

To the

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

For information to:

- FIS Management

Oberhofen, October 10th 2024

**Minutes Meeting Cross-Country Committee
Friday, 27.09.2024, 13:00 – 16:00 hrs.**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you today the Minutes of the meeting of the Cross-Country Committee held in Zurich (SUI), 27.09.2024.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Nordic Office in Oberhofen until **15th November 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.

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

Kind regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION



Michal Lamplot
Race Director Cross-Country



Uros Ponikvar
Chair Cross-Country Committee

<p align="center">All proposals and decisions of the Cross-Country Committee are subject to the approval of the FIS Council FIS Council, 23.10.2024</p>
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1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chairman Uros Ponikvar (SLO) welcomed the members of the Cross-Country Committee and opened the meeting.

2. Members Present

Uros Ponikvar, SLO, Chairman
 Espen Bjervig, NOR
 Alois Stadlober, AUT
 Katsuhito Ebisawa, JPN
 Chris Grover, USA
 Christopher Jeffries, CAN
 Zofia Stefania Kielpinska, POL
 Walter Reusser, SUI
 Hannu Koivusalo, FIN
 Andrei Kovalenko, BLR
 Liu Hao, CHN
 Petr Mach, CZE
 Pierre Mignerey, FRA
 Lars Öberg, SWE
 Aleksandr Panzhinskii, RUS
 Marco Albarello, ITA
 Andreas Schlütter, GER

Excuses / Substituted by:

Substituted by Watanabe Masahiko
 Substituted by Julia Ystgaard
 Substituted by Lars Brönnimann
 Not allowed
 Not Present
 Substituted by Olivier Michaud
 Not allowed
 Substituted by Enzo Macor

Rudi Huber, SRS

Substituted Steffen Hoos

Julia Kern,
 James Clugnet,

Athletes representative	Excused
Athletes representative	Excused

Satu Kalajainen, FIN for the S.C. Youth & Children Cross-Country
 Anna Rosa, ITA, for the S.C. Rules and Control Cross-Country
 Chris Grover, USA for the S.C. World Cup and COC Cross-Country
 Martins Niklass, LAT, for the S.C. Rollerski
 Özkan Koyuncu, TUR, for the S.C. Development Cross-Country
 Tommy Höglund, SWE, for the S.C. Popular Cross-Country Skiing

Excused
 Excused

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

Norbert Meier, LOC representative

Conference Members :

3. Approval of the Agenda

As there were no additional items reported, the Cross-Country Committee approved the agenda.

Presentations of major events will take place during other items arising.

No comments were received, and the agenda was approved.

4. Approval of the minutes of the last Cross-Country Committee meeting

No remarks have been registered at the FIS Office.

The Cross-Country Committee approved the minutes.

5. Report of the last FIS Council Meeting

Michal Lamplot reported relevant new Cross-Country information from the last FIS Council meeting.

- Russian and Belarussian Teams are still not eligible to participate in the World Cup.
- The centralization of media rights has moved forward. Work is in progress.
- On the way to 50/50 gender balance within FIS, the FIS Council looked into the nominations for various roles at FIS and the technical committee members. Currently, we aim for a 60/40 ratio with the final goal to be 50/50 – please keep this in mind when nominating representatives.
- The application of KAZ to host of the JWSC 2027 was approved by the FIS Council. Dates to be confirmed.
- FIS and IBU have terminated official collaboration in Para disciplines. Cooperation with classification, sport and calendar planning to continue.
- The next FIS Council meeting is in October. All our decisions are subject to the approval of that meeting.
- The Women's Nordic Committee has been cancelled and a common committee for all disciplines has been established. The Chair wants a liaison to report the activities of this committee.

6. Reports from the Sub-Committees and working groups:

- Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups

Chris Grover

The SC approved the inclusion of GBR and IRL in the Scandinavian Cup.

The distribution of bibs for nations cooperation has been revised according to WC participation and has been approved by the SC.

Multiple applications for the women's bib have been received.

The future of Tour de Ski was discussed and some adjustments were made, new bibs were added to add excitement, and a new split of the Prize Money. For more information please see the presentation "Tour de Ski changes".

New WC Rules confirmed by CCC

Changes and adjustments in the WC Calendar (Nove Mesto (CZE) out & Cogné (ITA) in, format changes.

25/26 calendar: SWE proposal to alternate between Davos and Sweden each year in December was rejected. A solution for the hosting of Falun and Lahti needs to be found.

26/27: Challenge at the start of the season. And the dates for Lahti, conflict with other Nordic disciplines.

27/28: Application from CAN was received. Further proposals will be discussed in the Spring.

Fluor procedures will be adapted and the common waxing in Tallinn was touched.

Prices at COC competitions were brought to the table as the countries of the FESA region raised the issue that 80 CHF is not enough to hold COC competitions. A survey will be conducted.

The discussion on the eligibility of the SAC leader to get a spot in WC is postponed as no members of South America were present, a full analysis is needed in the Spring.

- Sub-Committee for Rules and Control

Annna Rosa

The Working Group on race interruption did not have a full solution but some suggestions were given. Article 303.3.2 will be adapted with more details (delayed, resumed, rescheduled and restarted). The jury must be trusted to make decisions when the rules do not cover the situation.

Possibility to cancel Team Sprint Qualification in case of low participation has been foreseen. More adjustments were made, to correct mistakes or precise rules.

Approved by CCC.

A certificate of positive fluor test will be provided in the upcoming season and it needs to be part of sanction documentation.

The dates of the seminars were announced.

A report on verbal reprimands by a WG was done. The presence of TV usually tends to increase the use of verbal reprimands. They will no longer be visible in the TV graphics and results list.

The issue of athletes being paid to participate to some races was brought to the attention because it goes against FIS Rules. The Chair reached out to Sarah Hakkarainen for support from FIS Integrity

Uros Ponikvar thanked the members of the different Working Groups.

- Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Youth and Children

Simon Caprini

3 more nations joined the committee, but less than half of the members were present. Multiple presentations took place (Norway-Brazil cooperation, Para Nordic, Argentina, FIS Education, FIS Safeguarding). A liaison with Nordic Combined was requested. Decision to have a webinar between top athletes and young athletes.

- Sub-Committee for Popular Cross-Country

Tommy Höglund

New president of World Loppet was invited and presented the future of World Loppet.

A work on the FIS Guidelines for Popular races is ongoing.

TD nominations were presented.

Ski Classics has a new race director, Lukas Bauer, with rules of 3 athletes per gender and the creation of a new cup for U22 athletes.

Procedure for fluor testing was explained and possibilities to require testers for organizers for next winter.

For the future meetings, the topic of attracting more women in popular races will be touched.

- Sub-Committee for Rollerski

Martins Niklass

For the first time, a ROL athlete's representative was in the room.

Season of WSC was successful with no cancellations. First LAT overall winner ever. 33 nations took part with 190 athletes to the WSC with challenging weather. In Juniors a Mongolian athlete got a gold medal, which is a breakthrough. ESP won the uphill race men.

32 nations took points in the WC overall ranking with a good mix of developing and traditional nations.

Proposal of calendar for 2025. 3 official applications, LAT, EST and ITA. KAZ TBC.

Application from multiple Asian Ski Federations to establish an Asian ROL series.

Proposal accepted by CCC.

- Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Development

Zofia Stefania Kielpinska

Dimitrije Lazarovski presented the new structure and ongoing projects. Alberto Rigoni presented a report of the Development Camp. Magdalena Kast presented ongoing events in South America.

The Train Together: the project was updated and improved. (see slides)

7. Other items arising

Working Group for the Future of Cross-Country Skiing:

Uros Ponikvar

In Portoroz, a quite negative presentation was showed, stating that we need to work on some aspects of our sport:

- A minority of NSAs can take part regularly in WC.
- Minority of NSA use the athlete quota
- Gender gap in WC participation is growing. It was agreed that we should not accept this situation.
- All costs are growing
- The waxing costs are increasing.

Working group focused on 4 areas: costs, cooperation between nations, participation, inclusion.

Few years back, the CC world was exclusively masculine. Improvement can be seen, but the gender balance has not been yet reached. A small WG should focus on inclusion topic. The WG should present some proposals at the next meeting in the Spring 2025.

A WG had already been established regarding costs but could not get the ideas to fit the CCC. The WG should be recast and present some proposals at the next meeting in the Spring 2025.

For all aspects, there is a work to do both at the international level but also at a national level. (see slides)

Development is not only about “small nations”, each NSA should have a development program for Cross-Country Skiing.

Espen Brevig: Maybe we should use someone new and external. We have been in CC so long we cannot see the biggest picture.

Petr Mach: We can focus on small achievable targets.

Uros Ponikvar: should we work on the five topics, and dedicated groups for each topics. Michal: no need to have the same timeline, but we should work on all of them. And all of them are linked to each other.

The Chair and RD will work on nominating nominated people to the appropriate positions.

FISU Presentation.

Schilaprio JWSC 2025 presentation.

8. Next meeting

Spring meetings will be held in Villamoura (POR) from May 5th to 9th.

9. Closing of the meeting

The Chair thanked everyone and specially the FIS team for their work and preparation, as well as the Chairs and people involved in the working groups. The Chair closed the meeting.