

To the:

- Members of the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country

For information to:

- Cross-Country Executive Board
- National Ski Associations
- FIS Management
- COC Coordinators

**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD
FEDERATION**

Blochstrasse 2
3653 Oberhofen/Thunersee
Switzerland
Tel +41 33 244 61 61
Fax +41 33 244 61 71

Oberhofen, 21.05.2025

**Minutes Meeting Sub-Committee Cross-Country Continental & World Cup
Hotel Tivoli, Vilamoura (POR), Thursday, 08.05.2025, 08:00 – 13:00 hrs. CET,**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you today the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country held in Vilamoura, 08.05.2025.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Nordic Office in Oberhofen until **30th June 2025**.

We would also like to take the opportunity to inform 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. We wish you a nice autumn.

Kind regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION



Chris Grover
Chair Sub-Committee Cross-Country Continental & World Cup

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION
Minutes Meeting Sub-Committee Cross-Country Continental & World Cup
Hotel Tivoli, Vilamoura (POR), Thursday, 08.05.2025, 08:00 – 13:00 hrs CET,

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Members present
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting
5. Report of the last FIS Council meeting
6. Season report FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2024/25
7. Reports and proposals from the Working Groups, proposals Sub-Committees and National Ski Associations
 - Proposals from NSAs
 - W.G. for Common Waxing
 - W.G. for Cost reduction
 - W.G. for Fluor Ban Implementation
8. World Cup rules 2025/26
9. COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendars
 - FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2025/26
 - Long term FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2026/27 – 2029/30
10. JWSC and U23 WSC summary
 - Report JWSC & U23 WSC Schilpario (ITA)
 - Competition distances JWSC
11. CoC matters
 - Maximum price for accommodation
12. Other items arising
13. Next meeting
14. Closing of the meeting

All proposals and decisions of the Sub-Committee are subject to the confirmation of the Cross-Country Committee on 08.05.2025 and to the approval of the FIS Council, 12.06.2025
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1. Opening of the Meeting

2. Members

Chris Grover, USA, Chair
Ulf Morten Aune NOR
Nejc Brodar, SLO
Anders Byström, SWE
Katsuhito Ebisawa, JPN
Jonas Egilsson, ISL
Im Yeui Gyu, KOR
Stepan Kaliba, CZE
Zofia Kielpinska, POL
Hannu Koivusalo, FIN
Özkan Koyuncu, TUR
Sergey Kryanin, RUS
Enzo Macor, ITA
Albert Manhart, LIE
Georgio Marchesini, IRL
Finn Marsland, AUS
Julia Mehre Ystgaard, CAN
Olivier Michaud, FRA
Julio Moreschi, ARG
Lukas Nemcik, SVK
Andrey Nesterenko, UKR
Andrey Nevzorov, KAZ
Robert Peets, EST
Milanko Petrovic, SRB
Ferran Pubil, ESP
Walter Reusser, SUI
Andreas Schlütter, GER
Alois Stadlober, AUT
Timoleon Tsourekas, GRE
Jostein Vinjerui, GBR
Peter Zografov, BUL
Rudi Huber, SRS

Kern Julia, Athletes representative
James Clugnet, Athletes representative
Meier Norbert, CC LOC representative

Uros Ponikvar, Chair CCC
Michal Lamplot, FIS
Simon Caprini, FIS
Doris Kallen, FIS (Minutes)
Synne Dyrhaug, FIS
Madeline Nappey, FIS

22 voting members present

Guests

Present / Excused / Replaced by:

Present
Present
Present
Present
Present
Not present
Present
Present
Present
Present
Present
Not present
Present
Not present
Present
Not present
Present
Present
substituted by Matus Jancik
substituted by Artem Nesterenko
substituted by Adil Baimenov
Present
Not present
Not Present
substituted by Rafael Ratti
Present
Present
Present
Present
Not present
substituted by Steffen Hoos

Present, shared voting right
Present, shared voting right
Present, no voting right

Present
Present, no voting right
Present, no voting right
Present, no voting right
Present, no voting right
Present, no voting right

3. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was sent out on 31st March 2025. As there were no additional items reported, the members approved the agenda.

4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

No changes to the minutes were proposed and therefore, the members approved the minutes of the last meeting.

5. Report of the last FIS Council meeting

FIS CC Race Director Michal Lamplot informed about the conclusions of the FIS Council meeting that took place on 16th April 2025 and pointed out the most relevant points concerning Cross-Country. For details see the presentation of the meeting.

6. FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2024/25

Season report by Michal Lamplot

34 World Cup competitions per gender in 12 venues took place in the 2024/25 season. The average participation was 53 women and 77 men. Cross-Country is the only FIS discipline where the media impact is stronger for women than men, an important factor when it comes to marketing and sponsoring matters.

For the first time, the Tour de Ski took place in one country only. Despite uncertainty beforehand, the product reached one third of the overall TV reach and remains the core product of the season.

One focus of the FIS Cross-Country Staff has been on strengthening the event part of the World Cup. Thanks to the commitment of some NSA's and OC's, we experience great examples on how to get spectators back into the venues and create atmospheres. However, this aspect must remain one of the main goals of all stakeholders, including decisions taken in this Sub Committee. Our events must create a "feeling of missing out", create atmosphere and give a platform to meet and network.

Athletes Survey presented by Julia Kern and Jimmy Clugnet

A record number of 123 athletes responded to the season survey which is a good sign in terms of active interest and participation by athletes for technical matters.

Key takeaways:

- Athletes feel positive (min. 80% support) of the current formats, including the newly established TdS Sprint and TdS Climbers ranking.
- The calendar framework with 3 consecutive race weekends of 3 race days, followed by a week break is highly supported and reflects the athlete's needs.
- The current point system does a good job of encouraging participation. More athletes would consider participation if the events are guaranteed to be an outstanding atmosphere with crowds and an attractive platform. On the other hand, some athletes feel that the points system penalizes them if they need to skip a weekend because of illness. Athletes' representatives will continue to look into the matter.
- Further education of athletes in terms of rules and jury work will be established together with the Chairwoman of Rules and Control.
- The athletes wished to increase the value for Sprinters and to follow up further the point system with an existing working group, led by the athletes' representatives.

Infront broadcast survey presented by Lorenzo Pala

All major broadcast companies were involved in the survey. The latest development and inclusion of GPS and its graphics as well as the resulting storytelling were highly appreciated and added an important value to the sport as a TV product.

In terms of calendar, the attempt to broadcast the most-difficult-to-understand format of the Interval start on Friday was well perceived to but with no significant improvement of the viewing experience from broadcaster side.

Evening competitions are welcome, but preferred to be scheduled during the week instead of a weekend day.

Further comments on formats were received about the distance of Interval start. 10km are perceived more valuable than 20km due to race duration and storytelling. Seeded athletes should start earlier and/or increase the time where seeded athletes are on course). Live GPS graphics added a lot of value and "saved" the storytelling many times.

The newly implemented Tour de Ski climber bib was highly valued. Also, the attempts to add diversity in the product with an out-of-venue race in Toblach to the Tre Cime was appreciated.

LOC survey report by Norbert Meier

The survey relates to the business side of hosting a World Cup. With the requirements and current contracts, half of the participants in the survey stated that they did not meet their financial goals. Stated reasons among other was due to inflation but also ticket sales as well as the FIS accommodation price which has been identified for several years to not reflect the current market situation.

Organizers require FIS to find ways to reduce costs.

7. Reports and proposals from the Working Groups, proposals Sub-Committees and National Ski Associations

Proposals from NSAs

The following proposals were received and discussed in the respective section of the World Cup Rule adjustments.

- Proposals from FFS to include top-6 athletes in flower ceremony
- Proposal from SloSki on wax cabin allocation
- Proposal from SloSki on prize money allocation
- Proposal from SloSki on final entry deadline
- Proposal from Swiss Ski on Tour de Ski mass start new format

W.G. for Common Waxing

Simon Caprini reported on the procedure of the common waxing at the Tallinn World Cup 2025. The organization and implementation ran smoothly thanks to the cooperation with the OC and SWIX as the involved wax company. Teams felt well informed and content with the quality of ski preparation.

The approach for common waxing at Lahti World Cup 2026 will need to be reviewed but for sure the experiences from two editions in Tallinn will create the base for this more complex system.

W.G for Cost reduction

The subject of the working group is to make the World Cup more affordable for teams. Prior efforts focused on reducing the amount of ski test access time with the hope to thus reduce the number of required staff. These implementations at several World Cups in the past season were not successful and therefore the working group took the following conclusions:

- From the season 2026/27, the staff quota could be reduced as well as the skiing time on official training days and competition days.
- In connection to a staff quota reduction, a new bib system shall be reviewed. The new bib system shall:
 - Reduce the number of staff
 - Create a fairer technician / athlete ratio
 - Slow down the “material race”
 - Bring consistency in course opening times

A new “Test” bib shall be introduced that would give technicians access to the racecourse on training days and to the ski test area on race days. The measures may not bring an immediate cost reduction but will limit the further expansion and restrict the unbalanced situation between nations.

- Limitation of grinding machines is impossible at title events.
- Common waxing could work for World Cups held in Free technique but should not be the primary goal.
- Calendar planning: if the CC World Cup would start one week later, it could save teams costs up to CHF 30'000.

With 21 votes, the members approved that a system should come into place to reduce the staff quota as of the World Cup season 2026/27.

They further agreed to review the number of bibs per nation and establish a final bib concept for the FIS Autumn meetings 2025.

W.G. for Fluor Ban Implementation

The system we utilized this past season on World Cup with two Equipment Controllers worked smoothly and was a fair and efficient way of testing skis. We anticipate the system to be similar also in the upcoming season.

8. World Cup rules 2025/26

Michal Lamplot presented all updated proposals for World Cup Rule adjustments.

Art. 2.1.1 – Precision for Basic entry requirements

Art. 2.1.3 – Exceptions related to OWG qualification.

- 10 basic quotas have not yet been allocated and are reserved for NOCs without the basic quota. The only possibility to qualify is in the first World Cup period 2026, until they reach the limit (one result with 300 FIS points and less for men, 330 FIS points and less for women in one competition).
- Athletes who want to qualify must have 800 FIS points and less on the FIS points list, valid for the respective World Cup.
- The members agreed that, if an athlete competes and meets the basic quota requirement in a race, he/she can sign up for any of the remaining competitions on the same race weekend.

Art. 2.1.4 – Other exceptions

- Adjusted definition of when an exception for a World Cup participation can be given.

Art. 2.2.5 – National Group Quota

- For the World Cup in Lake Placid, the S.C. approved that USA as well as CAN will be able to bring their national group quota.

Art. 2.4 – Precision on Athletes Start Quotas for Team Competitions

Art. 2.6.4 – Definition to be reviewed due to new bib system

Art. 3.1.1 – World Cup points individual competitions

- To animate the dynamics of the 50km, the number of bonus points is approved to be reduced to 4. The distribution of the points will be discussed before the FIS Autumn meetings.

W.C. Rules Art. 3.3 – Clarification FIS Nations Cup

W.C. Rules Art. 5.1.3 – Clarification Accommodation price

Additional info: ongoing simulation on FIS accommodation price are taking place and a proposal will be submitted at the FIS Autumn meetings.

W.C. Rules Art. 6.4 – Clarification Nation Support

W.C. Rules Art. 7.1 – Precision for Wax Cabin facilities

W.C. Rules Art. 7.2 – Athletes Changing Rooms

- Local Organizing Committee should provide changing space for athletes. Changing areas for women and men should be separated where athletes can change clothing privately and the space should also have a common area, where massage tables, stationary bikes can be placed.
- No athletes changing spaces are required for teams that have a wax truck with athletes' space. Wording to be adjusted accordingly.

The members unanimously approve all proposals.

Proposal of SloSki: Prize money to top-30

SloSki proposes to change the distribution of the prize money to top-30. The allocation of prize money was thoroughly analyzed two years ago and the philosophy behind the current system was approved then. The basic arguments have not changed since and therefore, *with 20 votes against the proposal, the members do not approve this proposal.*

Proposal of FFS: Top-6 in Flower Ceremony

FFS proposes to extend podium presentation to top 6 to give platform to more athletes and promote the sport by showcasing the nation diversity in the top ranks. Evaluations on the influence for the TV broadcast, sponsor implementation and needs for OC resulted all in positive interest from all stakeholders too. The proposal finds strong support among all members as it fulfils many requirements of needed sports promotion. *The members unanimously approve the proposal.*

Proposal of SloSki: Wax container allocation

SloSki proposes to change the ratio of nation quota and wax container allocation since the max. number for 1 vs. 2 cabins (8 athletes in 1 cabin) is resulting in very little space for this sized teams. The members discussed the possible consequences also in respect to the costs for OC's. With the new allocation, two nations would benefit from this change which is considered a relatively small and thus a reasonable change for OC's. *The members unanimously approved the proposal.*

Proposal of SloSki: Final entry deadline

Due to time constraints the proposal was not discussed. The S.C. will come back to this matter at the FIS Autumn Meeting this coming September.

9. COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendars

Season 2025/26

Michal Lamplot presented the draft of the upcoming World Cup calendar that was established by the working group for calendar planning. The draft follows the calendar framework principle. The draft was sent in advance to all members.

Open points are:

Balance of C/F in Distance competitions, Swiss Ski proposal, common waxing in Lahti, concept of 50km in Oslo.

Distance competition in Davos

Swiss Ski proposed to have 10 km F in Davos. Michal Lamplot pointed out that changing the distance race to classic would help the overall season balance of C/F in distance competitions. He also stated it was a pity not to use the new course, which was used last season. The S.C. agreed with the Swiss Ski proposal to maintain the 10 km free technique.

Proposal of Swiss Ski for a new format in Tour de Ski

Jürg Capol presented a new format idea to replace the mass start in the middle of the Tour de Ski. It is a combination of mass start and Sprint heats with the goal to combine two of the most spectator friendly formats within c. 1h of broadcast per gender. The technical details and implementation however have not been evaluated and therefore these must be established throughout the summer.

With 16 votes in favor of the new format, the members approve the implementation as the 3rd stage of the Tour de Ski 2026.

Falun

Whilst explaining the thoughts behind the formats in the post-OWG period, Anders Byström, representative of the Swedish Ski Federation, shared the request of Falun organizer to hold two distance competitions instead of a Sprint to mirror the interest of locals on site in their event schedule. With the general opinion that Sprint competitions must be part in the event directly following the OWG (since otherwise Sprinters have a very extensive gap without a competition), the inquiry was not supported.

Common waxing

Michal Lamplot explained that two-day events and common waxing options are planned to reduce the workload on technicians and all staff in this last period of World Cup racing immediately following the Olympics.

The S.C. discussed the option of having common waxing in Lake Placid (to reduce financial load of bringing Classic material and full staff). With 21 votes against and 1 vote in favor, the members declined the option of having common waxing in Lake Placid.

With 16 votes in favor, the members appointed the FIS Staff to work on a concrete concept for common waxing in Lahti. It will be presented in the FIS Autumn meetings. If the implementation is not possible, the formats can be adjusted in autumn.

Oslo

Holmenkollen Skifest - together with the Norwegian Ski Federation and FIS Staff – have been working on a concept proposal to host both 50km's in Oslo on the same day, overlapping the men's and women's race. In terms of TV production, timing implementation and course width, the competition should start c. 30' apart. Details on the technicalities are to be defined and presented in the FIS Autumn meetings.

With 19 votes, the members support the concept and the elaboration of the implementation.

Long term FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2026/27 to 2029/30

In the current transition phase and after implementation of centralized rights, Michal Lamplot explained what obligations we are tied through the contracts with the hosting associations. This will define the LTCF (Long Term Calendar Framework).

The existing drafts will be presented in the FIS Autumn meetings. Discussions with National Ski Federations ensured that the drafts are valid and realistic and that the planning afterwards will proceed as normal.

10. JWSC and U23 WSC summary

Due to time reasons, the presentation of the JWSC and U23 WSC is postponed to the CCC.

11. CoC matters

CoC rules art. 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 Maximum price for accommodation

In the current rules, the accommodation price is stated at CHF 80. The reality is that none of the regions can follow this rule, either due to market prices being lower/higher – or the type of accommodation varies much more. Therefore, a proposal was elaborated in coordination with the regional CoC coordinators stating that every region can define their accommodation offers and that there is no fixed price or price range.

The members approve unanimously to remove the price statement for CoC accommodation price and to rephrase the articles accordingly.

Status of South America Cup

The South America Cup would like to obtain the same status as all other COC nations, where the leader/winner of the SAC will get paid travel and accommodation costs at World Cup within the respective rules.

The S.C. members unanimously approve to change the SAC region's status.

Renaming of Balkan Cup

A proposal to change the name of the Balkan Cup was received to respect and reflect the geopolitical situation more realistically. The new name shall be South East Europe Continental Cup.

The S.C. members unanimously approve to change the name of the Balkan Cup to the South East Europe Continental Cup.

12. Other matters arising

According to the technical procedure, the new appointment of Dmitriy Kolomeyets as a potential candidate for the position of FIS Roller Ski Asian Coordinator has to be approved by this S.C. The profile of Dmitriy was presented in the S.C. for Rollerski and their members approved him as a candidate.

Also, the members of the S.C. for World Cup and CoC unanimously approve this candidature.

13. Next meeting

The FIS Autumn meetings will take place from 23rd to 26th September 2025.

14. Closing of the meeting

Chris Grover thanked the members for their work and engagement and closed the meeting at 12.55pm.