

## MACC – MICHIGAN ALPINE COMPETITION COUNCIL – CALL-IN MEETING 11-18-2020

### Minutes of the meeting:

Alex Carrico called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

### Attendance – Officers:

Alex Carrico – P	Drew Hilger – P	Ginnie Uhley – P	Mike Hietbrink – P	Ryan Bloodworth – P
Shawn Hughes – P	Steve Coatney – A	Mike Sayers – P	Kermit Anderson - P	Dave Carrico – P
Rob Reader – P	Bill Perlmutter – A	Dennis Parrott – P	Zach Jablonski – P	Debi Koltoniak – P
Chuck White – P	Jeanette Roberts – A	Grace Patti – P		

### Attendance – Team Racer Representatives:

Alan Osterdale AA – P	Alfred Cureau JD – P	Gary Bloodworth – A	Chip Dayton SW – P	Gary Konsza SD – P
Mick Serafinski TR – P	Mike Jablonski TB – P	Pat Groves TO – P	Sue Holmes RN – A	Denise Miller TR – A

**General Updates – Alex Carrico** – This is a special meeting, and not everyone has topics on the agenda, but you may be asked for input. It's been a difficult month, with lots of Covid issues and updates. Any questions about the minutes? Debi motions to approve minutes, Alan seconds. Nobody opposed, motion passes to approve minutes. On Sunday, the Michigan health department issued an emergency order. Under that order, organized sports are on hold through December 8th. It is vague on what falls under that, and it seems to be geared towards indoors sports. In the new procedures, the only time you are allowed to not have a mask on is when you are skiing down the hill. Hopefully, we will have more guidance from Boyne and the health department over the next few weeks. Other race organizations are going through with registration, so we will as well. We owe it to racers to do everything we can, and it is still too early to cancel the season. Right now, we still don't have many answers to emergency order questions.

Proposed by laws – No changes to the proposed by-laws from last meeting. First one was moving the duties of pace setter assignments from Rob to Chuck. Dennis motions to approve, Alan seconds. None opposed, motion passes. Second one is a rule change, that indicates that the helmet must be designed for snow sports, free of any damage, and in working order. Mick motions, Eob seconds. None opposed, motion passes.

Review survey results – First question was “Do you plan to return this season?” 93 answered, with 77 saying “yes,” 6 “no,” 10 “undecided.” Second question was, “if yes, what class?” Survey won't be 100% accurate, but it's a fairly good estimate. It shows that the numbers are fairly even between course 1 and 2. Question 3 asked for job assignment information. These numbers are slightly inaccurate, as there were some jobs left out. We have quite a few timers, and with limited numbers needed, they may have to find jobs in other areas. Question 4, other concerns/suggestions. Quite a few questions here, some of which are answered already in the returning to racing document. There were a few good questions/comments worth noting. In regards to warming huts; this is probably going to be one of the biggest issues we face this season. We cannot provide any sort of warming hut. This is going to be the case for every ski area, not just Boyne. There will be massively reduced lodge capacity as well. We can't provide warming huts, and it is important that people know this before they sign up. Boyne is recommending that people go to their cars to block wind and warm up, and that might be the best we can provide at this point. There were some concerns about radio sanitation, gate judge card turn-in, and the possibility of electronic check in. Electronic check-in sounds great, but unfortunately, we don't have time to create app to handle it. Also, having people use their phones out in the cold is unreliable. Dennis and Alex discussed different ways to have gate judges turn in cards, and whether we need the chief to collect cards directly. Alex thought that the drop box was a good idea, but the chief of course's job is to make sure there are no issues. Dennis – I don't think we should go drop box route. The chief of course has to talk to the judges to make sure everything is correct on the cards. Sometimes gate judges get mixed, cards don't get collected, etc. Alex – When the chief of course collects cards, masks must be worn, due to being in close contact. Four people asked to make sure we were social distancing, which is already covered in the document. Someone asked about the possibility of putting the same household in the timing shack. This may be possible, but only applies to a few racers. Someone asked about possibly keeping times up on the clock longer after a racer finishes. Shawn – It should be possible, but we need to be careful that people aren't seeing the wrong time if its kept up too long. Dennis – Recently put out another survey. For the more recent survey, about 57-58% of last years course ops workers plan on returning. This is down from the 71% from the last survey asking the same thing. Crew of 16 right now, with 5 leaning in, but not 100% committed yet. Alex – The timing/announcing number from the survey was at 23, will we need that many people? Shawn – Absolutely not. That counts 4 people per race, but we will be using less than that, so they can help with course ops. Alex – Ok, Dennis and Shawn should touch base outside this call to figure out who can switch teams. Drew – It's also worth noting that these numbers came a couple weeks ago, so people's thoughts may have changed with the Covid numbers going up and the government announcements. We will probably have to constantly re-evaluate as we go forward.

Changes to safe return to ski racing document – More changes have been made, as we are trying to accommodate survey suggestions. Last updated date is now a footer on every page. Also added a table of contents. First update was adding Boyne's info to the general procedures. Boyne has a winter plan listed on their website. This will answer any questions people have about lifts, masks, etc. People are encouraged to buy tickets online, as they may limit the number of tickets sold on peak days. Boyne is also recommending using your car as your home base. There will be no gear storage or base lodges. Worker signup will be at the Othmar. Workers can go into the Othmar to sign up but must leave once signup is complete. Inside starter must also wear a mask, as they are talking through the hole to racers. Racer must wear mask in starting gate, but they can remove mask once the starter says, "go when ready." 6ft of distance must be maintained by racers in line as well. Starters are responsible for wiping down surfaces before and after each race, wipes will be provided. We might not be losing the gate storage shack, but Alex will follow up with Ed to see where the ski patrol will be moving to. With our Covid policies, we still won't be able to use the gate shack to warm up, due to social distancing restrictions. Will ask Ed to confirm if there are broken windows or anything else we need to be aware of. Grace pointed out that the top of FIS may lead to quite a few racers gathering. Alex added that we will probably need additional policies if we use FIS. For example, one racer in start, one at top, one half way up, etc. Timers will also be responsible to wipe down surfaces before and after races. Due to the reduced number of timers, it may take longer to send each racer, causing races to go slightly slower. The overall length of the race may end up being the same though, if we have less racers. For course ops, in response to survey comments, some procedures have been added. Workers are responsible for wiping down shared equipment, wipes will be in bag. Equipment will be sanitized every morning. Face coverings will be worn when near other people but can be taken off when alone. For refunds, racers can have refund if they notify us prior to the start of the season. If a racer decides not to race after the season starts, refunds won't be granted unless we vote to cancel season. Refunds will be issued if we vote to cancel the season. Refund will be pro-rated, based on how far into the season we are. If we refund within 90 days, we shouldn't lose pay pal fees, so racers should get full (prorated) amount back. Mike added that prorated refunds may not be a straight-line refund, as we will have to take into account other costs/fees that we may incur at certain points in the season. Alex continued by saying it is quite easy to refund through PayPal. It may take a while to do it for 100 people, but it is easier than writing checks. We also added a FAQ to the document, which is mostly repeated information from earlier in document. Everything in here is in line with all the other races and ski resorts. Once again, there will be no warming huts, so MACC will have to take that into consideration if deciding to cancel races.

The threshold for race cancellation is mostly determined by the temperature and not having warming huts. On race day, if Alex, Drew, Dennis, and Kermit decide snow conditions are safe, they will also take temperature into consideration. Anyone have anything to add about what it would take a cancel a race on race day? We will also need to talk about what it would take to cancel the season. We don't need to decide now, but we do need to talk about what happens if our numbers drop too low. And if there is an outbreak stemming from us, what do we do? Need to keep those things in our mind as well. Mike Sayers asked if we have any idea what our minimum number is? Alex said we don't know, but it will probably hinge on Dennis and Shawn deciding if they have enough workers. Shawn added that officers can also chip in outside our normal work assignments. Alex asked directors to email her and submit what their minimum number is. Ryan asked if anyone has talked about having people work both days every weekend? Drew said not yet, but a lot of these questions will need to be revised once we have registration numbers. Alex continued by saying that we are going to have Debi and Grace emphasize that people need to register asap so we can use the initial numbers to determine if we can have a season. We will push hard to let everyone know that if people don't register, there may not be a season. December 1st is still planned date for registration to go live, but we don't want to advertise that until we know for sure, because it may change.

Guest racing – Our suggestion to the board is to not have guest racers this year. It is a source of income, but we are concerned that the extra foot traffic combined with racers not knowing our policies may be problematic. For this season, it would be best to not have guest racing. If anyone has an argument to keep it, please let us know. Sayers agrees. Dennis loves guest racing, but for this year, just don't see how we could do it. Its extra work, extra course balancing, etc. Debi is in favor of not doing it. Kermit would like to keep it, but only if we had a way to make it online only and signed up far enough ahead that we could plan accordingly. Grace agrees with Kermit, maybe even require a guest to be sponsored by another racer. Ginnie agrees with everyone's comments, but how can you police it? There are some guests we know, and some that we don't. it would also be very tough to make sure everyone had read the Covid rules. We also have to keep our racers safe, which is much tougher to enforce with guests around. Drew added that by not allowing guests we might also force a few people to register for the full season, if they know that guest racing isn't an option. This would also take away the excuse to race without work. Dennis said that as of right now, there is no way for guest racers to register online. And in the rush to get it up and running by December 1st, we probably won't be able to add that feature. Alex said that with all the work we have already put in, it would go a long way to take as much off of director's plates as possible. Simplicity is probably best this season. Unless there are more people opposed to it, we won't have guest racing. Please speak now if you have issues. Sayers added that we can also change this policy part way through the season.

Racing on FIS vs Superbowl – Social distancing in the start line will be a problem. Maintaining social distancing on the FIS incline while lining up to race will be tough. We can all but guarantee that people will gather too close together. Most of us agree that it is better for the GS to be on the big hill, but in order to make the social distancing as easy as possible for everyone, we may have to use Superbowl for both races. It will be much easier for older racers and starters as well. The main problem will be that Superbowl is typically light on snow and may cause some issues if they don't get a lot of snow. Drew added that one of

the biggest benefits of moving is going to be that the race will go smoother. People will be very delayed getting up the hill and could cause issues with the race itself. Kermit thinks that from a social distancing aspect we should be able to make it work everywhere. Announcers will also have to emphasize that everyone is in line on time. From a snow making standpoint, it is likely that most ski places will try to make as little snow as possible. Alex asked if it would be possible to put a start to the side of the mound. Dave said we should be able to put the start anywhere, we just have to let them know. Alan said that we should be able to run any hill we want, but the outside starter will be very important in making sure everyone is ready. He prefers Superbowl, but thinks we could make both work. Alex continued by saying that we will need to talk with all the outside starters to make sure they are well prepared. We won't be able to make a decision on this until we know more about snow conditions. Mick added that he talked to Ricky, and Superbowl is at the very bottom of Boyne's list to make snow. Alex said she will talk to Boyne to see what alternatives we may have if Superbowl isn't ready.

Awards – As of right now, the current plan is to hold awards. Our biggest concern is that if we do have to issue refunds, eating the financial cost of awards will hurt. We have two suggestions. The first is to not have awards at all. No ceremony, no glasses. This would free up any financial obligation. The issue is that we don't really know how racers would feel about this, but it would reduce our costs by a lot. The second option is to purchase and distribute awards at the end of the year. This way people would get awards, but we can wait to see how many awards we need. We wouldn't have ceremonies throughout season, but at least racers would get something. Mike Sayers added that we could also get awards without the year on it, and then use the same awards for two seasons if necessary. Alan said that this is a strange year, we could do something very cheap, like paper awards, and do better rewards for the year end. Mike Hietbrink said that we are also raising dues this year, so cutting awards and raising dues might be tough on people. Zach said he looked into medals and pins, and it didn't turn out to be too cheap. He looked into cheaper awards like plastic cups, koozies, etc. There is typically a 2 week turn around, and usually free shipping. Shipping on the glasses last year was around \$450. The non-glass options are koozies, medals, and plastic cups. Although a lot of those options aren't really cheaper than what we normally do. Last year was about \$2 each. Alex pointed out that if we decide to only do awards at the end of the year, we will know exactly what to order. Mike H and Zach agree that plastic/silicon is probably the way to go this year. Debi said she may have an online vendor that could have customized magnets for fridge or stickers. Will send info to Zach. Everyone basically agrees that we shouldn't order anything until we know registration numbers. Alex thinks the best thing to do is to decide about how we plan on handling awards. Based on what everyone is saying, it sounds like we should not hold awards, and we should wait until the season starts to order them.

Alex wants to call on each club rep to ask their opinions. As of now, we should plan on not having mid season awards. Therefore, there are three options that she wants input on. Option 1, do we want to order awards for each race and world cup awards for the end of season. Option 2 is only world cup. Option 3 is no awards at all. And if we do order individual race awards, they would be distributed at the end or after the season.

Toledo – Debi – Just world cup, but make sure we let people know ahead of time.

Toledo – Pat – Agrees with Debi, and notes that gathering outside after a day of skiing will be cold for everyone.

Thunderbirds – Dennis – Mike Jablonski is on the call but can't speak. We both think we should wait and order them later for the in-season awards. If not, we should definitely have world cup awards. Prefer both.

Team Rust – Ginnie – World cup at the end of the year.

Team Rust – Mick – World cup.

Snow Drifters – Rob – World cup.

Skiwis – Chip – World cup.

Skiniks – Ryan – World cup.

Ann Arbor – Alan – If we can't meet up for in season awards, then he doesn't see the point. Definitely wants world cup though.

Jim Dandy – Alfred – Fine with world cup only.

Alex – Based on input, we will only be doing world cup awards at the end of the season. No award ceremonies currently due to Covid. We could hand out something like paper or beads for awards, but not official race awards. World cup awards will be ordered near the end of the season and may not arrive until after the end of the season.

Registration – Mike Hietbrink – Our finances haven't been great for a while. And doing some simple math, we need to generate another \$1,500 a year. For that to work, registration would need to be \$80. Last year it was \$65. Also, no discounts for ages or anything. Bib fee would also be a flat \$20. Alex opens up the call for discussion. Kermit points out that as a race organization, we are super cheap. Have been for years, everywhere else is way more expensive. Alex says we are going to promote online registration as much as possible. We will advertise PayPal only but will offer paper registration for those who request it. Refunds will also be much easier through PayPal. Registration is \$80, if you need a bib, it is an extra \$20. Ginnie says registration should look similar to last year, even though we are changing platforms. Dennis shared his screen with the new registration page. Form has basic info, team info, previous race history, etc. Alex requested that there is a confirmation added to the registration page to confirm that the racer has read the Covid rules for both Boyne and MACC. Alex and Drew are working to come up with a solid number that we will need for a season. Once that number is known, we will advertise it out on social media.

Apparel Store – We only received one entry for apparel logo. The plan was to have store open when registration opened, but with the uncertainty in our season, we will wait to open until the season starts.

Social Media – Alex will send the finalized return to race plan once its revised. Mike Sayers said the schedule on the website currently has awards listed for every day. Alex will make a new one. She will also write a little description about the lack of awards. Debi plans to draft an e-newsletter and send it to Alex for approval.

Dennis wants to thank Alex and Drew for all the work they put in. Alex also wants to thank all the directors that have put in work to get us to this point. Thanks Dennis and Ginnie for registration work, and thanks Drew for helping a ton, even with another child. So thankful to everyone.

Meeting adjourned around 10:00PM

Next meeting will be a call-in meeting on 12/16.

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Bloodworth, Secretary.