

To the

- Members of the Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Rules and Control

For information to:

- Cross-Country Committee
- FIS Management

Oberhofen, 7th October 2024

**Minutes Meeting Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Rules and Control
Thursday, 26.09.2024, 14:00 – 17:00 hrs**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you the Minutes of the Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country, held on 26.09.2024

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 of informing 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 successful winter season.

Kind regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION



Anna Rosa
Chair Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Rules and Control

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION

Minutes Meeting Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Rules and Control Thursday, 26.09.2024, 14:00 – 17:00 hrs

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of a secretary
 - 2.1 Members present
 - 2.2 Approval of the agenda
 - 2.3 Approval of the minutes of the meeting S.C. for Rules & Control Cross-Country Portoroz (SLO) 07.05.2024
3. ICR updates
 - 3.1 Race interruption – implementation proposal (WG)
 - 3.2 Other updates and adjustments
 - 3.3 Para cross-country – status
4. Fluor info
5. FIS Officials matters
 - 5.1 TD seminars and TD updates
 - 5.2 Regional TD coordinators and TD Candidates
 - 5.3 Verbal reprimand usage analysis and directions (WG)
 - 5.4 Updates
6. Homologation matters
 - 6.1 HI status for OWG, PWG, WSC, U23 WSC, JWSC, UWG and WC courses
 - 6.2 Updates
 - 6.3 Future
7. Proposals and issues from other Sub-Committees
 - 7.1 S.C. for Roller Skiing
 - 7.2 S.C. for Popular CC Skiing
- WL/EL/SC TD list season 2024/2025 updates
 - 7.3 S.C. for Para Nordic
8. TD/TDA/Jury members season 2024/2025 updates
9. Other matters arising
10. Closing of the meeting
 - 10.1 Next meeting

All proposals and decisions of the Sub-Committee are subject to the confirmation of the Cross-Country Committee on 27.09.2024 and to the approval of the FIS Council on 23.10.2024

1. Opening of the meeting

Chair Anna Rosa (ITA) opened the meeting on September 26th, at 14:00 hrs and welcomed the members of the Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country, FIS Staff, invited guests and observers.

2. Appointment of a Secretary

AnnMari Viljanmaa (FIN) is appointed.

2.1 Members Present

Members present	Remarks	Substitute
Anna Rosa (ITA)	Chair	
Ilona Gyapay (CAN)	Present	
Daniel Borca (ROU)	Present	
Karl-Heinz Eppinger (GER)	Present	
Sanna Hallberg-Peterson (SWE)	Present	
Huard Anael (FRA)	Present	
Iglesias Lydia (ESP)	Not Present	
Matus Jancik (SVK)	Present	
Radojko Jelisić (SRB)	Present	
Zofia Stefania Kielpinska (POL)	Present	
Emöke Szöcs (HUN)	Not Present	
Özkan Koyuncu (TUR)	Excused	
Vahur Leemets (EST)	Present	
Finn Marsland (AUS)	Substituted	Sandra Paul (Excused)
Mir Mohammad Maygooni Seyed (IRI)	Substituted	Not Present
Seraina Mischo (SUI)	Present	
Julio Cesar Moreschi (ARG)	Not Present	
Andriy Nesterenko (UKR)	Present	
Torbjörn B. Pettersen (NOR)	Present	
Gagik Sargsyan (ARM)	Present	
Allan Serrano (USA)	Substituted	Doug Debold
Timoleon Tsourekas (GRE)	Present	
Thomas Unterfrauner (AUT)	Not present	
Vyacheslav Vedenin (RUS)	Not present	
AnnMari Viljanmaa (FIN)	Present	
Jakub Vodrazka (CZE)	Substituted	Peter Mach
Masahiko Watanabe (JPN)	Present	
Roy Young (GBR)	Substituted	Jostein Vinjerui
Petar Zografov (BUL)	Not present	

Four new members, Ilona Gyapay (CAN), Iglesias Lydia (ESP), Emöke Szöcs (HUN) and Mir Mohammad Maygooni Seyed (IRI), have joined the Sub-Committee. Among them only Mrs Gyapay was present, she introduced herself and was welcomed.

Guests and FIS staff present:

- Uros Ponikvar (Chair, Cross Country Committee)
- Michal Lamplot (FIS Race Director), Simon Caprini (FIS RDA), Doris Kallen (WC Coordinator) Synne Dyraug (Media Coordinator), Ulf Seehase (FIS IT), Madeline Nappey and Jessica Rochat (FIS Nordic Office).
- Rober Peets (TD coordinator, S.C. for Popular)
- Georg Zipfel (FIS Para Nordic RD), Elke Gundermann (FIS Para Nordic Office),
- Martins Niklass (Chair, S.C. for Roller Skiing)
- Augusto Gillio (FIS Operational Fluor Manager), Cornelia Blank (FIS Education Manager)
- Several guests from NSAs, LOCs and other sub-committees members.

2.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda has been sent on 02.09.2024 and is approved.

2.3 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting in Portoroz (SLO)

The minutes are approved.

3. ICR Updates

The following changes, updates and adjustments were proposed and **approved by the S.C.**

3.1 Race interruption – implementation proposal (WG)

As decided at the spring meeting, Anna Rosa convened a working group to deal with unexpected occurrences (such as activists' actions) leading to competition interruption not addressed in the ICR. The work has been conducted with Annmari Viljanmaa (FIN), Allan Serrano (USA), Tor Björn Broks Pettersen (NOR), Uros Ponikvar (Chief of CCC), Michal Lamplot (RD), Martins Niklass (RoI WC Coordinator), FIS IT and athletes' representatives.

Anna Rosa presented the results, explained the terminology related to various “**competition status**” **defined by FIS IT** and reported the feedback collected by the athletes' representatives: majority support the possibility of continuing their race after such an interruption and would prefer Jury interfering to guarantee a fair prosecution. Athletes have also discussed about the need to have a gentlemen's agreement not to take advantage in case of such occurrences.

After discussion S.C. decided to propose both the following rule update as well as the explanatory notes to the ICR:

ICR 303.3.2 *The Jury must clarify and decide*

[...]

- Whether a competition shall be **delayed**, postponed, interrupted, **resumed**, **rescheduled**, **restarted** or cancelled.

[...]

- Any questions not covered by FIS Rules

Explanatory notes

Delayed: the competition did not start as scheduled but is expected to begin later the same day.

Example: start of the competition is delayed because of a malfunctioning start gate

Postponed: the competition did not start as scheduled, and the new date and start time are currently unknown.

Example: the competition has not started yet and because of the temperature below -20°C. It will start later; the start time is not known.

Rescheduled: the new date and/or start time of the competition are known.

Example: the competition has not started yet. Because of temperatures below -20°C the competition was rescheduled from one day to the other.

Interrupted: An unplanned interruption occurred after the competition began. The competition may either be canceled or resumed, and competitors are required to follow the instructions of the competition officials.

Example: the race started. It got interrupted because protesters pulled a rope across the course and competitors could not pass this part safely.

Resumed: the competition continues after unplanned interruption. Competitors must follow the instructions of the competition officials.

Example: after the competition has been interrupted (see above), the obstacle was removed. Competitors can continue competing.

Restarted: the competition or heat/round will be neutralized and will be started from the beginning.

Explanation: we are considering allowing to restart a heat in individual sprint or final in the team sprint.

Cancelled: the competition will not take place at all and will not be rescheduled.

The following article, drafted in spring have also been confirmed.

325.7.1 In case of competition interruption of qualification while competitors are still competing, the competition will be cancelled. *When the interruption is temporary, the jury can decide to resume the start.*

321.7 Competition interruption

In case of competition interruption while competitors are still competing, the competition will be cancelled. When the interruption is temporary, the jury can decide to resume the start.

3.2 Other ICR updates and adjustments

315.3.1 The *Jury can decide to organize* Mass Start ~~should be carried out~~

- using angled start lines in shape of an arrow. This means that the athlete with start number 1 has the most favorable start position followed by start number 2 etc. Each competitor should be separated by a fixed distance interval. Number one will be in the middle position; even numbers are placed on the right and odd numbers on the left side of the arrow. The numbering mark should be placed to the right or in the middle of the track.

- using an angled start line (in case of even number of starting corridors), where number one will still have the most favorable position on the left or on the right of the starting field. Even in this case each competitor should be separated by a fixed distance interval.

- using a flat line

326.4.3.2 The number of teams in the final should be 15. *When 15 or less teams are entered, the jury can decide to reduce the number of qualified teams or to skip the qualifications.*

326.4.3.3 *In case of no qualification, the team with lowest total points using either sprint or distance FIS Points of the relay team members will start as number one. The team with the second lowest total points will start as number two and so on.*

351 Not Permitted to Start

Competitors will not be permitted to start in any FIS international ski competition who: [...] violates the FIS rules in regard to equipment (art. 222) and commercial markings (art. 207 and art. 396.2)

311.2 The Homologation

311.2.1 All FIS Cross-Country competitions should be carried out on homologated courses. Exceptions are: popular competitions, Roller Skiing competitions, **masters and children competitions**, substitute courses if approved by the Jury

310.3.3 JWSC

[...] Mixed Relay (~~W~~/M/W/M/W) 4 x 5 km C/F

310.3.4 U23 WSC

[...] Mixed Relay (~~W~~/M/W/M/W) 4 x 5 km C/F

310.3.1.1

~~[...] Skiathlon will always be conducted with classical technique first and then free technique.~~

323.1 Definition

Skiathlon is a Mass Start competition in which competitors start in **classical technique in first part**, followed by mandatory ski exchange in a pit box in the stadium and then second part in free technique.

302.1.3.2

[...] Within the OC there must be one person appointed as the Chief of Competition who is qualified to conduct the competition and to supervise the technical aspects of the competition as well as be ~~the main interface with a member of the jury.~~

352.2.4 During stage events, first part of pursuit competitions, **team sprint competitions or relay competitions 352.4.2 can apply, an offence that is normally sanctioned with a DSQ can instead be sanctioned by a time penalty (see ICR art. 352.4.2). Using DSQ or time penalty will be the Jury's Decision.**

352.4.2 In stage events, team sprint competitions or relay competitions, the Jury can decide to substitute a DSQ with a 3 minutes time penalty (see ICR art. 352.2.4).

352.3.6 In Team sprint competitions, a competition suspension means that the team will be ranked last in the **final heat and last in the round.**

352.2.3 Competitors who receive a second written reprimand in the same season will be automatically disqualified. Written reprimands given during the season are not valid in the JWSC, WSC and OWG periods. Written reprimands given during JWSC, WSC, **ROL JWSC, ROL WSC** or OWG are valid until the end of the season.

396.2.7 Safety helmets (e.g. DIN EN 1078 or equivalent) and eye protection must be worn during official training and competition. **The jury may permit competitors to not use eye protection when conditions cause poor visibility.**

396.2.12 If the competition organizer provides official Roller Ski equipment, **this equipment must be used by athletes. In case of** Roller Ski exchange during the competition may be done only at an official service point (boxes) according to articles 343.12.2 – 343.12.3.

The autumn version of the ICR will have both the spring and autumn updates marked in red.

3.3 Para cross-country status

Torbjörn Broks Pettersen presented the Para cross-country status. The rules are currently separated from biathlon, which used to be part of Para Snow Sport and will be revised over the next two years so that every TD can easily apply them in Para cross-country competitions. Next update at the spring meeting.

4. Fluor info

Augusto Gillio, FIS Operational Fluor Manager, presented the current situation regarding the fluor control management: the following NSAs has certified the Equipment Controllers: NOR, FIN, AUT, CHN, ITA, EST, FRA, KOR, GER, POL, SUI. The list will be supplemented in

connection with the training courses organized by FIS before the start of the season, which significantly increases the number of certified FIS Equipment controllers.

FIS is currently planning the schedule at which events the control by FIS will be carried out. In case the organizing NSA would like to have fluor controls at additional events, not included in the planning of FIS, the respective NSA can request support from FIS and would need to file the request one month before the event. When an “on demand Fluor control” is requested, all the related costs (controllers daily fee, accommodation and transport expenses) have to be covered by the respective NSA/CO.

Reference augusto.gillio@fis-ski.com | +39 351 9136101.

If the fluor control is positive, the documentation must fill in the following articles, as Anna Rosa already emphasized at the spring meeting.

224.8 All Jury decisions shall be recorded in writing and shall include: [...]

224.8.2 The evidence of the offence

Augusto Gillio confirmed that the PDF document to be added to the TD report is in progress and should be ready before the start of the season.

5. FIS Technical Officials matter

5.1 TD seminars and TD updates

HI Seminar 2024/2025 has been organized in Ramsau 10-12 May 2024, including 37 participants in which 5 new inspectors passed their exams. The agenda of the seminar included a feedback session of athletes' representatives, a presentation of the IBU Venue license system and Para issues and a Course and venue proposal for potential WSC.

Also, the following online TD updates has already been organized.

- Rol >>> 16 June 2024 / **60+ participants from 25+ nations!**
- Oceania >>> 3 July 2024 / **10 participants**

The following will be organized in season 2024/2025.

TD seminars:

- Western Europe (OPA) >>> **Pragelato 11-13 October 2024**
- North America >>> **Canmore 18-20 October 2024**
- Scandinavian/Baltic >>> **Falun 8-10 November 2024**

TD Online update:

- Para >>> **NO** (a working group is preparing material for the seminars)
- WC >>> **25 October 2024**
- Central/Eastern Europe >>> **November TBD**

Seminars 2025/2026:

- Oceania TD Seminar >>> **Camberra -11-13 April 2025**
- FIS TD Seminar organized in Western Europe (OPA) >>> **Fiemme TDB**
- Central Eastern Europe TD Seminar
- Far East TD Seminar

Dates and locations to be submitted before next sprint meeting

For Russia, the situation is as follows: HI and TD licenses are expiring, homologation certificates will follow.

Cornelia Blank, FIS Education Manager, introduced herself and described the new, three-level training system covering all FIS disciplines, which she is responsible for developing.

5.2 Regional TD coordinators and TD Candidates

Regional TD coordinators

Anna Rosa announced that Mikio Ikeda (JPN), who worked as Far East TD coordinator for a long time, is leaving his position. The proposed new coordinator is Im Yeuigyu (KOR). He was sports manager at the Korean Olympics, former coach and has significantly worked for the cooperation between Asian countries.

The S.C. approved.

Petr Mach, regional TD coordinator for Central Eastern Europe, brought out challenges related to the TD assignments in the region, due to the long distances between the countries and the travel costs. He described that not all organizers accept assigned TDs, which makes his job difficult. The matter was discussed in the S.C. Sanna Peterson-Hallberg shared the Scandinavian experience of a regional TD exchange system. At the end of the discussion, it was acknowledged and supported that the organizers should accept the appointed TDs and find together the best possible travel solution.

TD candidates

FIN NSA asked for exception for TD candidate Akseli Vuorinen to take his exam in Scandinavia FIS seminar Falun 2024 after one year experience. Proper documentation was provided and Annmari Viljanmaa (FIN) explained the situation.

The S.C. approved.

5.3 Verbal reprimand usage analysis and directions

Sanna Peterson-Hallberg (SWE) as the leader of the WG started by introducing the group which included Anael Huard (FRA), Allan Serrano (USA) and Sandra Paul (AUT).

They had done a very comprehensive analysis of the usage of verbal reprimands between 2016 and 2024. The analysis had looked at the use of verbal reprimands at different levels of competition and in different regions, considering possible gender differences and usage between different rules violations. Most of the athletes had got only one (523).

Based on the analysis, the WG concluded that Jury communication to athletes should be improved to meet the meaning of the VR, and VRs should not be reported in the official result list (ICR 317.2.2) and on TV, when present. According to the WG's interpretation, a significant part of the VRs is due to challenges related to the course design and preparation.

In the upcoming TD seminars and updates, the analysis will be reviewed to standardize the usage of VR according to the purpose.

5.4 Updates

6.1 TD education and examination

[...] This experience must be evaluated by ~~a~~ licensed the FIS TD in a report to the Regional TD coordinator (see Assessment A in the FIS members section of the FIS website).

5. Seminars and Updates

*[...] The seminar leader is also entitled to a refund equal to a daily fee only for seminar days. In addition, he or she have at his or her disposal ~~two~~ other daily fees to distribute among the speakers. **All the reimbursements and cost coverage must be within the assigned budget of the seminar.***

5.2 TD Update

The invitation and agenda of the FIS TD ~~seminars~~ updates must be sent through the FIS Nordic Office to the same recipients [...] The lecturers of the approved TD Updates ~~are~~ entitled to a compensation equal to a daily fee

The S.C. approved.

6. Homologation matters

6.1 HI status for OWG, PWG, WSC, U23 WSC, JWSC, UWG and WC courses

Torbjörn Broks Pettersen updated the S.C. on the homologation status for the upcoming major events as well as the courses used in the WC in upcoming season. It was concluded that the work was well on schedule.

6.2 Updates

FIS Homologation procedure for cross-country skiing courses

3.2 Provisional certificate according to ICR 311.2.2

The application must be done by the NSA to the FIS Nordic Office at least 4 weeks before the course is used for the WC event under the following conditions:

- The appointed HI has made a site visit

The S.C. approved

Course and Venue Design Guidelines

Course and Venue Design Guidelines has been updated as well, the definition of climbs has been refined, guidelines have been created for the classification of downhills and details have been added for wax testing.

6.3 Future

Chief of HI coordinators, Allan Serrano (USA), joined this part of the meeting online. He briefly described the idea of a new venue license system. Allan stated that the venue is just as important as the courses and therefore venues should also have clear classification criteria. There will always be different levels of venues and not all venues have to meet the highest requirements, but the higher the license, the bigger competitions can be organized.

Allan Serrano will lead the WG together with Torbjörn Broks Pettersen to improve the classification criteria for venues and the S.C. members are welcome to join. Simon Caprini (RDA) joined the group. A first proposal will be prepared for spring meeting 2025.

7. Proposals and issues from other Sub-Committees

7.1 S.C. for Roller Skiing

Rule updates has covered earlier this meeting.

7.2 S.C. for Popular CC Skiing

WL/EL/SC TD list season 2024/2025 updates

The updated WL, EL and SC TD nominations for the season have been presented to the S.C.

The following rules have practical inconsistencies related to popular competitions payment of appearance money. The S.C. for Popular CC will follow up on this with the integrity management.

204.1 A National Ski Association shall not support or recognize within its structure, nor shall it issue a license to participate in FIS or national races to competitors who:

204.1.2 accept or have accepted, directly or indirectly, any money-payments for the participation at competitions,

7.3 S.C. for Para Nordic

The following articles must be updated after the changes approved within the Para Nordic sc.

7.1 TD Nomination

[...] TDs for the PWG and Para WSC are proposed by the FIS Para Nordic Race Director ~~together with the S.C. Para Nordic~~ in consultation with the Chair of the S.C. for R&C and forwarded to the Para Snow Sports Committee, who will review the proposed nominations before forwarding them to the FIS Council.

[...] TDs for Para Nordic World Cup are ~~proposed by the FIS Para Nordic Race Director together with the S.C. Para Nordic in consultation with the Chair of the S.C. for R&C and forwarded to the Para Snow Sports Committee.~~ appointed by the FIS Para Cross-Country Race Director in consultation with the Chair of the Cross-Country Sub-Committee for Rules & Control.

[...] For para nordic competitions in case the NSA has not appointed a National Assistant TD, latest one month before the start of the competition, FIS may assign a Jury Member on their discretion to the event.

It was also decided to present the Para Cross-country TD nominations to the S.C. starting from the next meeting.

8. TD/TDA/Jury members season 2024/2025

The updated nominations are presented and approved by the S.C. Anna Rosa also reminded that according ICR 303.2.2.1 in WC all the jury members must be FIS TD.

9. Other matter arising

Anna Rosa introduced the FIS Book of Reports 2024 has been published including a summary of the work of the Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Rules and Control of the latest 2 years: <https://assets.fis-ski.com/f/252177/x/8d44475d5a/book-of-reports-2024.pdf>

10. Closing of the meeting

Chair Anna Rosa closes the meeting at 16.00 hrs.

10.1 Next meeting

Next meeting will be at the FIS spring meeting in Vilamoura, Portugal, on May 5-9, 2025.