

To the  
- Members of the Alpine Committee  
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Oberhofen, 10.06.2022

**Minutes Alpine Committee**  
**Online Meeting, Friday, 13.05.2022, 13:00 hrs**

Dear Ski Friends,

We have pleasure in sending you today the Minutes of the 94<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Alpine Committee held online on 13.05.2022.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Office in Oberhofen no later than 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (flere@fisski.com).

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](http://www.fis-ski.com).

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.

Kindest regards,



Bernhard Russi  
Chairman Alpine Committee



Janez Fléré  
Alpine Technical Coordinator

### **FIS Staff**

- Jenny Wiedeke, FIS
- Peter Gerdol, FIS
- Markus Waldner, FIS
- Alberto Senigaglia, FIS
- Hannes Trinkl, FIS
- Markus Mayr, FIS
- Emmanuel Couder, FIS
- Andreas Krönner, FIS
- Mike Kertesz, FIS
- Tatjana Luessy, FIS
- Sandra Spitz, FIS
- Jordi Pujol, FIS
- Wim Rossel, FIS
- Daniel Defago, FIS

### Other Committees, Working Groups

- Horst Hüttel, GER, Nordic Combined Committee
- Vegard Ulvang, NOR, Cross-Country Committee
- Mika Kojonkoski, FIN, Jumping Committee
- Aki Murasato, JPN, Equipment Committee
- Rudi Huber, SRS
- Hubert Hörterer, GER, Medical Committee
- Chris Moore, CAN, Legal and Safety Committee
- Pernilla Wiberg, SWE, Alpine Equipment WG
- Verena Stuffer, ITA, Athletes Commission
- Leif Kristian Nestvold Haugen, NOR, Athletes Commission

### Organisers OWG/WSC

- OC OWG 2022 Beijing, CHN
- OC WSC 2023 Courchevel Méribel, FRA
- OC YOG 2024 Gangwon, KOR
- OC WSC 2025 Saalbach Hinterglemm, AUT

### Honorary Members

- Oskar Fischer, GER
- Christian Poley, AUT
- Svein Mundal, NOR
- Toni Vogrinec, SLO

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION  
Alpine Committee**

**Invitation Online Meeting Alpine Committee  
Friday, 13.05.2022, 13:00 hrs, CET**

**AGENDA**

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Welcome  | Bernhard Russi     |
| 2. Roll Call  | Janez Fleré        |
| 3. Approval of the Agenda   | Bernhard Russi     |
| 4. Approval of the Minutes of the 93 <sup>rd</sup> meeting held Online in October 2021. | Janez Fleré        |
| 5. Reports  |                    |
| 5.1 Chairman  | Bernhard Russi     |
| 6. Executive Board  | Bernhard Russi     |
| Sub-Committees / Working Groups:  |                    |
| 7. Evaluation   |                    |
| 7.1 Data and Timing Working Group   | Daniel Defago      |
| 7.2 Classification of Alpine Competitors  | Jeff Weinman       |
| 8. Women's Alpine Skiing  | Karen Korfanta     |
| 9. Alpine Courses   | Elena Gaja         |
| 10. Alpine Rules  | Michael Huber      |
| 11. Alpine Technical Delegates  | Markus Malsiner    |
| 12. Alpine World Cup  | Walter Vogel       |
| 12.1 Working Group Coaches Women  | Paul Kristofic     |
| 12.2 Working Group Coaches Men  | Thomas Stauffer    |
| 13. Intercontinental Cup  | Stefano Pirola     |
| 13.1 European Cup   | Herbert Mandl      |
| 13.2 Nor-Am   | Chip Knight        |
| 13.3 Far East   | Michihiko Nakamura |
| 13.4 South American Cup   | Ernesto Cingolani  |
| 13.5 Australia New Zealand Cup  | Fiona Stevens      |
| 14. Youth Questions   | Ken Read           |
| 14.1 Junior World Ski Championships   | Jordi Pujol        |
| 15. Ski Cross   | Klaus Waldner      |
| 16. Material and Equipment  |                    |
| 16.1 WG for Alpine Equipment  | Pernilla Wiberg    |

17. Athletes Commission

Verena Stuffer  
Leif Kristian Nestvold Haugen

18. Reports from Organisers of the next major championships:

18.1. 2022 Olympic Winter Games, Beijing (CHN)

18.2. 2023 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Courchevel-Méribel (FRA)

18.3. 2024 Youth Olympic Games, Ganwong (KOR)

19. Questions, Various

20. Next Meeting

FIS Autumn Meetings, last week of September 2022, Zurich (SUI)

**1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting**

The Chairman, Bernhard Russi (SUI), welcomed all online present to the meeting.

**2. Roll Call**

Janez Fleré (FIS) conducted the Roll Call. Apologies were received from Executive Board members Toni Giger (AUT) replaced by Herbert Mandl.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

The Agenda, without additions or remarks, was unanimously approved.

**4. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held online in October 2022 were, without comments or remarks, unanimously approved.

**5. Reports**

**5.1 Chairman (Bernhard Russi, SUI)**

It had been a long season with situations, rules, restrictions, all to be mastered and the alpine side was most active everywhere. At some races there were huge crowds but also empty stadiums. All of this confirmed just how good the sport is and TV numbers are very impressive for the last few years. The big highlight of the season was the Olympics in China with a difficult situation not being able to run test events the previous season. The many supporters, the advisors and the FIS Directors and their staffs made for great courses.

Some basic facts; there were 3464 FIS races, 15414 registered athletes and this is clearly higher when compared to the last five years, an increase of 14%. The base of this sport then is solid and can be proud of the major stars and for the huge number of racers. Major thanks must go to the organisers, the volunteers and the families for their support also.

We are now in a period of change that is necessary as the need to grow continues, we must not however forget the roots of this sport and our philosophies.

There were no questions or remarks.

**6. Executive Board (Bernhard Russi, SUI)**

The Chairman noted that there were two meetings during the week.

He also noted the need to replace events no longer considered, AC for instance. This was discussed in the Executive Board and some ideas came out but were very different and these were forwarded to the General Secretary for presentation to Council. There will shortly be a special meeting of the Executive Board in order to discuss possible future products.

There were no questions or remarks.

**7. Evaluation**

### **7.1 Timing Working Group (Daniel Défago, FIS)**

Daniel Défago reported briefly on behalf of the Working Group.

They defined a homologation request form that every producer has to fill out precisely before sending the device to the homologation LAB, this form will be published on the FIS website.

It was also defined a common homologation prices list. Each manufacturer can ask to get it.

It was decided to simplify the homologation validity procedure by having the same validity year for every device, this date will be extended by one year every year if the homologation requirements are not changing.

They worked also on some updates (wireless precision/merging, level 3 and 4 without cables, PAR hand time calculation) of the alpine timing booklet and a new version will be published after the fall meeting.

They start discussion about electronic timing logs, which will be one of our main topics for our next meetings.

There were no questions or remarks.

### **7.2 Classification of Alpine Competitors (Jeff Weinman, USA)**

The chair briefly drew some interesting statistics to everyone's attention: in 2019 there were some 189K race results assessed, with the impact of Covid-19 restrictions biting, some 134K assessed in 2020, and then 159K in 2021. Already in 2022 some 193K starts have been assessed and this is before the Southern Hemisphere has been reviewed. This growth is extremely encouraging and indicates that racers are returning, more than before.

There was one item to mention. It has been proposed that all the Category Adders be deleted from the Penalty Calculation and this was supported. He noted that changes a few years ago now permitted this to be considered.

#### **4.5 ~~Category Adder and~~ Minimum/Maximum-Value**

The ~~category adder and~~ minimum/maximum values will be published on each current [FIS points list](#) (1<sup>st</sup> page)

The Chairman asked committee members for approval. The proposal was unanimously approved.

### **8. Women´s Alpine Skiing (Karen Korfanta, USA)**

The chair briefly informed members of a recent presentation by the FIS Development Group that the sub-committee viewed.

The chair noted their commitment to Gender Diversity for some time now and fully supported this aim. It was mentioned that the overview of the 21/22 Olympics showed how challenging this event was and she was delighted how well it was received.

The chair wished to thank all stake holders and FIS staff for their excellent support in this difficult time.

### **9. Alpine Courses (Elena Gaja, ITA)**

Alpine Courses held a recent meeting and discussed matters from the past season. There have been 441 reports and certificates issued with some 300 requests outstanding. This is believed to be low as NSAs are now just starting to consider updates of their homologations. In future Inspection reports and Homologations will only be issued in the English language.

Within the Rules some exceptions are to be considered where the number of gate changes are not possible due to the terrain being viewed. Instead of generating too

complicated rules one should reconsider and look at the validity of the Exceptions, which are valid until revoked.

The Chair will shortly forward ideas to the Committee.

The sub-committee is currently looking at the use of "C" nets across the world in order to consider how these, if at all, should be regulated.

The following proposal for exception was send directly to FIS Council:

#### Exception for number of change directions

According to the rules for Homologations (art. 650.1.2) "Exceptions may be granted by the Council".

According to the rules for SL (801.2.4.1) "Exception for cases where the number of direction changes cannot be fulfilled due to unusual terrain, the Homologation certificate will show that an exemption has been granted".

The following 3 competition courses are requested for approval:

USA Indianhead Mt MI – SL "FIS Trail" – hom nr. 14339/12/12

USA Keystone Ski Resort CO – SL "Upper Go Devil" – hom nr. 13521/01/20

SWE Sundsvall - SL "Slalombacke" – hom nr. 14148/11/21

There were no questions or remarks.

### **10. Alpine Rules (Michael Huber, AUT)**

About 80 % of the total of 37 members with a 70:30 gender balance was attending.

For the Chairman's report, I could give data information about our "targets" to deal with, the Alpine events. 3.032 competitions were considered valid for FIS points past season, no case for the appeals commission was rised, so the ICR seems to work quite well for the responsible Jury's. 82 % of these events were Tech, 15 % Speed. AC 2,1 % and PAR 0,4% (only 11).

The +2 hour meeting brought wide and detailed discussions about the four proposals which were dealt with, with the following results:

(1st) INTRODUCTION SUPER-G 2RUN RACE: The original proposal from France last spring was adapted to enable SG competitions in two runs from 300 – 350 m Vertical Drop. This basic principle was voted on, from total 27 votes, 23 were in favour yes, 3 against no, 1 abstention. In the detailed discussion, it proved, that more rules details are necessary to be established. (a) It is meant only for FIS level races, not Cups. (b) It is the will to have a course re-set and inspection for the second run as a principle. (c) The start order second run has to be decided. (d) The Vertical Drop shall be from 300 – 400 m, (e) The maximum number of direction changes might be necessary to be limited, as SG only indicates a minimum right now. To summarize, the principle idea was supported with majority, more details for ruling are necessary until FIS fall meeting, before we see the first SG in 2 runs.

(2nd) UPDATE PENALTY TIME PARALLEL: The proposal from Canada was based on several expertises of Athletes and Parallel Working Groups, to level up the penalty time from 0.50 to 0.75 seconds first run. The goals to achieve as well the advantages and disadvantages were discussed in length. From total 26 votes, 22 were in favour yes, 1 against no, 3 abstentions. It has to be said, that we are aware, that a "perfect" fair number of a penalty time for all levels and for all types of Parallel could never be found, to keep the excitement high, after a failure 1st run before the re-run. That is the reason, that in all other alpine events a gate fault or similar is a DNF, and not result in a penalty time.

**FIS Council decision: The penalty time increase proposal to 0.75 for parallel races was discussed and it was agreed that it would be difficult to approve without knowing the impact it would have in practice and not on paper.**

**The proposal was *not approved*.**

**The FIS Council favoured instead a real-time penalty for all runs.**

(3rd) START CLOCK FOR FIXED INTERVALL: The proposal from the data and timing working group was presented by Daniel Defago, to make the use of a FIS homologated device mandatory for Level 0, 1 and 2 (NC). Questions were raised and discussed, a vote took place. From total 26 votes, 10 were in favour yes, 13 were against no, 3 abstentions. So this proposal was not adopted. Main reason was about additional costs for lower levels like National Championships, and the fact, that the start clock apparently could not be proofed to have a direct impact on the correct timing of the events.

(4th) PHOTO FINISH LEVEL 0 RACES: The proposal from the data and timing working group was adopted unanimously, to make a photo finish system mandatory on level 0 competitions.

#### 611.3.2.2 Photo Finish

A Photo Finish System may be used to determine a competitor's finish time. In case of a failure of system "A" and "B", and where the competition has been recorded by the Photo Finish System, this time must be used in place of hand-timing without any correction.

The photo finish time is taken when any part of the competitor's body first crosses the Finish line. The photo finish result is to be provided to the Jury only. [Photo finish at Finish is mandatory for level 0 races.](#)

The task to coordinate ICR related items with the new established S.C. Ski Cross was fulfilled. After several considerations, they choose separated numbers from 1.400 – 1.590 to indicate, that their ICR is on a stand-alone basis, as the sport technical rules from the Alpine ICR (600 – 1238) cannot be adjusted to their needs.

It was recommended that a wish of Slovenia that for children's races the use of a back protector be mandatory was first forwarded to the Medical Committee.

Finally, thanks to everybody involved, especially Dave Pym, who declared early morning Canadian time, that this was his last meeting as an official member of S.C. Alpine Rules, what was very emotionally, as he served so passionately 30 years voluntarily.

## 11. Alpine Technical Delegates (Markus Malsiner, ITA)

Our meeting was held on Monday, 09th of May.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic has dominated also the last winter season it still was a successful one, although strict regulations had to be observed to be able to carry out all the competitions without bigger issues. The winter started with some minor problems, because of the precarious snow conditions in different parts of the Alps creating some postponements and cancellations. Less then 25% of a total of more than 4300 alpine competitions were cancelled or postponed. The excellent communication between the commissioners and with Janez at the FIS Office made the work extremely easy.

In addition to that the commissioners organised last autumn 14 TD clinics and updates worldwide. A part of them were held online and the other part was in

physical presence. The general wish of all the commissioners is to meet face to face in future.

As FIS Council took a decision already 2019 regarding the gender equity within all the aspects of our sports, we also have to consider this, in order to reach a better gender balance for the TD's in future. It will be very challenging for all of us, since the majority of the national technical delegates who want to pursue the career of a FIS TD is male.

The increase of the – per diem – reimbursement of CHF 100.- which is set like this already since more than 20 years was discussed and with the support of other Sub-Committees we forwarded it to FIS Office and we kindly ask you to support this request.

A big thank you goes to the Alpine Coordinator Janez Flere who was available 24/7 and solved more or less all our problems, to the IT manager Daniel Defago, to Dimitrije Lazarovski as our expert for all the Covid-19 problems, to Tatjana Luessy and to Steffi Gerber.

## **12. Alpine World Cup (Walter Vogel, GER)**

We had a long and constructive meeting yesterday, which was very much shaped by the current situation with plans for the future and uncertainty among NSAs and organisers.

We look back on a very successful season. The Alpine World Cup has again delivered in full. All planned races could be held, with few replacements.

Despite Covid-19, despite sometimes difficult weather conditions.

It shows that we have a stable product with strong partners. Our thanks go to the National Ski Associations for their cooperation, to the FIS Staff for their tireless efforts, but most of all to the organisers, who once again did everything in their power to make this success possible.

Congratulation to USSA and Swiss-Ski for the overall titles, Ski Austria for winning the Nations Cup.

During the meeting, however, many members also expressed their dissatisfaction with current processes. This became clear on several points. There is a communication deficit. For the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup the usual funnel system has been turned upside down, from a usual bottom up to top down. This leads to decisions without sufficient prior discussion and without involving competent people and committees. This is perceived as a lack of trust, respect and transparency.

To present the Calendar for the first time in early May for a season that starts in 5 months, is definitely much too late. So we have lost a lot of credibility with stakeholders.

The new direction of having a period of competitions in the USA after the World Championships has subsequently put pressure on established organisers who have had to leave. Norway has expressed that as a 30-year member of the men's Calendar they cannot accept this Calendar as it is, Croatia is demanding a second World Cup in Zagreb. Both nations ask the Council to deal with these demands again. The SC did not vote on the Calendars because they were already confirmed by the Council.

Franz Julen informed us about the speed opening in Zermatt Cervinia (SUI/ITA) with a short report.

FIS leadership asked the SC for feedback for some planned innovations and on the Future Vision Group recommendations.

The implementation of the SAC (Speed Alpine Combined) and TAC (Tech Alpine Combined), which are published in the Calendars 22/23 as a weekend combination

ranking of two competitions, in the next season is unanimously not supported by the SC for the upcoming season, also not by the athletes. This idea requires a deeper analysis about consequences for the overall World Cup, the athletes see a disadvantage for tech racers.

The Calendars also include two-run downhill races for both genders. This proposal also unanimously did not find support in the SC for safety reasons, and the EBU also spoke out against it.

The feedback on the recommendations of the Future Vision Group is as follows:

1) more night races during the week in Slalom and Giant Slalom events.

we fully support - take care of the events' balance

2) Indoor races and the extension of the season

According to the SC indoor races should not be part of the World Cup. Especially: we should not mix indoor and outdoor races together in a World Cup classification.

3) Alpine Combined - several options were mentioned as ideas.

A new format is needed; it should definitely be followed up.

4) Calendar reshuffle

This topic focuses more on higher-level issues such as marketing or television, and less on technical ones. It may have an impact on potential bidders for the Alpine World Ski Championships because of snow safety and slope conditions. But nothing against from the SC.

5) Unified World Ranking List

Not an easy, but interesting topic against the background of making the 2nd league more interesting. With the FIS points list a very precise and fair world ranking list already exists, but this is hardly communicable to the public. Should be followed up.

Last but not least there are some proposals that we forward to the Alpine Committee for approval:

- Proposal Starting Order: unanimously agreed (Approved by FIS Council)
- Art. 4.3.2 of the World Cup Rules: This is a clarification, that the above named quotas for service apply to both genders, for sites where women and men events are at the same time (Approved by FIS Council)
- The SC unanimously supported the proposal of the FEC about the extension of a personal qualification to Alpine World Cups for FEC title winner's from 2021 for the upcoming season. The 21/22 FEC season had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. (Approved by FIS Council)

A proposal from Canada to change the penalty time in Parallel in the World Cup rules from half a second to 0.75 was not accepted and tabled for study.

At the end of my report I really want to thank all the stakeholders as race organisers and SRS for their outstanding support. My special thank is given to my colleagues Tatjana, Peter, Markus and Janez for the excellent cooperation and support and all our colleagues behind Peter and Markus that make the World Cup run.

Thank you for your attention.

## **12.1 Working Group Coaches Women (Paul Kristofic, USA)**

Peter Gerdol reported on behalf of the Working Group Coaches Women.

There have been some meetings with coaches during the season discussing current issues and ensuring quick decisions to local concerns. There was one in-person meeting of head coaches 12/13 April which was exceedingly profitable and brought many decisions:

The current Chairman and Vice-Chairman were confirmed for a further term. After a debrief of the past season points requiring improvement were considered.

Course setting; the current system was reviewed, considered good and confirmed.

The draft outline calendar was discussed.

The proposed new Starting Order for speed events was discussed and agreed to.

Course preparation was discussed.

There were no questions or remarks.

## **12.2 Working Group Coaches Men (Thomas Stauffer, SUI)**

Thomas Stauffer is excused, so Markus Waldner, Chief Race Director World Cup Men made a short report.

The Chief Race Director gave a special thanks to the Chairs of working groups for their support.

At various meetings the events of the season were discussed and evaluated giving rise to new ideas for improvements. Course setting and course preparation were discussed and a significant reduction in injuries was noted – perhaps due to no longer using technical measurements for course setting.

Proposals for TV breaks at events were discussed and here Marketing should coordinate.

Accommodation was a large concern, especially at the World Cup Finals. Coordination will meet next week to discuss this issue and look at Accommodation throughout the coming season.

Finally now that the draft Calendar is available all Head Coaches will get together to discuss any issues.

## **13. Intercontinental Cup (Stefano Pirola, CHI)**

The chair noted that Covid-19 had impacted on all Southern Hemisphere Cups to the extent that not one was organised in the last two years. Land borders are however now open and training can begin again.

He noted that AUS and NZE had also opened their borders, but with some restrictions. At Europa Cup level the constraints and problems were less intense and there organisers could run events; NORAM too.

In the Far East all events were cancelled.

In essence a mix of Cup events were able to run and he hopes that in this season the Intercontinental Cups can be run normally.

He expressed his grateful thanks to the Intercontinental Cup staff for their support and assistance.

### **13.1 European Cup (Herbert Mandl AUT)**

The chair thanked the coordinators for their work in most difficult conditions not helped by the weather concerns. He also thanked all the Organisers and noted that it was becoming difficult to identify Venues, Organisers and Sponsors. The organisation of speed events was becoming extremely difficult due to the challenges raised by the placement of security installations. He is currently

working with staff on the Calendar and hopes to have all in place by the Autumn Meeting.

The chair noted that it was becoming more difficult to organise events and wonders whether the correct marketing is in place.

There were no questions or remarks.

### **13.2 Nor-Am Cup (Chip Knight, USA)**

Nor-Am return in the last season with 58 events planned however only 53 were run with some events being rescheduled.

The chair is working hard on the coming Calendar where speed events are becoming a challenge in particular.

### **13.3 Far East Cup (Michihiko Nakamura, JPN)**

The chair described a very difficult season having lost all events and he was extremely grateful for the rule change to support Far East events.

He remarked that Covid-19 restrictions had made life very difficult and even today some nations still had closed borders. China was unable to review the Far East Calendar as they were fixated on the Olympics and then the Covid-19 pandemic. Japan was hit by a further Covid-19 wave and other political considerations stopped all events.

For the Calendar next season it may be possible to hold speed events in China and it is planned that next month meetings will be held in order to set the Calendar. In January races are to be held in Japan, in February in Korea with perhaps Russian events in Japan in March. The aim is for 13 nations, some 2200 competitors at these races promoting skiing and better environments throughout the region. There is consideration of 20+ events for JPN and KOR with possibly 6+ in China.

The chair thanked all for their support and the many people who helped

### **13.4 South American Cup (Ernesto Cingolani, ARG)**

The chair noted that border restrictions had a severe impact on the South American Cup and only national races could be run hence there had been no South American cup races for the past two years.

The forecast is for a good season with already large snow falls in April. Planning on holding some 22 events (M&W) each and is looking forward to the return of a normal, regular Calendar.

There were no questions or remarks.

### **13.5 Australia / New Zealand Cup (Fiona Stevens, NZL)**

The chair reported on the fact that the Cup was not run during the past two years due to Covid-19 restrictions and closed borders, although these were opened briefly in 2021 before closing again. It had been difficult watching other countries continuing in a can-do mode. However the borders are now open and there will be an ANC series although there are still questions about AUS venues. This is to be clarified and if possible a Plan B will be run in NZE.

It is noticeable that there is a strong demand for races at Junior level and numbers are up at FIS level events. The chair hopes that AUS/NZE can open up fully and soon.

Anecdotal evidence suggests pent up demand recreationally but translating this into competitive numbers might be another matter.

Australasia has been heavily affected by two winters of little or no competition, the limited opportunities at FIS level for the next generation with overseas travel to train and race being mostly non-existent. The concern here is that athletes will drift away to educational opportunities and other priorities.

However, I was encouraged when attending a regional junior race late July, whereby we had one of our biggest fields in the last 10 years – 240 junior racers.

#### **14. Youth Questions (Ken Read, CAN)**

36th meeting of the Alpine Youth sub committee, with full participation of the sub committee members.

Robust discussion and engaged debate on a number of topics. We acknowledge the very positive statistics of participating in FIS events and the recovery in 2021-22 and we anticipate even larger numbers in the future.

We had a lengthy meeting, with several excellent presentations. Key highlights:

- Children's race Organisers reported a return of most calendared events. There is more work needed, as this level – U16/U14 is the age most impacted by the pandemic, so we need to be supportive of all Organisers.
- FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships are in good hands. We had another very well organised event in Panorama (CAN) with great slopes and competitions, overcoming many challenges as they prepared for the event. The future is bright with a full slate of future organisers through 2025.
- Speed is a continuing concern. As we have flagged every year for the past 5 to 6 years, we have declining numbers. At the WJC, we had the lowest number of women ever. The coaches on-site called for better access to training and competition and supported strategies such as the 2-run SG and continued use of the Alpine Combined as a big positive to encourage the speed events.
- FRA presented a speed project, which highlighted bringing together young athletes with older athletes to gain insight and confidence. This is a standing item in each meeting to share good information between NSA's. This agenda item highlights projects by NSAs of all levels, to demonstrate the priority and the opportunities to make speed more accessible in all ski nations.

Only proposal was from the sub committee, to nominate the Chair for Honorary Membership, as he is retiring this year.

Thanks to all members of the sub committee, to FIS staff – Janez, Wim, Jordi, Matjaz, Lukas, Dimitrije and Steffi, for their tireless work on behalf of youth.

##### **14.1 FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships (Jordi Pujol, FIS)**

FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships 2022 Panorama, Canada

Despite the difficult weather situation in the beginning of the first week, we were able to complete almost all the scheduled competitions making Panorama 2022 successful championships. Due to bad weather both ECOM SG races had to be cancelled, therefore both genders SG races were used as speed events for the AC. A great and experienced slope crew supported by an enthusiastic volunteer's team together with a very motivated organising committee made it possible to achieve great Championships. We want to highlight the quality and profile of the race slopes and mention especially the mixed parallel race event. Both courses were almost identical resulting in a very fair and exciting race. Excellent live streaming of both SL and MTP resulted in a high number of fans viewing these events all over the world. Another milestone in the history of the WJC was the implementation of the full support by Swiss Timing. Big thanks go

those professionals providing extremely high quality, speed and accuracy in providing data & timing. Just one remark regarding accommodation. As not all the teams were housed at the Panorama Resort, this situation created some transportation difficulties for the nations that were lodged a few miles away. In conclusion we believe that all athletes were able to enjoy these World Junior Championships and could take home great memories of the Canadian resort of Panorama. Last but not least congratulations once again to all Medallists and we all look forward seeing them soon as alpine skiing role models and new future champions!.

Sankt Anton (AUT) in 2023 and Haute Savoie Portes du Soleil (FRA) in 2024 are confirmed.

For 2025 we have already two candidates, Santa Caterina (ITA) and Soldeu (AND). FIS Council we make the decision during the next meeting in Autumn 2022.

Thanks to Ken for all his support during the last 20 years as Chair of the Youth & Children's Sub-Committee.

## **15. Ski Cross (Klaus Waldner, FIS)**

The Ski Cross season 2021/22 started with the test event for the Olympic Winter Games 2022 in Zhangjiakou (CHN). After an enormous intern workflow together with the whole FIS Cross Team, which started already in May 2021, we were able to make the test event for Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross happen on the Olympic venue. The test event was the cornerstone for a successful Olympic Winter Games in February 2022. Through the test event a lot of fundamental problems (Travelling, course build, competition management on site and so on) could be solved for the Games.

After the test event the world cup continued with the traditional December tour through the Alps. We were able to finish all 6 scheduled races in this short time frame. In Val Thorens (FRA) we needed again a reserve day but with this additional effort we got a bluebird race day. Arosa (SUI) has delivered as usual a single and a team competition.

After Arosa we were able to finish the December tour with a double race on the traditional race slope in Innichen (ITA), where we were back after a Covid-19 break in the last season.

After the Christmas break the season continued with a back to back competition in Nakiska (CAN). Nakiska was also back on the calendar after a Covid-19 break in the season 2020/21. Idre Fjäll (SWE) was the last event on the calendar before the Olympic Winter Games. Also Idre Fjäll delivered as usual with two well organised races in the northern Europe.

In February it was time for the Olympic Winter Games. Due to the experiences of the test event from November we were able to build the Ski Cross slope in Zhangjiakou on point. After two training days the women started first with their competition on a cloudy snowy day. The course worked out perfectly for the women also on slower condition and so we ended the races with a tight final heat and no injuries.

The next day the Men's competition took place on a bluebird day. Also the Men's competition went down without any problems and injuries.

Straight after the Olympics we flew with a charter flight from Beijing (CHN) to Chelyabinsk (RUS), organised by the Russian freestyle ski federation. The organisers in Sunny Valley were really well prepared and we already finished the second training day as the war between Russia and Ukraine started. On Friday the competition was officially cancelled by the jury and the whole ski cross family tried to go back to Europe as fast as possible.

After a break of 10 days the Ski Cross tour resumed with the final race weekends in Reiteralm (AUT) and Veysonnaz (SUI). Both weekends were combined weekend with Snowboard Cross. The course building and organising team in Reiteralm developed the course into the right direction. With some course splitting elements between Snowboard Cross and Ski Cross the race was much better than in the last year edition. To achieve this result a lot of compromises and discussions on site were needed. Nevertheless a really good race and TV show were the results, which was also caused by amazing drone pictures from ORF.

The same situation continued in Veysonnaz were the course building, caused by a lack of snow on some parts, soft spring snow on others, lead to intense racing with a lot of contacts between the competitors during the final competition of the year. The competition went down without major injuries and so we finished the season 2021/2022 with a good race on a sunny day in Veysonnaz.

All in all we were able to held all races which were scheduled on the calendar 2021/2022, with the exception of the Russian back to back races. The tour finished with 12 single races, 1 team event and the races at Olympic Winter Games in China.

Last but not least, I want to say thank you to all our organisers which put a lot of efforts in our sport and have made this season happen, under the world wide Covid-19 situation.

## **16. Equipment (Bernhard Russi, SUI)**

No report from Equipment Committee.

### **16.1 Working Group Alpine Equipment (Pernilla Wiberg, SWE)**

Statement of the „Working Group Alpine Equipment“ regarding the obligation to use an AirBag in the alpine speed disciplines.

As a first comment we clearly want to point out, that we ever have and still do support the innovative concept idea of the “Air Bag” of both companies Dainese and In&motion! Detecting kinematic parameters that indicate a crash and initiating protective measures is a huge step on the challenging path of making ski racing safer.

A request to make the use of an AirBag mandatory in all speed events will though not be supported by the group. In an intensive discussion with representatives of both suppliers, we argued as follows:

1. There is no obligation to wear a back protector in FIS Disciplines. All athletes competing in alpine speed events are using back protectors and fortunately we barely ever see this type injuries. The spine is one of the most critical body parts and deserves a special focus in the prevention discussion.
2. The AirBag is a combination of a back protector integrated in a vest with inflatable sections at the shoulder and chest area. The additional gain of protection basically targets the shoulder, collarbone and chest region. All of them have not been injury hot spots in alpine ski racing. The injury data of the past seasons indicate that despite all positive aspects the AirBag is not a game changer in the efforts of injury prevention.
3. To implement a rule that makes an AirBag mandatory would mean a major impact in the existing system of FIS organized ski racing. Currently there are only two suppliers/manufacturers available and just one has a significant experience (number of athletes using it) in alpine skiing speed disciplines. Most of the current SkiPool partners of the

NSAs do not have AirBag Systems in their portfolio. We – the working group do not regard the possible gain of protection in relation to the negative impact as reasonable.

4. Currently there is an athlete who has sustained an injury in the spine area while using the AirBag that has led to reduced confidence in the system. The data analysis could so far not help vanishing the doubts and uncertainties both the athlete affected and the teammates would not really have an alternative option to use in training and race.
5. Other athletes who already used an AirBag in training and competition complained that they have less freedom of movement to react to situations and maintain balance in challenging situations.
6. The AirBag systems are available for every athlete who decides to wear it and protect himself with the most sophisticated technology available. All our wind tunnel test show that it is not a general aero dynamical disadvantage to use the AirBag. The athletes should be the first instance to decide about their health and level of prevention/protection.
7. We – the working group would absolutely support every further development of the concept idea to target the use of the technology for the major injury hotspot in ski racing – severe knee injuries.

Regarding the Air Bag discussion to make it mandatory from the season 23/24, FIS Council decided to defer the decision on mandatory Air Bags until more key necessities are in place.

#### **17. Athletes' Commission (Verena Stuffer, ITA-Leif Kristian Nestvold Haugen, NOR)**

On the Safety issue and Airbags; all athletes wish to stay safe but there is an issue with the fitting and concerns about freedom of movement when wearing the Airbag vest. If the FIS indicates that the matter will shortly be “mandatory” then much time will be taken up by individual and correct fitting of the system followed by training whilst wearing it.

The Commission wished to thank all for a great season, despite all the restrictions and weather concerns. The new Calendar looks good at its first review, with a balanced number of events in the speed and technical field.

On the matter of Speed and Tech Combination the commission is not supportive of this opinion as its members have cause for concerns about double races, constraints and fatigue issues with such a heavy race and training programme.

The Commission is very supportive of the new Starting Order proposal and feels it is most important to get feedbacks from Athletes that would be then forwarded to the Executive Board for discussion.

#### **18. Reports from Organisers of the previous and next major championships:**

There followed a series of short presentations by representatives of the venues briefing committee members of the final reports or current states of preparation.

**18.1** 2022 Olympic Winter Games, Beijing (CHN)

**18.2** 2023 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Courchevel-Méribel (FRA).

**18.3** 2024 Youth Olympic Winter Games, Ganwon (KOR)

#### **18. Questions, Various**

Michael Huber noted that an honorary member, Benito Ferronato (ITA), had passed away and asked for a Minute of Silence.

Dave Pym (CAN) noted the departure of Ken Read (CAN), a man with many years of experience in national, international, and in FIS committees, with 34 years in the Youth & Children Sub-Committee, 12 as Vice-Chair, he should be elected as an honorary member of said committee.

This was agreed to unanimously.

Michael Vion (FIS), General Secretary, thanked Bernhard Russi for his many years of support and for chairing the Alpine Committee. On behalf of the FIS he thanked him for all the commitment and guidance offered over many years.

Ken Read reminded all that the legacy of Bernhard Russi was not to be taken lightly and should be recognised by all at the FIS. He noted that many are extremely grateful for the passion and guidance shown over the many years of service. He has left his mark behind, not only by designing Downhill courses but also by tremendous contributions as the Chairman of this Committee. He wished to nominate Bernhard Russi as an honorary member and this proposal was supported unanimously.

The Chairman thanked all for their kind words, for the hard work carried out during this week and hoped to return to normal in-person meetings soon, until September!

For more details in regard to all Sub-Committee meetings (agenda, minutes) see [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com) under Members Section.

## **19. Next Meetings**

FIS Autumn Meeting, last week of September 2022

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 16.00hrs

For the Minutes, Martin Leach & Janez Fleré

Read and approved by Bernhard Russi, Chairman Alpine Committee