

**CT Region Advisor Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes—Wednesday, November 18, 2020**  
**Zoom conference 1901-2030**

**Attendees**

**Advisors:** Peter Bayer (ROA); Michael Gajdosik (ID Advisor); Kathy Fitzpatrick (Safety Team Advisor); Tom Kim (Snowboard Advisor); Sue-Ellen Repeta (YAP Advisor & Pequot Section Chief); Austin Hochstrate (Assistant YAP Advisor); Mike Bafuma (Awards Advisor); Larry Hyatt (Sr OEC Advisor)

**CT Region Admin:** Skip Mudge (RD); Tony Philpin (Housatonic Section Chief); Mark Pahmer (Alternate Region Director); Paula Knight (Asst. Division OEC Supervisor)

**Absent:** Michael Lapierre (MTR Advisor); Chuck Boyd (Avalanche & Nordic/Backcountry Advisor); Jenny O'Donnell (Assistant Safety Team Advisor); Justin Regan (Certified & Sr OET Advisor); Cally Regan (Woman's Program); Paul Katz (Assistant Snowboard Advisor);

**Course Completion/Closure Process**

- Complete a course – IOR has made final edits (mark course complete) and notifies the ITOR (to expect NSP approval request, and specifies any edits made to roster)
- Close a course – ITOR approved and Education (National) processed (takes a day or two to get posted)
- The course “end date” should be the date the IOR completes the course. The IOR may need to change the end date

**Youth Protection Training**

- All Program Advisors and IORs are required to take the training. In addition, key instructors, at a minimum, should take the training.
- Sundown requires all Hill Captains to complete this training
- Resources can be found on [ctnsp.org](http://ctnsp.org), [nspeast.org](http://nspeast.org), [nsp.org](http://nsp.org). Program details can be found in NSP Policies & Procedures, Chapter 13 ([nsp.org/Member Resources/Governance](http://nsp.org/MemberResources/Governance))
- On the [nspeast.org](http://nspeast.org) site, use the Resources pulldown and select the Youth Protection
- Three programs are currently approved. Once a patroller completes the training, they should fill out the online form ([nsteast.org](http://nsteast.org)). Chris Tota will then review the information and communicate directly to the patroller if there are any issues. Every Thursday, the Eastern Division will batch and send to National. At this time, National is updating their database on a monthly basis. If an IOR or PD has any questions regarding the status of a particular instructor or patroller, they should contact Skip Mudge directly.
- The Boy Scout training is good for two years and the other programs are good for three years.

**Eastern Division memo regarding insurance exclusion of infectious diseases**

- National’s insurance policy which provides coverage for Division and Regional courses excludes communicable diseases. This is quite common.
- Local courses are covered under the ski area's insurance policy (which likely has the same exclusions)
- COVID-19 has not really been tested in the courts. However, it is highly unlikely that such a case would be successful. That said, the cost of defending oneself could be very expensive, and beyond the means of

many patrollers. It would also be quite stressful. Suits would likely name everyone involved with a course or event.

- Our concerns are twofold – Safety and Litigation
- Local courses should be approved by the PD, the patrol’s governing board (e.g., board of directors, steering committee) and area management.
- Regional courses must also be approved by the RD.
- If local courses are to continue, must be careful to assure all protocols are followed including health checks for everyone prior to every class; have a plan for those who present with signs & symptoms or had potential exposure; utilize masks, hand hygiene & physical distancing; sanitize everything after every use and have garbage receptacles to dispose of items; have training outside wherever possible; minimize or eliminate food. Also, Instructors should serve as good role models and follow all the rules and encourage all others to follow the rules. It was suggested to download the latest waiver and have everyone sign the newest one. This waiver includes “exposure to bodily substances, pathogens, and other infectious substances...”
- Have a Plan “B”. Local or State rules may change, or the situation may change.
- The Eastern Division is strongly recommending postponing all in-person training until after 1/1/21. The situation will be continually evaluated throughout the season. Considerations must be given for helpers, patients and other support personnel in addition to candidates, instructors and evaluators.
- Most Regions in the Eastern Division are curtailing in person training, some for the season and some for 2020.
- Written exams should be able to be administered safely, either outside (weather permitting) or with generous physical separation inside.
- IORs, ITORs and PDs will meet on Friday 11/20/20 to discuss the current open OEC courses and options for them.
- Sundown, Southington, and Powder Ridge all have courses in progress and scheduled to complete in the next few weeks.
  - Sundown: Written Thu Dec 3, Skills Tue Dec 8, Scenarios Thu Dec 10
  - Southington: Skills Wed Dec 9, Scenarios Sun Dec 13, Written Wed Dec 16
  - Powder Ridge: Written Mon Nov 23, Skills & Scenarios together during weekend of Dec 12 or 13
  - Pahquioque: Written, week of Dec 14 with practice sessions continuing through January.
  - Mohawk had decided to hold off starting the in-person portion of their course until January at the earliest.
- Throughout the Eastern Division people have been creating various things for safe training including Zoom sessions, utilizing family pods, though safety rules can't change.
- Blue Hills in MA, which had a class underway when everything hit in March, reverted to a Zoom platform. They provided all candidates (eleven candidates in seven households) with training supplies such as traction splints, quick splints, backboards, etc. Training sessions included a group lecture/discussion session followed by individual (household) breakout rooms, each with an instructor to provide feedback. Once things settled down, they were able to polish off the skills in-person, with very

structured safety protocols in place. Written exams were done in the parking lot. A chair was placed next to each car where they took the exam.

- Other areas have also developed creative ways of training and it was suggested to reach out for information.
- The evaluations must still meet the NSP requirements while keeping everyone safe. Skill stations often include an O2, Boot and Helmet removal, SMR, and possibly an upper body or bleeding issue. Scenarios often involve treating lower body and medical issues. In addition to keeping candidates, helpers and evaluators safe, the patients may be at greatest risk.
- It was reiterated that not only should people wear masks, wash hands and maintain distances, but we must still keep in mind that everyone is potentially contagious. Current tests are a snapshot in time, and in many cases, it is long after the patient became contagious.

#### **Awards—Mike Bafuma**

- As of 28 October 2020, the NSP Patriot Star is a Division Level award, approved and expanded to include all eligible members of the Armed Forces, both Active/Reserve/Guard and Honorably Discharged. A unanimous vote of the Division Awards Committee removed the combat zone restrictions. Under the new rules, a Patriot Star can be awarded to any current NSP member who is also currently an active-duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces for at least three years; or a current member of the U.S. Armed Forces Reserves or National Guard; or who had been honorably discharged after serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The armed forces include the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Army National Guard, and Air National Guard. This could be a National award by January 2021.
- The nomination form and blank certificate are available for download on the Eastern Division website.

Next meeting – not set

Adjourned 8:30 PM

Respectively submitted,  
Larry Hyatt