



July 9, 2025

AOAC Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Geneviève Fortin-Robinson, Bob Real, Thomas Trusler, Tori Johnston, Shawn Banfield, Joey Lavigne, Nick Bubela

Absent: Tim Buchanan

Action Items

- [] Everyone – Come up with the challenges from a club perspective on submitting skill scores either through the Strive App or a spreadsheet
- [] Create a proposal to have a mandatory skills score to qualify for Finals
 - Identify what skills should be identified and a baseline
- [] Create 3 proposals for start order enhancements
 - 1. Status quo (no change)
 - 2. Status quo with Super G adjustment
 - 3. Slight modification (cohorts)

Outline

Meeting Kickoff and Agenda Overview

- Tori outlines the agenda, mentioning divisional updates, the Ontario Winter Games, ACA Update (Strive/Starts), other business

Division Updates

- Gen says they are working on the posts for homologation and dryland has started.
- Bob said they are getting their fall camp organized with 34 athletes attending this year, and dryland is off and running. He also mentions that they have enough FIS athletes to get a program going.

Ontario Winter Games

- End of February at MSLM
- Quotas for U14s.
- Pat – Request for 90 M and F athletes has been put forward – waiting for a response
- Events – GS, SL, TBC (terrain GS, Dual, Team Dual, SX...)
 - There will be a SX track at one of the venues
- Bob – May be push back and pulls if SX. They haven't done one and think big jumps...
 - Pat – we also see in SOD
- Comfortable moving forward with same quota allocation as finals – based on % of total registrants from last season. (Same as finals)
- Selection – up to each division to create criteria for selections
- Pat – divisions to complete before the season and not during.

Strive and Start Lists

Strive

- Ontario had highest uptake
- Promote before the season and education
- More skill based learning
- Correlation between skills and performance – USSA SL team rebuild
- Do we make it a requirement for all kids to attend OCup finals to have a bronze level of one skill this year. Has to be submitted through the app or coaches to be eligible.
- Nick – AOA mandated skills comp? ROI for parents to have some competition built in to get uptake since they see more value in gates
 - Get smoked at CanAms
- Thomas
 - Skills, intensity and buy in are lacking
 - Turn the tide for those coaches and parents that see no value
- Gen – Fall coaches conference or webinar have a strive module – how to use it, how to register athletes...
 - There has to be buy in from the athletes and clubs or they don't go
- Bob – streamline the app process. Maybe when you do snow reg have a click box that says you agree to the Strive terms

Random Start Order

- Pat - Look at cohorting
 - Through divisional seeding list, national points...
- Joey – start order as a teaching tool. We can't focus 100% on ranking and results. Meant to throw adversity amongst the whole group and having everyone start everywhere in the field. Using the races as tools to teach them on how to speed up their points in FIS. That is where the impact will come. Get used to skiing in all different conditions, they can tackle it when they get to FIS and gain points faster and move up quicker.
- Shawn – Relative age effect. The longer you can keep them random and the longer you wait to rank them the better. When you get into FIS you are completely randomized within the 999 athletes anyways – could be 60 or 70 999 athletes out of 80 and you can start at the front or the back – and this is what this is designed to do and prepare them for to make the transition quicker.
- Could look at changing SGs. To 2 runs? Cohorts?
- Could explore similar to Alberta
 - Cohort first run and a complete field flip second with slowest going first and fastest going last.
- Thomas – If we keep making tweaks it lowers the stakeholder buy in. 4 -year cycle of athletes being a part of it. They get used to how it is running and can't change it too much all the time.

Other Business

- Gen
 - Schedule update
 - Attached to minutes e-mail.
- Bob
 - Mealey first week of Feb
- Next meeting
 - August 27 at 8am

-Meeting adjourned-