

FALL MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2016
VASALOPPET CENTER, MORA, MN

President Doug Boonstra called the meeting to order and introduced Jack Schwinghammer of the Vasaloppet Board, who welcomed us to the facility.

A moment of silence in tribute to Coach Brad Rosch of Osseo was observed. Denny Nelson spoke in tribute to Coach Rosch. He also explained that a memorial bench and plaque will be placed at Elm Creek in Coach Rosch's honor.

Dave Johnson of Duluth Marshall moved that the Association donate \$500.00 towards the cost of the memorial. The motion passed unanimously. Details of how individuals, teams or booster clubs can donate will be published on the Coaches' website. The total cost for the memorial is \$2500.00, including twenty years of maintenance by Three Rivers Parks.

Doug Boonstra presented the Sprint Relay Proposal, outlining the details and rationale for the Proposal.

Section tournaments will remain as one-day events, but the State Championships will expand to one and one-half days.

A "cold weather delay" contingency plan was outlined.

Discussion of the Proposal was opened to the floor. Coaches are urged to read the Proposal in its entirety on the Association website. Coach Peter Larsen of Mora will publish a revised scoring matrix on the website. (That document is currently on the website.)

Larry Meyers, Wayzata, presented the "Wax Truce proposal" initiated at the Spring meeting. This calls for Conferences to decide whether or not to discontinue the use of HF powders for regular season competitions. Section and State tournaments would be exempt.

Coach Meyers stated that the Lake Conference will not use HF waxes during the regular season.

Dave Johnson moved that no HF powders be used until Conference, Section and State competitions. LF and HF blocks are exempt from this restriction. The motion passed unanimously.

Coach Joe Teff presented the possibility that drones might be employed at the State Championships. He stated that Giants Ridge has no objection to this and that the League will be contacted.

Beth Ann Chamberlain, of USA Paralympics, presented an "Adaptive Skier Integration With Factored Scoring" plan for Minnesota Nordic skiing regular season races. This would not apply for Section and State competitions at its inception. She feels that overall numbers will be small at the outset.

Bonnie Kask presented the items discussed at the Coaches' Round Table over the summer. These included:

the HF powder ban, (JO coaches will abide by this),
classic pole height restricted to 83% of the skier's height (in boots),
club coaches should not wax the skis of club members for high school races (HS racers/teams should do their own waxing),

club vs HS potential conflicts for racers. (Skiers need points in four of the eight qualifiers to qualify for JO Nationals), and

Rule 208 of the MSHSL regulations prohibits high school racers from practicing with club/outside coaches during their regular school practice time. There are stringent penalties for this. Ethically, HS coaches should not send any of their team members to a non-school coach, even though they label that as “team practice” time.

An “Opem Mic” session followed. A scoring matrix for the Sprint Relay Proposal (Doug Boonstra), was presented. (see earlier note on a revision of this matrix). Coaches need to consult the Association's website for further information on the Proposal and voting procedures.

Association Awards for the 2015-2016 season were announced:

Assistant COY is Leon Zeug of Chanhassen/Chaska.

Volunteer of The Year is Jay Richards of Maplelag, and

Coach of the Year is Sherrie Johnson of Mesabi East.

Coaches' Hall of Fame inductees are Bob Klungness of Bloomington Jefferson, Dave Johnson of Duluth Marshall and Glen Sorenson of CEC, Proctor and Marshall. Dave and Glen briefly summarized their careers and coaching philosophies as they accepted the awards. Glen announced that this year will be his last. He began coaching in 1979.

The inductees' plaques will be displayed in the Nordic Center at Mora.

Kim Ruud, Armstrong, presented updated information on the work being done at Wirth Park in Minneapolis and on the new regulations that will govern Park users. Coach Ruud stated that interested teams/coaches should consult the LNR website for a complete listing of the changes in the course and in the regulations.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Denny Nelson, Secretary.