

From: John Wilkins lpskier@gmail.com
Subject: Re: SPECIAL MEETING: Proposed P&Ps amendment 7.3.6 Jr. Skiers Travel Reimbursement Policy
Date: January 24, 2023 at 5:21 PM



To: BILL FOSBENNER bfosbenner@comcast.net

Cc: Doug Robbins drobbins@teleplexinc.com, Amy Craig adcraig@msn.com, Eastern EVP easternevp@gmail.com, Matt Byrn mattbyrn@outlook.com, don.e.nichols don.e.nichols@comcast.net, David Allen allendbj@comcast.net, David Robbins davidrobbins.engineer@yahoo.com, Scott Behner scottbehner@gmail.com, Erin Peckham erinopeckham@gmail.com, John Davis jodavis3@comcast.net, Justin Campfield justin@thinksparkmedia.com, Sam Ingram sam.ingram@comcast.net, Becky Bartlett rebeccasbartlett@yahoo.com, Jon Bickel jbickel27@verizon.net, Bruce Epstein bbeski38@gmail.com, Diana Olinger dianakolinger@gmail.com, Bill Baker billandmbaker@comcast.net, Patrick Byrne PatJByrne@outlook.com, Bob Corson bcorson@comcast.net, Roger Hammel skitimberlake@verizon.net, Steve Lohr slohr@bealenet.com, Tonya Maurer multitasking@comcast.net, Jim Powell jim.skiboy@gmail.com, Heather Boroughs awsaeastfinance@gmail.com, Adele Caputo caputoat@gmail.com

I agree with Doug as well.

On Tue, Jan 24, 2023 at 4:17 PM BILL FOSBENNER <bfosbenner@comcast.net> wrote:

I agree with Doug's points.

Bill

On 01/24/2023 1:54 PM Doug Robbins <drobbins@teleplexinc.com> wrote:

All,

I think we need to support our Eastern juniors selected to US teams. No other region does this. The only USA team whose travel is funded by AWSA is the elite world team. Juniors may get outfitted, and perhaps ground transportation. Depending on the year, budget, etc.

The initial ask some years ago was for flight reimbursement for an Eastern junior skier selected to a USA team in international competition. For what it is worth that is the precedent. Since that is what has been done in the past, I support the verbiage to reimburse expense for the commercial flight cost.

Junior worlds can be in Europe, Asia, Australia, etc., which can be a costly flight. In addition most juniors skiing in a world event will not travel alone. They are minors. Some young minors. So families will send a parent or grandparent for example. So if a flight to Australia is \$2000 for the skier, the family spend can easily double that for the event.

As Amy points out we happen to be in an era that we have a lot of talented Eastern juniors. We may have multiple Eastern skiers on USA teams for the next several years. A great problem for the Eastern Region to have. So we do have a need for this discussion and to define policy. I think with policy it is best to keep in simple and clear.

I do not support travel reimbursement for a world junior event held on American soil. For two reasons.

- 1) If elite worlds are held at Travers for example, those USA elite team skier's travel is not funded.
- 2) Eastern Region council precedent established some years ago.

Lastly, please keep in mind the donate button on the USA-WSWS web site. When we renew our memberships. When talking about these super kids to friends, relatives, etc. For those who can afford to make a contribution in their giving budgets, it of course is a worthwhile cause. All our USA teams are faced with competing against skiers from various countries whose governments fully fund them to compete, train, live abroad (most here in the USA), as well as their equipment, and travel. Congress does not allocate a penny to our athletes.

<http://www.teamusadonations.com/donate.html>

Donating to one of our teams are restricted donations. In other words they stay with that team. If there is a surplus from events in any given year, that carries over to the next year. So any donated funds will be used by the team you designate.

Doug Robbins

On 1/24/2023 10:00 AM, Amy Craig wrote:

All, Please see my suggestions in highlighted yellow. Amy

PROPOSED 7.3.6 Junior Skiers Travel Reimbursement Policy for skiers selected to represent Team USA in International Competitions The Council

selected to represent Team USA in international competitions. The Council shall annually approve a budget line item amount for Eastern Region Junior travel reimbursement for skiers representing Team USA in international competition.

Eligible skiers include any Eastern Region skier selected to the U14, U17, and/or U21, USA Junior Teams for 3-event international competition sanctioned by the IWWF.

Travel expense is defined as (*****DELETE commercial airline flight replace with transportation ****OR replace with ANY) expenses incurred to attend an international event representing Team USA and approved by the EVP and / or Council.

Rationale: overly specific, transportation could be any variety of way including car, bus, train, etc. Question: Why must it be used on transportation not lodging or other expenses? What if airline miles are used and hotel points but seek reimbursement for rental car?

The Eastern Region travel expense reimbursement policy is intended to offset travel and approved related expenses for skiers only, and does not include travel expenses incurred by parents, relatives, or chaperones for their related travel.

Rationale: See above. We should not dictate what the money is used for as long as it is used for the athlete's benefit (within reason transportation, food, lodging, uncovered medical expenses/ over the counter medicine, etc.)

To receive reimbursement, receipts for skier (*****Delete: travel*****) expenses must be submitted to the Eastern Region Treasurer, with a copy to the Eastern Region EVP, within 30 days of the end of the tournament *****DELETE : or December 10th, whichever is sooner.*****

Rationale: if you are going to be specific on the use of the funds then stick to a 30 day window. If the 30 day window is missed, then the athlete can request reimbursement due to extenuating circumstances if those exist.

Each skier can submit up to \$500 for potential reimbursement. The EVP is authorize to approve reimbursement up to \$500 for each skier, up to the total amount budgeted. The EVP may recommend full reimbursement (\$500 per skier) or any reduced amount if it exceeds the budgeted amount. It is understood that budget amounts cannot anticipate how successful the Region might be in placing juniors on the US Teams

region might be in placing juniors on the US teams.

Rationale: To be determined by EVP, Council if there is a question. Additionally, we have seen years with no Eastern Region skiers on Team USA and now we have several. This is difficult to budget for and leeway should be included.

Additionally, it was suggested to me that, in the future, should we consider a smaller reimbursement for independent athletes, not on the USA Team. Reasoning, it is very difficult if not impossible for a non-3 event skier to make the team. Should we provide a smaller amount to acknowledge those that attend as independents to encourage i.e. grow the sport? Those skiers return to the region and act as role models to the other skiers. Something to think about.

From: Eastern EVP <easternevp@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 11:24 AM
To: Matt Byrn <mattbyrn@outlook.com>; don.e.nichols <don.e.nichols@comcast.net>; David Allen <allendbj@comcast.net>; David Robbins <davidrobbins.engineer@yahoo.com>; Scott Behner <scottbehner@gmail.com>; Bill Fosbenner <bfosbenner@comcast.net>; Erin Peckham <erinopeckham@gmail.com>; John Davis <jodavis3@comcast.net>; Amy Craig <adcraig@msn.com>; Justin Campfield <justin@thinksparkmedia.com>; Sam Ingram <sam.ingram@comcast.net>; John Wilkins <lpskier@gmail.com>; Becky Bartlett <rebeccasbartlett@yahoo.com>; Doug Robbins <[drobbins@teleplexinc.com](mailto:d Robbins@teleplexinc.com)>; Jon Bickel <jbickel27@verizon.net>; Bruce Epstein <bbeski38@gmail.com>; Diana Olinger <dianakolinger@gmail.com>
Cc: Bill Baker <billandmbaker@comcast.net>; Patrick Byrne <PatJByrne@outlook.com>; Bob Corson <bcorson@comcast.net>; Roger Hammel <skitimberlake@verizon.net>; Steve Lohr <slohr@bealenet.com>; Tonya Maurer <multitasking@comcast.net>; Jim Powell <jim.skiboy@gmail.com>; Heather Boroughs <awsaeastfinance@gmail.com>; Adele Caputo <caputoat@gmail.com>
Subject: SPECIAL MEETING: Proposed P&Ps amendment 7.3.6 Jr. Skiers Travel Reimbursement Policy

Dear Council Members,

Pursuant to Bylaws art.XI, sec. 1.C, I'm conducting an email meeting for the purpose of considering a proposed amendment to the Eastern Region Policy & Procedures: 7.3.6 Junior Skiers Reimbursement Policy. See attached. (at the end of this email, I'm also nominating Mike Shelhamer as an appointed judge at the 2023 Regionals)

As some of you may recall, the Council has previously approved reimbursement of some international travel for those junior skiers selected to US Teams. The approval was done on an ad hoc basis, without any policy in place. The purpose of the attached policy is to formalize the procedure and requirements for reimbursement of such travel expenses. Putting a policy in place will assist the Council in setting the annual budget and give junior skiers (and their parents) the ability to make informed decisions regarding participation on US Teams and the requirements to obtain reimbursement.

I move to adopt P&P 7.3.6. Is there a "second?" Once someone moves to second the motion, the Council has seven (7) days to discuss the proposed amendment. Please "reply all" with your comments. I will call for a final vote on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

* If the motion passes, it is my intention to approve reimbursement for qualified travel expenses, per the new policy, incurred

during calendar year 2022 from the 2023 budget. This would be a **one-time exception** to the reimbursement policy's timing requirement because it's a newly imposed policy and the 2022 budget is "closed." I have consulted our Treasurer to confirm that this accounting practice is acceptable.

** Mike Shelhamer submitted his name to be an appointed judge for the 2023 Regionals. I nominate him as an appointed judge. Is there a "second?" Please indicate your position on this motion as well.

Thank you,
Karen

Karen L. Melnik
AWSA East EVP

