out for team, owner of skate company that does business in US, husband is a coach. Placed a bid for Team USA Apparel.
- Brian – will be applying to be an official at indoor and outdoor Nationals, represent different skate companies, spouse will be trying out for Team USA
- Robin – coach of athletes that will be trying out for Team USA

ODN Updates

- Finance committee & board accepted proposed increase to ODN entry fees.
- ODN trainers – looking for volunteers (closed session to discuss possible medical staff conflicts).
- ODN Officials' Airbnbs
 - 3 houses chosen for officiating staff – not close together but have selected houses to accommodate compensated officials & sound tech.
 - 1 house will have space available for non-compensated staff.
 - Cost will be \$3,000 less than last year's expenses.

- Officials' per diem will be increased per USARS Finance team.
- Officials' Airfare
 - SW is offering specials – officials should consider purchasing as the special also includes 2 checked bags.
 - Officials will pay for their plane tickets and provide receipts to USARS for reimbursement.
 - USARS may be able to purchase tickets early to get them at a cheaper price, but there is a maximum amount spent on each ticket, and if the amount is exceeded, the official is responsible for the additional amount. If the ticket exceeds that maximum amount, approval is needed from USARS before ticket may be purchased.

IDN Update

- Officials expenses
 - Officials committee is meeting to finalize the panel for IDN.
 - Final IDN officials list will be presented to the Speed Committee for feedback and adjustments before it is presented to the Board.
 - IDN expenses will be ready to be reviewed soon.

Beginner End of the Year Event:

- Benefits: Possible financial gains for the organization, additional relay teams at Nationals, will provide a culminating event for beginner athletes.
- Drawbacks: It may not be a financial gain for the organization, after eliminating Novice at Nationals, there was not a negative financial impact. Speed Committee will try to track down the documents to allow for further analysis.
- Have missed the opportunity to do anything for 2024, but will focus on an event for 2025.
- Continued discussion regarding a large/year-ending beginner event will take place during the next meeting.

National Team Criteria

- Current criteria defines top 4 sprinters and top 6 endurance athletes from Jr/Sr World Class, but many athletes qualify for both, and trying to determine the correct distance can be challenging.
- May want to consider a different way to determine Freshman National Team. Current criteria takes top 10 Freshman from ODN and top 1 from IDN, but since there are fewer ODN athletes than IDN athletes, we may need to change the mix and take fewer from ODN and more from IDN.
- Discussion will continue for all National Team categories at future meetings.

Speed Committee Checklist

- There is concern about the Speed Committee not having a central checklist for deadlines/target dates for items we are responsible for.
- USARS may have a list that was started in the past. Will try to track that down and build on it.

- New checklist will need to be available for all committee members to access/refer to every year for continuity.

Officials' Committee/Speed Committee combined meeting

- A suggestion from the Official's Committee was presented to hold a combined meeting to review the Official's Committee role. How can the Official's Committee better assist the Speed Committee?
- Consider each group attending the first 30 minutes of the other's meeting on a regular basis to collaborate/communicate.
- Official's Committee responsibilities include: Official's testing, event applications, updating testing exams, official's protocol.
- Discussion around better testing methods – virtual testing/platforms, etc.
- Speed Committee will research different testing platforms that will allow for virtual testing and offers the ability to provide different versions of tests, the ability to proctor and monitor the test, set a time limit, and to limit the ability to share responses.
- Funding from the foundation may be available for development of a testing platform for both officials and coaches as it applies to education within the organization.

Patty made a motion to adjourn, Tosha seconded. Adjourned 8:15pm ET.