



## Speed Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm ET

### In Attendance:

- Mikey Ratliff
- Robin Pendergast
- Jay Ingram\*
- Deb Alpers
- Kelly Springer
- Patty Leazier
- Brian Talley
- Darian Orozco
- Tosha Hill (left after 2 hours)

### Missing:

- McKenzie Browne
- Erin Jackson\*
- Sammy Johnson\*

### Declaration of Conflicts

- Patty – Daughter is a sponsor, Patty is multi-tasking with headset. 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 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

### ODN Dates

- Start racing on June 5 or June 12
- IDN will be early July
- Kelly made a motion that ODN racing starts June 5, Robin seconded, discussed having more time between ODN and IDN. Motion passed unanimously

## 2024-2025 Clinics

- Dates earlier in the year conflict with indoor and outdoor competitions or existing clinics.
- Consider May 9-10-11, orientation 5/8
- Kelly made a motion to schedule a National Team/Developmental on May 9 – 11, with orientation on 5/8, Tosha seconded, Discussion around location, will check availability at Weber's, 1 abstained, motion passed

## Grand Premier Pilot Program Decision

- Esquire 6 men, 3 ladies
- Grand Esquire 5 men, 4 ladies
- Premier 4 men, 1 lady
- Grand Premier 3 men, 2 women
- Pilot was to see if we had enough interest.
- This is a sport, and skaters skate practice where they are with others
- Do not want to have 1 person in each division, and spread the same people over multiple divisions
- There is an impression that the speed committee wanted this to fail and that we didn't put enough effort into making the division a success.
- World Skate oldest division both indoor and outdoor is 60.
- What else can we do besides put it on the website and put it in the newsletter.
- We could have gotten the Regional Reps more involved
- With the additional entries, are they coming to get an award, or coming because they want to compete.
- 5 years at that age is a big ability gap
- We can't continue it another year and do the exact same thing – we would need to promote it and encourage more participation.
- If we continue the division for one more year with an additional push, with a personal letter or personal phone call, in addition to asking regional reps and coaches to promote, we will demonstrate that we did everything we could for this division to be a success.
- If we extend for another year, we have to have a hard line and discontinue the program if it does not meet the criteria.
- Patty made a motion to extend Grand Premier for one more year, as a pilot program, have to have minimum 3 in men and 3 in women in Premier and Grand Premier in each race, Brian seconded, discussion around participation throughout the year, and membership cards, motion passed unanimously

## Protected Sponsors

- When we grant a clothing sponsorship to someone, and we have a donation come in with a direct competitor of the sponsor, with a product that the official sponsor has provided, we should not add a thank you to that competitor on our website.
- We can't protect a clothing sponsor for items that they don't provide.
- When we set up our clothing bids for this year, we should protect them and not put other sponsors on the back after the official sponsor provides the clothing.

- Official sponsor should be able to have first right of refusal. If we need 12 t shirts and our official sponsor says they aren't doing shirts, we should be able to get bids or accept donations from additional sponsor companies.
- No brand name on competing products.
- Can we say thank you to those that donate without advertising their competing company?
- If the competitor wants to donate after the fact, letter from the office that says thank you for your donation. Can not recognize competing sponsors.
- Want to be fair to everyone – the one that wins the bid and the people that step in and provide product.
- Will table for now and determine a way to move forward.

### Regional Rep Proposals

- Master 3 person age change
  - Change the age to 35, or change the name to Classic
  - We could lose participation of the Classics since they would need to race seniors.
  - Will we lose Master participation if they need to race Classics?
  - There has only been heats once or twice at Nationals in the last 5 years.
  - Brian made a motion to change the Master 3 person relay name to Classic 3 person, Kelly seconded. Discussion around if this is going to make membership unhappy. We don't like to tell the membership no, but giving less opportunities to some skaters is not in the best interest of the sport. 1 abstained, motion passed.
  - Tosha will email the rules committee and get rule book updated.
  - We will update the name of historic records, etc as it is just a new name and no new criteria.
- Indoor World Qualification
  - Pushed to next meeting
- Rookies at IDN
  - The request contradicts itself... stating that racing can take place in a half day, but they also saying that it will increase hotel revenue.
  - A half day would run on a TIGHT schedule
  - officials would be stressed to stay additional time.
  - It will impact the schedule during the week to make the time at the end of the week.
  - Support staff does not have a panel rotation – they have to be there the whole time.
  - The training aspect in regards to meet directors and tabulators is already being done, do not need to hold a separate event for training.
  - It will have to be positioned around relays, which will impact the schedule.
  - If we consider cutting relay events, it may impact how many beginners come.
  - 2025 schedule may need to be tightened up from 2024
  - If we do a new division for Indoor Worlds qualification, and Rookies, then we will have 3 (Elite, World Class, Rookie).
  - We have an open nationals now, and rookies can come and fill relays

- Upside of having Rookie division is that they get to experience heats, semi finals and finals.
- How many Rookie skaters will skate Nationals also? We did not lose entries when we eliminated Novice.
- This will likely not add skaters, it will split the existing skaters.
- Are we alienating anyone by not having a Beginner invitational?
- If we have Beginner invitational, the national podium should not be utilized for awards.
- If Rookies are comfortable skating elite relays, they should be able to skate an open nationals.
- Could we get a Rookie invitational somewhere so that the kids can get that National type bigger event?
- If we did an invitational could we consider a new meet director, tabulator, and a separate bunch of referees?
- Go back to regional reps to propose a new meet director, tabulator, and referee panel to put on the invitational
- What is the criteria for Rookie? If they can skate relays, they can skate open nationals.

### **Board Meeting Presentation**

- Indoor World Team qualifier
- National Rookie Invitational
- Revising/Improving Team USA Selection Process
- Recap from World Championships,
- Clinic and ODN dates
- Qualified for all Junior Pan American positions
- Junior Pan Am qualification process
- European cup placements (Ryan/Jacob/Alicia)

### **November/December meeting schedule**

- Every 2 weeks for November and December

Add to future agendas:

- Relays: We added 3 person relays when teams were struggling to fill 4 man and 4 lady teams. One early proposal was to cut 4 man and 4 lady, keep 4 mixed, and keep 3 man, 3 lady and cut 3 mixed (will add this to a future SC meeting agenda)
- Junior Pan Am qualification process
- Indoor World Team Qualification process
- Continue protected sponsors discussion
- Clinic leaders for May clinic
- Team USA staff applications
- Team USA selection process for 2025 (with 100m specialist position)

**Brian made a motion to adjourn, everyone seconded. Adjourned 9:13pm ET.**