

2019 Fall High School Ski Coach's Meeting Notes

October 27, 2019

Paid members present: Yarmouth, Maranacook, Mt Abram, Leavitt, Telstar, Camden, OH, EL, Greeley, Skowhegan, Hamden, John Bapst, Brunswick, Monmouth, Fort Kent, Ashland, Freeport, Fryeburg, CMSC. Others present but not voting (membership needs to be paid): Falmouth, MB, Orono, Spruce.

Motion (Sally Bean) pay Dustin Williamson \$300 for website; passed unanimously

UMF-Andrew Willihan, alpine coach and snow sports director. Opportunities for ME skiers for skiing in college. USCSA racing, division 3 mantra of education and development. Compete in Reynolds division which includes UMF and St. Joseph's, Bowdoin and UMO (athletes can go on to National level in this division); guest teams Bates and Colby (already div 1).

State Meet issues from last year:

A alpine:

Mark Cyr- wants coaches to be able to set courses; didn't happen last year.

Final day results of combined alpine has never been posted.

Protest procedure didn't work; "you can't protest because it has been decided already"; didn't follow the procedure and hear the evidence.

Also one athlete didn't appear on the results and they wouldn't fix it; they said all evidence had been destroyed even though they had a picture of the results showing that she was missing.

Profanity issue that didn't have due process; not a typical issue, GK just said that the skier swore as he went by (no problem).

Ted Hall-change the profanity rule to an automatic referral to the jury rather than an automatic expulsion- maybe a range of consequences.

Injured athlete in the course, potential spinal injury, too long for a toboggan to get there.

B alpine:

Yarmouth had a girl that was DSQ'd for missing the final gate, no GK but no protest was allowed. Motion to allow the use of film in defense of an athlete. passed 16-2
Another injury and still too long for a patrol.

Motion: there needs to be a toboggan and med kit on course at state meets 20-0 (unanimous)

A nordic:

no issues

B+C nordic:

no issues

Awards at states: Ted said they tried to streamline the process and it got confusing; suggests we should separate the classes to do awards; coaches agreed.

Other issues for Ski Committee

Buzz Bean- asked Ted if there is anything being considered at the meeting this week since we got caught short last year not being asked about the scoring proposal, which is very hard on small schools and many coaches don't support.

Ted- just trying to work out details of alpine state championships, will get info out ASAP.

Buzz-and is the current plan for everyone to go to the county for next year?

Ted- yes, not enough sites willing to host down here.

Buzz: The SOC will host Nordic races.

Carl Theriault- the plan for this year makes it impossible for kids to do both alpine and nordic, not fair to kids who want to do both; asks for that to be considered when making changes.

Mark C- asking the MPA to reconsider co-op teams in light of the new scoring, since a co-op team won last year.

Ted-motive for changing the scoring: ski committee didn't feel comfortable giving a score to something less than a full team; came up with the new scoring system to justify that.

Chris Easton asked where that was coming from, athletes and parents don't know the team size when they see the published scores. New system doesn't change that but potentially hurts small teams.

Motion-(Sally) change the scoring so that the highest number of points is based on the # of entrants. Chris Bryant made amendment to either do it this way OR the old way with any # of ghosts. Amendment passed unanimously and motion passed unanimously. Note: if we continue to use World Cup scoring and there were 50 starters first place would be 50 points, second would be 49, points, etc. Last year first got 200 points, second 199, etc. This meant a small school would be penalized 150 points if they had only 3 finishers and there were 50 starters, which is unfair. (The WC system is never used in Team scoring, it's only used for individual scoring over the season.)

Mark C- motion to do away with co-op teams in skiing based on our scoring. Dustin says that this is a full MPA decision, not ski committee, so we can't make a rec. to the ski committee to change this, but we can ask for the ski committee to be aware of this and communicate to the group that makes the co-op decisions that there is no good reason to have co-op teams with our scoring.

Motion to go to individual disciplines: passed unanimously

Nordic meeting.

Dustin Williamson reviewed season schedule.

Buzz: U16 trip: much more expensive (over \$450) to stay this year, can we do without a bus? Most parents go anyway, we can get kids there. Once there they are set. Work on car-pooling, etc. proactively as soon as we know the team. We will not have a bus at Mountain Top. Tim EWhiton, Team Leader, agreed it was unnecessary as we stay on site and don't move at all.

EHSC at Gore, will do similar to what Aaron did when he was there. Looking into local bussing once kids are there.

Jon Weston- state meet schedule: what is being discussed for next year?

Dustin-there is a proposal now to have all state meets in the county next year.

Jon- thinks that it is a problem to take everyone in class A there so far away from their fans, etc. Also thinks we should consider qualifying for state meet through conference championships; this could justify a rotation including the county every 5 years or so.

Justin Fereshetian- is the state meet site choice a bid process?

Dustin- the MPA solicits sites.

Justin- would be good to have a publicized bid process that is open to all.

Carl- the idea of all 3 classes at one site was considered last year and Titcomb said they could do it- this is a trial year. May not stay this way in the future.

Buzz- If the weather isn't good it will be difficult to do 3 races in a day.

Carl- qualifier for EHSC and U16's; would like to propose that we try an alternative.

- 1) use state meet
- 2) run qualifier in the county if nothing else is there
- 3) have one qualifier from the county championships

Emily Cartwright- if it was in the county, we wouldn't get most of the good skiers to go there to qualify

Sally- issues with fairness in choosing teams when there are separate races at states, kids aren't racing head to head. Also issues with bringing everyone north. Suggests that we could use previous years' results and go with half the # of qualifiers.

Justin- want to use state meet

Buzz- lets see how it works this year before we go there

Lauren - her athletes won't be able to participate in state meet because it is during vacation.

Chris B- good with 1 kid from the county being named, could also accept the winner of each state meet.

Tim W- doesn't want any quota; says we should go to the county.

Motion-Carl- anyone who wins the pursuit states in any class, also, the top HS finisher and top U16 finisher boy and girl from county championships would be automatic. Passed 12-2. This will be on a trial basis and we will reevaluate next year to see if it works well.

Dustin- MPA has asked for a list of elite events so that the process is consistent for all schools. He has a list of "Elite Events" to take to the MPA for approval.

Glide wax protocol: motion that at the state meet only CH glide wax will be used- savings of time, cost, environment, health, etc. Amendment-Carl- LF for state meet and qualifier, no top coats. Amendment passed 16-2, amended motion passed 15-1

Chris E-motion to step down to CH next year (glide). passed 18-0

Steve DeAngelis- if the MPA agrees to do the LF thing, would like to see some kind of a contract for coaches, athletes, and parents to sign saying that they will honor the rule. It was agreed we would develop a contract to be signed by athletes, coaches and parents. Buzz will talk to Roger Knight about supporting this.

Selection race:

Feb. 29, snow date March 1. Bids from Sugarloaf and Black, no word from others. \$20 for either pre-reg, post reg more. Justin could host in Waterville at Quarry road, made motion to do it there. Passed 9-0.

There is a committee that makes the decisions about postponements, changes, etc. NOT THE HOST SITE.

Right now the committee is trip leaders plus Chris E., Chris B, Steve D, Dustin. Steve wants to pass his position along, Kaitlyn B is willing; committee needs to decide. Chris B also thinks it is time for someone to take his place.

Justin- wants to see a process in place for choosing trip leaders.

Sally- Concerns about trying to make this happen without enough forethought; issues with bank accounts, being sure the prospective trip leaders have enough experience for the responsibility especially with regards to budget (problem several years ago with a trip going way over budget). It would have to be planned out over several years so they can make arrangements per the NENSA bid cycle.

Tim Whiton also mentioned the benefit of continuity in having a trip leader for a period of years.

Suggests to work on ideas during this season and try to come up with a process that can plan for trip leaders in the future; have a succession of leadership, etc.

Meeting adjourned 5 PM.

**2019 Fall State Alpine Ski Coach's Meeting Notes (taken/reported by Ronn Gifford)
October 27, 2019**

Schools represented: Maranacook, Mt. Blue, Camden Hills, Falmouth, Yarmouth, Greeley, Bangor, John Bapst, Brewer, Orono, Hampden Academy, Skowhegan, Oxford Hills, Edward Little, Mt. Abram, Fort Kent, Telstar, Mountain Valley (may have missed someone)

The following items were covered:

- 1. Confirmation that the state alpine selection races will be held at Black Mountain on Sunday, February 23rd. Time and details to be announced.**
- 2. Confirmation that the alpine Eastern High School Championships will be held at Cannon/Mittersill, in Franconia, NH, March 5, 6, 7, 8. Schedule and details to be announced.**
- 3. Confirmation that Mark Cyr will continue to be the head coach for the Maine team with Ronn Gifford and Tip Kimball as assistants, but if anyone would like to assist or see changes in the coaching staff, please reach out to Mark Cyr.**
- 4. All items that need follow up by Ronn Gifford, Alpine liaison, at the MPA meeting slated for Wednesday, October 30th were reviewed and listed as the following:**
 - a. Confirm status of cooperative agreements and teams and the impact of any new scoring system.**
 - b. Confirm any classification changes.**
 - c. Confirm any new rule changes.**
 - d. Confirm state meet sites, dates. Note that with the state team selection races on Sunday, 2/23, it could be advantageous travel wise to some teams to have one of the state meets on the Thurs/Fri of vacation week if possible.**
 - e. Discuss mid term week(s) and it's impact on the ski schedule (schools used to all be on the same week and now it ranges over a three week period).**

f. Bring voted on motion for team scoring to the committee for review and decision.

g. Confirm course setting request by coaches for the state meets, regardless of venue.

h. Confirm sportsmanship disqualification rule change, how decisions will be made and what are the levels of discipline to be used.

i. Bring coach's association voted upon motion to request that video be allowed to be used in defense of a disqualified athlete, but not for creation of a disqualification for consideration by the committee.

j. Bring coach's association voted upon motion to require a first aid responder (ski patrol) and a toboggan to be placed and available at the start area throughout state meet races.

k. Bring alpine coach's voted upon motion to not have Class A travel to the county for a state meet. Vote by the Class A coaches in attendance was 8 in favor of the motion with 1 vote in opposition.

l. Bring to the committee a series of comments (no motions made and no votes taken) made by the Class B coaches in attendance regarding the hosting of their state meet in the county as well as the now understood proposal to have Big Rock host the GS races, Lonesome Pine host the Slaloms and either one or both of the two Nordic sites host races. Comments covered the following:

1. Comment from the Fort Kent coach that Lonesome Pines is definitely too short to host a GS, but has good length for a slalom.

2. With that said, the overall pitch or flatness of the Lonesome Pine site was raised as a significant concern.

3. All were supportive of traveling to the county in general with some differentiation between those that would not mind doing a split between Lonesome Pines and Big Rock to some who would prefer to not split the event with both Slalom and Giant Slalom held at Big Rock.

4. The added travel and logistics were of concern in dealing with the split offer, stated to be 1-1.5 hours between venues in P.I. and Ft. Kent.

5. Concerns stated with Big Rock hosting and being surprised by any added fees (ski tickets, tuning rental fees, etc.). It is understood that any site can require additional fees, but it is best to know that up front as part of the package so it is paid prior to even getting on site.

6. A few comments about Big Rock that were stated the last time Class B raced there were brought up as reminders: adequate amount of B netting particularly down on the lower, narrow section of the GS hill, the ability to start the races up

higher to utilize more of the pitch the mountain has, solidify the desire for the coaches be permitted to set the state meet courses.

m. Bring to the committee the coach's concerns about state meets being held during normal school operating days. Issues in support of this were: concerns regarding the northern or far distance school's travel schedule (likely needing to take a third day off just to get to the site), hard for some coaches to get out of school as well to coach the team's (a few coaches teach at a different school than they coach at) and obviously kids missing school as well.

n. There was also discussion about the northern schools having to travel 3 out every 4 or 5 years and should there be some sort of sharing of those costs. This was brought up by the southern schools, not those in the county.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM.