

USSS Congress 2024
Park City May 12-17

Link to all the proposals considered at Congress, including the EAOOC proposal to require gatekeepers in GS, which was defeated narrowly;

[https://media.uskiandsnowboard.org/Athletics/Alpine/Congress-2024/ASC/ASC %231 Meeting/](https://media.uskiandsnowboard.org/Athletics/Alpine/Congress-2024/ASC/ASC%231Meeting/)

Below are bullet points from several of the EAOOC members who were at Congress, intended to inform those who were not able to be present and catalog some of the conversations that took place. These are in no particular order. The progression of meetings at Congress is first working group meetings, which then report to the appropriate subcommittees, which then report to the alpine sport committee, which then reports to the USSS BOD.

- Generally, there were robust conversations at each meeting, all aimed at improving the sport
- Sam Ganow (PARA) received the True North Award
- Classifications (primarily dealing with race results and our national points system integrity) monitor exceptional races; there were none last season. Their monitoring, while not real-time, is very automated but not integrated into the USSS race submission process. There is hope that the process of flagging exceptional races and applying the subsequent adder can be done just after the race is completed. A task force chaired by Doug Hall will be convened to examine the NPS (to figure out if the NPS will continue).
- The Certification Matrix (guidelines) will have some minor changes, including placing the mission statement at the top and subsequently eliminating that document from the MPF.
- All the upgrades L3-L4 were approved, including 10 from the Eastern region.
- As mentioned, the EAOOC proposal to require gatekeepers for GS was defeated. We (Eastern AOC) may want to resubmit after garnering more information next season.
- TRS was a huge topic at most meetings throughout the week. Ultimately, a resolution was passed to better define where to place DSQs and DNFs in the second run, namely, keeping them in their position on the second run and not running them at the end. TRS is not mandatory, and there are many ways to seed races at the discretion of the division. Non-scored races using TRS have been generally accepted by many regions
- Coaches' education is getting a facelift. There will be paths for existing L1-300 coaches, new coaches, and coach volunteers. Each of these paths will require membership, but

the requirements for CE and venue access will be different for each category. All CE and certification will be through the new Sport Education Academy. RAs will not be required to check coaches' CE but will still look at a "green" membership (SS and background). Bottomline coaches will pay separately for a coach license. More details to come. End of July roll out date.

- Course setting specifications for Kombi GS/SG will be added.
- The ASC will be undergoing changes to decrease its size.
- Allowing 60" or FIS B poles to be used in SL for U14 was defeated.
- All attendees agree that you need to be present to have your voice heard. There was good representation from the East, but in this case, more is better.
- TDTRs are not being submitted along with race results, and they need to be better emphasized at fall educational efforts. (PARA had a dismal submission rate for review)
- Avalanche training has moved to coaches' education. From now on, New Homologations for courses will all expire on July 1. The FTP site is the go-to for course homologation information.
- Sam Damon and Paige are leaving the eastern office. Both have been assets in the East.
- Accuracy in hand timing is critical in running our races. TDs should use the pictures on homologation reports rather than altimeters to determine start and finish installations.
- Force Majeure is to be used in rare situations, and single gate SG is not one of them.
- SafeSport will be using fewer videos and will be shorter.
- Congress is attended by all the stakeholders, which includes all USSS and FIS athletes, coaches, and officials. While not a perfect system, it seems to everyone a voice to continue to improve. There are a lot of volunteers who do a tremendous amount of work for the sport.
 - We need more lead time for updating USSS membership due to the inclusion of PA State forms when getting a background check. The PSP Check is almost instantaneous, while the child welfare check takes a week to two weeks. Both background checks are for 57 months. Fingerprint Checks can take up to 6 weeks. Keep copies of all of them, as they can be used for USSS background check

