

2024 ABC Winter Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on Monday, January 15th, 2024

Meeting called to order by ABC President, Lauren Ehlers at 12:10PM CST

Roll Call – The following executive board, regional directors, athlete advisors, and non-voting guests were in attendance.

Executive Board

Lauren Ehlers – President/Athlete Advisory Council Member – South Central

Teri Jones – Vice President – Midwest

Paul Stokes – Secretary/Reserve Director – Midwest

Jerry Kanawyer – Treasurer/Reserve Director – West

Regional Directors

Mike Jenkins – Director – East; Arrived during records committee report.

Sean Qualey – Director – Midwest

Ben Groen – Executive Director – South

Vonl Adams – Executive Director – South Central

Blake Ehlers – Director – South Central

Brad Ripp – Reserve Director – South Central

Brian Heeney – Executive Director – West

Ted Klein – Director – West

Athlete Advisory Council

Landen Ehlers – Chair – South Central

Megan Adams – Member – Midwest

Brett Swanbom – Member – South

Non-Voting Participants

Tina McCauley

Mike Molepske

Mark Shank

John Cornish

[ABC Board list](#)

[ABC Committee list](#)

Lauren reviewed the committee list of participants.

Lauren appointed Brian Heeney as parliamentarian and a quorum was established.

Automatic seconds for reports was approved.

Additions/changes to the agenda; it was shared that there was one item added: "Discuss ABC requirement to ski worlds."

Agenda was approved.

Reports Requiring Action

[Online Voting Recap Final](#) – Online voting results occurring since the summer board meetings were **approved**.

Reports Requiring NO Action

1. Treasurer's Report – Jerry Kanawyer – Team did a good job raising money.
 - a. [2024 Income & Expenses YTD](#)
 - b. [Account Balance](#)
2. [Rules & Bylaws Committee](#) - Mark Shank – Committee implemented age changes and they are ready to be put in rule book.
3. [Officials Committee](#) – Mike Molepske
4. [Awards Committee](#) - Megan Adams
5. [Technology Committee](#) – We are actively pursuing potential leadership for this committee. Bryan Koehn was mentioned as a potential candidate. Sean Qualey is helping with the website but is not interested in participation on the committee. John Garrity still working on live stream in a box. Urgent need to get leadership for this committee.
6. [Records Committee](#) – Brian Heeney – Reminder that records must be initiated and submitted by the athlete. It seems records were broken at Nationals and other events that were not submitted for approval.
 - a. [Records Reviewed](#)

Motion Made

Brian made a motion, and it was seconded: "the board delegate, to his record review committee, the task of developing a fair records review, from skier performances at the 2023 U.S. Nationals; even with loss of record keeping from the event, through no fault of the skiers." **The motion unanimously carries.**

7. Marketing and Social Media Committee – Paul Stokes – No report and no action taken by this committee. Faith Dix was mentioned as a potential candidate to take this committee and run with it!?!
8. [History Committee](#)- John Cornish – John is putting together a complete history of the sport including nationals results and compiling images including pictures of tournament t-shirts from over the years.

9. Skier Development Committee – Sean Qualey/Paul Stokes – Junior development initiative headed by Ben Groen looking towards 2026 worlds. Regional networking events, not competitive based, more building barefoot family.
10. Team Select - Andrew Martin/Scott Jones
11. Athlete Reps - Landen Ehlers
12. Regional Reports
 - a. [Western Region](#) - Brian/Ted/Jerry – Looking forward to Nationals, goal of 100 skiers, bring a friend who didn't go last year.
 - b. [Midwest Region](#) –Scott/Sean/Paul – Thor Thordsen is thinking of hosting a tournament at his private lake in September.
 - c. [Southern Region](#) – Ben/Rachel/Eric Lots of excitement around the upcoming worlds. Looking for sponsors, volunteers, and supporters.
 - d. [South-Central Region](#) – VonL/Blake/Brad- On a break from hosting major events but they have an excited season planned to include the 40th anniversary of the Austin Barefoot Club.
 - e. Eastern Region - Mike – They are struggling to find a site to host tournaments. They have been successful hosting clinics and participating with the South. There was a good discussion had on how to get things rolling again in the region including focusing on fun events and starting a club.
13. [WBC/Pan Am](#) – Betsy Gilman
 - a. [2024 WBC PPG \(21 a\)](#) - [rule changes summary](#)
14. USA Waterski – Dale Stevens
15. [USA Waterski & Wake Sports Hall of Fame Foundation](#) - Betsy Gilman – Looking for nominations for the Jennifer Odom Award...
16. [USA Waterski Waterways Committee](#) - Jay Leuk
17. USA Waterski Safety Committee - Char Portman
18. Safesport & EMS Rep - Tina McCauley – Tina is willing to host zoom calls to tournament organizers for help training on EMS system.

Old Business

1. ABC Policy on US Team & Independents Coach/Manager at Worlds - [Team Select Questions](#)
 - a. Jerry Kanawyer was approved as being the assistant manager for all teams.
 - b. Discussion was had on “is Under23 a team”, even though there is no team scoring and by rule they are independents. Should there be funding or not from the ABC?
 - c. How are teams vs. independents going to be handled going forward? Lodging, meals, meetings, clothing, etc.
 - d. What are the expectations of team members and independents and what are the consequences for not meeting expectations?

Motion Made

Brian made a motion, and it was seconded; “23 and under skiers will be classified and handled as independents, just like any other independent skier.” **The motion unanimously carries.**

Action Being Taken

It was agreed that details of the expectations and commitments of independent and team skiers needs to be put together in committee, so everyone is on the same page. Increased unity and uniformity of the entire US delegation is the primary purpose beyond clarity of expectation from the delegation.

2. [EMS & Lion Program Improvements Update](#) – Mike Molepski agreed to fund updates and changes needed. Later discussion on divisions may affect the need to make the improvements update.

New Business

1. [ABC Position on Trial Slalom Rule Change](#) – Board was almost unanimous that we do not like the rule change. It was agreed to gather feedback from judges through an email poll sent by Mike Molepske, Officials Committee Chair.
2. [Aligning Age Brackets to line up with the Worlds](#) – The pros and cons discussed were discussed. There were many differing opinions. Making a change to align with the rest of the world would prevent us from needing to pay to adjust and improve EMS as the system is built to work with “the rest of the world”. Some fear eliminating performance-based divisions will discourage participation.

Action Being Taken

Brian Heeney put together an ad hoc committee to put together a solution to avoid rewriting software along with keeping performance-based divisions. They are expecting to have a proposal to consider within 10-14 days.

3. PanAm Nomination Link - <https://forms.gle/PpjmEzXfeifwJSdS9> - We agreed to open nominations for the US delegate to the PanAm council for 2 weeks.
4. [Discuss ABC Requirement to ski Worlds](#) – After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to keep the rules as is and promote the rule so everyone possible, knows about the rule.

Adjourned approximately 5:45PM CST

Next meeting: August 21, 2024 - Helena, MT