

British Freestyle Discipline Committee Meeting – Approved Minutes Tuesday 21st February 2017 – On-line/Telephone Conference

Note that the word “event” in these minutes refers to the subdisciplines of Freestyle skiing (i.e. Ski Cross (SX), Aerials (AE), Moguls (MO), Slopestyle (SS), Halfpipe (HP) Big Air (BA) (or last three combined as Park & Pipe (P&P))

1. Participants, Apologies

Participating:

Iain Mackay (IM), Kay Bates (KB), Peter Bates (PB), Dan Brier (DB), Martin Carr (MC), Sean Curtis (SC), Chris David (CD), Dave Edwards (DE), Ian Findlay (IF), Neil MacGrain (NM); Lesley McKenna (LM), Emily Sarsfield (ES), Pat Sharples (PS),

Apologies: Dan Hunt (DH), Stevi Campbell (STC),

Absent: Becky Hammond (BH)

IF and NM were welcomed back as newly returning members nominated by the Home Nations.

2. Minutes of Meeting 7th Dec 2016

These were approved (1 spelling error corrected)

3. Matters Arising (not on Agenda)

Action3 (Dec 2016)IM to review committee structure and appoint any new members

action complete

Action4 (Dec2016)IM, and KB to liaise with Mahdi at BOA to complete the OWG selection criteria documents by December 16th 2016

action complete

Discussion took place regarding representation of moguls given the time difference between CD (in Dubai). No decision/action – further consideration needed.

Conflicts of interest were discussed and this to be an item on the agenda of the next meeting.

Earlier publication of the Agenda was requested.

Action1 (Feb 2017) PB & NM to circulate template/policy statement to aid discussion – Agenda item for next meeting

Action2 (Feb 2017) PB & IM to publish agenda for meetings 1 week in advance

4. BSS Board Restructure & Performance Director's Report

DE outlined the new board structure. Three new independent directors to be recruited. The disciplines have three representatives with the remit to represent all disciplines. The three are Iain Mackay, Paul Trayner and Colin Holden. The board met in January and set a preliminary budget. Looking to source £500k immediately and an extra £1M to allow DH to recruit some head coaches who will be responsible for hiring other coaches. The Board Chair is confident that this can be achieved. DH had circulated a report.

He is actively seeking a SX/SBX coach. Also looking for more support for aerials.

A Spreadsheet detailing Olympic qualification progress for Freestyle athletes had been produced by DH. It was noted that ES had been missed off.

Action3 (Feb 2017) DH to amend spreadsheet to included Emily

With World Championships imminent, need to know what supports athletes will have.

Previously Tass have provided a physiotherapist. Also it would be supportive if athletes who are competing for GBR have a group email so that there is the possibility of mutual support.

Action4 (Feb 2017) IM to discuss support for aerials with DH

Action5 (Feb 2017) IM to discuss support for World Championships with DH

5. Chairs Report

IM reported on the test event for the OWG. In general the venue for freestyle was good but the aerials course was not properly constructed. The athletes' accommodation is good but currently that for officials is less so.

All other items were covered under other Agenda headings.

6. FIS Matters

IM is member of the Moguls and Aerials subcommittees and a conference member on the Ski Cross committee. He is also on the Technical delegates working group.

It was reported that the quota spots for the OWG for P&P was cumulative over long qualification period creating a bias against nations with smaller teams. Athletes from such nations were being forced to compete without respite in every competition – leading to fatigue and consequent greater risk of injury. In previous Olympics the quota spots were generated from the two best results.

Action6 (Feb 2017) IM and LM to discuss P&P quota system with a view to making a submission to FIS to input into scheduling discussions

ES reported back on discussions with other athletes regarding the pre Alps tour. The chief issue is the way the top ranked athletes are being excused the qualification stages of each event. This introduces a certain unfairness in that they will be far fresher in the final stages than those who have been through all the qualifications. The number of competitions was also very demanding

Action7 (Feb 2017) ES to solicit support for a deletion of the protection rule and discuss with IM as soon as possible with a view to tabling a motion at the next FIS meeting

ES reported that the World Cup SX event at Feldberg was abandoned after the first round and the places were allocated according to World Cup points. This seemed an unfair way. No alternative was forthcoming so any suggestions welcome.

PB and KB reported a problem with using the World Cup scoring program for 5 judge format in that under certain circumstances it could give a negative score for turns contrary to the rules.

Action8 (Feb 2017) PB & KB to send details of scoring problem to IM

7. SX & SBX Manager Update

Matter reported on under item 4

8. Selection Update

A request had been received to lower the criteria for moguls for entry to Europa Cup competitions. The selection panel had decided that given that anything below the current criteria represented poor/below average performance and given the number of C level events – entering Europa Cups would tend to lead to ingraining poor performance rather than enhancing it. The athletes concerned need to train so that they can land a jump safely and in control.

9. Event reports

Moguls Update

Will Feneley competing competently at Europa Cup; 2 x 8th places in Gaissau. Other Home Nation Athletes training. 3 GBR registered athletes resident in France gaining podium places at Europa Cups

Aerials Update

Lloyd Wallace training a quadruple jump – successfully completed on water ramp.

SX Update

Sadly Liz Stevenson has been injured and will be out of competition for the rest of the season. Emily Sarsfield has a minor injury but hopes to compete in the World Championships

P & P Update

All athletes continuing to make progress in a very demanding competition programme. James Woods congratulated on a Gold Medal in the Big Air at the X games

10. Athlete Insurance

There was further discussion regarding Athlete Insurance. Home Nations ensure that third party liability cover is in place for competing within the UK. For competing abroad athletes must also have 3rd party liability and adequate rescue and medical insurance to cover competing – standard holiday insurance is not suitable. It was pointed out that ICR regulation 204.2 requires the National body entering athletes for FIS competitions to ensure adequate insurance is in place. It is suggested that all athletes are reminded of this and sign off that they have complied when applying for a FIS licence.

11. AOCB & DONMs

Athlete Matters

ES enquired whether there was access to medical support or other provision via BSS to aid recovery from injury. The existing Gold & Silver passport scheme seems to have lapsed.

Action9 (Feb 2017)

IM to take up the matter of post injury support and the passport scheme with DH

Children's SX race in Czech Republic

It was determined after discussion that this was not a FIS event and therefore not the remit of BSS

Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 21st February 2017 and Wednesday 3rd May 2017

12. Summary of Actions:-

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Action2 (Feb 2017) *PB & IM to publish agenda for meetings 1 week in advance*

Action3 (Feb 2017) *DH to amend Olympic Qualification spreadsheet to included Emily*

Action4 (Feb 2017) *IM to discuss support for aerials with DH*

Action5 (Feb 2017) *IM to discuss support for World Championships with DH*

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Peter Bates (March 2017)