

To the:

- Members of the Cross-Country Executive Board
- Chairs Cross-Country Sub-Committees

For information to:

- National Ski Associations
- Members of the Cross-Country Committee
- Michel Vion
- Sandra Spitz

**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD  
FEDERATION**

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

Oberhofen, 07.06.2024

**Minutes Meeting Cross-Country Committee  
Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portoroz (SLO), Wednesday, 08.05.2024, 13:30 – 16:30 hrs CET**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you today the Minutes of the meeting of the Cross-Country Committee held in Portoroz (SLO), 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Nordic Office in Oberhofen until **30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**.

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

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution. We wish you a nice summer.

Kind regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION



Uros Ponikvar  
Chair Cross-Country Committee

## **INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION**

### **Invitation Meeting Cross-Country Committee**

**Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portoroz (SLO), Wednesday, 08.05.2024, 13:30 – 16:30 hrs CET**

#### **AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Members present
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of the minutes of the last Cross-Country Committee meeting
5. Report of the last FIS Council meeting
6. Report and proposals from the Sub-Committees
  - Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups
  - Sub-Committee for Rules and Control
  - Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Youth and Children
  - Sub-Committee for Development Cross-Country
  - Sub-Committee for Popular Cross-Country
  - Sub-Committee for Rollerski
  - Sub-Committee for Women's Nordic
7. Reports from the working groups (if not already included in reports of the S.C.)
8. General discussion – Cross-Country Skiing in 2034 – main focus for development
9. New CC equipment developments for approval
10. Other items arising
11. Next meeting
12. Closing of the meeting

**All proposals and decisions of the Sub-Committee are subject to the confirmation of the Cross-Country Committee on 08.05.2024 and to the approval of the FIS Council on 04.06.2024**

## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

Uros Ponikvar welcomed the members of the Cross-Country Committee and opened the meeting on Wednesday, 08.05.2024 at 13.30h.

## **2. Members Present**

### **Excuses / Replaced by:**

Uros Ponikvar, Chair  
 Espen Bjervig, NOR  
 Michael Bonfert, AUT  
 Katsuhito Ebisawa, JPN  
 Chris Grover, USA  
 Christopher Jeffries, CAN  
 Zofia Stefania Kielpinska, POL  
 Guri Knotten, SUI  
 Hannu Koivusalo, FIN  
 Andrei Kovalenko, BLR  
 Jiayu Liu, CHN  
 Petr Mach, CZE  
 Olivier Michaud, FRA  
 Lars Öberg, SWE  
 Aleksandr Panzhinskii, RUS  
 Gabriella Paruzzi, ITA  
 Andreas Schlütter, GER

Substituted by Alois Stadlober

Not present

Not present

Rudi Huber, SRS

Julia Kern, Athletes representative  
 James Clugnet, Athletes representative

Excused

### Chair Sub-Committees:

Satu Kalajainen, Youth & Children  
 Virginia De Martin Topranin, Women's Nordic  
 Anna Rosa, Rules and Control  
 Chris Grover, World Cup and CoC  
 Martins Niklass, Rollerski  
 Özkan Koyuncu, Development  
 Tommy Höglund, Popular

Michal Lamplot, FIS  
 Simon Caprini, FIS  
 Doris Kallen, FIS  
 Synne Dyrhaug, FIS  
 Ulf Seehase, FIS  
 Madeline Nappey, FIS  
 Jessica Rochat, FIS

Norbert Meier, LOC representative

### **Guests**

Several guests have attended the meeting.

### **3. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was sent out on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024. As there were no additional items reported, the members approved the agenda.

### **4. Approval of the minutes of the last Cross-Country Committee 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**

Uros Ponikvar refrains from repeating the report of the FIS Council meetings as the Committee members have listened to the report in the Sub-Committee for World Cup and Continental Cup.

### **6. Reports and proposals from the Sub-Committees:**

#### **Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups**

Chairman Chris Grover reported to have a confirmed World Cup calendar 24/25 with the specifics of having 7 stages of the Tour de Ski which will all take place in Italy.

- A working group was appointed to re-define the concept of the Tour de Ski as of the season 2025/26 and a report is expected at the FIS Autumn meetings 2024.

The draft for the calendar 25/26 was approved with the confirmation of Lake Placid included in period IV. The final confirmation of the calendar 25/26 will take place at the FIS Spring meetings 2025.

The draft for the calendar 26/27 was approved.

#### **Sub-Committee for Rules and Control**

Chairwoman Anna Rosa started her report with the topics the Sub-Committee was referring to besides the rules adaptations. She pointed out that NSA's were requesting equipment controllers and devices for Fluor control and that a constant exchange with Augusto Gillio and his team will be well received.

In addition, at various occasions in the past season, competitions had to – or were threatened to be – interrupted by external factors, mainly protesters. The members of the Sub-Committee started discussions under what ruling such interruptions are based on – respectively what consequences for the race occur.

Approved major rule changes:

- Art. 311.2.2

For WC events, it is possible to homologate courses outside of norms for climb and course length, provided they have been verified as safe and fair by a homologation inspector.

- Art. 311.2.7

*At OWG, WSC, JWSC and WC competitions, the highest point of a Cross-Country course should not exceed 4800-2000 m.*

A working group was appointed to follow up on the regularity of given sanctions and is due to report in the FIS Autumn meetings 2024.

The members identified the new race penalty calculation (of the Olympic qualification criteria) as a challenge, as stated in the proposal from ARM/IRI/LBN pointed out in their proposal. The new formula was thoroughly analyzed, developed and approved in spring 2023. The S.C. saw no point in adjusting but agreed to review where it can be improved further.

The proposed changes by the FIS Nordic Office regarding injury status paperwork was approved.

Anna Guzik (POL) was appointed new HI coordinator for Central/Eastern Europe region, replacing Jakub Vodrazka (CZE).

All Technical Delegate proposals for Cross-Country, Roller Skiing and Popular Skiing were approved.

### **Sub-Committee for Women's Nordic**

Chairwoman Virginia De Martin stated that the members of the S.C. were not satisfied with the FIS' approach to gender equity and gender representation at every level. The current system is not welcoming women. Therefore, further education is needed and the elaborated mentoring program strongly supported, which was included into the development department now.

A significant drop-out rate specifically of female athletes can be observed and is concerning.

### **Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Youth and Children**

Chairwoman Satu Kajalainen pointed out the important exchange the Sub-Committee provided in terms of exchange for development camps.

The numbers of the youth events were elaborated and a record number in participation at the JWSC 2024 was recorded.

### **Sub-Committee for Development Cross-Country**

Chairman Özkan Konyu reported that the development project "Train Together" with the goal establishing regional training camps in developing regions jointly by neighboring countries was approved. The project shall be coordinated with the FIS development department.

### **Sub-Committee for Popular Cross-Country**

Chairman Tommy Höglund informs that also in popular skiing, a big gender gap (75% men, 25% women) could be observed and that the goal was set to evaluate the data and to find best case examples to improve the situation.

The Sub-Committee discussed the future of long-distance races due to global warming. The members agreed that races could be shorter but no less than 30km per definition.

A revision of the FIS guidelines for Popular races shall be finalized in autumn 2024.

Further, the Fluor control implementation has to be developed.

### **Sub-Committee for Rollerski**

Chairman Martins Niklas reported about the upcoming season and its calendar draft for the 2025 season. No rule changes or further proposals arose.

## **7. Reports from the working groups (if not included in the S.C. reports)**

No further comments as all included in the Sub-Committee reports.

## **8. General discussion – Cross-Country Skiing in 2034 – main focus of development**

Michal Lamplot prepared data showing the evolution of participation of nations and its performance in top ranks, nations quota vs. how the quota is being used and elaborated what this data explains.

The key takeaway was to trigger thoughts what strategy the Committee shall agree on in the future, to give a base for decisions and arguments in the future.

Key takeaways are:

- Gender gap in participation numbers stagnated until 3 years ago. Now recorded a consecutive growth of the gender gap.
  - What is the CC approach and goal regarding the gender gap in the future?
- 22 nations in womens category vs. 41 nations in the mens category participated in the last season.
  - 9 nations (women) and 14 nations (men) competed in more than 50% of the World Cup and used more than 50% of the quota.
- Top-3 distribution among nations within past 20 years recorded a dramatic decrease of distribution of top-spots among nations.
  - In 2024, 4 nations have 74% of all podiums among both gender (NOR, SWE, GER, ITA)
  - In mens category, one nation (NOR) hits 68% of all top-3 podiums.
  - In 2024, 4 nations have 74% of all podiums among both gender (NOR, SWE, GER, ITA)

For many Committee members the current situation is a consequence of budget decisions and the differences of having various systems in different nations in place. An exchange of systematic changes and its consequences would be interesting as a further evaluation.

Chairman Uros Ponikvar will lead a working group to identify the general sources of the current data and prioritize goals and strategy for the future years.

## **9. New CC equipment developments for approval**

The in the 2023 technical committee presented plate binding by Flowmotion has undergone a field test by FIS Staff. Simon Caprini took the plate binding for a test in Classic technique at one occasion during the past season and came up with the conclusion that there is no specific advantage to bindings that already on the market. In addition, no safety issues were identified that could endanger the user of the binding.

As far as the product is developed at this point the Committee members concluded with 9 votes in favor and 1 abstained vote that the product is showing no advantages and is safe to use.

## **10. Other items arising**

Enzo Macor, Cross-Country Sport Manager of OWG Milano Cortina gave an update on the construction plans including the underground wax situation, operational temporary course set and courses that were approved by the homologation inspector. Also the competition schedule was approved by FIS and OBS.

FIS President Johan Eliasch paid a visit to the Cross-Country Committee and talked about current FIS Overall matters.

**11. Next meeting**

Uros Ponikvar pointed out the dates for the FIS Autumn meetings to take place in week 39.

**12. Closing of the meeting**

Uros Ponikvar thanked the members for their work and engagement and closed the meeting at 17.15h