**NHNCA 2021 Spring Coaches Meeting Minutes**

**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91804314884**

**Agenda and Order of Business**

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 Virtual meeting at 7 pm

Participants: 30

1. Welcome – From Dana
   1. Overview of meeting
2. Acceptance of Fall Coaches meeting minutes
   1. Minutes approved

3. Reports

A. Treasurer

1. In good shape. $14,944 in retained assets
2. We sold a lot of our jacket inventory
3. Also, no scholarship or other race related expenses
4. Lower donations overall this year
5. Webscorer (timing software) costs added in
6. Liability insurance – cost more this year due to review of and increase in coverage
7. Complete yearly state certification plus a 5-yr cert. and updated board addresses

B. Secretary

1. All files for this meeting plus a video recording can be found in the Spring General Membership meeting folder on the NHNCA>2021 Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cdFqBfPJgu7r25kGWYzEAfpvWsxyY06F>

C. NHRL – Chris N.( please see videos at the link below): <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f9Cb9b3J_qt2BrKjCatR9IzgIB7zQ2uy>

* 1. Preface by Dana: Executive Members went through pros and cons of using the NHRL and attempted to anticipate questions. Want to get input from general membership. We want to put the info out there for comment.
  2. Chris: working on archival record of what we did.
     1. Executive summary of what was done, pared down. (see videos on google drive)
     2. Shows process, rankings, and post season validation
     3. Sources of data (public schools, independent schools, NENSA, and club races)
     4. Percent back calculation + f factor for race style + penalty
     5. We used single f factor this year
     6. Then get points behind the winner for each race
     7. Penalty is based on strength of field
     8. For boys (58 races), normalized, shows spread for each race (all from Webscorer); good mix of large and small races and percent back.
     9. Stronger field, lower points; Weaker field, higher points
     10. We put out weekly ranking lists.
     11. On Feb 28 (before champs races), froze the ranking to establish team NH
     12. Based on top 3 races.
     13. Those with fewer races were ranked based on adjustment to asses qualification
     14. Took top 30 for each race for U16 and EHSC (special exception this year to go deeper than usual 24).
     15. Nearly all skiers interested in ranking – fun to look at; motivational.
     16. Validation: final ranking vs post season (champs) racing – did very well at predicting: Correlation is high.
     17. Model did best for upper (faster) end of field
         1. More spread in modest end of field
         2. Residuals plot shows a normal (and tight) distribution (unbiased)
         3. Standard deviation of 10% (66% of skiers); 50% within 2.5% of range of top 3 races
     18. Dana: Nice system; not throwing out NH series but discussing
     19. Sam: do a bit of hybrid where we weight races higher or lower for things like NH series
     20. Can we use it to pick team even if some races get cancelled? Yes – seemed to work well and can be adjusted for cancellations.
     21. Pete Hendel: hybrid idea may work even better and could be contingent on race cancellations.
     22. Sam: Deciding officially on system in Fall seems necessary
     23. Matt K: likes system and also likes the Coaches Series races, but need to get everyone there to make it a real festival. So please work to keep it.
     24. Chris: could say one of the races has to be a NH series race
     25. Dana: learning curve this year was steep (webscorer and NHRL). Thanks to all the coaches for supporting this. Will send recording of this meeting out to all since a lot were not present. Webscorer would continue but must be budgeted or covered otherwise (schools?).
     26. Peter Breu: at fall meeting, create a strong “short set” of possibilities and then limit discussion to the say 4 main options and seek consensus. Could get poor solutions if too open ended. (perhaps solicit input over summer to synthesize for fall). Sam: if you have a preference, send to Dana for consideration. Also reach out to any Exec Member if you want to discuss anything.
     27. Chris: 1. Tonight’s slides (5) contain the best of what Chris has. Most liked this short version. 2. Can we make this public? Also make them sharable? With other states?
     28. Pat C. Holderness School kids all end up going to the Coaches Series races, mainly for the experience. Maybe we need to preserve by scheduling to not conflict with other races. It is a high-quality race.
     29. Kevin: NHRL makes it easier to name the team for sure. Petitions were easier to deal with too. The specialness of the Coaches Series race is very important to keep. Strength of the field there is also great. Also, the NHRL can be used for seeding for Coaches Series race too. NHRL will help coaches with their own teams and with seeding regular season races.

D. Regional Race

1. Sam: went off well at Dublin. Got warm the week before then cold so it was a fast track. Venue was well prepped.
2. Glad Dublin are in the mix for race hosting. COVID added complexity but was smoothed out well with help from Justin B at NENSA
3. Jenn: reach out to get perspective from kids on race, ranking…

E. Middle School Race

1. Matt K: went off well but was unusual in the dividing of race. Navigated COVID well.
2. Should return to regular next year.

F. U16’s

1. Jenn: not much now for updates. Location same (Fort Kent).
2. Lodging not secure so still looking; closest lodging is 1.5 hrs. from Fork Kent.
3. Pete: Discussing going across the border (lots of options very close to venue).
4. Why Fort Kent? Fort Kent was the only bid that year and it was picked.
5. At most recent JDC meeting, there were conversations about bringing back state to state rotation. Issue is having local group to put together bid package.
6. Many years since NH has bid. Harder than an EC race – more skiers.
7. EHSC and U16 it is 4 states X 48 plus NY and other invites. Maybe Canada too.
8. Part of the bid package is now that there must be lodging within 45 min. At least 3 hotels.
9. Peter Hills: distance to Fort Kent is long for most teams.
10. Kelly: Jackson would be a great venue (homologated plus lots of lodging).
11. Pete Hendel: need to give NENSA feedback on Fort Kent.
12. Kevin: NY is not going to Fort Kent.
13. Pete Hills: would like to have more input to this choice or reconsider. Can we change the venue for this year? We have 10 months.
14. Kathy: if no one else bids, then hard to pull out of Fort Kent.
15. Kevin: pushing this with NENSA. JDC is made up of team leaders from the states. Others are expressing concern as well. Doing the best we can to push it to change.
16. Kevin: we can bring this up at the next JDC meeting about changing venues this year.
17. Peter Hendel: it is not just NENSA – the JDC committee is really it.
18. Les: used to be held in Lake Placid each year. Is there a site that will host every year?

G. EHSC

1. At Titcomb, ME this year. Not great lodging options. In hotel with MA and VT.
2. Talking about how to put multiple skiers possibly per room
3. or look for other lodging if not feasible.
4. Lodging is the hardest part of these races. First thing after getting date is to get on phone and get lodging.
5. Kevin: looking for someone to train as a replacement for him as EHSC leader
6. Also need to think of honorarium for team leader and coaches for the future – it is a very big commitment.

H. MOC’s

1. Chris: state champs – went well due to flexibility of all involved.
2. Skiathlon format worked well and weather was favorable.
3. Teams sent all of their skiers at once, one team every 15 min. (classic then skate).
4. MOCs – did just 7.5 FS race at proctor with 85% attendance.
5. MOCs was a great coming together after a no-contact season.

I.  NHIAA

1. J. Independent and Clubs
2. Pat C. Independent Schools. Joe Holland moving on from St Pauls – good luck!
3. Had great racing. Linking in with NHRL was a great thing.
4. Kathy: Clubs worked well. Had high quality racing that just seemed to happen.
5. Hilary: NH Cup at Proctor was a good bridge between HS, Indy, and Club racing

4. Committee Reports

1. Fundraising
   1. Gary: Grant from Gatorade last year.
   2. Team NH hat being considered to sell for fundraising
2. Website - Jim
   1. This weekend I will add: summer camps, update photos and add the IRL video and reports.
   2. Webscorer made posting results very easy. Consistent naming of races would help in searching for them.
   3. Traffic during the season was busiest on race days, with the biggest spikes around the post-season races.
   4. Facebook was also popular during those times, and seemed to be used primarily by parents.
   5. Instagram proved to be too time consuming to keep up with. If we want to continue with Instagram, I suggest finding a responsible high school student I could work with. It's a better platform for sharing photos than information.

5. New Business

1. **Coach of the Year: Chris Naimie chosen by his peers for his work as a coach and for his tireless NHRL work.**
2. Other
   * 1. **Kathy: Mt Kearsage roller ski race on Aug 15th. Sunday. Late afternoon**
     2. **Kevin: Brian Palling is no longer coaching; know anyone to help Kevin**

Adjourn 8:30 pm