MINUTES
OF THE
MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION
SKI COMMITTEE
MARCH 20, 2019

A meeting of the MPA Ski Committee was held on Wednesday, March 20 at 9:15 a.m. at the MPA Office.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chad Brackett, Ted Hall (GoTo Meeting), Thomas Plourde (Chair), and Eric Werntgen (GoTo Meeting).

MEMBER ABSENT: Al Cayer.

LIAISON PRESENT: Dustin Williamson.

LIAISON ABSENT: Ronn Gifford.

GUESTS PRESENT: Todd Sampson (Edward Little Athletic Administrator) and Carl Theriault (Fort Kent Coach).

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Bisson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a MOTION by HALL/BRACKETT, the minutes of the December 10, 2018 meeting were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Bisson shared a series of emails with the committee that were reviewed and placed on file at the MPA. No official action was taken on any of the correspondence.

Following an email from Carl Theriault, skiers that race in Alpine and Nordic will be recognized at the final day of championships for that class.

REVIEW OF 2019 CHAMPIONSHIP RACES:

TD Reports:

Carlie Casey – Reported from Titcomb from the B/C race. The TD or timing crew should have asked the starter if they told the young man from Maine Coast Waldorf if they said, “Go” causing him to leave early. Need start board at the entrance to start area and coaches to have start times and lanes ahead of time.

Dan Warner – No report.

Carl Wight – No report.

Committee Reports: None.
COACHES’ REPORT: The Ski Coaches’ Association met on Tuesday, March 19 and Dustin Williamson was in attendance. Dustin submitted the following report:

Alpine (Ronn Gifford): Reported electronically.

1. A discussion occurred again about implementing the "loss of momentum" rule that USSA has regarding GS such that if a racer loses all momentum in the course of their run, they are NOT to get back on the course and finish, they would become a DNF. The reason this is being brought up is one of safety as we had a number of close situations where the next racer either did overtake (skied out and got a re-run) the fallen skier or came close to doing so. In either case not a desirable situation and in situations where there are variable snow conditions (like we had at Black Mountain with good race surface in the course, but loose heavy powder outside the course) it even adds to the safety concerns for the oncoming racer to ski out of the course at high speed into soft snow. Another way to solve this is to have better communication/control over the start interval, but I don't think that solves the concern completely as a racer can fall even after a safe interval is declared resulting in this condition. A rule that all the coaches need to discuss and determine what path they think is best as it would eliminate a possible scorer from their team via the DNF.

2. There were a number of protests filed after the slalom over a handful of DSQ's. I do not know the details of these (TJ would as he was on the Jury) and I know the coaches involved were disgruntled. There were a number of side bar discussions about the protest process, it's intent, the filling of knowledge base hour of gatekeeper positions, support of them by the Jury versus decisions to benefit the racer (giving them the benefit of the doubt type thing), etc. I am not sure where this one goes, but likely will be discussed at our coaches meeting and I will bring whatever comes from that to the group.

3. From the Greely coach, “With the new scoring system there are no need for CO-OPS the system promotes recruiting and an unfair advantage. Class A states went well, if it is going to be the days before break, they should be Gender Days boys than girls or vice versa. There is no reason to have 12-20 kids from each school out of school when we could bring ten or less of each gender. It would decrease equipment issues, and we could travel in smaller vehicles so with the shortage of bus drivers and coaches could transport the athletes in a 10-passenger van. Parents would be able to commit to one day much easier than the two days especially for those professions with little wiggle room i.e. surgeons, executives, etc.”

4. Alpine coaches want to revisit assisting setting the course, as Shawnee Peak was not very receptive to allowing assistance.

5. A coach felt that the report was not clear enough to explain the disqualification. Don’t rush the results and don’t let the gatekeepers leave.

6. At the Class B meet, there was no Ski Patrol with a toboggan at the top of the mountain for an injured skier.

7. In the Class B meet there was a protest and the coach was rude to the gatekeeper.

8. A thought to rotate gatekeepers for the girls’ and boys’ races.
Minutes of the MPA  
Ski Committee  
March 20, 2019

9. Helmet rule needs clarifying and there was no enforcement on the day of the races.

10. All awards should be presented on Day 2.

11. Sunday River might be able to host during the vacation week.

12. Nordic coaches want to go to old scoring system. Alpine coaches don’t want ghosts and would like to keep the scoring.

13. Some coaches feel with the new scoring system that cooperative teams are not necessary.

14. Middle school practices at the same site as the high school needs some clarification.

15. Gatekeepers – A suggestion is to have a training prior to the state meet for gate keepers.
   - Reword in the rules with the new scoring to not treat profane language as unsportsmanlike and instead deduct team points.

Nordic (Dustin Williamson):

**Class A Nordic** – Great meet and great job by Stark’s Hill. Course profile was flat then steep then flat. Parking was tough. Should set two tracks set for Classical race. No indoor facilities.

**Class B Nordic** – Some grooming issues because the head groomer was sick.
   - Shorter coaches’ meetings and possibly be virtual.
   - Most coaches were in favor of having all three classes at one venue. Must be at a venue that has overnight lodging, lodge space, indoor space for awards, and plenty of parking. Bib colors should be different for each class. Send all classes together in the pursuit.

Coaches would like a restriction on glide wax, but not on kick wax. No glide wax higher than LF low floral). This happens at some college races.

2019-2020 BULLETIN: The 2019-2020 Ski Bulletin was reviewed and updated.

2020 RACE SCHEDULES: Scott Walker raised the possibility of moving the Alpine State Championships to a week earlier. The idea of a per gender day was discussed. Coaches would be willing to move dates to open venues. The weekend prior to the vacation week might be too early. The Friday/Saturday to start vacation week (February 15 and 16).

Venues:

**Alpine** – Black Mountain and Shawnee Peak will only host prior to or after vacation. Sunday River may be open to hosting during vacation week. Mike Bisson with communicate with them. Alpine States may be held on Thursday/Friday, February 13/14 for both classes, if a venue is not willing to host during vacation week. Shawnee Peak and Black Mountain may not be willing to host during vacation.
Minutes of the MPA
Ski Committee
March 20, 2019

Nordic – Monday/Tuesday, February 17/18, availability of venues. The coaches enjoyed going early in
vacation week.

Format – Classes A, B, and C together was proposed by the Farmington Ski Club and they would like
to host.

- Titcomb Mountain, Black Mountain, Presque Isle, and Fort Kent could host all three for the
  first time.

On a MOTION by Hall/Brackett, it was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 4-0, to explore the proposal from
Titcomb Mountain and the Farmington Ski Club and to host all three classes at the same site with the
following year in Aroostook County. Awards would need to be at Mt. Blue High School. The committee
would like to ensure that Fort Kent and Presque Isle get an opportunity to host.

OTHER:

Helmets – The committee would like to adjust follow the FIS rule. Enforcement of the rule that is
inconsistent with FIS standards caused confusion throughout the championships. Mike Bisson will
work with the Sports Medicine Committee and use the FIS stamp as the approved helmet.

NEX T MEETING DATE: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at the
MPA office at 9:00 a.m.

CHAIR: On a MOTION from Brackett/Hall, Thomas Plourde was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED as the
Ski Committee Chair for 2019-2020.

ADJOURNMENT: On a MOTION by Brackett/Hall, it was VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the
meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bisson
Assistant Executive Director

/tjm
3/21/19

wddata\ski\2019\minutes 3-20-19