



**USSA Congress
Alpine Review
May 16, 2016**

USSA Congress

Club leaders, officials, coaches, and volunteers from around the country convened in Park City last week for the annual USSA Congress. Everything began on Monday with the Club Excellence conference, moved into meetings of the Alpine Sport Committee, its subcommittees and working groups, and finished with a USSA Board of Directors meeting on Sunday. It was a busy and productive seven days, and highlighted the very best in collaboration across our national ski racing community. Below are the highlights of proposals that were passed relating to our larger alpine community.

ASC Operating Procedures

Following through on the recommendations from the 2013 McKinsey Report, new operating procedures for the Alpine Sport Committee were passed by the Board of Directors. Notably, these will streamline the subcommittees and working groups and allow for a more effective reporting structure. Membership and term limits will also be more clearly defined, which will help with overall organizational representation and transparency. You can find the new procedures posted [here](#).

Equipment Rules

USSA has revised the equipment rules for the 2016-17 season to more closely align with the FIS rules at the U14, U16, and U19 age groups. We have had numerous issues over the last three years with the USSA equipment rules deviating from the FIS rules, resulting in a need to bring the regulations together more closely. Please follow this [link](#) to find the new USSA rules for next year.

Course Setting Rules

USSA also approved a revision to the course setting rules for the 2016-17 season to more closely align with the FIS rules. At the U14 and U16 age groups, distances are now consistent with international standards. At U12 and younger, adjustments have been made to encourage developmentally-appropriate setting. And lastly, the minimum distance in SL between turning pole and delayed gate has been removed for all ages. You can find a copy of the new children's course setting rules [here](#).



USSA Nationals

Based on a one-year implementation schedule, a newly revitalized USSA competition will ultimately be unveiled for the 2017-18 season. Divisions will design and calendar local, series-based racing through which athletes can qualify to compete in USSA regional and national championships. This structure will pave the way for grassroots racing at a more affordable cost, allowing athletes who perform well to earn opportunities to race at higher and higher levels.

U19 and U16 NPS Series

The successful inauguration of the U19 National Performance Series during the 2015-16 season has led to a slight modification of the quota rules in order to further solidify that national series as the developmentally appropriate track for elite U19 males. In a similar vein, for the 2016-17 season, USSA will formalize a U16 NPS for elite-level girls and boys in that age group. This track will be the basis for qualification to race in Europe at the Seven Nations Cup, and will allow those athletes to also qualify straight to the U16 Nationals.

U14 Qualification to U16 Nationals

Based on feedback and proposals from the regional level, a modification was passed to the U14 quota for the U16 National Championships. For 2016-17, a U14 athlete must achieve a win and a top-3 result at their respective regional championship in order to qualify for U16 Nationals.

120 Point Rule

At the 2015 Congress, a rule was passed limiting out-of-country racing to athletes who had 120 USSA points or less. That rule was rescinded at this year's Congress, leaving no USSA point-access restriction for international or out-of-region FIS competition. However, FIS point limitations will still exist to access continental cup competition.

Exceptional Races

The Classification Working Group is tasked with monitoring all USSA scored results throughout the course of the season to ensure the integrity of our USSA point system. Exceptional races that fall outside established statistical parameters are flagged for further review and potential sanction. This year two races are being reviewed by the ASC Executive Committee. More information on any potential sanctions will follow later this spring.