

NCD BoD Meeting Draft Minutes

7:30 pm, September 21, 2020

Ottawa

Attending remotely via Teams: Geoff Tomlinson, Steve Daniels, Heather Pickersgill, Rob McClure, Steve Morris, Craig Storey, Frederic Forge (Skinouk), John Halvorsen (ENGNE), Sheila Kealey (U Ottawa Nordic), Drew Lampman (Tay Valley), Heather McCulligh (Kanata Nordic)

1- Financial update

Rob will provide an updated report in the coming week. There have been no recent expenses. Possible new race equipment, in particular timing equipment may need to be made, such as a contactless start wand, as well as eventual replacement of the summit systems as these are no longer homologated by FIS. Further discussion on the topic of purchasing new timing equipment will be held at a subsequent meeting.

Action: Rob will provide an updated financial report and will contact Gord Williams regarding any equipment purchases that are required imminently.

2-XCSO return to competition policy

XCSO published return to competition guidelines on September 21, 2020. SFQ will be releasing their guidelines in the coming days.

A brief review of the document was done. Discussion items that followed included:

- race formats will be limited mostly to individual starts, with limited if any opportunity for sprints and mass starts
- no or very limited spectators at events
- flexibility will be required as government regulations and public health guidelines can change very rapidly
- as some events take place in public venues such as Gatineau Park and Ontario Provincial Parks, other regulations and limitations on events may be required by these facilities
- clubs are assessing their historic/traditional race formats and deciding if an alternate format of event might be possible
- given that most events will be individual starts, the format of most races will be similar and clubs can share experiences and best practices as events take place.
- given on site number restrictions, smaller, more experienced teams of volunteers may be needed
- given restrictions on numbers of participants, one idea proposed might be to have certain races primarily for a smaller number of specific age groups, the goal being to allow all NCD athletes opportunity to have at least 1-2 races if possible
- Geoff is planning several small time trials over the next few weeks as informal test events to determine how best to use XCSO guidelines in practical terms.

- there was discussion about health screening questionnaires as a requirement to attend events. It was decided this will be recommended, but proof of completion will not be required, i.e- an honour system that this has been performed prior to attending an event
- COVID-19 waivers should be part of race registration process.

3- NCD race series calendar

Steve Daniels has created a draft calendar document with place holders on dates when NCD races could be held, based on local, provincial and national race schedule that has already been defined. He will share this document with NCD club contacts so they can request open dates.

All races will be subject to government and health guidelines in place at the time of the event but it is unlikely that mass starts or sprints will be possible.

Given the restrictions on and risks associated with travel due to COVID-19, it is likely that more athletes will be racing locally, meaning increased participation in local race series. As such, consideration may need to be given to spreading a previously one day event over two days to allow for physical distancing requirements and on site participant restrictions. Other restrictions, such as provincial border closing, would impact events dramatically.

A copy of the draft Nationals Covid Protocol was shared in the group chat during the meeting, and an electronic copy will be made available to local NCD organizing committees for their reference.

Kanata Nordic is not planning to hold its traditional Pretzel sprints this year and the Kanata Nordic board of directors is discussing possible alternate event.

Skinouk has set Coupe Skinouk for January 23, 2021. The Gatineau Loppet has approached Skinouk to organize a relay event to take place the Friday evening before the Loppet weekend. No final decision has been yet made regarding this possible relay.

U Ottawa Nordiq is not planning to host an event this season.

For future discussion:

- refund policies in case of event cancellation
- XCSO facility guidelines which are to be published soon

Actions: Heather P- Nationals COVID draft protocol to be sent to NCD club contacts.
Steve D-Draft calendar document to be shared with NCD club contacts to requests for race dates

4- Ocups/Qcups

Since these races are sanctioned by XCSO and SFQ, strict adherence to provincial guidelines will be mandated.

5-Postponed year-end NCD banquet

The year end banquet scheduled for spring 2020 was rescheduled until October 2020 but will now be cancelled. The NCD race series points have been tallied. Additionally, there are 2018/19 awards to be distributed. It was suggested that NCD point winners be published on the NCD website.

Actions: Geoff will contact banquet venue to follow up on the \$500 deposit
Steve D and Craig will discuss how best to acknowledge NCD series winners, and how to provide them with their awards, both for 2018/19 and for 2019/20 series.

6-Collaboration with ENGNE

John H provided the historical context of the creation of ENGNE, which formed in 2014 in preparation for the World Cup event held in Gatineau in 2016, and the goal of the organization which is to host large scale nordic skiing events in the NCD region. The World Cup event led to a legacy fund which is managed by ENGNE and has been used to improve infrastructure at Nakkertok Nordic ski centre in preparation for Ski Nationals in 2019, as well as funding for coach support and athlete support in the region. Going forward, collaboration between ENGNE and NCD will be encouraged.

7- NCD Board of directors renewal and re-scheduling of NCD AGM

The AGM scheduled for May 4, 2020 was postponed. A new date in the near future will be determined shortly. Several positions on the NCD Board of Directors will be open at the AGM, including Chair and Paralympic representative. The idea of an athlete representative was briefly revisited.

The AGM will be held virtually with a call for nominations for open positions.

Actions: Steve M will propose a date for the AGM and this will be disseminated to NCD club contacts

Heather P will create a new folder on the NCD google drive for the 2020/21 season

Heather P will update the member contact list via zone 4

Items for discussion at the next meeting will include:

- Competition guidelines update
- facility guideline review

Meeting adjourned 9 pm

Next meeting: TBD, will be the AGM.