



Speed Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:06pm ET

In Attendance:

- Mikey Ratliff
- Robin Pendergast (had to step out for 20 minutes at the end of the meeting)
- Sammy Johnson* (had to drop after an hour due to storm)
- Jay Ingram*
- Deb Alpers (had to drop 20 minutes early)
- Kelly Springer
- McKenzie Browne
- Patty Leazier
- Brian Talley
- Darian Orozco
- Erin Jackson*

Missing:

- Tosha Hill

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

World Championships Recap

- Kelly – We put together a great series of things this year, we had a place and time and funding for residency. Placements would not have happened without residency and track. Huge victory this year was that we had multiple people getting multiple medals in multiple races. Venue was great. Road course was good and was good

to be back on same course as last time. Will put thoughts together and send to committee next week.

- Mikey – Athlete performance was so good. First time in a while that we had so many medals and great performances from newer athletes. Remember success takes time (Marathon, not a sprint), so what we did this year was not the only factor. Dave's track has been hugely beneficial making athletes comfortable. We had the ability to train for almost a month together before racing. 10 days of residency and 2 weeks of practice in Italy.
- Darian – Good experience, good performance. Team felt more like a family. Not having athletes skating the marathon – how do we encourage participation?
- Patty – Performance overall was huge. Athletes that medaled and those that did not medal had great races too. It was special to watch. Everyone at together at every meal and were together on the bus, which fostered bonding, new friendships, etc. Staff should meet in the morning or afternoon before to go over agenda/expectations. A lot of sacrifices made by staff to make sure athletes were taken care of. Staff created a united front. Having cheerleaders at home really helped everyone stay positive and helped athletes be successful.
- Jay – based on the people that placed it was expected based on how they did during the year at international events and at residency. Being on the track at home and training was a huge opportunity. How will we keep Juniors in the sport for another 10 years, and what do we need to do to bring new Juniors in? Parents were supportive, and had veterans there to help guide.

Finalize RFP for 2025 ODN

- Robin will finalize the document and send to committee for approval tomorrow. Once speed committee approves, will send to National Office to approve and send out to BPP, Weber, and Colorado Springs asap.

2024-2025 Season Clinics

- Will discuss dates via group text and email.

Grand Premier Pilot Program Decision

- Some non-members did not know about the new division. Do we have an email blast that people can subscribe to?
- 2 grand premier women, 1 premier woman, 3 grand premier men, 5 premier men.
- If someone doesn't open so many emails, they get auto unsubscribed.
- We could have contacted coaches with older skaters to remind them about the new division and to help communicate the pilot program.
- Can we pilot for a 2nd year?
- At what point do we stop adding divisions?
- Some of the older skaters love the sport so much and not only do they want to compete, they help pay for others to do more.
- Reach out to clubs with older skaters to get an unofficial tally of who might attend if we held another pilot year?

- They have a place to compete in Premier – is it about competing, or about the medals?
- Check Premier entries for the last several years before making decision.
- Why didn't you skate?
- Ask members why they think we need to keep a Grand Premier division.
- Send out to Regional Reps to make announcements at meets for the coaches meeting with upcoming things.

2025 Team USA Selection Process Update

- This was another year that proved that we needed a 100m specialist. None of the existing Team USA skaters were comfortable skating that race at the World Championships.
- 100m distance should only be used to pick the 100m specialist and not also used to pick the track time trial specialist
- If we take the 100 out of the time trial position, and the 100m specialist can't race, then we don't have someone that can do both.
- Could go back and take placements from previous years to see how it would have worked out, except that previous years nobody put in the effort to win the 100m on the road and it would skew the results.
- Track and Road at Worlds are two different competitions. Could have 8 athletes for track, and 8 different athletes for road.
- Eliminating the alternate positions is something membership has asked for every year.
- New process will add additional people that will expect races at Worlds.
- Using residency as a tool to select races - it also helps make our bench deeper and would benefit us moving forward.

Patty motioned to accept the modification to the current selection process to add the 100m specialists. Brian seconded. Discussion included if this was a permanent process or a one year. Motion is to make this a permanent change. Send to Regional Reps, and ask them to send as written to their coaches to get votes, and let us know if anything needs to be clarified. Motion passed unanimously.

Future Trials Qualification Process Sub-Committee Update

- Total of 16 athletes, with 10 from ODN and 6 from IDN invited to trials
- Qualifications for ODN: Top 5 Sprint, top 5 Distance
- Qualifications for IDN: Top 3 overall Juniors, Top 4 overall Seniors, 1st Classic and Grand Classic
- If duplicates exist in the junior category, where one qualifies in both ODN and IDN categories, the roster of 16 will be filled by taking the next highest points at ODN, then taking the IDN younger division next points person, then ODN next highest points, then next older division next points and so on until the quota is filled.
- If duplicates exist in the senior category, only the senior placements from indoor nationals will be used. Class and grand classic will not receive rollover placements.

- Additional athlete invites would also go to those that were a part of Team USA the prior year, or athletes that have a World Championship podium placement in the last 3 years.
- All 32 juniors and all 32 seniors will go to a residency, where we will choose both junior and senior Team USA athletes.
- Look at impact of placements with proposed 100m specialist position if Team Trials is still part of ODN. If Team Trials is separate from ODN, then no impact.
- Review the proposal against placements the last few years to see who would have qualified and if anyone is left out that needs to be included.
- You don't have to skate both IDN and ODN with this process.
- We want skaters that have qualified with medals to still skate ODN, so even if they don't do well at ODN, they can still attend trials with the medal qualification. Skating ODN does not invalidate your qualification.
- This may set up the opportunity for team skating for athletes that have already qualified to help their friends qualify, but overall they will still need to compete to make Team USA and/or earn races at Worlds.
- Will hold a town hall with Team USA in October, and get their thoughts, then once they are comfortable with the proposed changes take it to the regional reps.

Protected Sponsors

- Moved to next meeting

Action: Speed Committee will analyze the proposal brought by the sub-committee, against prior years' results to evaluate new methodology. Will then set up a call with athletes (to occur in about month) where we will start discussions around 2026 World Championship/Roller Games qualification

Patty made a motion to adjourn, Robin seconded. Adjourned 9:13pm ET.