

MNHSNSCA SPRING MEETING MINUTES
Online Meeting only via Zoom, Saturday, April 5th, 2025

1. Meeting called to order 9:30am by President Andrew Hansen (Wayzata)

Executive Committee
President-Andrew Hansen (Wayzata)
President Elect-Chrissy Snider (MPA)
Secretary-Britt Guild (Minnehaha Academy)
Treasurer-Doug Cran (White Bear Lake)

2. 2024 Fall Minutes Approved

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. Balance: \$5,386.47

4. Recognition for the Recipients of our Annual Awards:

Boys Head Coach of the Year: Andrew Hansen (Wayzata)
Girls Head Coach of the Year: Josh Scharnberg (Fergus Falls)
Boys Assistant Coach of the Year: Ethan Youso (Brainerd)
Girls Assistant Coach of the Year: Pete Hoyem (Stillwater)
Volunteer of the Year: Winona Snowmakers

- a. The selection process worked well this year according to Andrew Hansen because the process was done quickly with a concise timeline. Coaches will receive plaques at either the summer social or fall meeting.
- b. Questions arose about the selection process and timing of recognition. Some sections did not have a coach nomination and it was shared how writing bios for the nomination process can be challenging.
- c. Dave Johnson (Marshall) will coordinate time this summer with all section representatives to meet and discuss the nomination process and how to recognize coaches on a wider scale.

5. Recognitions for Bonnie Fuller Kask 2025 NHSACA National Coach of the Year finalist (top 8 in the country)

- a. Congratulations Bonnie!

6. Review of Proposals Submitted to the MSHSL

- a. The Proposal process is as follows:
 1. Proposal is introduced at April Coaches Association Meeting.
 2. Changes to the proposal may be done throughout summer.
 3. Final version of proposal discussed and voted on at Fall Coaches Association Meeting.
 4. If the proposal is passed at Coaches Association Meeting, the proposal is brought to the MSHSL meeting in June for a vote by the high school league.

5. Pete Tremaine and Mike Hecker (state meet managers) can also submit proposals to MSHSL.

b. Current Proposals submitted to MSHSL:

1. **Increase individual qualifiers from 4 to 6 (submitted after being passed at fall Coaches Association Meeting)**
2. **Use video at championship meets to confirm jury decisions (submitted by Pete Tremaine and Mike Hecker)**
 - I. Rationale for proposal: Video can be used at a section or state meet to allow race managers at technique zones, exchange zones, corners to confirm or overturn a decision made. Only official video would be considered (not parent video) in order to make the best decision for the skier.
 - II. The Executive Committee agreed with this proposal.
3. **Code of Conduct (submitted by Pete Tremaine and Mike Hecker)**
 - I. Rationale for proposal: Denny Nelson, Pete, and Mike wanted to create a guiding code to apply to athletes, coaches, and parents. The original idea of a code of conduct was to help prevent spectators and skiers from skiing on the course during a race.
 - II. Andrew Hansen along with other coaches at the spring meeting thought different items in the proposal were confusing and difficult to judge. Many coaches wanted more clarification and voiced concern about the different items listed in the proposal.
 - III. A code of conduct was seen as redundant in the past when a 'code of conduct' proposal was presented.
 - IV. Andrew Hansen will bring coaches' concerns and suggestions about the proposal to Pete Tremaine and Mike Hecker.
 - V. Andrew Hanse will email all coaches the 'code of conduct' proposal.
4. **Para Factor Implementation Update**
 - I. Coaches passed this proposal at the fall meeting (by 99%) but the proposal has not been submitted to the MSHSL because the classification in how athletes fit different classifications has been challenging.
 - II. It was discussed that power of classification could be given to a physician instead. With this change, the proposal must be changed.
 - III. Pete Larsen (Mora) will work with Beth Anne Chamberlain to make amendments to the proposal which will then be brought to the Coaches Association Fall Meeting in October in hopes to bring the proposal to the MSHSL the following June.

7. Presentation of the New Proposals for the Season (2025-26)

- a. [Change state meet format #1](#) (Speedy McCollor)
 - I. Overview: Team size drop to 6 skiers, no sprint relay, top 8 individuals in each section advance to state
- b. [Change state meet format #2](#) (Jacob Polland)
 - I. Overview: Team size remain at 7 skiers, eliminate sprint relay

- c. [Change state meet format #3](#) (Dave Johnson & Ben Croft)
 - I. Overview: Eliminate teams advancing to state, only individuals advance (Top15? Top 18?, Top 20?), no sprint relay, sprints at state, no alternates?
- d. [Change voting threshold for proposals](#) (Andrew Hansen)-**Not discussed**
- e. Next action steps for new proposals:
 - I. Based on the Nordic MSHSL representative, Charlie Campbell, the Nordic Coaches Association has made too many changes in the last ten years, and Andrew Hansen is nervous about approaching the MSHSL with another proposal with more changes to the state meet. We need to have well thought out proposals that detail what coaches want. Example: we asked for the state meet to be two days. We now have a state meet that is two days. MSHSL would have a difficult time approving a change to go back to a one day state meet.
 - II. Andrew Hansen will talk with Charlie Campbell to receive clarification on how our Coaches Association is viewed by the MSHSL, and if we should tread lightly in continuing to offer new proposals each year.
 - III. Andrew Hansen and Olivia Ester will write a survey asking coaches if they would like to proceed with the already submitted proposal (add two more individuals from each section to qualify for the state meet) or pull the proposal in order to include items from the new proposals offered by Speedy, Jacob, Dave, and Ben.
 - IV. Peter Larsen (Mora) will collect data about section finish times/state finish times to help make a conclusion about how top skiers are/or are participating in the state meet.
 - V. A committee will be formed to discuss the new proposals. If you would like to be a part of this committee, contact Andrew Hansen.

8. State Meet Debrief/Discussion

- a. **Sprint course options:** 76% of coaches wanted the relay course to be the course from two years ago and changes were made to make that happen this year. The course was marked at 1.5km. Does distance create challenge? Coaches voiced that they preferred the cat track course for classic which is also easier for Giants Ridge to control. A decision for next year's state meet was not necessary and not decided.
- b. **Sprint Qualifications** (2 top teams, 2LL instead of 1 top team and 5LL): it was decided that the qualifications will remain the same of 2 top teams and 2 LL.
- c. **State Meet Venue Committee:** Britt Guild shared how Charlie Campbell told the executive committee that if a different location can be considered to host the state meet, the venue needs to approach the MSHSL. Britt Guild has reached out to Meghan Cosgrove, Executive Director at Theodore Wirth. Giants Ridge continues to want to host the state meet.
- d. **Other Observations or Discussion:** There was positive feedback from this year's state meet about communication before and during the state meet, lodging was smoother, and having natural snow. In the future, it is possible that the

MSHSL blocks off rooms in different areas to help with lodging for teams and individuals.

9. Update from MSHSCA (parent organization)

- a. Andrew Hansen attended the MSHSCA meeting (parent organization). Andrew suggested to all coaches to renew/join the Nordic Coaches Association each year as soon as they are able to do so. Do not wait so you are protected by the Coaches Association statutes. Coaches are protected during lawsuits. A coach cannot retroactively join the association and be protected.
- b. There are currently 130 Nordic Association members. Emails are sent to current members to renew. It was suggested that section representatives also email section members to encourage participation. This will hopefully also reach new coaches. Please encourage Assistant Coaches to join the Association as well.
- c. Coaches receive protection if your coaching contract is not renewed. If your coaching contract is not renewed, reach out to Andrew Hansen to make sure the process was done correctly.
- d. Transgender athletes: There currently is different messaging about transgender athletes at the State and Federal level and is currently being litigated. If you have a transgender athlete who wants to participate in a sport that does not align with his/her sex at birth, contact your Athletic Director for direction.
- e. Andrew Hansen mentioned that the Nordic Coaches Association is one of the few Associations in Minnesota that does not offer scholarships to athletes. Do we want to change that?

10. Victor C Dunder Update

- a. Denny Green & Denny Nelson have stepped down from organizing the logistics of this award. Britt Guild, Brandon Burns, and Dave Johnson will work together to now take on the responsibility.

11. Hall of Fame Update

- a. If you would like to nominate someone to the Hall of Fame, have forms to Dave Johnson or Andrew Hansen by May 1st. One to two candidates will be chosen for the award.

12. JNQ Schedule Recommendation from Association

- a. CXC meets in May to create the JNQ schedule.
- b. Last year the schedule was: Dec. 14-15, Dec. 21-22, Jan. 25-26, Feb. 15-16.
- c. It is in the CXC bylaws that they must host four race weekends each season.

13. Discussion on Increasing Member Dues

- a. Current dues are \$10.
- b. It was discussed that instead of increasing dues to provide scholarship opportunities from the Association, members could approach ski businesses to sponsor scholarships.

- c. Andrew Hansen will approach businesses he knows, but if you have connections to companies that would like to sponsor scholarships for Nordic skiers, please reach out to them and let Andrew Hansen know who is interested.
- d. The deadline to increase dues is August 1st.

14. Rochester Potentially joining MSHSL

- a. 100 athletes in the Rochester area from 8-10 different schools continue to be encouraged to join the MSHSL. It remains difficult to create a co-op with so many schools.

15. Norm Oakvik: The Inconspicuous Coach and Book of Champions by Doug Edmonson

- a. Andrew Hansen recommended this book about the history of Nordic skiing in Minnesota (1930-1980). Mr. Edmonson has donated many copies of the book to libraries. You may find it on Amazon as well.

16. Summer Social Update

- a. Andrew Hansen is still working to put together a Summer Social for coaches as an opportunity to get together, give out awards and prizes.
- b. If you have a venue idea for a group size of about 60 people, please reach out to Andrew Hansen. Metro area? Different central location? Feel free to offer recommendations.
- c. Date: TBD

17. Fall Coaches Association Meeting Date

- a. When: Saturday, Oct. 11th
- b. Where: Mora Vasaloppet Center in Mora (with virtual option available)
- c. Time: 9:30am-tbd