

2018 USARS NW REGION REGIONALS COACHES MEETING MINUTES

2018 NW Regionals, Saturday June 2nd at 12:10pm
Trackside Pizza, Puyallup, WA

Point(s) of Meeting:

1. Annual Rink Dues
2. 3-Person Relays
3. Developmental VS. Limited VS. Full Membership Cards
4. Beginner Eligibility
5. Skater of the Year/Coach of the Year/Special Recognition
6. Meet Hosting Requirements
7. Publish Meeting Minutes
8. NW Point Series
9. Hip Numbers
10. Votes for President, Vice, Treasurer, and Secretary 2018-2019
11. Meet Bids 2018-2019
12. NW Region List for Speed Committee at Nationals
13. Updates for NW Region Rulebook

Annual Rink Dues:

A few coaches have not paid \$30 for the NW Region Dues that were due at the beginning of the 2017-2018 season. It was agreed that there is a \$10 late fee for those that pay after Regionals 2018 was concluded. Therefore, after June 3rd, 2018, the rink dues will be \$40 from each coach.

3-Person Relays:

At the previous coaches meeting in April 2018, we discussed how difficult it would be to keep track of each team when it comes to their times and distance. Robin talked to Chief Referee Jim Pitsch and it was agreed that when it comes to distancing a 3-person relay team, they could only lap down to five teams. This was because those five teams could have the faster times compared to the other heat(s) and qualify for the final event. It also would provide a cushion just in case for other disqualifications besides being distanced along with providing safety for the skaters. It was reiterated that in order to qualify for the final, it is 1st place plus the 3 next fastest times. The NW Region is submitting a proposal to be viewed by the Speed Committee during Indoor Speed Skating Nationals this July. This proposal is to shorten the Senior 3-persons and Master 3-persons to be no more than 30 laps.

Developmental VS. Limited VS. Full Membership Cards

There are three different membership card options through USARS. One is the developmental card, which is \$10. The developmental card is for local events only and does not allow challenging up, racing Elite, racing relays, and competing at Regionals and/or Nationals. The second one is the Limited card, which is \$45. The limited membership card allows a skater to race Beginner, Elite, challenge-ups, and relays but excludes qualifying events such as Regionals and Nationals. Lastly is the full membership card, which is \$80. The full membership card allows a skater to race in beginner, elite, challenge-ups, and relays for all events, including qualifiers. Therefore, all skaters that are participating in the Regional Championships must acquire the \$80 full membership card as they have the potential to qualify for Nationals.

Beginner Eligibility

In Beginner, the NW Region has a three-year time cap once a skater purchases a USARS membership card. Once those three years are up, the skater can no longer race Beginner but now must permanently race Elite. However, in this meeting, the coaches discussed some discrepancies with a Beginner becoming Elite. First, there was a question regarding a Beginner skater racing Elite at Nationals, but not placing in any final races nor even making a final. With the current rule set by the NW Region, if a Beginner signs up for Nationals (including Elite and relays), the Beginner skater could no longer race as a Beginner. This was because the Beginner skater would be seen as Elite if they are attending Nationals. On the other hand, some coaches discussed that a Beginner skater may attend Nationals in Elite or relays but are not skilled enough to place top three overall. Instead, they are going for the overall experience and to learn from the racing at Nationals. Overall, the main question was this: Should a National relay or racing Elite result in taking away Beginner eligibility if they do not medal in any of the races? It was decided that the only things that should take away Beginner eligibility is placing in any Elite race at Nationals (short, middle, or long distance) or skating Beginner for three years.

Skater of the Year/Coach of the Year/Special Recognition Awards

The coaches discussed the rules for nominating a skater, coach, or spectator for these awards. On the one hand, some coaches said that a coach can only nominate somebody if they are not from their own team. Other coaches brought up that we should not limit who gets nominated and how many a coach nominates as that allows a strong variety of candidates to vote for. It was voted on. The coaches decided that a head coach can nominate as many skaters, coaches, or spectators as they would like. Those nominations can be from their own team as well. In doing so, the coach must give a brief explanation why that person(s) are being nominated just like it has been ran previously.

Meeting Host Requirement(s)

Robin brought up that at each meet, there should be a minimum of four officials. All of the coaches agreed. It was also agreed that the meet host must get confirmation from the officials for their meet at least 60 days before the meet starts. Robin also mentioned that we need to recruit officials as we are lacking and to do so, coaches must approach those that they think will succeed at it. It was discussed that as a region, we need to host officials training as learning at a meet is stressful and difficult for the new official and the experienced ones as well. Nothing was finalized, but was tabled for now to resume at the next meeting. In addition to this, the NW Region is going to propose to the Speed Committee at Nationals to update the officials test. This is because the test to become an official is outdated and

some of the questions are not straightforward. Dennis, the NW region representative, will be the one to deliver this proposal.

Publish Meeting Minutes

A coach mentioned that some skaters and parents would like to have a copy of the meeting minutes moving forward. It was agreed that the meeting minutes will be published on the NW Region website. When it comes to important voting such as skater of the year, coach of the year, special recognition, and meet bids, they will be left out of the published minutes for the public and will remain only between the coaches until being publicly announced.

NW Point Series

The NW Point Series was abolished at the Regionals 2017 coaches meeting as it was a stressful endeavor and it always seemed to be the same skaters every year that would win the awards. However, it was mentioned that skaters do miss the point series. It was a good motivator to come to every meet because a skater had to attend a minimum of four out of five meets to qualify. Also, it was a great generator for meet numbers, which means that our numbers were more consistent and higher when the point series was active. Robin asked the coaches for other ideas to propose besides bringing back the point series. One coach mentioned the idea of doing a fun race at each meet to attract skaters to attend it such as a brownie race or a "straight-legged" race. Another coach mentioned making the medals more unique would draw in more skaters. The example that was brought up was Shaun's wheel medals this year at the Spokane Classic. The skaters that attended were filled with excitement when they received the award and those that did not go wished they attended. Nothing was finalized, but Robin asked the coaches to think of more ideas for the next coaches meeting.

Hip Numbers

It was proposed that the Treasurer of the NW Region should be the caretaker of the hip numbers as this person handles the money for the account. All coaches agreed and therefore, Meagan is no longer responsible for the hip numbers. Tari, the NW Region treasurer, is now the holder of the hip numbers as will the next treasurers after her.

Votes for President, Vice President, Treasurer, & Secretary

Positions are as followed:

President – Robin Olson

Vice President – Darin Pattison

Treasurer – Tari Caswell

Secretary – Tiffany Hardebeck

Meet Bids 2018-2019

- Gresham Invitational: October 27-28 (2 days)
- Turkey Showdown (Puyallup): weekend of November 17th (3 days)
- Auburn Invitational: January 19-21 (3 days)
- NSC Tac-Town Invitational: 2nd or 3rd weekend of February (2 days)
- Battle in Seattle: 2nd or 3rd weekend of March (Friday, Saturday, & Sunday = 3 days)
- Spokane Classic: 2nd or 3rd weekend of Spokane (2 days)
- Regionals (Puyallup): May 31-June 2 (3 days)

THESE DATES ARE ALL TENTATIVE AND NEED TO BE CONFIRMED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2018 FOR THE NEW SEASON

NW Region List for Speed Committee at Nationals

1. Shorten 3-person relays
 - Senior and Up should be no more than 30 laps
2. Rewrite Referee Test
 - The officials test is outdated and some of the questions are misleading. Some also have more than one answer to the question.

Updates for NW Region Rulebook

1. Three-year cap for Beginner
 - The only reason for a Beginner becoming Elite is if they place at Nationals in Elite or have had a membership card for three years (whichever comes first). Racing at Nationals does not remove the Beginner status but placing in Elite at Nationals in any race does.
2. Minimum four officials per meet
 - Must have a minimum of four officials working per meet.
 - Must confirm with each official at least 60 days before the scheduled meet to ensure follow-through and commitment.
3. Requirements to be an active coach
 - Must take the coach's test and pass
 - Must pass a background check
 - Take the Safesport course and pass
 - Fulfill any additional USARS requirements

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 1:38pm

*Meeting minutes submitted by Secretary Tiffany Hardebeck