

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
- Johan Eliasch
- Michel Vion
- Niklas Carlsson
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**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD
FEDERATION**

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Oberhofen, 22.05.2023

**Minutes Cross-Country Committee
Wednesday, 05.05.2023, 13:30 – 17:30 hrs CET**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you today the Minutes of the meeting of the Cross-Country Committee held in Dubrovnik, 05.05.2023.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Nordic Office in Oberhofen until **15th June 2023**.

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.

Kindest regards,



Michal Lamplot
Race Director Cross-Country

Enclosure: ment.

**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION
Cross-Country Committee**

**Minutes Cross-Country Committee
Wednesday, 05.05.2023, 13:30 – 17:30 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. Reports 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. Equal distances
 - Competition distances for the future (World Cup, WSC and OWG)
 - Equal distances at other competition levels
8. Reports from the working groups (when not already included in the sub-committee)
9. Other items arising
10. Next meeting
11. Closing of the meeting

<p>All proposals and decisions of the Cross-Country Committee are subject to the approval of the FIS Council FIS Council, 24.05.2023</p>

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chairman Uros Ponikvar (SLO) welcomes the members of the Cross-Country Committee and opens the meeting on Wednesday, 05th May 2023, 13:30 hrs CET.

2. Members Present

Excuses / Replaced by:

Uros Ponikvar, SLO, Chair	
Espen Bjervig, NOR	
Michael Bonfert, AUT	
Katsuhito Ebisawa, JPN	Not present
Chris Jeffries, CAN	substituted by Julie Beaulieu
Zofia Stefania Kielpinska, POL	
Guri Knotten, SUI	
Hannu Koivusalo, FIN	
Andrei Kovalenko, BLR	Not present
Liu Hao, CHN	
Petr Mach, CZE	
Olivier Michaud, FRA	
Lars Öberg, SWE	
Aleksandr Panzinski, RUS	Not present
Gabriella Paruzzi, ITA	
Andreas Schlütter, GER	
Satu Kalajainen, FIN	
Anna Rosa, ITA	
Virginia De Martin Topranin, ITA	
Chris Grover, USA	
Özkan Koyuncu, TUR	
Tommy Höglund, SWE	
Martins Niklass, LAT	Not present
Julia Kern, USA, Athletes representative	
Jimmy Clugnet, GBR, Athletes representative	
Rudi Huber, SRS	Not present
Norbert Meier, LOC representative	
Michal Lamplot, FIS	
Simon Caprini, FIS	
Doris Kallen, FIS	
Synne Dyrhaug, FIS	
Madeline Nappey, FIS	
Lorena Malec Mlinaric, CRO	
Jostein Vinjerui, GBR	
Hicham Ait Ouarchikh, MAR	Not present
Dimosthenis Gyrousis, GRE	Not present
Gyu Im Yeui, KOR	
Matias Jerman, ARG	Not present
Freddy Kairouz, LBN	Not present
Necati Kaplan, TUR	Not present
Albert Manhart, SUI	Not present

Pedro Flavio Martins, POR	Not present
Ferran Pubil, SPA	Not present
Morteza Savehshemshaki, IRI	Not present
Ondrei Tuka, SVK	Not present

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was sent out on 24th April 2023.

As no remarks have been reported at the FIS Office, the Cross-Country Committee approved the agenda.

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

As no remarks have been reported at the FIS Office, the Cross-Country Committee approved the minutes of the last CCC.

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

The members of the committee agreed on skipping the report of the last FIS Council meeting as it had been presented in the Sub Committee for World Cup and COC in the morning.

FIS Deputy Secretary General, Niklas Carlsson and FIS Council member Fiona Stevens present the FIS Strategic plan and development process. The strategic plan is the tool and compass for all FIS disciplines and not elaborated discipline specific. The development process showed the current state and focus which was on the centralization of media rights.

Fiona Stevens further presented the FIS vision and mission updates as well as the FIS mission goals for all members to focus on.

6. **Reports from the Sub-Committees**

Sub-Committee for Rollerskiing

In replacement of Chair Martins Niklass, Ludvig Remb represented the outcome of the Sub Committee meeting for Rollerski.

All venues and jury members were approved for the season 2023/24. Equal distances will also be introduced as of 1st July 2025 after an adaption period. The World Rollerski Championships program under Rollerski World Cup and WSC rules art. 1.2.4 were approved.

The members of the Rollerski Sub Committee further approved the introduction of a new trophy for the Sprint Overall World Cup.

The World Cup point system for Individual Sprint from the Cross-Country World Cup was included and adjusted to the Rollerski World Cup and approved according to the rule article 5.2.1.

The discussion to include para nordic in ROL World Cup events has been taken up but needs further evaluation and exchange with the Para department withing FIS.

Sub-Committee Popular Cross-Country presented by Tommy Höglund

Tommy Höglung presented a recap and overview on the participation, performances and demographic of the popular skiers.

As discussed in the Sub-Committee, one of two main concerns for the upcoming

season is the fluor ban and how to control it. Due to the high number of participants, it is a big challenge to control the material. The communication on how to prepare the skis in advance and the flow on site will be key.

Another crucial topic on the table of the Sub Committee is the ban of Russian and Belarussian athletes, respectively the definition of skier that falls among this ban. As in the past season, the organizers face great challenges with amateur skiers with no FIS Code who origin from the banned countries but have lived abroad for a long time.

Further, Tommy Höglund presented the TD nominations and the strategy, how they were set in terms of origin and gender.

The Sub Committee for Popular Cross-Country in Autumn will be held online.

Sub-Committee Womens Nordic

Chair Virginia De Martin presented that the mentoring program that was established in 2022 was stuck as its part of the overall FIS gender equity strategy, whose approval is still pending at FIS management level.

To gather more female specific medical data, the Sub Committee will propose questions for the FIS health survey to take up and thus to gather a bigger picture on the health and care of female athletes.

A high-quality seminar for athletes and coaches was discussed to raise awareness on female specific matters among elite athletes.

The Sub Committee was considering to re-name the S.C. to gender equity to be more inclusive.

Sub-Committee Development

Özkan Koyuncu presented the evaluation of participation of developing nations at FIS events over the past years. At the WSC in Planica, Cross-Country counted a total of 64 nations among 482 athletes in total. Özkan highlighted the importance of the FIS waxing service for developing nations at the WSC which was provided by SWIX and covered all races.

For a better exchange, the Sub Committee Development will coordinate a monthly exchange with the S.C. for Youth & Children as well as the S.C. Women Nordic.

Sub-Committee Youth & Children

Chair Satu Kalajainen presented the major topics from the S.C. for Youth & Children. On the number of participating nations at Junior and U23 WSC level, a negative trend was observed. The cause was unclear but possibly origins in the location of the event due to higher financial expenses. Nevertheless, the matter will be followed up and further observed. The discussion continued as the date of the Junior and U23 WSC was questioned to avoid overlapping with the World Cup. This matter however was taken up in the S.C. World Cup and COC.

Further, the qualification and quota for the YOG was approved. The members however pointed out that the selection period was decisive but unsuited for the U20 selection. As this is a matter of IOC, the S.C. for Youth & Children would like to underline to

review this important selection period thoroughly.

Equal distances on JWSC level have to be evaluated further in cooperation with the other S.C. to avoid a drop out rate from U20 to senior level athletes.

Sub-Committee Rules and Control

Chair Anna Rosa presented the World Cup and ICR updates that the S.C. approved.

An ongoing discussion presented the case that came up in the last period of the World Cup and included a rules infraction due to unsportsmanlike behavior. The discussion situation happened in the last sprint of the season.

The Cross-Country Committee discussed whether team tactics is allowed or not in Cross-Country Skiing. Some Committee members believed team tactics does not belong to individual sport of Cross-Country Skiing. Some Committee members on the other hand argued that team tactics is present almost in every competition and is already part of our sport. Should the Cross-Country Committee decide not to allow (and sanction) some forms of team tactics, it could be very problematic. Athletes wish for clear and understandable rules. It is impossible to describe what team tactics is allowed and what is not allowed. Cross-Country Committee seemed to be split in this matter but after a long discussion the majority (no voting) seemed to be leaning towards accepting the fact that team tactics is part of Cross-Country Skiing and should not be sanctioned. The red line not to be crossed when it comes to team tactics is obstruction.

The S.C. will follow up on this matter and further elaborate with TD's, coaches and athletes on the status quo and the pathway of the implementation.

On the discussion around a possible adaption of the max. altitude to race up to 2'000m above sea level at World Cup the matter will be sent to Medical Committee for advise.

All ICR changes were approved, for details please check the minutes of the S.C. for Rules and Control. All seminar and educational sessions as well as TD nominations were approved.

Sub-Committee World Cup and COC, presented by Chris Grover

S.C. Chair Chris Grover presented the approved matters from the S.C. World Cup and COC.

After thorough discussions, the members voted in favor of the World Cup calendar 2023/24. After the vote, it was to point out that FRA strongly against the final version of the period I of the World Cup calendar 2023/24.

The formats throughout the season results in 20 distance competitions 13 sprint competitions and 3 team events.

In addition to the calendar for the upcoming season, Chris Grover explained how the S.C. re-discussed the long-term calendar framework and how this follows many of the FIS mission goals that were presented earlier in the introduction of the meeting. The S.C. is aware that exceptions will always have to be discussed but agreed on following the 10 set principles.

1. World Cup period I shall have 3 competition weekends
2. There shall be maximum 3 back-to-back World Cup weekends, followed by a weekend without World Cup competition
3. World Cup weekend should have 3 competitions, in exceptional cases the number of competitions could be reduced.
4. FIS Tour de Ski
 - a. 3 host NSAs
 - b. Smart and compact travel logistics
 - c. Possibility to include different formats and distances than on the World Cup
 - d. Competition period after Christmas/New Year
5. Combined weekends (sprint + distance) is a preferred option by majority. Sprint weekend(s) could be put in the calendar
6. Long term planning to avoid World Cup clashing with nationals
7. JWSC&U23 WSC could take place later in the season (Period V)
8. No World Cup weekend just before a title event (WSC, OWG)
9. World Cup after title event – formats are crucial. Back to back 50 km should be avoided
10. Season end should be no later than around third weekend in March – or third weekend after title event.

Michal Lamplot presents the conclusion of the common waxing project that was held for the Tallin City sprint World Cup. Generally, the feedback was positive and common waxing presents opportunities in the future. However, the implementation needs fine tuning and clear definition on the goal.

7. Reports from the working groups (when not already included in the sub-committee)

Michal Lamplot presented the elaborated competition distances that are to be implemented at World Cup, WSC and OWG level.

As a basic principle, all members agreed to have the same distances at the World Cup as at title events.

The majority supported the distances as they were implemented in the test-season with 10km, 20km, 50km and 4x7.5km for Relays. To stay within the origin of the sport, Interval start shall be scheduled also in a longer distance. Thus, the committee agrees on ideally including 2x 20km Interval start when possible.

The proposal for the formats at title events is:

10km Interval
10 + 10 km Skiathlon
Relay 4x7.5km
50km Mst
Sprint
Team Sprint

**14 voting members voted in favor of the proposed schedule for title events.
One voting member voted against with no abstention.**

A working group was established to elaborate possibilities to re-create the FIS Cross-Country World Cup and the FISTour de Ski. Guri Knotten will be leading the working group and report at the FIS Autumn meetings.

From the S.C. World Cup and COC as well as S.C. Youth & Children, the discussions regarding the OPA expansion has resulted in the creation of a specific working group, that will draw up the status quo.

Petr Mach, head of the working group for FIS points presents the results of the work that the members of the group have established since last autumn. The task of the working group was:

- Check if there is any possibility how athlete can improve FIS points without performance improvement
- Check if there is balance between different types of races and their factors (and their penalties).
- Check if there is any possibility of manipulation of the FIS point system
- Check if there are any mistakes in FIS point system.

Conclusions of the working group are:

The most problematic thing is that FIS points are used as the main criteria for qualification for big events (WSC, OWG). To make FIS points more fair, the rule for race penalty calculation has been modified in the following way:

- Set one maximum value 999
- Use middle 3 instead top 3 athletes from top 5 in competition
- Change of dividing coefficient (DC) from 3.75 to 3

These changes are expected to improve fairness and help mitigate FIS points manipulation.

Proposal from the working group

The W.G. proposes to adjust the eligibility criteria for participation at World Cup, WSC and OWG.

Reasoning: Average FIS points will be higher almost for all competitors and the eligibility criteria should be adjusted accordingly in order not to have a negative impact on athletes. The analysis showed that if adjusted criteria is used number of athletes fulfilling the conditions will be approximately the same.

The proposed criteria are:

Original limit	New limit
60	65
90	100
100	110
120	130
300	350

The final decision about the limits will be done at the FIS Technical Committee meeting in autumn 2023.

8. Other items arising

The final point on the agenda required all guests to leave the meeting room as it concerned the presentation of two new devices and thus, their construction was not to be shared with non-members.

The CCC members assessed the devices if they were according to rules, had no external source of energy, battery or spring and if the safety was guaranteed.

After inspection of the devices (one prototype physically presented, one prototype shown by online presentation), Simon Caprini, RD Assistant and one more member will evaluate with the providers who need to prepare a finished product on skis during a World Cup in the upcoming season.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting is planned during the FIS Autumn meetings in Zurich (SUI), 27. – 29.09.2023

10. Closing of the meeting

Chair Uros Ponikvar closes the meeting of the CCC at 17:30h.