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**June 18, 2025**

**AOAC Meeting Minutes**

**In attendance:** Geneviève Fortin-Robinson, Tim Buchanan, Tori Johnston, Joey Lavigne, Nick Bubela, Patrick Biggs

**Absent**: Thomas Trusler, Bob Real, Shawn Banfield, Jacques Reid

**Action Items**

* [ ] Create an info packet for random starts
* [ ] Look at different ways to run random starts (pods/full random)

**Outline**

**Meeting Kickoff and Agenda overview**

* Tori outlines agenda, mentions hill inventory, start lists, camps, division updates

**Division Updates**

SOD

* Scup racers race OCup at U14?
* Scup finals and OWG overlap for U14
* U14 and U16 racers racing together.

LSDA

* EL GS Homologated

**SOD Update Discussion**

* Scup athletes in OCup races – Tori to look into
	+ Answer - In the SOD guidelines “Only OCUP athletes (registered as such on AOA) are permitted to race in OCUP races” (page 6 under eligibility).
* U14/16 racers racing together
	+ Tim – Great proposal to have the athletes watch and race with the age group above, lead to some competitiveness. Not necessarily the same race, but same venue. Idea to get the kids together and push the U14s.
	+ Gen – USSA mixes the U14/U16s
	+ Nick – Numbers are big that U14 is split anyways. Maybe it is something that we start to look at for ADP rather than the top U14 and U16 sperate training days, they work together.
		- Look at starting it this year with those indicated athletes
	+ Athletic and cultural value to this idea

**Hill Inventory**

* U14 and U16 Discipline and Club
* Link was emailed out to Inventory Sheet
	+ [See here as well](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1guBNHAvPkvpfn4DXeE2ZpDaO4WgX3-Q44Yqw2pRDT8I/edit?usp=sharing)
* Fill in what hills are appropriate for division and each club to host each discipline

**Start Lists**

* Feedback from survey was to align them more with FIS – 1st run based on points with top 30 flip for both U14 and U16
* Pat presented the idea of a big education push to clarify the reason for the random and reverse starts.
	+ Fundamentally to prep athletes for FIS – start at the back and ski in any conditions
* Gen presented the idea that we should look at how we do our selection for different events. (i.e. first after first run, but loses the race since they started last 2nd run), so maybe race winner shouldn’t be included as selection criteria.
* Tim – Feedback from other coaches is that about 10% of the field will be moving to FIS, and we want to keep kids skiing, so can we tweak it to make it better.
	+ More focus on the 2nd run order than the 1st. best at the back/flip 30…
* Joey – Random start order is fundamentally a teaching mechanism. We need to do a better job with education and embrace it. People against it are in the mentality of “we just want the best kids to do well”. We are trying to create a mental toughness for the best kids so they can do what they need to faster. Demonstrated that it is productive and doing the job it was laid out to do.
* Tim – qualification races should have the athletes that will be racing together, together.
* Gen – spring conditions can have an effect
* Nick – Data driven decisions are what we need to have. But we need to have access to the data (Head coaches to Lead coaches, to parents…).
* Scientific based, here are the numbers…
* Alberta does pods, BC mixes the kids – same as us
* CanAms – USSA strong East still is top 30 flip, so there is a bit of unalignment

**Camps**

* Craigleith and Peaks have a summer camp open for athletes from other clubs.
* Sun Peaks costs
	+ Sun Peaks is hearing that Ontario cost to go out is inflated.

**Other Business**

* Tim – Coaches pushing Craigleith to open for a week of training before Christmas break. Would need buy in from other clubs to make it feasible. Training only, pay to get in.

**Next Steps and Meeting Schedule**

* July 9, 2025 next meeting

**-Meeting adjourned-**