



START GATE



SOD COMMITTEE UPDATE #1 Thurs Oct 19, 2023

To the SOD Alpine Community

This Newsletter is a long overdue update of all things SOD and yet it is timely for a bunch of newsworthy changes that have taken place over the last couple of weeks.

First, an update on our activities over the summer. It has been a busy time since the April 22nd meeting of SOD Head Coaches at the Heights. Based on the outcome of that meeting the SOD Committee has been hard at work with the following accomplishments this summer.

SOD Manager

We posted a job listing for a new SOD Manager of Competition and Development (Mgr of C&D) and after carefully reviewing the candidate profiles and interviews, the Hiring committee selected Shawn Letton as the Mgr of C&D. Shawn brings a wealth of knowledge garnered through his time as Program Manager at Beaver Valley, his years as Chair of the SOD Committee and his time heading up Park Scapers. Shawn is off and running having held many meetings with Head Coaches already this season. Shawn is our eyes and ears on the ground working to build programs, consensus and to bring thoughts, ideas and questions back to the Committee.

Memorandum of Understanding

A Committee has worked all summer on updating the SOD MOU (Memo of Understanding) with AOA. It is in its final version ready for signature. We will operate under this MOU for 2023/24 and renew it next summer.

Governance

A Committee is working on a Governance Policy document for SOD. These will be the Rules, regulations and policies under which SOD operates. It will include policies around who can serve, how long terms are, how often terms renew, committees, minutes, meetings, and the nomination process for new members.

New Committee Members!!!

Speaking of new members, we went through a nomination process to select four new members to the Committee. The nominees were reviewed and vetted and interviewed. All candidates had very strong talents and skill sets. Each and every one would have been an excellent member of the Committee. In the end, the four selected were chosen because their skill set and background most closely matched SOD's needs for the near future.

Please join me in welcoming NEW SOD Committee Members:

Tomaz Senk – Regional Liaison / Community Development

Norm Greer – Regional Liaison/ Member Advisory

Laura Misener – Regional Liaison / Governance

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Laura Berry- Secretary / Communications
 Norm Greer - Regional Liaison/ Member Advisory
 Mike Schneider - Athletics/ Governance
 Anna Gerol - Calendar / Results
 Jason Manning - Chair /Treasurer
 Jen Gillard - Chair / Officials / Treasurer
 David Nighswander - Outgoing Chair

The SOD Committee would also like to thank the SOD Selection Committee

Pete Sutcliffe (TSC) along with Laura Berry (SOD), Pat Biggs & Peter Bier (AOA), for their time and efforts.

SOD Schedule!!

Next on the list of summer accomplishments is the Draft SOD Racing Schedule. A big thank you to Anna Gerol for stick-handling this work of art and managing to "keep her eye on the prize"

S-CUP Incredible Events!

SOD is planning to make our Races even more fun and animated with venues providing their own plans to make each Event special.

We have brought Regional Finals into play, and will have a Big Finals for U14 and U16, where the Regions will come together and race each other! Expect more prizing and FUN around the SCUP.

We can't wait to hit the snow for the 2023/24 Season.

SCUP – Race League Entry Fee- \$120

The SOD SCUP Race League fee is a \$30 per race fee for the four race SCUP series. The fees include lift tickets for all athletes and is one of the lowest priced ski race entry fees in the country!

The fees are used to support the host clubs who put on the races for SOD/AOA as well as support the administration of a race series with over 1,800 athletes. The fee is aimed at improving race experience, with a focus on Safe Sport, athlete well-being, and sport development.

We thank the entire race community from head coaches, coaches, officials, technical delegates, athletes and parents for helping create a positive race environment for the 2023/24 SCUP season.



ON

ALPINE ONTARIO ALPIN COACH CONFERENCE 2023

FEATURING INDUSTRY EXPERTS

- Latest Updates from ACA Coach Education System
- Latest equipment tech
- The Next Turn Podcast Panel
- Network with ski coaches from across Ontario

PLUS LIVE STREAM

**REGISTER @
SNOWREG.COM**

SATURDAY OCT 28
Blue Mountain Village Conference Centre
Petun Room

MACKENZIE Investments **Skis & Bikes** **KARBON** **FASKEN**

Further Education Opportunities!!

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recommended to get this Update every year, but is required every two years.

For Level I and Level II Course opportunities please see the [AOA Calendar](#) for both On-line and in person. Level III will be offered Spring of 2024.

These courses are open to Officials, Volunteers, Parents and Coaches.

Do you have questions?

Feel free to contact:

Jen Gillard SOD Officials Chair sodofficials@gmail.com

Nathalene Hagar AOA Officials Chair officials@alpineontario.ca



New Committee Chairs

It has been my privilege to serve this community, but I am stepping down as Chair of the SOD Committee, and today we voted in our new Co-Chairs for the 2023-2024 Season. Please welcome **Jen Gillard** and **Jason Manning**.

Final Words

As mentioned above, I am stepping down from my role as Chair of the SOD Committee. I will remain in the role of Past Chair until I have been replaced in that role as well. At this time, I am moving out West to take on the role of Program Director at Kimberley, BC. Look me up if you are in the neighborhood.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and Thank You's to the entire SOD Committee, Mike Schneider, Anna Gerol, Laura Berry, Jen Gillard, Jason Manning and our newest members, for a relentless effort to move SOD ski racing forward. SOD is in good hands as we move into the new ski season.

Best wishes to all and happy times at dry land until the snow flies.

Dave Nighswander

Dave Nighswander

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