

Minutes for Nordic Division Steering Committee Meeting
Saturday, April 23, 2016
Sisters Parks and Recreation District
Coffield Center
1750 West McKineey Butte Rd.
Sisters, OR 97759

Present in Person:

Eric Martin - Nordic Division Director (Voting)
Laurie Martin - Southern League Rep (Voting)
Kelly Crowther - Northern League Rep (Voting)
Gene Hyde - Nordic Division Commissioner (Voting)
Jinny Martin - Nordic Division Secretary (non-voting)

Present by Phone:

Pete Reinhardt - Nordic Division Assistant Director (Voting)

Meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m.

1. PRELIMINARIES

1.1 Minutes from Fall Meeting.

MOTION: Gene Hyde made motion to approve minutes, and Laurie Martin seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous approval.

1.2 Treasurer's Report

Discussion:

- Money paid by Nordic Division to Willamette Pass for a Southern League race was reimbursed in full to the Nordic Division account by racers' trail passes and sponsorship money that was received after the cost was incurred.

MOTION: Laurie Martin made motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Kelly Crowther seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous approval.

1.3 Budget for 2016-17

Discussion:

- Medallions for state meet awards are purchased every three years. In 2016, the Nordic Division paid for a 3-yr-supply of medallions.
- Based on the number of people attending the 2016 awards banquet, budgeted for 300 racers, coaches and volunteers eating at the banquet.
- Records show that an additional 75-80 guests purchased their own banquet meals at \$10 per meal. Cost of these meals is not part of the budget but must be considered when ordering the food.
- Training courses for coaches will not cost as much next year, because fewer new coaches will need to take the courses
- ONC now has sufficient funds to donate \$400 for state meet awards.

- Noted that the budget has a \$2,000 surplus built in - and it was discussed that the Nordic Division should be building a surplus, rather than trying to reduce fees to reach a zero balance.

MOTION: Laurie Martin made the motion to approve the Budget for 2016-16. Gene Hyde seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous approval.

1.3.1 Nordic Division Participation Fees for 2016-17

MOTION: Gene Hyde made the motion to leave the Nordic Division Participation fees set at \$10 per skier. Laurie Martin seconded.

VOTE: Unanimous approval

Discussion:

- The Nordic Division participation fees pay state meet expenses and pay for Nordic coaches' training courses (First Aid and Fundamentals of Coaching)
- OISRA participation fees for the Nordic Division skiers are \$5 less than the OISRA participation fees for the Alpine Division skiers. In 2015, the OISRA Board members from the Alpine Division initiated the decision for the Alpine Division to subsidize the Nordic Division skiers to help encourage the merging of the leagues.
- Contribution to the Nordic Division from the Tire Factory sponsorship is based on registration numbers, so the Nordic Division got a larger percentage of the sponsorship money because of increased numbers this season.

2. OLD BUSINESS

2.1 Sponsorship Report

Discussion:

- Everyone appreciates JD's work for getting all the sponsorship contributions. (See Appendix I for JD's Sponsorship Report.)
- Having sponsorship cover trail passes for the two joint races and for the state meet reduced team expenses for the Mt. View team.
- Both leagues decided not to have league dues and to get sponsorship money to cover race expenses.
- Eric Martin will pursue sponsorship money again from Pine Ridge Inn for the Northern League race at Mt. Bachelor.
- Hope to find sponsors in the Portland area for Northern League races at low level (\$200 commitment). Want to find funding for Mt. Hood Meadows Pursuit; Teacup Race; and Time trial.
- Appendix II shows the amounts of sponsorship generated for the 2015-16 race season.

2.2 Review State Meet and Joint Races

• Start Procedures for Mass Start Races

Discussion:

- Use three waves in joint events and state meet to help with congestion on course.
- Recommend using 30:30:40 skier per wave. Try this out on a Joint race before using it at the state meet.
- Have the option for any coach to put varsity skiers in the first wave if these skiers do not end up in that wave according to placement based on previous races.

- **Start Procedures for Interval Start Races**

Discussion:

- Goal to reduce the number of skiers a fast skier must pass.
- Talked through variations that were much different from the procedures used this season:
 - start fastest skiers first with 15-second interval starts;
 - start with a group of fastest skiers first, then start the slowest skiers, then start the intermediate skiers
- Suggestion for having a short course option was well-accepted.
- Recommend that a 20-second interval start with the slowest skiers going out first is an incremental change to use for the interval start joint race and 2017 state championships interval start race.

- **Late Start**

Discussion:

- Emphasize that skiers start at their designated start times - make every effort to make this happen
- Late skiers could go in a separate "start lane" and start without interfering with any other skier's start.
- Late skiers could go to the end of the race.
- Coaches will be told at the beginning of the race how late skiers will be handled.
- Jury decides if or how a late skier is penalized.
- Importance of having a race worker lining up the racers
- Having someone on a PA system would help
- Having someone trained on how to use the clock would help

- **Tracking Rule for Classic Races**

Discussion:

- Want to come to a general agreement about using the tracking rule.
- Problem is not when a fast skier passes the slowest skiers - slowest skiers are like a stationary object to get around. Fast skier does not need to use tracking in that situation. Problem is when a fast skier is passing skiers who started about 3 - 6 minutes ahead of him/her. The intermediate skier will naturally speed up a little when being passed, making the fastest skiers work extra hard to get around them.
- If everyone agrees to use the tracking rule - as a choice that a faster skier has for certain situations, then there is less confusion among the skiers. Now some are used to using the tracking rule and others are not used to using the tracking rule.
- Faster skiers do not need to use this rule very often, but when a fast skier is tired and the skier he is passing is also tired, especially toward the end of the race, then the slower skier is impeding the faster skier by not getting out of the track to let the faster skier pass.
- "Tracking" for a skate race is different. The skier who is in front can pick the best line, but must make room for a faster skier to pass to one side. The skier being overtaken can decide where to allow room (on which side) for the overtaking skier to pass. Slower skier cannot position himself in the middle of the course - that is a blocking maneuver.
- Steering Committee recommends teaching (and using) the tracking rule for all classic races.

- Exception to tracking rule is the relay race - no tracking allowed, except if the skier being "tracked" has a different color bib and is being lapped by a skier from a faster team.
- **Seeding for Interval Start Races**
Discussion:
 - Northern League coaches are used to using 5 seeds and Southern League coaches are used to using as many seeds as there are skiers of one gender in the largest team.
 - Some coaches want more randomness in the way the seeding works.
 - Other coaches want more ability to position their racers according to skill level.
 - Change the Nordic Policies so that seeding for joint races and state meet races is not defined as one skier per team per seed and allow Steering Committee to make decisions about seeding joint events and the state meet annually.
 - Seeding for league races is still determined by league SOP's. NOTE that NL SOP's have wording about seeding that should be deleted, because it is not relative to current practices for seeding NL races.

MOTION: Make the following changes to the OISRA Race Rules 10.2. ~~Delete strikethroughs~~ and ***add bold italics.***

VOTE: Unanimous approval.

10.2 Race Entry: Each league shall set uniform entry procedures and deadlines.

10.2.1 Interval starts

- ~~Each seed will contain no more than one seeding position for each team. Each seed will have the order of teams determined by a computer generated random order system.~~
- ~~Each team is given the full allotment of seeding positions regardless of whether or not they have a full team to fill all the seeding positions. The coach of each team will choose which seeding position(s) will be given to their skier(s)~~
- Separate ordering of the seeds will take place for the Girls and the Boys teams for each discipline.
- ***Procedures for seeding for interval start joint races and the state championships will be decided by the Steering Committee annually.***

The Nordic Steering Committee decided on the following Procedures for Seeding for 2017 Interval Start Joint Race and 2017 State Meet Interval Start Race:

- **Coaches place skiers in 10 seeds per gender for the 2017 Interval Start Joint Race: seed 1 will be slowest skiers and seed 10 will be fastest skiers - seed 1 leaves the start first. The order of racers in the seeds will be determined by a computer generated random order system.**
- **Placement of skiers in 2017 State Meet Interval Start race will be according to race results from league races. There will be no seeds. Coaches will be sent a draft of the start order list prior to the list being finalized and will have the option to change the position of any skier on their team who has not been seeded correctly for their skill level.**
- **Relay races at the Joint races**
Discussion:

- Main consideration about whether to have relay races at the joint races is how different coaches feel about the time required for relay races.
- Some coaches who travel to Central Oregon for a joint race feel that the extra time needed for the relay races makes the day too long, considering their drive time home
- Other coaches who travel to Central Oregon for a joint race feel that the addition of the relay race to the event makes their trip more "worth it" by having more skiing competition to make their long trip worthwhile.
- Comparison of the difference between the length of time for the first joint event (XC Invitational) and the second joint event (SportHill Open). Things that were changed to save time: started individual race earlier, shortened relay course, started varsity relay wave first and JV second, no award ceremony.
- Some liked the idea of making the relay races optional.
- Others wanted to provide experience of a large field of skiers in the relay races prior to state meet so skiers are better prepared for state meet event.
- Discussed the relay events as opportunities for racers to develop sprint skills in a racing environment, which helps their overall development as racers.
- Considered having only varsity relay races at joint races.
- Ask JD what he wants for his XC Oregon Invitational meet. Want to let him direct how this event is organized. JD does not give team awards at his event, except through the relay team recognition.
- **! ACTION ITEM:** Jinny will contact JD and ask him what his preferences are.
- Readdress issue in the fall after more discussion.
- **Point of Agreement: Have varsity relay first so teams that do not have JV teams do not have to wait for JV team relay races. Also, is easy to cut out JV relay race if weather is bad.**
- **Race Program for State Meet**
Discussion:
 - Considered JD's suggestion to think about having a mass start classic race at state.
 - Consensus to keep the race program as it has been: mass start freestyle on Friday and interval start classic on Saturday (plus relay).
- **State Meet Banquet**
Discussion:
 - Plans for 2016 Banquet were based on an estimate of 500 people - and only 375 people attended. The estimate determined the location and the amount of food ordered. Will work off of a different estimate for next year.
 - Recommend to state meet committee starting food at 2:30 p.m.
 - Recommend to state meet committee to start awards ceremony at 3:45 p.m.
 - Remember to recognize sponsors at banquet.
- **Joint race food**
 - Agreement that want to have race food available longer - faster skiers wait until after racing to eat and volunteers want food later also.
 - Everyone likes soup - and also realize it is a decision for volunteers to make, since they do the work for providing soup, set-up and clean-up, etc.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- **Race Schedules**

- Southern League race dates are set - but schedule is flexible to allow for joint races on all dates. However, prefer that Jamboree and League Finals are not joint race dates.
 - Northern League will wait until after PNSA sets their schedule. Will do their best to work around PNSA race dates - but may have some problems this year with working around holiday weekends as well as PNSA race dates.
 - Might have a scheduling conflict for a Northern League race being scheduled on the same date as a PNSA race.
 - Each league hosts 5 league races. PNSA skiers must attend 3 high school races. A PNSA skier can miss high school league races in order to go to PNSA races and can still race in other high school races to qualify to go to state.
 - Skiers can submit a "hardship request" if circumstances are beyond the control of the skier for not being able to attend 3 high school races - illness or race cancellations, etc. Executive Director makes decisions on hardship requests - and his main criteria for granting hardship is the good faith effort (plans) made by the student to meet the OISRA requirements.
 - Goal of scheduling high school races is to have enough racing options available so that any skier who wants to go to the state meet can qualify to go.
 - Northern League discussed the possibility of having a race (and perhaps a joint race) on a Monday of a holiday weekend.
 - Pros: students are out of school. Ski areas are less crowded on last day of a three-day weekend.
 - Cons: parents (race volunteers) and coaches who have other jobs are not as available on these days
 - **Agreement to have 2017 state meet at Mt. Bachelor. Date for state meet is set. (February 24 - 25, 2017)**
 - Northern League has set two race dates: Dec. 10th at Mt. Bachelor and February 18th at Hoodoo (night race).
 - May be able to schedule only one joint race - instead of two.
 - Acknowledged it is hard to get a large sponsorship that covers trail passes for smaller league races. Big sponsors want big numbers.
 - Considered the possibility of having a race on a weekday (Wednesday afternoon) in Central Oregon - same pros and cons as a Monday race (above). Also, would help only the PNSA racers in the Central Oregon schools.
- ACTION ITEM:** Will schedule a meeting with a few coaches from each league sometime in the summer (after PNSA schedule is set), specifically for determining race schedules.
- **Allowing J-1 Skiers to be guests at the state meet**
MOTION: Laurie Martin moved to change the OISRA Nordic Policies to allow a "J-1" skier, who is a high school student, to be a guest at the Nordic Division State Championships without the school, coach, or the student submitting the paperwork that is required for guests who want to represent the school they attend. Gene Hyde seconded.
VOTE: Unanimous approval.

Discussion:

- Change name of this category of skier to be a "J" skier so it is not confused with USSA categories of skiers.

- Clarified that a student who attended no OISRA league races can submit a "J" form and be allowed to ski as a GUEST at the state championships.
- Clarified that if a GUEST at the state meet wants to represent the school they attend, then there are other forms that must be submitted.
- Clarified that the Nordic Steering Committee reviews any requests from students who want to be GUESTS at the Nordic State Meet.

- **Changes in Head Coaches**
 - Ron Crawford will no longer be the Bend High head coach. The current Bend High assistant coach, Libby Hayden, will become head coach, and possibly Isaiah Burkhardt will be boys head coach. Parents (Don Carter and Janet Schwarz) will be involved at the league meetings as well as helping the coaches.
 - Russell Johnson will no longer be head coach at Crook County. Currently do not have a replacement. Both Summit and Mt. View coaches are willing to include Crook County skiers in their on-snow practices if a parent from Crook County is willing to drive the racers to these practices.

- **Limiting Ski Waxes**
 - The Northern League will be making recommendations about limiting waxes used in NL league races. They will not make a rule or do any monitoring - but will make a statement about the health, environmental, and economic consequences of the use of certain waxes.
 - Nordic Division will review the Northern League recommendations and consider adopting them as recommendations in the Nordic Division Policies as well.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Jinny Martin
OISRA Nordic Division Secretary

Appendix 1

Sponsorship Report OISRA Nordic 15/16 season

prepared by J.D. Downing, XC Oregon & Summit HS assistant

Summary

The 15/16 season went exceptionally well with new or increased sponsorship support for most Northern League races, the 2nd joint regular season meet, and State Meet.

Based on budget reports, sponsorship contributions met or exceeded all essential cost to OISRA for all Northern League races, both joint meets, and the entire State Meet.

Naming rights for each individual State Meet race gave premier sponsors added value for their exceptional support of HS racing. This system also seemed to work better than the originally-proposed overall State Meet sponsor.

Areas To Improve

- a. Repeated and enthusiastic PA announcements recognizing both League and State sponsors at all events is a clear area for improvement.

- b. Pre-season education of race organizers of which sponsor is actually sponsoring any given HS event and the exact amount of funding available.

- c. Visual branding displays for sponsors at all races. This adds color to the events, but also serves as a critical bridge to future sponsors. New sponsors or friends/family that see visual branding will make the connection that "hey, our Company X could be a sponsor of one of these races".

- d. The best visual branding is wind feathers and not banners. Feathers are significantly easier to place in stadium areas in all weather conditions and can often be used as a practical course marker.

- e. More sponsorship opportunities on a low cost or commitment level (\$100-200) as well as for sponsorship opportunities (all \$ levels) for specific future projects or programs.

Proposed Plan for 2016/17

- a. XC Oregon is fully committed to the XC Oregon Invitational with funds already budgeted which guarantees all costs for that joint race.
- b. J.D. will meet with Tim Gibbons from ONSF in the coming weeks following the April 23 meetings. A similar support amount from ONSF would be outstanding.
- c. After the ONSF meeting, J.D. will speak with Sporthill which is another very likely source for continued support.
- d. Continued CORA support seems highly likely. Tire Factory contract runs until?
- e. We can find several sponsors for Northern League races to supplement the \$366 dollars earmarked for Northern League events currently in the Nordic Division account.
- f. A good objective is to determine where we stand with existing sponsors by June, then adjust the sponsorship proposals around specific targeted entities matched with specific events.
- g. The overall key for 2016/17 is to have earlier communication at all levels so sponsors and Nordic Division can finalize as many sponsorship plans as possible latest by the Fall Meetings. With the overall merger not taking up so much time on all levels, this should be an easier objective to realize.

Appendix II

Sponsorship Donations - 2015-16 (created April 20, 2016)

Southern League races:	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
Jamboree	Central Oregon Nordic Club	All expenses: Ribbons, candy bars, toilets, food paid by CONC
Willamette Pass	True North Associates East (Jimmy Johns)	\$300.00
Mt. Shasta	Henderson's	\$500.00
Guy Mattioda Memorial	Guy Mattioda Memorial Fund	\$200.00
	TOTAL	\$1000 + direct payment for all Jamboree expenses

Northern League races:	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
Dec. 12th at Mt. Bachelor	Pine Ridge Inn	\$300.00
Hoodoo Night Race	Arbor Builders	\$300.00
general contribution	XC Oregon	Paid directly for toilets for Dec. 12th race (\$200)
	TOTAL	\$600 + direct payment for toilets

Joint Races	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
XC Oregon Invitational	XC Oregon -198 racers	JD Downing, from XC Oregon, coordinated the payment for ALL expenses for this event. Trail passes, toilets, and awards were all paid by XC Oregon and ONSF.
SportHill Open	SportHill - 157 racers	JD Downing, from XC Oregon, coordinated the payment for ALL expenses for this event. Trail passes and toilets were all paid by SportHill and ONSF.
	TOTAL	Direct payment for ALL Joint Race expenses

State Meet	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
	Central Oregon Radiology	\$3,500.00
	Oregon Nordic Ski Foundation	\$2,000.00
	Tire Factory	\$3,244.00
	Private donation in the name of the Central Oregon Radiology	\$500.00
	TOTAL	\$9,244.00