

USFS Governing Council
Denver, CO
April 30 – May 4, 2008



Ken Papp represented the FFSC with one delegate vote and one proxy vote. Meeting notes taken by Ken Papp. Comments in brackets.

Thursday (1-May)

Risk Management Session

- Make sure your club has a certificate of insurance and may opt for an insurance policy in addition to the USFS policy
- Answer questions on insurance forms to the best of your ability
- Do new members know about the USFS “umbrella” policy
- Insurance information is available on the USFS website

National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI) Presentation

- NCSI offers services in addition to those offered by USFS
- Focus on 7 risk factors (see handout)
- 4/100 “red lighted”
- Get everything in writing and make copies
- Starting the “Check-it-twice” system (see handout)
- Applicant (new coach, volunteer, etc.) submits the information to USFS, PSA, etc.
- Applicant can legally dispute or deny information in their record
- Clubs must establish hiring process for volunteers
- Background screening for coaches starts July 1st
- \$40 for each coach (through USFS)...includes rule book and registration card...two week turn-around

Growing Skating Session

- National Skating Month
- Adult Lap Fitness Program
- Open House (simpler version of NSM)
- Work with hockey
- Basic Skills Competition (should be a fundraising event)
- Can get more information from Maureen Dalton (msdskating@aol.com)
- Look at what other clubs are doing
- Basic Skills manual available on USFS website (+ sample application)

Bridge Program (Susi Wehrli)

- A friendly, group-oriented, transitional program between Skate School, Basic Skills and becoming a club member
- Coaches often “pluck” kids from group lessons and then hammer parents with

- expensive lesson costs
- Manuals available on USFS website
- Offering a stable schedule and set price is the key
- Program is non-threatening to non-competitive skaters
- Coaches should have brainstorming meeting to establish such a program (Where is the age/skill drop-off?)
- Bridge Program should also teach skaters ice etiquette and practice skills
- Also offers chance to bring in new volunteers
- Clubs should offer “starter-package” kit (skates, gloves, club info., skating mags., etc.)
- Work out cheap packages with local sporting goods businesses?

Marketing Your Club Session

- Utilize external marketing (newspaper, radio, TV, Mags.)
- Prominent signage in the rink lobby
- Word of mouth (*every* member should be active, positive spokesperson)
- Take advantage of social web applications, like Facebook, MySpace, etc. [Facebook page might be used as an online Q&A medium]
- Get involved with Chamber of Commerce (build relationships)
- Work with civic groups (youth groups, PTA, Scouts, church groups, etc.)
- Designate a media spokesperson [We have Lynn!]
- Avoid going to the media *only* when your club needs something
- 30-spins media event before next years' show [have 30 skaters in the show do spins on the ice with media present!]
- Follow up with with *post-event* story
- Regarding fundraising; we need to take better advantage of the skills of our members!
- Be *specific* when asking volunteers for help with certain tasks

Effective Use of Your Website Roundtable

- Received feedback and questions from several other clubs
- Other clubs interested in e-commerce solutions (i.e. credit card payments, web forms for entering test/competition/Skate School information, show tickets online)
- Ken Papp will provide online, more verbose version of the website guide for clubs (see attached) and have article in *Skating* magazine (August)
- <<http://www.techsoup.com>> and <<http://www.sk8stuff.com>> are good websites to check out

President's Forum

Issues discussed:

1. Rink vs. club coaches
2. Skater Retention
3. Facility Usage
4. Volunteerism
5. Board Elections
6. Non-qualifying events
7. By-laws
8. Policies and procedures (P & Ps)
9. Scholarships

Skater Retention

- Shows, theater on ice, junior board [great idea!]
- Skaters 16 and over can judge Basic Skills
- Big Buddy

Random Notes

- Invite rink manager to board meetings [we need to do this]
- Stage crew from local high school to help build show props
- Position descriptions for committee chairs, board members, AND volunteer positions [we can definitely benefit from this]
- Keep your bylaws up-to-date and, if changed, send to USFS [we need to update our bylaws and P & Ps]
- USFS Member Services can provide e-mail addresses and/or mailing labels to clubs for sanctioned events/approved tests
- Skater scholarships: consider paying for specific component of competition or college rather than just writing a check

Friday (2-May)

Requests for Action (RFA) Items

<<http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/events/200708/governingcouncil/RFAs.pdf>>

Exhibits (Bylaws)

<<http://www.usfigureskating.org/content/events/200708/governingcouncil/Exhibits.pdf>>

Section Meeting

Item #339

- Judges keep their own council
- Issues about reskate: need majority for reskate, if 1st skate goes well, but reskate fails, it fails
- Proposal: if majority pass the test, a reskate cannot be called

Item #205: Continuing Education Requirement (CER) Proposal

- Education for USFS coaches (ISI coaches are welcome)
- CERs must be obtained by July 1, 2010 (credits good until June 30, 2011)
- 4 credits are required (sport safety, ethics, USFS rules, and IJS rules)
- Online tests are “open book” and there are no additional charges for taking the test over
- Credits, tracked by PSA, are required every year (notices will be sent to coaches 90 days before deadline)
- Ethics and USFS rules courses will be offered each year by PSA and USFS, respectively, for free
- Coaches will only pay for 2 of the 4 credits (\$25 ea./\$50 total per year)
- Credits are required in order for the coach to stand at the gates during tests/quals/competitions (any USFS, sanctioned event)...[the discussion became quite “spirited” at this point]

- Who will have access to the list of coaches and their credits? (LOC and PSA)
- What about kids competing/testing without a coach present? (Parents can acquire CER credits as well)...[the discussion became even more “spirited” at this point]
- The club will decide what to do for non-quals, club ice, shows, etc.
- Revenue goes back into the CER program
- PSA has no current deal with ISI

2009 Proposed Budget

- Income: 28% membership dues, 30% events, 24% sponsorship
- Expenses: 75% athletes

Governing Council Meeting

- Dorothy Demarest (Parliamentarian) got the biggest applause
- Michelle Kwan gave keynote speech <<http://www.usfsa.org/Story.asp?id=41437>>

Isolated Items: 101, 205, 316, 319, 339, 355, 356, 403, 506

Adopted bylaws: A, B, C, D, F, H, J

Bylaws not adopted: G, I, K, L

Bylaws referred back to committee: E

- The body decided to scrap the “Meet the Candidates” session (all board seats were uncontested) and continue with amending the bylaws [nice!]
- No need for a ballot vote

Saturday (3-May)

Governing Council Meeting (cont.)

- World Games to be held in Boise, ID (Feb. 2009)
- Kathy Dreves will post updated amendments/bylaws on USFS website in ~ 3 weeks

Isolated Items: 313, 317, 318 (all marked urgent)

Item #205: remains approved

Item #319: remains approved

Item #339: approved as amended

Item #355: referred back to committee

Item #356: approved as amended (marked urgent)

Item #313, 317, 318: approved as amended (marked urgent)

Item #403: referred back to committee

Item #506: approved as amended

- Anne Gerli, Skating Club of New York, received distinguished judge award
- Budget and audit report approved as amended

Election of board, positions uncontested (voted with delegate/proxy cards)

2009 U.S. Championships in Cleveland, OH
2009 ISU Championships in Los Angeles, CA

New Business

Urgent: If only one group, single skater, or pair shows up to competition/test, they would automatically receive 1st place

2008 Governing Council Wrap Up <<http://www.usfigureskating.org/Story.asp?id=41437>>
Next Governing Council: May 1, 2009 in Buffalo, NY