

To the:

- Members of the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country

For information to:

- Cross-Country Executive Board
- National Ski Associations
- Michel Vion
- Sandra Spitz
- COC Coordinators

**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD  
FEDERATION**

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

Oberhofen, 22.05.2024

**Minutes Meeting Sub-Committee Cross-Country Continental & World Cup  
Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portoroz (SLO), Wednesday, 08.05.2024, 08:00 – 12:00 hrs CET**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you today the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country held in Portoroz, 08.05.2024.

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 autumn.

Kind regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION



Chris Grover  
Chair Sub-Committee Cross-Country Continental & World Cup

**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION**  
**Invitation Meeting Sub-Committee Cross-Country Continental & World Cup**  
**Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portoroz (SLO), Wednesday, 08.05.2024, 08:00 – 12:00 hrs CET**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Members present
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting
5. Report of the last FIS Council meeting
6. FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2023/24
  - Season reports
7. Reports and proposals from the Working Groups, proposals Sub-Committees and National Ski Associations
8. World Cup rules 2024-2025
9. COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendars
10. JWSC and U23 WSC summary
11. CoC matters
12. Other items arising
13. Next meeting
14. 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, 04.06.2024**

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

Chris Grover welcomed the members of the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups and opened the meeting on Wednesday, 08.05.2024 at 08:00 hrs CET.

**2. Members Present**

**Excuses / Replaced by:**

Chris Grover, USA, Chair

Ulf Morten Aune NOR

Anders Byström, SWE

Marko Gracer, SLO

Im Yeui Gyu, KOR

Chris Jeffries, CAN

Stepan Kaliba, CZE

Guri Knotten, SUI

Zofia Kielpinska, POL

Hannu Koivusalo, FIN

Özkan Koyuncu, TUR

Hiroshi Kozakai, JPN

Sergey Kryanin, RUS

Albert Manhart, LIE

Georgio Marchesini, IRL

Finn Marsland, AUS

Olivier Michaud, FRA

Julio Moreschi, ARG

Andrey Nesterenko, UKR

Andrey Nevzorov, KAZ

Gabriella Paruzzi, ITA

Robert Peets, EST

Milanko Petrovic, SRB

Ferran Pubil, ESP

Andreas Schlütter, GER

Jon Vidar Thorvaldsson, ISL

Timoleon Tsourekas, GRE

Ondrej Tuka, SVK

Thomas Unterfrauner, AUT

Jostein Vinjerui, GBR

Peter Zografov, BUL

Rudi Huber, SRS

Substituted by Watanabe Masahiko

Not present

Excused, no replacement

Substituted by Sandra Paul

Substituted by Enzo Macor

Not present

Not present

Not present

Not present

Substituted by Alois Stadlober

Not present

Substituted by Riccardo Zanoni

Kern Julia, Athletes representative

James Clugnet, Athletes representative

Meier Norbert, CC LOC representative

Excused

Uros Ponikvar, Chair CCC

Michal Lamplot, FIS

Simon Caprini, FIS

Doris Kallen, FIS (Minutes)

Synne Dyrhaug, FIS

**Guests**

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

The agenda was sent out on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Michal Lamplot pointed out the proposals of SWE and CAN as they had not been uploaded to the prior sent database. As there were no additional items reported, the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country approved the agenda.

### **4. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting**

No changes to the minutes were proposed and therefore, the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country approved the minutes of the last meeting.

### **5. Report of the last FIS Council meeting**

FIS CC Race Director Michal Lamplot informed the subcommittee about the conclusions of the FIS Council meeting that took place on 26<sup>th</sup> April and pointed out the most relevant points concerning Cross-Country.

#### Centralization

After the latest FIS Council meeting another step was taken towards the centralization of TV rights and for FIS to sign an exclusive agency agreement with Infront. This concerns the distribution of media rights for all disciplines on all platforms.

#### Prize Money support for LOC's

The FIS Council decided to continue the prize money support of 20% according to the decision in 2023.

### **6. FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2023/24**

#### FIS CC Staff report

Michal Lamplot thanked all teams for the good cooperation throughout the season. He presented the collected data on World Cup participation and quota used within the past 10 years. The summary of key takeaways include:

- The gender gap between competing male and female athletes continues to stagnate.
- The majority of teams participate in most of the World Cup but do not fill up their athlete start quotas.
- There is a better variety of top-3 results among nations in women's races than the men's competition.
- We are witnessing an emerging trend of private teams, resulting in the development of individual athletes, rather than robust national teams.

Anna Stehl presented the TV data review of the season, including the top performing competitions by media impact. One major key takeaway is that the season 2023/24 was the most successful season in the past 3 years.

Synne Dyrhaug presented the Social Media data and the recorded growth in reach of +85% and growth in interaction of 105% compared to the previous season.

#### Team Survey

Michal Lamplot reported that all team coaches were gathered throughout the season and asked for direct feedback on World Cup matters. Especially in hindsight of the Fluor test protocol, the feedback gave a valuable status quo for preparation in the next season.

#### Athletes Survey

Athletes representative James Clugnet presented the results of the survey. Key takeaways included the athlete wish for greater variation of courses, formats and distances each season. The feedback of athletes mirrored the feedback of coaches in terms of the competition schedule.

## **7. Reports and proposals from the Working Groups, proposals Sub-Committees and National Ski Associations**

### Working Group for Calendar 2024/25

The last meeting of the working group took place at the season end in Falun (SWE). Following the meeting, more feedback from NSA's were sent and thus had not been discussed by the working group.

Tour de Ski – After late withdrawal from GER and SUI as hosts of the Tour, only option is to focus on Italy. The Tour de Ski concept needs revision.

Period IV – Application by USA with Lake Placid in addition to previous calendar draft. The working group understands and supports the return to the US after the successful World Cup held in the past season.

### NSA proposals and applications

- Proposals from NOR and FIN on suggestions for format and techniques for first World Cup period 2024/25.
- Interest of SWE for Period I in alternation with Davos. Interest of SWE in Period II or III for Ulricehamn hosting World Cup every other year.
- DSV withdrawal of hosting the World Cup events for the upcoming calendar drafts.
- Swiss Ski withdraws from hosting during the Tour de Ski and proposes Engadin as the host for the drafted World Cup venue in period III (January 2025).
- US Ski and Snowboard applies with Lake Placid to host the World Cup finals 2026.
- Nordiq Canada sent application for the 2025/26 calendar for ENGNE (Ottawa/Montreal) as well as a potential North American (QC – Minnesota – Canmore) World Cup Final in the season 2027/28.

## **8. World Cup rules 2024-2025**

### Art. 2.2.3 Extra quota for World Cup leader

The reference for the extra quota spot for the World Cup leader was proposed to be taken from the World Cup standing after each World Cup weekend. The members agreed to further discuss the impact on planning logistics before the proposal shall be implemented. Therefore, its implementation is postponed.

### Art. 2.2.6 National Quota in Tour de Ski

The proposal to include a minimum of two U23 athletes into the 10 max. start quotas per gender for the Tour de Ski was approved.

### Art. 2.4 Athletes start quota in Team competitions

The proposal defined that Mixed nations teams can be entered regardless whether one participating nation already has a team on the start list. The proposal was approved.

The members further approved that there is no limit to the number of nations participating in a mixed nations team.

### Art. 2.6.3.2 Additional Course bibs for cooperation between nations

To avoid a misuse of cooperating nations (to get advantage by collecting bibs), three categories are proposed to be introduced. The categories relate to the participation of athletes in the previous World Cup season.

The proposal was approved with 17 votes in favor and 1 vote opposed. Further, the working group will be reinstated to evaluate how the new definitions affect the cooperation and to work on an adjustment of the rule if needed.

Michal Lamplot points out that the rule will also apply for WSC 2025 and OWG 2026.

#### Precision for FIS Nations Cup

Due to the possibility of mixed nations teams, the definition of the points for the FIS Nations Cup needed precision. The proposal that points for mixed nations teams are to be added proportionally to both nations was approved.

#### World Cup Service clarification

In the process of the FIS CC OC manual revision, the conditions and consequences for late payments was proposed to be adjusted. A late payment fee was defined to CHF 250 (from CHF 999) and the late payment period from 3 weeks post last race (opposed to the prior 2 weeks). The proposal will be taken further to be discussed with other FIS disciplines.

With various document of reference for organizers to follow up, the FIS CC OC manual will see a revision in the upcoming months. All content will be matched with the current World Cup rules and organizers agreement.

#### Art. 5.3 Red group

The precision on duration of reimbursement for Red Group and COC athletes of 2 days prior the first competition until one night after the last was approved.

#### Travel Regions

The FIS Staff was asked to coordinate the current travel region with the overall FIS regulations (all disciplines) as GBR, IRL, LAT and LTU were categorized illogically. Adjustments to be approved in the FIS Autumn meetings.

#### FIS Tour de Ski time limits

The time limit percentage was approved to be the same for women and men. The members asked to elaborate the percentages further but to keep the addition for the Jury to reserve the right to adapt the percentages in special conditions. W.G. will be created to discuss this matter over the summer. Proposal for the time limits for the Tour de Ski 2024/25 will be presented until the FIS Autumn meetings.

#### FIS Tour de Ski prize money

The FIS CC Staff was appointed to come up with a proposal for a new split of the Tour de Ski daily, point and overall prize money until the FIS Autumn meetings.

### **9. COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendars**

The focus was on the upcoming calendar season 2024/25 as well as to provide further detail to a draft for the following two seasons. In addition, the future of the Tour de Ski will be evaluated.

Before starting the discussions, Michal Lamplot referred to the TV performance numbers and to the FIS CC calendar framework this sub-committee had approved and followed to establish the calendars.

#### Revision of Tour de Ski concept

The goal of finding the most universal skier shall remain as well as the competition period around New Years, due to its high-performing TV numbers.

However, the remaining concept of up to 4 hosts and complex travel and logistics is not contemporary anymore. This is also reflected in fewer nations being committed to host the Tour. In 2025/26, the Tour de Ski will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> edition and this anniversary shall mark a start of a new era.

The members approved to appoint a working group (including a representative of FIS M&M) to construct and propose a new long-term concept for the Tour de Ski as of the 2026/27 season.

#### FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2024/25

FIS Cross-Country principles of World Cup calendar planning  
(as approved in 2022)

1. Three weekends of racing before Christmas
2. Three weekends of racing / 1 weekend off
3. Three competitions per weekend (in respect to the overall competition load)
4. Free weekend before and after the Tour de Ski
5. No World Cup immediately before a title event
6. The World Cup can resume immediately after a title event
7. Season to end around 22<sup>nd</sup> March (3 or 4 weekends after title event)

Michal Lamplot reminded the Sub Committee of the principles of World Cup calendar planning and the importance of creating a balanced World Cup calendar in terms of formats and techniques.

- Period I  
FIN proposed to adjust a 10km C to favor their national athletes and to enhance the chances to succeed in front of home spectators. As a consequence, the distance technique in Lillehammer was adjusted with the strong wish of the Sub-Committee to use the original Birkebeiner course set as option A.
- FIS Tour de Ski  
After the late withdrawal of Swiss Ski as a host for the Tour de Ski, FIS CC Staff elaborated options together with FISL, Toblach and other stakeholders to take over the open spot.

The Sub-Committee approved to schedule the Tour de Ski in the upcoming season to be held in only one country. The proposed competition formats, including the special scenic stage of "Tre Cime" was approved by the members.

- Period III  
Due to withdrawal of GER, SUI applied with Engadin to fill the open spot. The Sub Committee approved the change. Athletes representative Jimmy Clugnet added the

wish from athletes' perspective to place any high altitude venues at the beginning of a World Cup block if logistics allows.

- Period IV

Proposal of NOR to have 2 distance competitions in Oslo (no 50km due to WSC) and to add Drammen on Thursday prior with a Sprint.

With 11 votes to 8, Drammen was not approved to be added into the calendar as proposed due to heavy work load for service staff post WSC.

With 14 votes to 6, the format for Oslo's 20km C was voted to be a Mass Start (opposed to the previously drafted Pursuit).

Proposal of EST to host Tallinn only in connection to special wax concept which includes putting the wax trucks and team service into focus and as accessible as possible for spectators. Logistics (ferries, travel) will require that the competition takes place on Wednesday.

The concept and date was approved by the Sub-Committee. A special W.G. will be established to elaborate a proposal of a waxing set up for Tallinn. Proposal will be sent until the FIS Autumn meetings.

#### FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2025/26

- Period I

Period I of the World Cup presents a returning question every other year about the allocation of the weekend before Christmas. The basic framework guideline is to hold no more than three World Cup weekends in total in this period.

With the application of SWE to host the third weekend in Period I, a principle decision must be taken whether to alternate Davos (SUI) - which has had a set spot in this period – and SWE every other year, or to keep Davos in the calendar every year. The consequence would be that SWE has one less World Cup weekend overall, despite being the number one nation in the women's Nation's Cup and thus represents a great interest and a well working sport system behind.

Guri Knotten confirms the strong wish by Davos to host the World Cup every year and that period I is the only option for them due to major other events held. The Davos World Cup is a well-established event which strengthens interest around the sport greatly in middle Europe.

Due to lack of time for proper discussion, the final decision has been postponed to the until the FIS Autumn meetings. The extra time will be used to collect and evaluate consequences of both options.

- Period III

Michal Lamplot asked the S.C. members (OPA) to send confirmations for their applications until the FIS Autumn meeting the latest.

- Period IV

Michal Lamplot pointed out a long post-OWG period due to the application of USA to host the World Cup Finals 2026 in Lake Placid. The evaluation whether to take the additional World Cup weekend into consideration was carefully done with involvement of teams, coaches, athletes' opinion and other stakeholders.



By a vote of the Sub Committee with 20 votes in favor and 1 opposed, the general support and interest to include Lake Placid on the calendar was confirmed.

#### FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2026/27

The applications and content of contracts will be dependent of the situation in regard to the centralization of rights.

To avoid having Holmenkollen right after the WSC 2027, the dates of Oslo World Cup should be 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2027. NOR was reminded to pre-book this weekend in their event planning.

#### **10. JWSC and U23 WSC summary**

The dates of the JWSC and U23 WSC 2025 in Schipario (ITA) are confirmed: 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

In connection to the hosting contract for the WSC 2025, Trondheim will host the JWSC and U23 WSC 2026. The dates are to be confirmed at the FIS Autumn meetings 2024. The preferred period was agreed to be post-OWG.

#### **11. CoC matters**

Rule precision:

IRL and GBR were approved to be integrated into the Scandinavian Cup.

#### **12. Other items arising**

No further comments were raised.

#### **13. Next meeting**

Christ Grover points out the dates for the FIS Autumn meetings to be taken place in week 39.

#### **14. Closing of the meeting**

Chris Grover thanked the members for their work and engagement and closed the meeting at 12.30h.