FIS COUNCIL MEETING 01 OCTOBER 2026
GENEVA, SUI

MINUTES

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President opened the meeting and welcomed the Council Members to Geneva.

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2. Members present

Council Members present:

Alexander Ospelt, President (FIS)
Danielle Aravich, Athletes' Representative (USA)
Deidra Dionne (CAN)
Tove Moe Dyrhaug (NOR)
Victoria Gosling (GBR)
Adam Hall, Athletes' Representative (NZL)
Michael Huber (AUT)
Nevena Ignjatovic (SRB)
Magdalena Kast (ARG)
Tomaz Kunstelj (SLO)
Ken Odashima (JPN)
Dexter Paine (USA)
Jana Palovicova (SVK)
May Peus (ESP)
Jean-Philippe Rochat (SUI)
Flavio Roda (ITA)
Fabien Saguez (FRA)
Franz Steinle (GER)
Verena Stuffer, Athletes' Representative (ITA)
Patrick Toussaint Mas (AND)
Martti Uusitalo (FIN)
Zhao Wang (CHN)

Council Members remote:

Alex Fiva, Athletes' Representative (SUI)

FIS
Urs Lehmann, Secretary General a.i. (FIS)

FIS Guests:
Stefan Brütsch, FIS CCO (Item 7)
Ulrike Pertoll, FIS CFO (Item 8.1)
Sandra Spitz, FIS Sport and Event Director (Item 9.5 to 9.7)
Alexandra Meissnitzer, FIS Director of Strategy & Public Affairs
Bruno Sassi, FIS Communications Director

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3. Closed Session Council (ca 25')

The Council held a closed session. The session was not recorded and is therefore not reflected in these Minutes.

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4. Approval of the Agenda

The President invited comments and additions to the agenda. Since the agenda had been distributed to the Council on 24 September 2026, the Wild Card Framework and Nordic Combined had been added afterwards under Sport and Regulatory Matters, and, at the request of a Council Member the FIS Code of Conduct for Training and Safety had been added under Miscellaneous.

The Council approved the agenda and noted that the additional items would be addressed under the respective agenda points.

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5. President's Report

President Alexander Ospelt referred to his written report and briefly highlighted recent FIS activities and developments, including the successful 2026 FIS Summer Series, which continues to provide important opportunities for athlete development and international competition. He highlighted Uruguay's first-ever ski competition as an important milestone for snow sports development in South America. The Council was also informed about the newly approved FIS Coach Education Framework and the ongoing development of the FIS Connector Platform. Finally, the President referred to the FIS Sports Integrity Report 2025/26, highlighting continued progress in clean sport, safeguarding, ethics and integrity education.

The Council took note of the President's Report

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6. Governance and Organisation

6.1 Establishment of the Working Group International Commercial Growth

Dexter Paine, Chair of the Working Group International Commercial Growth, reported on the first meeting of the Working Group. Its work is focused on increasing FIS revenues and assessing how FIS commercial activities should be structured in the future. Different models will be examined, including whether commercial activities should remain within the existing structure or whether a separate commercial entity could provide greater growth opportunities.

The composition of the Working Group was clarified following the decision taken on 1 September 2026:
Dexter Paine and Deidra Dionne represent the FIS Council, while Sophie Goldschmid, Diego Züger and Jan Überall represent the Executive Board. Alexander Ospelt and Urs Lehmann are ex officio members of the Working Group. Further experts, including Stefan Brütsch (FIS CCO), Kipp Nelson and Jean-Philippe Rochat, may participate as guests.

The Working Group will report at each Council Meeting and intends to present a more comprehensive assessment at the Council Meeting in Crans-Montana. The Media Rights Centralisation Agreement will, for the time being, be addressed separately from the Working Group's review.

The Council took note of the update.

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6.2 Update Working Group Revision of the FIS Statutes

Michael Huber, Chair of the Statutes Working Group, reported on the latest working session and the envisaged timeline for the revision of the FIS Statutes. Following a further in-person working session. The Working Group concluded that a comprehensive revision of the FIS Statutes for the 2027 Congress would not allow sufficient time for the necessary review and consultation process. Urgent individual amendments could nevertheless be prepared separately for consideration in 2027.

The Council also discussed the relationship between the Statutes and the future FIS committee structure. It was emphasised that the Statutes should remain as simple as possible, while detailed provisions that may require more frequent amendment should, where appropriate, be addressed in regulations or related rules.

The Council took note of the progress report and agreed that the work should continue on this basis.

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7. Commercial

7.1 and 7.2 World Championships and World Cup Commercial Update

Stefan Brütsch, FIS CCO, provided an update on the commercial situation for the upcoming FIS World Championships and the World Cup, including the status of sponsorship packages for Falun 2027, Montafon 2027 and Crans-Montana 2027.

The Council discussed FIS' commercial resources and sales capacity. Stefan Brütsch highlighted that the Sales Team is currently significantly under-resourced in terms of personnel and that additional sales capacity may be required.
It was agreed that a more detailed financial comparison of the approved budget would be presented at the next Council meeting

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7.3 MRC

The Council received an update on the financial framework of the Media Rights Centralisation Agreement and discussed ongoing measures to optimise its financial and operational implementation, while taking into account the sporting development and visibility of the respective disciplines.

FIS Management will continue its work and report back to the Council.

The Council took note of the update.

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8. Finance

8.1 Update Working Group Financial Review; focus on measures

The Council received a further update on the financial situation of FIS and the work undertaken following the Financial Review. The importance of ensuring FIS' long-term financial sustainability was emphasised.

The Council mandated the Finance Committee and FIS financial management to further develop and assess the proposed measures and report back at the next Council meeting.

Distributions
For the record, during the preparatory call for the FIS Summit on 21 September 2026, the Council agreed that all approved distributions for the current season would be paid in full, with the Finance team mandated to proceed accordingly.

This decision is formally reflected in these minutes.

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8.2 Distributions

A preliminary concept for the future NSA distribution model was presented to the Council. It was clarified that the proposal was intended to initiate the discussion and that no decision on the final model or allocation was requested at this stage.

The Council discussed the proposed approach, including the importance of accountability and appropriate reporting on the use of funds. A request was made to reconsider the name of the distribution model to better reflect its purpose.

FIS Management will further develop the concept and present it to the Council at a future meeting.

The Council took note of the preliminary concept.

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9. Sport and Regulatory Matters

9.1 Future of the FIS World Championships

The Council received an interim feasibility assessment concerning the potential introduction of an additional FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, considering both a possible event in 2028 and the longer-term concept from 2032 onwards.

Following discussion, the Council agreed not to proceed with the proposed additional Alpine World Championships in 2028 and expressed its appreciation to Andorra for its willingness to host.

The Council agreed that the concept of an additional major global event from 2032 onwards should continue to be assessed, with the final assessment to be presented to the Council.

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9.2 WADA Code 2027 and FIS Anti-Doping Rules 2027

The FIS Anti-Doping Rules 2027, aligned with the new WADA Code 2027, had been circulated to the Council together with a briefing note outlining the principal changes.

The Council approved the FIS Anti-Doping Rules 2027.

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9.3 Change of Licence and National Representation (Amendment to Article 203.5)

The Council reviewed the proposed amendment to Article 203.5 concerning change of licence and national representation, based on the principles previously endorsed by the Council.

The Council approved the proposed amendment to Article 203.5.

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9.4 Prize Money

The Council discussed a request from organisers to reduce the minimum prize money for the 2026/27 season.

The Council agreed that the existing minimum prize money levels will remain unchanged for the 2026/27 season. The financial framework and minimum prize money for subsequent seasons will be reviewed as part of the wider financial considerations and brought back to the Council.

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9.5 FIS World Cup Organizer Agreement

Following consultations with the National Ski Associations and organisers, updates had been made to the FIS World Cup Organizer Agreement.

The Council discussed the revised agreement and noted that, in cases of specific country regulations, a side letter to the respective agreement may be considered.

The Council supported finalising the revised FIS World Cup Organizer Agreement for distribution to the organisers.

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9.6 Candidate Application for the 2027 FIS Snowboard Cross Junior World Championships

The National Ski Association of Türkiye submitted the candidature of Erzurum Palandöken to host the FIS Snowboard Cross Junior World Championships 2027 from 23 to 25 February 2027.

The Council approved the candidature of Erzurum Palandöken, Türkiye, to host the FIS Snowboard Cross Junior World Championships 2027 from 23 to 25 February 2027.

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9.7 Specifications for Competition Equipment (SCE) in Ski Jumping

The proposal concerning the Specifications for Competition Equipment in Ski Jumping, which had been postponed from the Spring Meetings, was presented to the Council.

The Council approved the proposed amendment to the Specifications for Competition Equipment in Ski Jumping.

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9.8 Nordic Combined: Road to 2034

Following the discussions at the September Council Workshop, the Council received an update on the work undertaken to strengthen Nordic Combined and develop innovative competition formats.

A dedicated workshop involving National Ski Associations, organisers and specialists from different areas identified six key principles for the development of new formats:

- Cross-Country and Ski Jumping ideally taking place at a single venue;
- total competition duration of approximately 60 minutes, suitable for broadcast;
- head-to-head racing in heats with a clear final;
- the first athlete to cross the finish line being the overall winner;
- Ski Jumping points remaining relevant until the final; and
- simpler rules and easier judging.

New competition concepts based on these principles will be tested during the 2026/27 winter.

The Council supported the continuation of the work and the development and testing of the proposed new competition formats.

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9.9 Wild Card Framework

Following the Council's previous discussions on the Alpine World Cup Wild Card framework, the Council reviewed and finalised the conditions for its application during the 2026/27 season.

The discussion focused on the number of Wild Card starts available per discipline and the starting position of eligible Wild Card holders, taking into account sporting and commercial considerations.

The Council approved the detailed conditions for Wild Card entries for the 2026/27 season, with Wild Card holders starting with bib number 31.

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9.10 Athletes' Commission Terms of Reference

The Athletes' Commission presented its revised Terms of Reference, aimed at strengthening discipline-specific representation.

During the discussion, the Council agreed to include a maximum of two members from the same nation and discussed the representation of Grass Skiing, which will be followed up with the respective Committee.

Subject to these amendments, the Council approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Athletes' Commission.

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10. Legal Update

10.1 China Office

The Council was informed of the ongoing legal matters concerning the former FIS China Office and the related proceedings in China.

The Council took note of the update.

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11. Miscellaneous

11.1 Para Snow Sports World Championships Fee

The Council discussed the World Championships fee applicable to Para Snow Sports, including its application in relation to other FIS World Championships.

FIS Management will further evaluate the current framework and report back to the Council. The Council took note of the update.

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11.2 FIS Code of Conduct for Training and Safety

Concerns were raised regarding the recently introduced FIS Code of Conduct for Training and Safety, in particular the provisions concerning homologated courses and the separation of training areas from the public, and their potential legal implications for coaches and teams.

FIS Management noted that the rules are intended to make existing requirements explicit rather than introduce additional obligations.

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11.3 Masters Super-G

The Council was informed of a concern raised within the Masters community regarding the minimum vertical drop for Masters Super-G competitions.

It was clarified that any formal proposal submitted through the appropriate process would be considered on its merits.

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11.4 Falun 2027

The Council received an update on discussions with Falun 2027 regarding the commercial rights arrangements for the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2027.

FIS and the Local Organising Committee have agreed on a cooperative approach for the remaining commercial opportunities, while the broader framework will be considered for future World Championships.

The Council took note of the update.

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11.5 NSA India

The Council was informed of the situation concerning the FIS Member Association in India. Following discussions with the representatives concerned, FIS is working with the Indian Olympic Association to clarify the appropriate recognition and affiliation in accordance with the FIS Statute.

The Council took note of the update.

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11.6 Kelly Brush Foundation

The Council was informed about the developing collaboration with the Kelly Brush Foundation.

The cooperation focuses on Para sport development, including access to adaptive equipment and potential additional funding opportunities, as well as Alpine skiing safety and related awareness initiatives.

The Council took note of the update.

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12. Upcoming meetings

12.1 Next Meetings of the FIS Council

- **3 November 2026**
  Online Council Meeting (focus: approval of Proposals from the Technical Committee meetings)
- **2 February 2027**
  In-person Council Meeting in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, during the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships
- **18 March 2027**
  In-person Council Meeting in Planica, Slovenia, during the FIS Ski Flying Final
- **13 May 2027**
  In-person Council Meeting, Paris, France, during the FIS Technical Spring Meetings
- **30 June 2027**
  In-person Council Meeting before the FIS Congress 2027 on 1 July

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13. Closing of the Meeting

The President closed the meeting at 18:30

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Geneva, 1 October 2026

Urs Lehmann
Secretary General (a.i.)

FIS COUNCIL

Explanation
The article includes the adjustment of the marketing rules that was not possible to adjust last Spring. The adjustment is agreed between the FIS Ski Jumping and the Advertising Committee and reflect a long analysis of the topic that started during the last season

4.2.9 Sponsor identifications (commercial markings) and NSA / athlete identifications

Sponsor identifications (commercial markings) and NSA / athlete identifications are exempt from air permeability.
Stickers may not have any 3D structure.

Regulations regarding Commercial Markings are set out in the document "Specifications for commercial markings on equipment".

NSA / athlete identifications:

- 1 x NSA emblem max. 30 cm2 - left or right sleeve
- 1 x nation letters max. 100 cm2, outside of the left or right leg (letters only, no full-surface designs)
- 1 x athlete name with flag, letter size 48 pt (max. 5cm under collar at the back part or on one sleeve)

The box measurement system shall be used for all measurements.
If sublimation printing is used instead of stickers, there is no size limitation for the NSA emblem and the nation letter, if the 40 liter air permeability is still guaranteed.

The total surface area of all stickers - sponsor identifications (commercial markings) and NSA / athlete identifications - on the ski jumping suit of one person shall be increased from 500 cm2 to 700 cm2 to respect the very specific requirements in SJ in terms of performance enhancement.

4.2.10 Design Logos --> complete paragraph to be deleted with immediate effect

Regulation that will apply with the start of the World Cup season (15.11.2026)