**A red and white sign with a leaf and skis

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**May 21, 2025**

**AOAC Meeting Minutes**

**In attendance**: Geneviève Fortin-Robinson, Bob Real, Tim Buchanan, Thomas Trusler, Tori Johnston, Shawn Banfield, Joey Lavigne, Jacques Reid

**Absent:** Nick Bubela

## Action Items

* [ ] @Tori Johnston- Reach out to Alpine to discuss availability and scheduling for the O Cup SG events.
* [ ] @Patrick Biggs - Confirm dates with ministry for the Ontario Winter Games event and work on the event format (3 events - GS, slalom, parallel).
* [ ] @Tori Johnston - Schedule a follow-up meeting in 3 weeks on June 18th to discuss start lists and hill inventory.

## Outline

### Meeting Kickoff and Agenda Overview

* Tori outlines the agenda, mentioning the Mealy start lists, O Cup schedule, and the addition of ski cross.
* Patrick Biggs suggests skipping divisional updates for now due to a packed agenda.

### Discussion on Mealy Schedule and Age Group Impact

* Bob explains the reasoning behind moving the Mealy to the first week of February, considering the proximity to the beginning of January and the school break.
* Genvieve confirms the dates and suggests starting the speed camp on February 2nd to allow athletes to travel home on Sunday.
* Jacques supports the idea of running a speed event in the second week of January for better snow conditions and suggests making it a provincial U 14 speed opportunity.
* Bob mentions the resort's willingness to provide more hill space for larger groups, including three different speed hills.

### Conflict with Craigleith Event and Scheduling Challenges

* Patrick Biggs mentions a request from Craigleith to host their Pod Cup the week prior to the Mealy, which could conflict with the speed camp's scheduling.
* Genvieve points out that February 2nd is the beginning of a new semester for high school students, which might affect attendance.
* Jacques suggests running the Craigleith event before the Mealy to avoid conflicts.
* Tori mentions that the Pod Cup Super G and Alpine events have been alternating weeks, and Dave has requested tentatively Jan 28-30, 2026 so they can start scheduling corporate groups.

### Debate on Splitting Venues and Gender Scheduling

* Patrick Biggs and Jacques discuss the benefits of splitting venues to get kids cycling more and the feedback from the survey about splitting gender on different days.
* Tori mentions that small clubs found it challenging to split gender on different days, but larger clubs could manage it.
* Jacques suggests running races at the same time to make it easier for coaches and teams.
* Tori notes that the Pod Cup has been gender split for years, but this year was the first time it was on different weeks for boys and girls.

### Review of O Cup Schedule and Training Blocks

* Tori presents a draft calendar with different race configurations, aiming to provide more training blocks and accommodate other divisions.
* Jacques asks about the number of starts for finals, and Tori explains the current setup and the potential impact on training days.
* Genvieve suggests considering the program's target audience when setting the schedule, as some clubs might choose not to attend all races.
* Tim mentions the challenge of too many races for U 16s and suggests eliminating one slalom, one GS, and one Super G.

### Discussion on U 16 Speed Camp and Canada Winter Games Preparation

* Patrick Biggs emphasizes the importance of preparing kids for the Canada Winter Games in 2027, including having a calendared event for both U 14 and U 16.
* Tim suggests moving the speed camp to a more challenging track at Mont Saint Marie.
* Joey mentioned MSA is homologating a SG track. Possibility to use it rather than Belanger.
* Jacques argues for continuing the mid-season speed project to gain traction and prepare athletes for major events.

### Ontario Winter Games and Participation

* Patrick Biggs discusses the Ontario Winter Games scheduled for the Barrie region and asks for input on age groups and events.
* Jacques suggests including U 12, U 14, or U 18 in the event to increase participation and provide more opportunities.
* Tim mentions that SOD is trying to reduce events for U 12.
* Tim mentions the challenge of getting U 18 athletes to register early and the potential for last-minute decisions.
* Genvieve proposes making the Ontario Winter Games an O Cup final to increase participation and reduce the number of races.

### Finalizing the Ontario Winter Games Plan

* Patrick Biggs suggests targeting U 14 for the Ontario Winter Games to maximize participation and support.
* Tim agrees to keep it as a U 14 event and suggests making it a special event with a ski cross component.
* Tori raises concerns about the capacity to accommodate all participants and the need for a qualification process.
* Patrick Biggs proposes having a three-event series with GS, slalom, and a team parallel event, and discussing the details with the para team.

### Next Steps and Meeting Schedule

* Patrick Biggs confirms the decision to target U 14 for the Ontario Winter Games and plans to work on the details with the para team.
* Jacques suggests keeping the event open to all regions and having a qualification process to manage the number of participants.
* The group agrees to schedule the next meeting for June 18th to discuss start lists and hill inventory.
* Tori will send out the meeting details and the Excel sheets with the different race configurations for further review.

**-Meeting adjourned-**