



WISCONSIN NORDIC SKI LEAGUE

2022 – 2023 Wisconsin Nordic Ski League Spring Mtg MINUTES

April 23, 2023 | 10:00AM – 3:00PM | DC Everest HS, Wausau WI

- **Call to Order**
- **Roll Call**
 - Canski- Nile Merton, Beth Reed HS and MS
 - CVN- Andrew Johnson, HS and MS
 - Hayward- Daryl Morse, HS and MS
 - Northern Kettle- Steve Scharrer, HS and MS
 - WNDG (no votes): John Burke, Katherine Engelhoff
 - Bay Nordic- Jasmine, Nick, Kory, Mark Ernst– HS and MS
 - Madnorski-Tamara bryant + Jacob Husebyi, HS and MS
 - Blackhawk-Chris Lawn , HS and MS
 - Wausau nordic-John O, MS
 - Wausau-Ernie Luedtke, HS
 - Lakeland-Kristel and Erich Kern, HS and MS
 - Rhinelander- Dave Sletty, HS and MS
 - ANST-Scott Putman, HS and MS
 - Peak Nordic- Mary Eloranta, Rick Hase, HS and MS
 - Spooner-Ben Popp, HS and MS
 - Iola by proxy through Ben
 - CXC (no votes): Yuriy Gusev
 - Ice Age- Dale Fannery, HS and MS
- **Approve Minutes from Fall 2022 Meeting (10:05)**
 - Motion Scharrer to approve minutes, second by ANST
- **State Meet Recap – All Teams Feedback (10:10- 10:30)**
 - SPRINTS:
 - Sprints were fun, parking a concern, concerns about the venue (course, no shelter, etc)
 - Athletes loved the sprint formats – universal
 - Madnorski: fun, venue needs some improvements, overwhelming for organizers to host, nice to have a home course race, course improvements will take time, compared to out west our drive times are a lot less, number of race starts is important so sprinting allows a lot of opportunity there, pro two weekends
 - Bay Nordic: fun for kids, added a weekend of racing/travel, venue needs some improving, organizers seemed overwhelmed
 - Peak- Well run, good flow, felt that this was the best run sprint since we have been

doing it, ahead of schedule, loved the big board with results, operationally fantastic. Increased participation by adding the point system, need to sprint more during the rest of the season to help improve sprinting, think the two weekend state meets are special to Wisconsin so let's tweak what doesn't work well and keep what does

- CVN– JNQ concerns of 8 weeks of racing straight, some course concerns, but lots of fun
- ANST- venue needs work, scoring had a lot of work put in to current system, race timing and organization at both venues was top notch, concerns about interference from athletes and the race course
- Lakeland-kids love sprints, points added more stress, concerns about last minute schedule changes that had to change lodging plans, Cable is always great, tent is fixed!
- Wausau MS– kids love it, love the mixed relays, great for athlete development in multiple ways, concerns with awards being incorrect at distance meet
- Blackhawk- great to have a local meet, would love separation between sprint and distance weekends
- Yuriy- venue challenges in terms of cost and permitting with DNR, all courses/trails are homologated
- Spooner- changed schedule to accommodate sprint schedule, took a different weekend off

- **Financial Review – Bryant**

- Sent with meeting prep documents
- Were able to support summer training last year
- Intentionally increased budget for timing with John as chief and PT timing
- All of the income and expenses for State Sprints not reflected, CXC handles all of that (there was no income)
 - Birkie Foundation and CXC have essentially provided course, grooming, parking, etc at super low cost

Bylaw Amendments

- **Proposal to Amend Bylaws Related to Budget (ATTACHMENT A) – Popp (10:30 – 11:00)**

- Motion to discuss by Steve, seconded by Nick
- Motion by Mary to move looking at the budget before looking at process, Scott seconds. Mary concerned that we don't have a viable budget so if we add to bylaws then we are bound by that. Moved forward with above motion to accept proposal to amend bylaws first.
- Scott: budget is pretty related to state meets so until we know what that looks like hard to create a budget
- Ben: can leave amount quite flexible to allow for changes, could have multiple spring meetings for approval of budget
- Andrew: flexible enough that it doesn't hurt us if our income changes

- Would apply to 23-24
- **VOTE: Unanimous YES**
 - Canski- HS
 - CVN: HS and MS
 - Hayward-HS and MS
 - Northern Kettle-HS and MS
 - Bay Nordic- HS and MS
 - Madnorski-HS and MS
 - Blackhawk-HS and MS
 - Wausau nordic- MS
 - Wausau- HS
 - Lakeland-HS and MS
 - Rhinelander-HS and MS
 - ANST-HS and MS
 - Peak Nordic- HS and MS
 - Spooner-HS and MS
 - Iola by proxy through Ben- HS and MS
 - Ice Age-HS and MS
 - **MOTION CARRIES**

- **Budget '23-'24 Discussion/Possible Action**

- Discuss budget sent out: Andrew motion to pass budget on table, Mary second
- Peak: concerns that most income is sponsorship, dues only generate \$2k, expenses \$4.7k so not breaking even
 - State meets should be self supporting and they are barely (or not) with generosity of Birkie and CXC
 - Where is the \$6K revenue coming from for state meets since we barely even break even? Budget includes state meet profit but we aren't getting that?
 - Is it realistic to carry the expenses for an admin assistant + summer camps long term until we have guaranteed income without a better plan?
 - \$4.5k for summer camps worth it, not sure that the admin \$15k worth it— not opposed but just concerned about funding in future and vague job description
 - Where is the plan for how we will run both state meets and make them profitable? Just don't think that we are there yet to be able to support administrator without costing the league other opportunities
- Ben: revenue increases once we have someone that can get more sponsorships, which are tied to state meets
 - Plan with this budget is that we would take both state meets on as expenses and income generators
- Are we moving ahead with the administrator? Need it in the budget first to be able to invest in ourselves, risk is pretty low to invest in ourselves
- Yuriy: CXC and NNF run on donations, but can't count on those, quarterly adjust the budget based on projection
- Tamara: administrator is needed to help keep track of all the moving parts of the budget,

working on growth of nordic skiing in WI

- Ernie: Wausau has debated paid admin position, gives a little more “skin in the game”
- Steve: concerns about the administrator right away and that the budget isn’t enough
- Erich: \$30k is like a loan to start a business, invest it back into itself, if they recruit more money they the could earn incentive via a percentage/raise
- Scott: need to figure out our tasks, still need to run state meets, officers not able to do all of it or interested
- Jacob: Madnorski pays an admin executive director, need to make the decision to put some money down which there is some risk but benefits outweigh, improves consistency
- Andrew: Ted would say: Try it and if it doesn’t work then stop doing it, plan to increase league dues over the next “x” years to even out income and expenses
- Concerns that officers won’t want to stay with running state meets, admin would also take over that
- VOTE to pass the budget as presented via email:
 - Canski- HS and MS-YES 2
 - CVN: HS and MS YES 2
 - Hayward-HS and MS- YES 2
 - Northern Kettle-HS and MS -NO 2
 - Bay Nordic- HS and MS -YES 2
 - Madnorski-HS and MS -YES 2
 - Blackhawk-HS and MS -YES 2
 - Wausau nordic- MS -YES 2
 - Wausau- HS -YES 2
 - Lakeland-HS and MS -YES 2
 - Rhinelander-HS and MS -YES 2
 - ANST-HS and MS -YES 2
 - Peak Nordic- HS and MS -NO x 2
 - Spooner-HS and MS -YES 2
 - Iola by proxy through Ben- HS and MS -YES 2
 - Ice Age-HS and MS- YES 2
 - **YES = 28, NO = 4**
 - **MOTION CARRIES**

Rules of Competition Amendments

- **Proposal to Combine Sprint/Distance State Champs Into Single 3 Day Wknd (ATTACHMENT B) – Johnson (11:00- 11:30)**
 - Motion from Andrew, second from Erich
 - Andrew: some parents have asked for combined weekend for state meets, trying to take into consideration cost and time, imperfect solution
 - Yuriy: working groups last fall, all conferences represented, group recommended 2 weekends
 - Steve: survey comments encourage two weekends
 - Lakeland: like the idea to budget for one championship weekend
 - John: possibly include sprints at Snekkevik as an alternative
 - Nile:: fluctuating group, would like more sprint racing in the season before state
 - Steve: more flexibility with the schedule around races
 - **Andrew: WITHDREW THE AMENDMENT due to lack of support**

- **(Pending outcome of 7) Proposal to Separate Distance / Sprint Championships - old way, no combined Champ (ATTACHMENT C) – Johnson (11:30 – 12:00)**

- Andrew: motion, Kristel second
- Kristel: allows flexibility for athletes or families to not have to attend both events
- Steve: opposed to the overall points idea, leave it as separate, agree with Ken's comments from his email, don't think that the overall championship adds, sprint format matters more, combined title seems redundant
- Rick: doesn't detract from any of the events keeping it combined, passed by 2/3rds last time
- Scott: very excited to see the turnout in Madison, got new teams, kids love the sprint weekends
- Nile: overwhelming for families to have both required, lots of confusion, more like track and field and not cross country seems more complicated than it has to be
- Jasmine: still don't have to go, on us as coaches to do a better job educating, we are more like a club sport than a school sport in terms of cost/travel/time etc
- Not unlike regionals/sectionals to get you to state, can still be the state distance championship
- Tamara: keep things simple and sustainable for the future, support this amendment
- Mary: in support of keeping combined, supports team growth, we all had to learn a lot and will get better and make more sense, think its moving the league in the right direction
- Jacob: voted in favor last year to emphasize the importance of sprint racing, will get easier year after year in terms of scoring etc, combined podium emphasizes the importance of being a good all around skier, can see both sides
- Dale: think regardless of points, teams will come to sprints
- VOTE:
 - Canski- HS and MS- YES 2
 - CVN-HS and MS NO 2
 - Hayward-HS and MS- NO 2
 - Northern Kettle-HS and MS -YES 2
 - Bay Nordic- HS and MS - NO 2
 - Madnorski-HS and MS - YES and NO 1 + 1
 - Blackhawk-HS and MS - YES 2
 - Wausau nordic- MS -NO 2
 - Wausau- HS -NO 2
 - Lakeland-HS and MS - YES 2
 - Rhinelander-HS and MS -NO 2
 - ANST-HS and MS - NO 2
 - Peak Nordic- HS and MS - NO 2
 - Spooner-HS and MS - NO 2
 - Iola by proxy through Ben- HS and MS -NO 2
 - Ice Age-HS and MS- YES 2
 - **NO = 21 votes, YES = 11 votes**
 - **MOTION DISMISSED**

- **(Pending outcome of 8) Proposal to Change from WC Scoring to CC Scoring (ATTACHMENT D) – Johnson (1:00-1:15)**

- Andrew: change from world cup to continental cup scoring, would change individual and team scoring
- Motion by Andrew, second by Rick
- Steve: How would the outcome of last year's races change with this scoring?
- Officers: we didn't evaluate
- Kory: seems counterproductive to wanting to give more opportunity to more athletes, this system gives more space to the top athletes

- Scott: figure out what would change, table this for now and vote after simulations, current point system took a while, kids put a lot of effort in so it matters to them to get the recognition
 - Mary: sprint course impacted results more than the point system
 - Jacob: in support of tabling this proposal until we have simulation
 - Nick: unless it simplifies something don't change something for now
 - **Andrew proposal WITHDRAWN**
- **Proposal to Update Individual Awards for Team Champion Award (ATTACHMENT E) – Burke/Bryant (1:15-1:30)**
 - Motion by John, seconded
 - Would still get top 10 individual awards but would NOT get top 5 athlete awards WITH the team awards, focusing mostly on high school, but could still do certificates or something if we wanted to, just removes the obligations
 - Jasmine: recognizes some athletes that may not otherwise get awards, can't take the team trophy home so getting something matters to athlete, would encourage us to keep something for these athletes, a lot of us don't have a place to put team trophies
 - Steve: change wording from team trophy to award so that we have flexibility in the future for checks or something else
 - Scott: concerns about removing the bibs for top 10 because the bibs are important to the kids–
 - JOHN: this was in ERROR, no intent to eliminate the top 10 awards, should only be the top 5 of the winning team. **TABLE THIS UNTIL NEXT MEETING.**
 - **(Pending outcome of 7) Proposal to Remove Mixed Relay from Sprint Champs (ATTACHMENT F) -- Bryant (1:30- 2:00)**
 - Tamara: confusion/challenge over how to place athletes into the mixed relays, timing of the day because these race at a completely different time than the rest of their team, would change the mixed team awards. Would remove the scoring from the mixed team relay and the overall team (boys/girls) championship
 - Tamara motion to discuss, second from Andrew
 - Steve: lots of email etc discussion, seems like we should keep them but will we have more teams than last year?
 - Scott: athletes love the mixed relays, can accommodate schedule on the relay day
 - Jacob: in favor of keeping the relay, more race starts are good
 - Kory: concerns over forcing starts, the kids that love it are the kids that can rock the race vs others
 - John: would remove overall boys/girls championship
 - Daryl: everything "fun" doesn't mean it has to be part of the state championships, argue that the distance doesn't even qualify as a sprint
 - Nile: seems like longer interval races and focus on pacing and not sprinting
 - Erich: caters to larger teams that have more athletes that can put kids in the mixed relay
 - Andrew: to fill all the spots need 3 boys, 3 girls and 2 mixed gender teams, didn't really support skill of the team because you got points in the mixed relay
 - Ernie: like the overall idea of the combined state champion but small teams can't put athletes in the mixed gender team, love to grow the sport but that takes time and resources
 - Mary: like overall title and points, its unique to us that we offer this award, doesn't necessarily cater to just the large teams
 - Daryl: caused some unnecessary drama between athletes with who is going to be paired with who, who is going to be left out etc, one thing when it is an exhibition and is fun
 - VOTE:
 - Canski- HS and MS 2 YES
 - CVN- HS and MS -YES 2
 - Hayward-HS and MS 2 NO
 - Northern Kettle-HS and MS 2 NO
 - Bay Nordic- HS and MS 2 YES

- Madnorski-HS and MS 1 yes and 1 no
- Blackhawk-HS and MS 2 YES
- Wausau nordic- MS 1 NO
- Wausau- HS 1 NO
- Lakeland-HS and MS 2 NO
- Rhinelander-HS and MS 2 NO
- ANST-HS and MS 2 NO
- Peak Nordic- HS and MS - NO 2
- Spooner-HS and MS 2 NO
- Iola by proxy through Ben- HS and MS 2 NO
- Ice Age-HS and MS 2 NO
- **YES = 9 votes, NO = 23 votes**
- **MOTION DISMISSED**

- **Update on Venues – Process to solicit bids for '23 - '24 Champs / Next Meeting – Popp (2:00 -2:15)**

- Scott: fundamentally we need a course, snow, timing
- Create a checklist of what we need etc? Price tags?
- What are the venues that are available?
 - CXC
 - Birkie
 - Arians Nordic Center
 - Rhinelander? – concerns for volunteers etc
 - Winter Park?
 - Lapham?
 - Nine Mile
- Dates: depends on world cup, JNQs, Birkie
- Ben will touch base with venues in the next week

- **Select Committee to recruit new board for Fall Meeting (2:15-2:30)**

- Dale, Beth, Jacob
- Current officers could stay on in current roles if interested

- **New Business (2:30-3:00)**

- **Next meeting Tuesday May 23rd at 7 pm**

- **Adjourn**