

To the
- Members of the Speed Skiing Committee

**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND
SNOWBOARD FEDERATION**
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Oberhofen, 27th October 2022

**Minutes meeting of Committee for Speed Skiing
Zurich, 30th September 2022**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for Speed Skiing held on Friday 30th September 2022 during the FIS Technical Autumn Meetings.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the Chairman.

We would also like to take the opportunity of informing you that the minutes are available on the Member Services section of the FIS Website: www.fis-ski.com.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.

Kind regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

Ricardo Adarraga
Chairman FIS Speed Skiing Committee

Enclosure: ment.

1. Members present

Members

Adarraga Ricardo (RA), Chairman	ESP	present
Andreassen Blake (BA), Appeals Commission	CAN	excused
Antor Nadal (NA), Race Org Coordination	AND	excused
Billy, Philippe (PB), Youth and Promotion	FRA	present
Grimm Allan (AG)	SWE	present
May Philippe (PM) Race Track assessment	SUI	excused
Monticone Alberto (AM), Equipment Rules	ITA	present
Prüller Christoph (CP)	AUT	present
Reid Millar (MR)	GBR	present

Athlete's representative

Vandendries Joost (JV)	BEL	present
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TD coordinator

Cristina Luc (LC)	SUI	present
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FIS staff member

Gerber Stefanie (SG)	SUI	FIS Project Coordinator Speed Ski
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Honorary members

Kjellström Per (PK), Chairman	SWE	not present
Dick Taplin	GBR	not present

Guests

Cozzi Marco (PG)	ITA	FIS Technical Delegate
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7 of 10 Committee members (including athletes' representative) are present. According to §11 "FIS RULES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES" Quorum is given. The Committee is empowered to submit decisions for approval to FIS Council.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Online meeting 17th May 2022

Meeting minutes of the last Online meeting 17th May 2022 approved by acclamation.

3. Welcome of Chairman

In July 2022 RA was appointed as new Chairman of the FIS Speed Skiing Committee by the FIS Council. RA welcomes all present assistants and especially the 2 new Speed skiing committee members Allan Grimm (AG) for SWE and Christoph Prüller (CP) for AUT. RA remarks that with the new members the committee accumulates now more than 200 years of experience in racing and organizing speedski races. RA summarizes some facts about the committee:

- 7 committee members have raced over 200 km/h
- 3 committee members have raced over 240 km/h
- 1 committee member has raced over 250 km/h
- 3 committee members are active speedski racers
- 3 members have experience in organizing high speed races during the last 20 years.
- 6 committee members have 20 years' experience as speedski team captains
- 1 committee member has 20 years' experience as speedski technical delegate

- The TD coordinator accumulates more than 30 years as technical delegate of speed ski races

With that background the committee concentrates the largest experience and know-how on organizing and managing speedski races in the world.

RA emphasizes the duties and responsibilities of the FIS committee members established in §11 of “FIS RULES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES” While it is legitimate to stand in for own NSA, that is not the mission of the committee members. The committee members are directly appointed by the FIS Council for a period of 2 years as experts to develop and decide on Speed skiing as well as to assess the FIS Council in all matters related to Speed Skiing. FIS members are appointed for a period of 2 years and can only be replaced by the FIS Council, if a committee member voluntarily resigns or has to leave for reasons of force majeure. The NSAs are only entitled to propose committee members, but are not entitled to dismiss a committee member. RA also emphasizes the role of each committee member and technical delegate as voice of the FIS. For that reason, every committee member and technical delegate must respect the principle of discretion and non-disclosure of internal committee talks and when speaking in public be aware that what is being said in regards to speedski may be interpreted as an official statement of FIS.

RA outlines the main goals he sees for the next 2 years in regards to the discipline:

1. Speed
Incentive tracks and races with final speeds with 180 km/h or more
2. Safety
Creation of a workgroup to improve safety of speedski races
3. Media Presence
Leverage new setup in FIS Marketing
4. Development
Guarantee future of speedski competitions

RA reports on his recent conversations with FIS Secretary General Michel Vion. FIS is going through a deep transformation process that includes redesign of FIS branding, marketing and media work. FIS direction is setting a new focus on speedski as a spectacular discipline. The FIS direction is increasing the priority for creating awareness of FIS speedski events and will now include the discipline in conversations between FIS and sponsors. Following this priority shift FIS direction wants to make the Speedski World Championships in second half of March 2023 in Vars (France) one of the great FIS events of the season. There is a good fit as the FIS Alpine World Cup will have ended by that time. RA already established contact with the new FIS marketing direction. With this huge opportunity window opened for speedskiing inside the FIS RA encourages all members and TDs to do what is necessary to make the best use of this chance.

4. FIS Speed Skiing Calendar 2022/23

4.1. World Championship 2023 – Updates/News

PB reports on plans and preparations of World Championship in March 2023 in Vars (France). Following the high attention by FIS direction of the event the organization has decided to make this the largest speedski event in years. The traditional yearly non-FIS Speed Masters race in Vars will somehow be fused with the FIS WSC. Vars blocked the time from march 15th until 26th to host as many runs as possible to preserve FIS rules. However, as the start positions will rise there will be strict cuts. After the first run only the fastest 30 men and 6 fastest women will qualify for the next run. Participation in the

semifinal will be limited to top 15 men, to top 4 women and in the final to top 10 men and to top 3 women. The final goal is to break the world records during the final run.

With the high speeds expected and to preserve safety the WSC in March will not include the S2J WSC. The S2J WSC will be hosted in January 2023 during the first 2 days of the World Cup planned in Vars between 25th and 30th of January 2023.

RA explicitly thanks NA for the flexibility shown by Grandvalira (Andorra) slipping the planned WC race to the last week of March 2023 to facilitate the dates of the WSC in Vars.

4.2. World Cup and FIS race events

The final calendar looks as follows:



FIS SPEED SKI CALENDAR 2022/2023

Date	Day	Site	Nation	WSC	WSC S2J	WC (S1)	FIS S1	FIS S2	FIS S2J	Race	Remarks
January											
	25	Wednesday	Vars	FRA		x	x			WC1	reception
	26	Thursday	Vars	FRA		x	x			WC1	free training + official training run
	27	Friday	Vars	FRA		x	x			WC1	3 runs cut top-30 men top-6 women after run 1
	28	Saturday	Vars	FRA		x	x			WC1	race day semifinal + final - no cuts planned (but possible)
	29	Sunday	Vars	FRA		x	x			WC2	race day semifinal + final - no cuts planned (but possible)
	30	Monday	Vars	FRA		x	x			WC2	reserve day
February											
March											
	8	Wednesday	Idrefjäll	SWE							Sweden Cup (open) non-FIS
	9	Thursday	Idrefjäll	SWE			x	x	x	WC1	race day quali
	10	Friday	Idrefjäll	SWE			x	x	x	WC1	race day semifinal + final
	11	Saturday	Idrefjäll	SWE			x	x	x	WC2	race day semifinal + final
	15	Wednesday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	reception
	16	Thursday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	free training + official training run
	17	Friday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	2 runs cut top-30 men top-6 women after run 1
	18	Saturday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	2 runs - no cuts
	19	Sunday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	rest day
	20	Monday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	2 runs - cut top-20 men top-5 women after run 2
	21	Tuesday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	2 runs - no cuts
	22	Wednesday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	2 runs - cut top-15 men top-4 women after run 2
	23	Thursday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	rest day
	24	Friday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	semifinal + Final - cut top-10 men top-3 women after semi
	25	Saturday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	reserve day
	26	Sunday	Vars	FRA		x				WSC	reserve day
	28	Tuesday	Grau Roig (Grandvalira)	AND		x		x	x	WC1	race day quali
	29	Wednesday	Grau Roig (Grandvalira)	AND		x		x	x	WC1	race day semifinal + final
	30	Thursday	Grau Roig (Grandvalira)	AND		x		x	x	WC2	race day semifinal + final
	31	Friday	Grau Roig (Grandvalira)	AND		x		x	x	WC2	reserve day
April											
	1	Saturday	Formigal	ESP							reception
	2	Sunday	Formigal	ESP			x	x	x	FIS	reserve day for evtl. track improvement
	3	Monday	Formigal	ESP							race day quali
	4	Tuesday	Formigal	ESP			x	x	x	WC	race day semifinal + final + WC Prize Ceremony
	5	Wednesday	Formigal	ESP			x	x	x	WC	reserve day
	6	Thursday	Formigal	ESP			x	x	x	WC	reserve day

4.3. Candidates WSC 2025

No candidates so far for WSC 2025

4.4. Request for a World Cup race in Gavarnie

Following up the committee conversations in May 2022 the committee retakes the evaluation of Gavarnie as a host for FIS races. Technical Delegates Coordinator LC explains that in 2020 the track proposed by Gavarnie received a *preliminary* homologation with the intention to test the conditions of the track during a FIS race that was hosted in January 2021. The result was not favourable. The most critical part of a speedski track, the run out (brake area) is very dangerous. So, it was agreed last year that LC would visit Gavarnie to analyse the track and make proposals for improving the safety of the track. Gavarnie implemented those recommendations and hosted another test FIS race in January 2022. The race showed that the implemented changes were not sufficient to make the run out safe enough. Out of 6 participating S1 racers one suffered a severe

accident in the mentioned run out that required medical treatment. All members of the FIS Speed Skiing Committee and LC conclude that the track does not comply to the meanwhile increased safety requirements.

Following the exposition above the FIS Speed Skiing committee together with the Technical Delegates Coordinator LC unanimously decides:

- 1.The track proposed by Gavarnie can only be homologated with a maximum allowed speed of 140 km/h
- 2.With a maximum allowed speed of 140 km/h the track is not qualified to host speedski races that would comply to the FIS objective of having a potential maximum speed of 180 km/h or more
- 3.The FIS Speed Skiing committee has decided not to host in future any FIS speedski races on the track proposed by Gavarnie
- 4.The FIS Speed Skiing committee recommends to use the proposed track for national FFS speedski races with a maximum final speed of 140 km/h

The FIS Speed Skiing committee values the efforts of the ski resort to organize a speedski competition and recommends to find a speedski track in Gavarnie that complies to the new criteria of speed and safety established by the FIS Speed Skiing committee. For that mission the ski resort can count on the support of the FIS Speed Skiing committee and its Technical Commission to assess in all related matters.

Chairman RA will write a letter to the president of Federation Française de Ski (FFS) informing about the decision and explain the reasons for the decision.

4.5. Mandatory Emergency Plan for race organizers

The happenings in Salla 2022 showed that a stronger control of emergency plan and medical attention is required. In line with the goal to increase the safety standards of FIS races the Committee agrees to request from every LOC a written emergency plan *before begin of the season*.

The LOC *must* send a copy of the emergency plan to the assigned technical delegate and/or to the technical delegates coordinator (LC) and to the FIS Speedski Project Coordinator (SG) to enable everybody to know it.

The emergency plan must reflect the requirements outlined in the
THE INTERNATIONAL SKI COMPETITION RULES (ICR)
BOOK IV JOINT REGULATIONS FOR ALPINE SKIING
§221.6 Medical Services, Examinations and Doping

All FIS medical guidelines can be found under:
<https://www.fis-ski.com/en/inside-fis/governance/medical-iss>

5. Safety Workgroup

Speedski is an extreme and risky sport discipline. With crashes at high speeds severe injuries can never be discarded. For that reason, PB proposes to create a workgroup to better analyse risks and how to improve the safety of all aspects of speedski. The goal is to

achieve the safety standards of other sports with similar speeds. PB outlines the main aspects of the workgroup:

- Leader committee member Philippe Billy
- Target improving safety of all aspects concerning Speedski
 - Equipment
 - Races
 - Tracks.
 - etc.
- Suggested members
 - 1 Experienced Racer
 - 1 Race Organiser
 - 1 Speedski Technical Delegate
 - 1 Committee Member

- Regular meetings (e.g., Zoom, Teams)

In the next weeks PB will follow up and contact people to start workgroup activities.

6. Funding 2022/23

RA shows the funding approved for speedski approved by the council.

Most important positions are:

- Funding for media work of LOCs
- Funding for Timing Team
- Funding for technical delegates training
- General travel expenses related to FIS speedskiing activities

SG ask all parties requesting part of the funding to send her together with the expense reimbursement request an official invoice with explanation.

7. Covid-19 Situation

FIS medical department has defined 3 levels/scenarios for covid-19 protection during competitions. During the race season in case of a rapid increase of incidence and ICU occupation rate FIS medical department will raise the level to 2 and/or 3 which will require going back to the FIS snowflake concept that was applied in past 2 seasons.

The current level is 1, which does not require any major protection policies. To the current point in time nothing indicates we will have to raise protection level, but we have to be prepared for everything.

8. FIS Fluor Ban update

RA and MC visited FIS headquarters in Oberhofen (SUI) to test the fluor detector. RA summarizes the activities:

9 Speedski pairs from different manufacturing years were tested, among them, used skis and unused new skis, standard Atomic bases (Isosport) / custom bases, cleaned/not cleaned. The outcome is: Skis can be cleaned using a fluor cleaner and hot scraping 3 times. Atomic skis manufactured 2012 and later contain fluor in the polyethylene base, however after cleaning procedure fluor test results are inside tolerance range defined by FIS experts.

Each FIS discipline had to deliver a testing protocol for the races. MC and RA created the protocol for Speedski. Tests were good. However, while all positive results are correct, apparently a team of experts was able to generate false negative results in 50% of the cases.

So, the FIS experts decided to postpone until 2023/24 the use of the fluor detector. However, the use of any type of fluor wax and fluor products *is still forbidden*. It was said random checks during competitions could happen.

The Speed skiing committee is not satisfied with the situation. A ban with no control or at least a credible random test announcement is useless and a threat for the fairness in sport. It confronts athletes with an ethical dilemma. The committee wants to avoid as much as possible such a situation.

For that reason, the committee proposes to invite the fluor detection expert to the WSC in Vars to do random tests and announce this in advance. RA will get in contact with the responsible persons in FIS to explore this possibility.

9. Report from Athletes' Representative

JV reports from the meeting of the FIS Athletes' commission. The session had FIS President Johan Eliasch and Secretary General Michel Vion as guests. JV confirmed that both expressed publicly with positive comments their interest for speedski. They also are thinking about how to generate more prize money for athletes. They also explained the intensive conversations with the IOC to include more FIS disciplines (e.g., Nordic Combined) in the Olympic Games in future, but the talks are currently very difficult and not fruitful so far.

10. Report TDs coordinator

LC reports about recent technical delegates' meeting. LC is continuing education of new TDs. Mikke Brunnberg was included in the technical commission as timing expert. Mikke is meanwhile organizing and setting up most of the timing at Speedski races helping to define a standard for speedski timing.

Sponsorship for TDs' clothing ended and a new brand was identified.

LC announces that Lisa Powell (New Zealand) is meanwhile a certified speedski TD. She lives in USA. LC plans to assign her one race in 2022/23. Christer Weiss is planned for the race in Grandvalira (Andorra). As a result of the positive experience in 2022, 2 technical delegates will be sent to the WSC in Vars, one TD in TD role, the second fulfilling the role of the referee. The TDs for WSC are not yet decided. RA asks for an experienced TD for the WC final in Formigal (Spain) as it will be the first race for Formigal.

LC also reports from his cooperation with a new online TV channel called "skitv.tv" that could be used to stream speedski races. LC will lobby to include speedski races in their offer.

11. Possible new tracks

As PM is not present RA reports about the interest of Zinal (Switzerland) to have track and a race. RA reports he was asked to make an analysis of the characteristics of the track and calculate its speed potential. RA explains that the track has a good profile, the access is good and the maximum potential is at least 210 km/h. Zinal is an important training center for the Swiss Ski Alpine racing team. The ski resort is motivated and is considering to invest money to adapt the identified track. PM was asked to visit together with RA the track this autumn to explore how soon a speedski race could be organized. However no official invitation has arrived yet.

LC reports about interest of Zermatt (SUI) of reviving the traditional speedski track of the "Kilometro Lanciato" (Cervinia) in the 70ies as now it is accessible from the Swiss side of the ski area.

Andermatt (SUI) has their track homologated. Unfortunately, after the positive tests of RA and Reto Eigenmann (FSSV) with 195 km/h in 2019 and after the cancellation of the scheduled FIS races for April 2020 no more news from Andermatt have arrived so far.

RA asks about the status of Hundfjället (SWE). LC explains that though in the past the track could be use with its full potential in the meantime some trees near the track grew too much and need to be cut to allow the formerly used full potential. Since the area is under official environmental protection there is no permission to cut the mentioned trees. As long as the trees are not cut, the track can be used, but not starting from the top.

12. Election Athletes' representative during WSC

SG explains that next election round for athletes' FIS speedski representative will be executed among WSC S1 participants through internet voting before WSC 2023. NSAs will be informed about election process.

13. Miscellaneous

13.1. Merchandise and media rights during FIS races

PB asks for media and merchandising situation during speedski races. So far, all costs of speedski races were carried by the ski resorts and their sponsors. The ability to distribute sponsor brands and publicity freely was a condition to get those important investments. With FIS paying now more attention on FIS speedski races it has to be clarified what implications this will have in terms of media rights and use of sponsor information in media. RA will follow up with new FIS Marketing head.

13.2. Start order separate S1 S2 races

To better react to conditions and preserve the quality of the track during speedski races, the committee has decided to recommend the LOCs to organize all runs of S1 and S2 in 2 complete separate blocks. This would mean to have first all S1 runs and start with the S2 race after the last S1 run of the day. The LOCs still have the freedom to rearrange the runs if necessary, however always preserving the priority and the safety of the S1 runs.

13.3. Ski boot rule

The committee unanimously approves to change rule §1234.5 to officially allow customizing of boots. New wording:

1234.5 Skiboos
~~All elements of~~ Skiboos must be based on a from the same standard model(s). Skiboos cannot weigh more than 6kg per pair. Skiboos may be customized and must not have any added aerodynamic appendages or streamlining, but may be partly covered by the legs of the ski suit. Boots must be capable of being opened by hand and without the use of any tools.

13.4. Drop 200 km/h rule

The committee unanimously approves deletion of rule §1233.4.6 (200 km/h speed limit)

14. Next meeting:

FIS Spring Meetings first week of May in Cavtat-Dubrovnik 2023.