



SPEED SKIING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SPRING MEETING 2023

To the following National Ski Associations:
- Members of the Speed Skiing Committee

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND
SNOWBOARD FEDERATION
Blochstrasse 2
3653 Oberhofen/Thunersee
Switzerland
Tel +41 33 244 61 61

Oberhofen, 23rd May 2023

**Draft Minutes Committee Meeting for Speed Skiing
- Spring 2023**

Dear Speed Skiing Friends,

We have the pleasure of sending you today the Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee for Speed Skiing online meeting on April 20th 2023.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Speed Skiing Office in Oberhofen until **June 2nd 2023**.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION

Kindest regards,

Ricardo Adarraga
Chairman Speed Skiing Committee

1. Members present

Members

Adarraga Ricardo (RA), Chairman	ESP	present
Andreassen Blake (BA)	CAN	present
Antor Nadal (NA),	AND	excused
Billy, Philippe (PB)	FRA	present
Grimm Allan (AG)	SWE	present
May Philippe (PM)	SUI	present
Monticone Alberto (AM)	ITA	present
Prüller Christoph (CP)	AUT	present
Reid Millar (MR)	GBR	present

Athlete's representative

Vandendries Joost (JV)	BEL	present
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TDs coordinator

Cristina Luc (LC)	SUI	present
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Project Coordinator Speedski

Stefanie Gerber (SG) SUI	SUI	present
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Honorary members

Kjellström Per	SWE	not present
Dick Taplin	GBR	not present

Guests

Lukas Brawand (LK)	SUI	FIS Communications and Digital Coordinator
Augusto Gillio (AG)	ITA	FIS Fluor Ban
Jukka Vitasari (JVI)	FIN	NSA Finland

9 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. Update of chairman on ongoing activities in regards to FIS and Speedski

RA welcomes all committee members and guests. RA remarks that he invited JVI to participate as a guest at the committee meeting representing FIN. FIN though not a member of the committee is an important country for speedski. FIN has a long tradition in speedski, is regularly hosting a World Cup race and the FIN speedski team is growing. In addition, JVI's experience as one of the fastest and most veteran active speed skiers is welcome.

RA congratulates the committee members for achieving the goal set by the committee in September 2022 following the wishes of FIS President and Secretary General: Establish a Speedski World Record during the WSC in Vars. The new World Record established by Simon

Billy with 255.50 km/h had great publicity and gave speedski great visibility inside and outside FIS.

A special highlight during the season was the visit of Secretary General Michel Vion and the president of the Federation Française de Ski (FFS) Fabien Saguez to the World Championships in Vars. PB organized a dinner including RA, AB, PB, LC and TDs Marco Cozzi and Christer Weiss. It was an excellent chance to realize the current good standing of speedski inside FIS and talk about the future of Speedski inside FIS. After the dinner Michel Vion and Fabien Saguez joined the after-race party in Vars with all speedski racers celebrating together the new World Record.

RA also reports on his activities inside FIS. In November 2022 RA presented Speedski to the new leaders of FIS Media & Marketing. The feedback was very good. Since then, communication with FIS Marketing is constant and fluent. FIS Media & Marketing started working for Speedskiing. The first visible result is the engagement of the new head of Digital Content creation. We established a contract to generate and distribute speedski in real time through the official FIS social media channels of TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. LB, Communications and Digital Coordinator will participate in the meeting presenting a summary of the activities and achievements (see section 4).

3. Review Season 2021/22

3.1 Idrefjäll (Sweden)

AG reports that unfortunately, the race in Idrefjäll had to be cancelled due to the difficult snow conditions 2 weeks before the race. The upper part of the track did not have enough snow to prepare the track, so a quick decision had to be made to cancel the race. Vars accepted to host the 2 World Cups.

3.2 Grandvalira (Andorra)

RA reports that Grandvalira had a similar situation as Idrefjäll. The snow layer on top and in the braking area of the track was too thin. Without precipitation of snow, there was not enough snow to make the track safe enough for fast races. Vars accepted to host the 2 World Cups.

3.2 Formigal (Spain)

RA reports on the cancellation of Formigal. Initially the track was in excellent conditions with a lot of snow up to the top. The team started early 4 weeks before race to prepare the track. However, 3 weeks before the race heavy rain falls provoked an avalanche on the track that completely destroyed not only what had been prepared so far but also the whole snow layer. It was impossible to rebuild the track.

3.4 Vars (France) World Cups and World Championship

RA thanks PB for accepting to host the 4 cancelled World Cup races in Vars. It is not an easy decision for a ski resort as it increases the costs and needs additional organizational and logistic efforts.

PB reports on the races in Vars. It was important to host the 2 World Cup races in January especially to get the needed resources to start with an early preparation of the track. In Vars it was a good year as in the early winter months a lot of snow fell. That allowed to get a perfect track towards the world record tentative. The S2J WSC was hosted before the January races to avoid S2 races at the same time as S1 races on the track. It was possible already in January to have 2 WC races with more than 210 km/h and even a winner with 220 km/h.

The fact that Vars reserved 12 days in March for the WSC gave Vars the needed flexibility to integrate the lost World Cup races before and after the WSC. Vars fused the traditional yearly Speed Masters with the WSC. Everything was prepared to get that needed flexibility to make

sure to break the record if and when an opportunity window would open. In the end as all races this season were hosted in Vars almost all races finished with speeds over 200 km/h. Probably it was the fastest World Cup Speedski season in history. PB reports about the great impact of the world record in the media worldwide and presents the numbers gathered by the agency Revolutionr. PB also reports of high audience numbers in several countries as Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia and others.

4. New speedski media-, brand-strategy aligned with new FIS M&M strategy

FIS is going through a deep transformation process. FIS Media & Marketing department has been completely renewed and is focused on the new technologies. RA invited LB (FIS Communications and Digital Coordinator) to report on the outcome of the collaboration during the season and the future collaboration. LB explains that FIS centralized this season all activities around the distribution of content through TikTok and Instagram. LB reports on the excellent collaboration with the German athlete and photographer Marc Amman. Marc quickly understood the new FIS platform to upload content. He created a GoPro POV video that was uploaded on the FIS TikTok account. At that point in time, the video achieved the most views on the FIS TikTok account and triplicated the next most seen video on FIS TikTok.

LB presents the numbers of views and impact of Speedski content on FIS social media and shows that Speedski is a very good eye-catcher. LB wants to intensify the work on Speedski and has proposed to request 5000 SFR just for the generation of content for FIS social media. RA will request this additional funding to the FIS Council (see section 8).

5. Speed Ski Race Calendar 2023/2024

RA asked all race organizers to send the planned dates for the races. Though no official inscriptions arrived yet the dates are already reserved:

12-13/01/2024 - Salla (Finland) - 1 World Cup race (at night)

24-29/01/2024 - Vars (France) - 2 World Cup races

26-29/02/2024 - Formigal (Spain) - 1 FIS race + 1 World Cup race

4-10/03/2024 - Idrefjäll/Hundfjället? (Sweden) - 2 World Cup races

12-15/03/2024 - Grandvalira (Andorra) - 2 World Cup races

16-29/03/2024 - Vars (France) - FIS World Championship or FIS World Cup Final

RA reminds that all race organizers must send the race emergency plan to the project coordinator and to the assigned TD for review before begin of the season. Without a valid race emergency plan in place the race will be cancelled.

6. Proposal for new FIS Speedski World Championship format

Following the great impact of the World Championship and the world record this season, Secretary General expressed the desire to have every year a big FIS speedski event with a record attempt. For that reason, PB and RA propose requesting to the Council to host a World Championship that includes a World Record attempt on a yearly basis. The committee members generally agree but some members suggest that it should be a first test as to the current point in time only Vars would be eligible for a WSC. It is agreed that the request will be sent to the FIS Council.

7. Fluor Ban

AG (FIS Fluor Ban Implementation) reports on the current status of the FIS Fluor ban. He reports that finally in season 2023/24 the FIS fluor ban will be applied. After many tests at several alpine and Nordic races during the past season, the fluor detection method showed to be ready. He explains that fluor could reliably be detected and meanwhile the plan for detection is as the original one designed for 2022/23.

Summary of main Q&As:

- Is there fluor still detectable after a run? Yes. In WC downhill races in 2022/23 where the track is longer than in speedski and with speeds up to 140 km/h fluor content was clearly detectable after the run.
- Is it possible to clean out fluor of skis? Yes. In general, using a fluor cleaner and doing several times hot scraping with a soft wax and brushing will clean out the fluor.
- Will older skis with fluor in the base polyethylene material deliver positive fluor results even if they were not waxed with fluor? No. There is a fluor tolerance threshold defined. The fluor content in the polyethylene of the base is very small compared to the fluor that would be applied by wax, powders or by liquids.
- Is it possible to mask fluor on the base during the detection tests? No. A procedure to detect masking attempts during the measurements is in place.
- Will the athlete be present during the test? No. The skis will be tested in a tent. Only qualified and jury personal will be allowed to be present in the testing tent.
- What happens after a fluor positive test? The run will be invalid and the athlete will be immediately disqualified. No protest is possible. After a positive test, the expert will repeat the measurement several times to ensure the result is correct.
- Who will pay the expenses of the FIS expert to check the skis during the races? The costs will 100% be covered by FIS out of the fluor detection budget
- It is recommended to organize for the racers a test session the day before the race runs to give everybody the chance to check the skis before the race

AG will publish a document on the FIS website with all details about the detection process and how it is to be set up at the race locations.

The committee agrees that the detection is possible and considers that in most of the speedski tracks the detection should be made at the start (needs power supply for fluor detection equipment). For runs for world record attempts it must be done before the start. In all other cases where fluor detection tests cannot be done right at the start, the measurement will be done right after the run. The jury will decide together with the FIS fluor detection expert on case-by-case basis.

8. Finances/Funding 2023/2024

RA will request to the Council raise the FIS speedski budget/funding for 2023/2024 for social media (see proposal LB) and for travelling of committee members and TDs. Committee agrees.

9. Update Safety Workgroup

PB reports on-going plans. There was a first meeting with RA and Simone Origone during the World Championships.

10. Update new tracks/races

- Andermatt (SUI): RA reports that he sent an email to Bernhard Russi asking for an update on further plans for a speedski race in Andermatt. Unfortunately, no reply was received so far.

- Zinal (SUI): PM reports on on-going conversations. A visit to the ski resort that is still very interested is planned. However, PM considers that it will still take some time to get a speedski race on the calendar in Zinal.
- Hundfjället (SWE): LC reports that timing-specialist Micke Brunnberg and TD Christer Weiss visited Hundfjället to evaluate if a track homologation would be possible. Idrefjäll race chief Jan Magnusson even considers that eventually a World Cup race could happen 2024 in Hundfjället following the race in Idrefjäll.
- USA: BA was contacted by Winter Park (Colorado). TD Lisa Powell is going to visit the resort to evaluate possibilities
- Canada: Canadian senior speedskier Fred Mark Rowan is looking for new tracks in British Columbia.

11. Athletes Representative

JV reports about the meeting of the athlete's commission.

JV asks if it would be possible to homologate speedski tracks for S2 in New Zealand and use Alpine TDs for the S2 races. For racers from Australia and New Zealand it is very costly to travel to Europe for S2 races. A participation at a full S2 race season is a minimal condition for been accepted to S1 races. It would be beneficial for racers from Australia and New Zealand if FIS S2 races could be organized there.

BA and LC explain that an S2 race can qualify for FIS points if a speedskier with FIS points participates at the race and an alpine TD manages the race.

12. Report from TDs coordinator

LC reports on conversations with Dynamic around studying how to integrate cameras on helmets.

For other TD related activities see sections 10 and 11.

13. Rule proposals

No new rule proposals.

14. Miscellaneous

- RA reports that he found out that the 2nd FIS points list in March 2023 used for the races in Vars was wrong. RA reported it to FIS IT. The list is meanwhile corrected and up to date
- RA reports that he is working on the FIS speed ranking 2023. This has never been done and following §1233.10.4 this ranking is supposed to be published end of the season together with the World Cup ranking, the Nations Cup ranking and the FIS points ranking. LC reminds that it is good to maintain this. When the speed ranking was introduced, the idea was to find a sponsor for a trophy for the fastest racer of the season.
- RA, SG and JV (FIS athletes' commission) will attend the FIS Spring Meetings in Cavtat (Croatia) May 2nd-4th/05/2023
- SG will leave FIS end of May 2023. RA and the committee thank SG for her outstanding work and contributions throughout the last 6 years. They all wish SG all the best in her new job. Until a successor is appointed an interim project coordinator Janez Flere will take over until a new successor is in place.

15. Next meeting: FIS Autumn Meetings in Zurich (SUI) September 27 - 29 2023