



Speed Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, August 7, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 8:32pm

In Attendance:

- Mikey Ratliff
- Robin Pendergast
- Kelly Springer
- Brian Talley
- Darian Orozco
- Tosha Hill
- Erin Jackson
- Jay Ingram*

Missing:

- Patty Leazier
- Deb Alpers

Declaration of Conflicts

- Patty – Daughter is a sponsor. Associated with Bont, previous Team USA staff member, 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, 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 current and former Team USA Manager.
- Brian – official at indoor and outdoor Nationals, represents different skate companies, wife is a Classic division athlete
- Jay – coaches clinics around the world, current and previous Team USA staff member
- Robin – no conflicts at this time
- Deb – no conflicts at this time
- Erin – no conflicts at this time

Jewelry rule proposal:

- Races have been delayed.
- Never seen an issue with outdoor skating with jewelry on.
- Gives skaters some grace to have some room, penalty would be difficult to apply if we don't know the owner of the jewelry.
- Outdoor is not monitored at all, due to WS rule.

- Like that it takes stuff off of the plate of competitive steward, and of referees.
- What happens if someone gets hurt due to jewelry on the track?
- Tosha – noted a conflict with this topic due to her position on the finance committee and the dependency of the motion
- Will check in on the next meeting on this topic

Additional event at Nationals:

- Joe wants to do a full NIRA meeting, and instead of doing something on the oval track, he suggested that we bring back beginner to Nationals.
- He wants to have a NIRA Nationals again – he was not being collaborative. Could still do an oval track event.
- Most of the leagues don't sanction with us – we could reach them by doing a league competition. Not teams, but leagues.
- Give it a separate beginners championship name – if they skate Nationals – they are not eligible for the beginner championship.
- All skater points would go to the league.
- Sign up individually but under a league.
- League would need to be registered with USARS.
- Kelly will put together a google doc for us all to collaborate on.
- Could go to WS age divisions – would take less time to run it.

David Simmons list;

1. No changing cards late in the year – **already addressed in the rule book, just need to enforce it**
2. Event coordinator – **USARS position**
3. Unite the leagues – **Need volunteers to do that**
4. Bring back JO – **not enough time in the schedule to bring back beginner nationals**
5. Helmet cover numbers – **some leagues went out and got vendors to donate, made a series of numbers for checking in for their races they would be assigned a number for that race. If we made a new number for every skater the numbers would get really long. Or if someone forgot or lost their helmet number at a meet. No extra time to assign helmet covers for events at Nationals. Get helmet cover when they checked in. Works great. Could do 1 – 500 or 10 sets of 1 – 8. If we do this for USARS are we going to keep them solid, or if a vendor is selected and wants to brand them, what if we don't have that vendor the next year.**
6. App for instant updates and timing schedule that works for everyone – **is there an app, and is there a volunteer – there is cost associated with this and where is the \$\$ going to come from. In the works. Tosha is exploring.**

7. Marketing Promotion media - **USARS position**
8. Use instant replay and live stream for marketing – **Combined with #7 above, using instant replay and live stream for marketing – David Firestein has started some of this.**
9. Improve efficiency – **Speed Committee is always looking to improve efficiency and is open to suggestions.**
10. Shorten the days spent at nationals – **Speed Committee is always looking for ways to improve the schedule. Lots of positive feedback this year, but don't have enough to save a day in the schedule.**

Sponsors are an important group and we need to keep them engaged

Next Steps with new Selection Process:

- At the last meeting, Darian went over the points with how we would qualify people from various meets
- We are required to get membership approval.
- What happens if Worlds is early?
- If Worlds is at the end of July, and IDN is mid July, we would not have enough time to hold the residency event in order to select the team and be able to get them entered into the portal.
- If national team was selected before residency, we could use that for residency.

Jay motioned to adjourn, Tosha seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:38pm ET