

Minutes of Meeting 22nd July 2012
Hemel Snow Centre, Hemel



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Race formats and training

Strong views expressed that there was far too much full pole slalom training and racing.

SSE should provide direction/encouragement to coaches and clubs to vary training particularly for younger members to use less full poles in training and to vary training formats.

SSE, Regions and Clubs should vary race formats; reduce the number of full pole slalom events and introduce/expand other formats (e.g. team/individual parallel events; triple slalom; obstacle courses; straight running; GS, dual GS/Combi; Handicap racing; Combi types).

These formats could start for the younger age groups but should be considered for all age groups.

Having different formats would encourage clubs and coaches to train for these formats.

Coaches have raised these issues at the Coaches Conference and are frustrated SSE and other Governing Bodies are not taking this feedback into account.

SSE to review formal communication channel between Coaches Conference and SSE/ASC.

SSE/ASC will be represented at the Coaches Conference in September.

Regional racing

Regional racing is very popular and participation is growing.

Regions and clubs see Schools races as a potential source of new members.

Regional races offer a range of race formats that prove very popular with competitors and parents.

Regions and Clubs are concerned that the numbers moving through to national racing are reducing. Possible reasons for this are cost; ready availability of regional races so less need to travel to national events; many racers do not see a clear distinction and progression from regional to national races.

Regions would also wish to work with universities to encourage more 18 and above to stay in racing or take up the sport.

Universities are keen to expand participation in seeded and non-seeded events. Universities would wish to restrict their races to 18 and above due to the social activities that form an integral part of university races.

Schools

Many schools seemed to be keen to take part but didn't know where to start.

Local Clubs and Ski Centres would be logical first contact for schools.

Clubs and coaches should market themselves to schools

We need information sources to pass to schools; a Guide to Ski Training and Racing.

Club Nationals

Should these races be open to U10s?

It was suggested that SSE should publish a directive to parents to advise on the numbers of races their children should do in each age category

Winter Seeded Races

What is the purpose of these races? In response to feedback from competitors who compete in Regional and Club National races during the summer and who would welcome the opportunity to compete occasionally during the winter. The majority of these racers do not take part in winter Alpine races.

ERSA region and clubs wish to respond to this demand and would favour seeded races as a means of encouraging more of the racers into national seeded races.

Issues to address when organising these races are TD availability and Slope availability and costs.

These would be entry level races and ERSA are flexible on format.

ASC/TDs to consider format and make a recommendation. This should be done in consultation with SSW.

The races could follow a new format (SSW Excel or other) or possibly follow existing Club National format.

The number of winter races would need to be limited; say 2 to start with; ERSA would propose to run 1 in November and 1 in March.

GBR Series

General conscientious was it was not elite enough and a point cut off should be re introduced. Possible suggestion was to run the GBR as currently with male and female separately. Have an additional individual dual slalom for the top 32 (male or female in a single competition); this would increase competition for the females and would add an elite element of 'top 32'.

Questionnaire to solicit feedback on GBR series; how about setting up an online forum.

Some felt too many races; but consensus to stay with similar number for 2013.

General Comments

It was felt more consultation was needed with both the racers and parents.

Social side of racing should not be forgotten but built on as it is an important part of racers development.

Communication is very poor at all levels.

We need a 'Guide to racing'; various documents exist but need to be co-ordinated and updated.

Calendar needs to be published earlier; certainly no later than November.

Online entry system needs a revamp; GBR races should all be in one section.

Consider using Google Calendar.

Alpine bulletin needs to be published earlier and given greater prominence as the main source of information on race rules and formats, new and revised.

SSE should organise more of these sessions.