

**Montana Cup Committee Meeting**  
**Whitehall, MT, Saturday, December 19, 2009**

**Minutes**

10:00 a.m. Obligatory Run and concurrent discussion on everyone's aches and pains  
**Grown Up Run (15K ±) – Nicole Hunt, Tony Banovich, Alan King**  
**Kids Run (10K ±) – Pat Judge, Dewey Peacock, Jeff Thomas, Anders Brooker**  
**Driver – Ray Hunt, Catering by Sandra Hunt**

11:30 a.m. – Noon Post Run Clean Up, Rehydration & Fueling, and continuation of discussion of aches & pains

Noon Organizational Meeting @ **Whitehall Methodist Church**, NE corner of 1<sup>st</sup> & Brooke Sts  
**Present –Anders Brooker (Missoula), Alan King (Billings), Tony Banovich, Secretary (Kalispell), Jeff Thomas & Pat Judge (Helena), Dewey Peacock (Bozeman), Ray Hunt & Nicole Hunt– Nicole partial time at meeting, also attending to young Mr. Eon (Butte)**

**Discussion Topics**

- Proposed pardon of Mr. Judge's past "indiscretions"

Two strangely similar, and surreal looking letters allegedly written by Montana Governor Schweitzer (see attached) recently floated out of Helena (apparently via flotilla) for delivery to the Cup Committee, in which we were led to believe that Governor Schweitzer wished to overturn Governor Martz's previous party-line decision to ban Mr. Judge from using the first three letters of his name. All committee members present were in favor of fully restoring Mr. Judge's name from "rick" to Pat (or Patrick) in all Montana Cup activities on the condition that Pat "keeps his nose clean."

- Course Management
  - Course Markings, Flagging, etc.
  - Course Marshalls
  - Course Audit prior to release of entry blank

Discussion of blaze orange flags and/or cones (or other high visibility/contrasting color) shall be used to mark the course. Paint/marking chalk can be permitted to supplement (but not replace) flags and/or cones when ground is bare and dry. Spacing to be such that the flags and/or cones are clearly visible and that the next marker along the course shall always be within the line of site/visibility.

If the course is well marked, it largely eliminates the need for course marshals. But, course marshals shall be provided on courses where there is any critical location that could, even with good markings, have the possibility of someone going off course.

Discussion of course audit – host meet director to invite committee members to preview the course to discuss/review/consider technical issues of the course and assist with recommendations on issues that may be important on the course. Committee members not obligated to attend; but, goal would be that members from at least 3 regions would make the trip to assist. Course preview to be completed by September 1<sup>st</sup> (prior to posting of entry blank). Preview committee is advisory only. Final course decisions shall remain with the host meet director.

- Race Management
  - Baseline Rules (USATF, National High School Federation, NCAA, other)
  - Specific actions subject to Disqualification
    - Course "Cutting"?
    - Improper Jersey Color
      - Must it be an "official" MT Cup jersey or just the correct color?
      - Jersey Inspector (@ start and finish)?

Rules Discussion – Agreed to use USATF Rules of Competition to cover things not specifically covered by MT Cup Rules. USATF Rules were selected since most Cup athletes are post high school, post college. Will use most current edition ... cross-country section only ... available online as pdf file. Ray Hunt indicated that he gets a annual hardcopy rulebook, and in the event that the Meet Director indicates a need for such assistance, Ray agreed to bring the rule book to the meet.

- Discussion of jersey color.

Concurrence that team colors should be retained. To be on a scoring team or represent your town, must wear the official team jersey. Can run unaffiliated; but, must wear purple jersey. Meet directors are going to make sure that they have enough jerseys to cover all runners. Need at least two weeks to get jersey order turnaround; but, more time is better. Entry blank needs to be very clear on need to wear official Montana Cup jersey.

Jersey Inspector – Recommended that it be a pre-race inspection. Inspection to be 5 minutes prior to start. Inspector to be designated by meet director. If no official jersey, cannot run (screws up results).

- Race Registration
  - On-line Only?
  - No race day registration?
  - Increase in late registration fee?

Race day registration is problematic for data entry and for singlet orders. Race day – not permitted.

Concurrence is to go to on-line registration. Will use a consistent online registration provider *imAthlete* ... Ray to make contact to initiate set up.

On-line registration closes noon on the day before the race.

Late registration – begins 2 weeks from the Friday before the Race. Recommend to bump late entry fee to \$10 (at least). Meet director could go to more than \$10 if they choose.

Entry form and race info/marketing needs to be very clear on registration issues.

- Modify Entry Form to include primary/significant rules
  - Jersey Colors
  - Box to Check if they are a collegiate (**active or red shirt** – added as discussion at meeting) athlete
  - Others

Largely will be taken care of by on-line registration and adding these lines to the *IMAthlete* set up.

The limits on collegians is for college XC and track team endurance runners. Other sports (XC ski, tri, swimming) not part of the issue (at this time. Could be revisited in the future.)

- Committee Structure & Voting

Two people per region to be invited as part of committee. Attendance at meeting(s) is strongly encouraged; but, not mandatory. (Their choice to travel to meeting or not.) Indicate on website who is on committee.

No formal voting. Rules/guidelines to be developed by consensus in overall spirit of Montana Cup.

□ Results Issues

- Bib Numbers
- Computer/Program Issues
- Finish Line back up camera
- Back Up System with tags only

Bib Numbers – Anders (Runners Edge) will order 1000 numbers (consecutively numbered). Will include meet logo. Anders will provide to Alan and then extras will go to next meet host.

Will amend rules to require some form of back up/redundancy for finish tags & timing. Back up camera is strongly recommended as part of the backup system.

Recommend that timing and results areas both be protected from intrusion by spectators/runners/non-officials so that official timing and scoring is not compromised or interrupted.

Computer issues – some programming issues have been modified. Ray will run program and do a “computers for dummies” list of issues to assist the host. Alan to get computer from Ray as soon as reasonably possible and to undertake training on how the program works and issues that need to be ready to address on race day.

Results back up – if computer issues occur, meet director needs to be prepared to call in committee members to hand score to get team and all-Montana results out ASAP. Full scoring results can then occur post award ceremony.

Tie breaker set up – eliminate time as part of the tie break protocol. Tie breakers to be based only on runner finish positions. It was agreed that ties would be broken on the relative place of the 6<sup>th</sup> runners; but, if the tied teams do not have a 6th runner, the place of each team's 5th runner will decide the tie.

□ Make Up of Jury of Appeals

Proposed by Jeff – one rep per region. To be picked by the meet director from the pool of team captains. Has to be chosen and announced prior to the meet. Meet Director will not be part of the jury of appeals. Meet Director to designate a person from his race committee to be an alternate if one region is not represented. Goal to have at least 3 of each gender on the jury. Jury should read rules prior to meet. Meet Director may attend to provide information; but, won't vote.

□ Better Define “Reasonable Time” for protest to be filed?

- Within 30 minutes after conclusion of 2<sup>nd</sup> race? **Concur.**
- Filed by team organizers or by anyone in race? **Has to be filed through a team captain.**
- Meet Director can convene jury of appeals for any infractions observed by him or members of his race “staff” (i.e. – course cutting, uniforms, foul language, collegiate runners on teams, etc.)? **Yes**

□ Reconfirm collegiate and non-resident rules

Discussed. Refined collegiate to include active or redshirt cross country **and track**. Retain remainder of non-resident rule.

□ Continuation of Junior Team race & Cyppee Cup?

Concurrence was to keep as is to try to support the junior runners and give them an incentive of a team title. Perhaps revisit in a couple of years if numbers don't improve/grow. As a desperation last resort to keep this division viable in future years, could consider scoring only 3 (versus 5, as MHSA does for Class C) as a way to keep the team format alive but with small numbers of teams/participants.

□ Team Captain Incentives

Discussion on both sides about value of incentives or doing away with incentive. Consensus was to keep in place; but, to look at if we can do a code through IM Athletics so that team captains don't have to pay entry fee (eliminates issue of host then having to write checks back to captains). Captains can then choose to not use code and to still pay registration fee. Captains will also be censured if they use fee entry code but don't get full teams (i.e. – will be removed as captain for future teams).

□ Inclusion / exclusion of juniors and or masters among open-division All-Montana Teams

If junior or master is in top 7, they should then be also included in the “All- Montana” Team. 3 award categories for men & women: junior, master, and open division All-Montana teams (Total of 42 awards). To provide some tangible “reward” for performances, awards shall be provided each year by the host committee. Don't have to be elaborate/expensive awards; but, goal would be to have unique, memorable gifts.

□ Update rules posted online

Ray has updated rules based on current conditions. Will revise again based on meeting discussions & consensus decisions.

□ Border Town provisions

Border towns – leave as is.

Request of Plains-T Falls-Lower Clark Fork returning to Missoula instead of Kalispell – consensus is to leave as is at this time.

□ “U” back tags for Unaffiliated runners?

Not necessary now that we require purple for all unaffiliated runners.

□ Disallow use of headphones, iPods, other electronic equipment

Consensus was that it wasn't an issue that needed to be added as a rule. Only an issue if someone blocks someone else and impedes their progress (would be an issue that can be protested to the jury of appeals).

**Ray passed check from Bozeman group to Yellowstone Rim Runners (via Alan King) for \$690.60. (\$441 is seed money via Missoula from 2007 race for future hosts to use for up front expenses. Remainder is profit from this year's race.) Alan took check on behalf of Rim Runners and will deposit into 2010 race account.**

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. Ray asked by the committee to extend thanks to his mother for coordinating use of the church meeting room and the good food.**