



**MIAA Ski Committee Meeting
September 29, 2022, 10am
Minutes**

Attendance:

- **Non-Voting:** Steve Dubzinski (Assistant Director MIAA/MSAA), Mark Casale (Alpine Tournament Director), Joseph Miller (Nordic Tournament Director), Jerry Marchegiani (Guest: President of North Shore Ski League)
- **Voting:** Art Reilly, Craig Genualdo, Greg Vouros, Matthew Ricard, Scott Mighill, Tim Collins, Hilary Greene, Stephanie Ridolfi, Jen Cotton-Herman, Jeff Maidment

1. Introduction and Welcome: Steve Dubzinski

2. Election of Officers:

- a. Chair: Greg Vouros
 - i. Unanimously approved (10-0-0)
- b. Vice Chair: Art Reilly
 - i. Unanimously approved (10-0-0)
- c. Secretary: Jen Cotton-Herman
 - i. Unanimously approved (10-0-0)

3. Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2022

- a. Jerry Marchegiani brought up discussion about scoring
 - i. Jerry Marchegiani was glad that the question about alternates was cleared up for this year, but now has a question about scoring using timing vs. points
 - ii. Jerry Marchegiani reported that presidents have complained for a long time about schools bringing a large number of athletes and then picking and choosing who would compete for state title the day of; feels this is inequitable because these teams have more athletes and can see who places best
 1. Jerry Marchegiani reported presidents feel that the team competition should be limited to 5 participants that are designated before that day, and the rest of the athletes could still come and compete in individual competition
 2. Mark Casale suggested using the USCSA model for qualification and scoring
 - a. This limits the amount of athletes you can race in the championship

3. Mark Casale reported that there has also been a suggestion to use point system (100 for first place, 99 for second, and so on)
4. Scott Mighill said the Mass Bay Ski League East coaches like the system as it is now
- iii. Jerry Marchegiani would like to see a smaller committee research this and make a proposal for a rule change; there was some agreement that this could be helpful
- b. Art Reilly motioned to approve; Tim Collins seconded
 - i. Unanimously approved (10-0-0)

4. Conflict of Interest Forms

- a. Signed and handed in

5. Update of sites for Nordic and Alpine

- a. Alpine:
 - i. Steve Dubzinski visited Berkshire East and reported they are excited about the prospect of hosting the tournament; Berkshire East might be better as a mountain in terms of terrain, but there are more amenities, etc. at Wachusett
 1. This is a tradeoff, but it is also the reason we have continued talking about alternating between the two
 2. Steve Dubzinski noted it is also good to maintain relationships with two mountains in case something happens at one and we need to make a last-minute move
 - ii. The plan is for the 2023 Tournament to be at Berkshire East, and to alternate between Berkshire East and Wachusett moving forward
- b. Nordic:
 - i. Hilary Greene reported that the Vermont venue has been great; most reliable snow and good terrain
 - ii. Craig Genuardo posed the question whether there is enough lead time from qualification to competition for school districts to approve traveling out of state?
 1. Steve Dubzinski recommended that schools have the possibility of this trip approved preliminarily in case they do qualify

6. Thoughts on State Championships

- a. Nordic Format
 - i. Art Reilly asked if we are okay to use Ski Patrol as the required Athletic Trainer
 1. Agreement that this was likely fine; Steve Dubzinski will double-check this
 - ii. Mark Casale motioned to approve; Tim Collins seconded
 1. Unanimously approved (10-0-0)
- b. Alpine Format
 - i. Tentative Tournament Information outlined by Committee, led by Mark Casale:
 1. Date: 2/28/2023
 2. Site: Berkshire East
 3. Registration: 7:30am

4. Coaches Meeting: 7:45am (discussion about just doing one Coaches Meeting) (7am lift for coaches to inspect before this meeting)
 5. Course Officials Meeting/Gatekeepers: 8:30am
 6. Athlete Inspection: 8:15am-9:15am
 7. Start of Races: 9:30am
 8. Individual Awards: presented as soon as possible followed by Team Awards, when available
- ii. Jerry Marchegiani brought up discussion of forerunners:
1. Jerry Marchegiani said that last year all alternates were allowed to forerun, but proposed to do as in the past: just have the mountain supply two of their workers to forerun
 - a. Mark Casale brought up concern that any forerunners be like ability to the athletes
 - b. Mark Casale offered the possibility of asking high school course workers to forerun
 - i. Mark Casale said if we do use high school students, it must be fair to all teams—and there will be no “insertions” of forerunners this year
 2. Decision: will just ask mountain to handle the assignment of forerunners
- iii. Mark Casale brought up discussion of awards:
1. In the past, we have awarded the winner and runner-up
 - a. Mark Casale reported there were questions last year about why we didn't do top three: gold, silver, bronze
 - b. Committee determined this is consistent with other sports—keep the same
 2. Hilary Greene brought up follow-up discussion from last meeting about recognizing top 15 individual finishers (instead of current practice of recognizing top 10)
 - a. Committee reported this may have been turned down due to cost of additional medals
 - b. Steve Dubzinski will follow up on this possibility
- iv. Committee discussed other edits to Alpine Format document:
1. Reviewed edits to section on “Qualifying Method”:
 - a. Each team will send their top athletes equal to a max of 2 times the number of member teams by gender
 - b. Each league will designate 2 alternates per gender. Any changes must be made 24 hours prior to the start of the race. Alternates will not be asked to race on the day of the race.
 2. Insert clarifications for coaches:
 - a. Coaches will inspect courses for security measures before the coaches meeting
 - b. Don't need a mid-day meeting, but coaches have 15 minutes after last racer to protest a fault (it is a “fault” until conclusion of protest period, then becomes a “disqualification”)

- c. Keep midday coaches meeting on the schedule, "as needed"
 - 3. Take D-11-f out of document, currently states that "no banners will be permitted on site," but this is already not enforced and Committee feels having banners on site is fine
 - 4. Question about USSA rules applying where an MIAA rule does not cover the situation
 - a. This is already covered in D-5
- v. Jerry Marchegiani had a question about D-7 ("Race Course") and the distance between open slalom gates
 - 1. Mark Casale confirmed that the 10-11m between open slalom gates will be upheld
- vi. Mark Casale brought up discussion of race bibs
 - 1. Mark Casale reported that last year's paper bibs were not adequate (they were blowing off or being ripped off by gates, etc.) and were not befitting of a state championship event; suggested new lycra bibs would be best
 - 2. Hilary Greene reported that Nordic still had bibs and suggested the possibility of Nordic and Alpine sharing a set of bibs
 - 3. Jeff Maidment made a suggestion that the sites (Berkshire East and Wachusett) might sponsor new bibs; also suggested that each set could sponsor one set and the boys and girls could alternate each year which set they wore
 - 4. Mark Casale reported that a coach suggested athletes could buy their bibs and keep them for a souvenir
 - 5. Suggestion to look into possibility of having sites sponsor new sets of bibs
- vii. Hilary Greene motioned to approve; Matthew Ricard seconded
 - 1. Unanimously approved (10-0-0)

7. DEI Update

- a. Steve Dubzinski reported that it is a recommendation for athletes to take this course to play; it is not a mandate
- b. Steve Dubzinski also reported that MIAA is working on making this course specific to Massachusetts

8. Rule Change Proposal Vote

- a. Jeff Maidment recorded votes

Meeting concluded at 12:37pm