

To the  
- Members of the Medical Committee

For information to:  
- Gian Franco Kasper, FIS President  
- Philippe Gueisbuhler, FIS Director

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**Minutes to the Meeting of the Medical Committee  
Online Meeting, 06.05.2021**

Dear Members of the Medical Committee,

We have pleasure sending you enclosed the draft Minutes to the meeting of the Medical Committee.

Thank you for your contributions and stay safe.

Kindest regards,

Hubert Hörterer  
Chairman

## INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION Medical Committee

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome / Roll call

##### Presence

H. Hörterer (chair, GER), I. Lereim (vice-chair, NOR), J. Shute (vice-chair, GBR), C. Beavington (CAN), V. Brozicevic (CRO), B. Escoda (AND), H. Faarup (DEN), W. Frey (SUI), D. Garcia German (ESP), K. Goto (JNP), E. Hyvärinen (FIN), C. Kong (KOR), A. Panzeri (ITA), M.-P. Rousseux-Blanchi (FRA), J. Swanberg (SWE), W. Van Den Broecke (BEL), H. Spring (Med Com Honorary member, SUI)

R. Damsgaard (FIS Anti-Doping Expert, C19 Testing Expert)

P. Gueisbuhler (FIS Director)

V. Wallace-Jones (FIS Anti-Doping Coordinator)

S. Fussek (FIS Integrity Manager)

Guests: S. Bulle (FRA), L. Nejmanova (CZE), O. Ronsen (NOR)

Welcome by Chair to the members and special welcome to FIS Director to the online meeting.

Various members have announced to retire from the Committee (*Lereim, Obenberger, Rousseux-Blanchi, Wicker*) and a special thanks and acknowledgement for their contributions and commitment have been expressed by the Chair on behalf of the entire Committee and FIS.

Members who are suggested for new membership are welcome to join today's meeting.

*Gueisbuhler* thanked the members for their excellent contributions based on their various skills with a special focus on dealing with the C19 Pandemic during the past season.

#### 2. Minutes of the last online meeting (Oct 2020), Confirmation of the Agenda

Minutes and Agenda were approved. No comments received.

#### 3. Information of the Project Groups

##### Medical Guide / Health Promotion / Concussion

*Shute* will kindly take over the lead of this group with support (*Frey, Faarup*). Most of the sections were removed since they were out of date. Areas to be updated will be the Concussion section with the latest Consensus statements. Review of health promotion topics. As well as Injuries prevention.

Concussion Pocket guide developed by the French Ski Association to be put forward through FIS Communication channels to be used by skiing community.

Safeguarding continues to be an important topic. Reminder to Medical Supervisors to keep an eye on Safeguarding policies of major event organisers and their implementation, and eventual guidance as required.

#### 4. FIS ISPP

The FIS ISPP (Surveillance and Prevention Programme) has been reconstructed in recent years in close collaboration with Atle Skaardal, FIS Technical Coordinator.

*Hörterer* presented the new structure as well as future plans on the detailed organisation, reporting line and involved parties.

The challenge – many serious injuries in different FIS disciplines with manifold negative consequences.

The objective – safest possible high-performance sport

The solution – a structured, well-developed multi-disciplinary, interactive and holistic approach with long-term finding to achieve sustainable improvements.

- Every FIS disciplines shall be included and have benefits
- Every FIS discipline has the possibility to bring in projects to be considered for support and guidance
- Alpine was the forerunner and Alpine Working group is very active

*(Refer to presentation document for details)*

*Hörterer* outlined that a proportionate budget will be required to be available for the new structure to work efficiently, and the Council referred this decision for a meeting after the new President and Council have been elected.

*Gueisbuhler* thanked for the good presentation and outlined his view on the bigger picture, the injury prevention system shall be seen within the FIS structure. FIS wants to work on safeguarding in various areas (from injuries to sexual harassment and abuse, to mental health, etc), so it will not be possible to build up the entire department in one day. Even though it is true that injury characteristics is something that is impacting the FIS disciplines strongly, it shall be seen in the perspective, so physical injury prevention shall be continuously be focused on, but at a next step also mental “injuries” must be included under such umbrella. Comments to be understood in the bigger picture on where injury prevention shall be seen in the long-run.

#### 5. Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics

*Shute* reported on latest efforts during the pandemic months. Last physical inspection (Freestyle/Snowboard) took place in 2019. The FS and SB disciplines take place in three different venues, all with amazing developments.

- Hospitals – first class, mostly brand new, extraordinary facilities, helicopter rescue drills video

- Committed CMOs in Genting, Guyangshu; need for expert ski patrollers for steeper slopes (MO, Cross)
- High trust in local medical teams, but lacking experience at top level events
- WSC events cancelled, no test events so far in FS SB FK or Nordic
- Close collaboration with FIS Race Directors, great cooperation
- Close collaboration with IOC Medical Director and his medical team
- Fitzgerald provided local reports to Shute
- Experience Beijing events in February 2021, CHN athletes, limited numbers, but medical rescues reportedly went well
- Inspection planned in September (TBC)
- Test events in late November (Cross – TBC) and Nordic Combined (TBC)

*Hörterer* reported from the Alpine Skiing area. In close collaboration with Skaardal and *Spring*, they have been working together on the preparation. Several inspections have been carried out.

- The medical sector is very well prepared for the Olympics
- Biggest issue continues to be the poor skiing skills of the Chinese colleagues
- Negotiations for the foreign doctors continues to be challenging
- *Hörterer* organised 13-14 colleagues for the FOP teams, specialists in emergency medicine and excellent skiers
- Rescue chain including helicopter rescue works well, also long line demonstration looks good
- Pre-inspections are urgently needed in the near future because “paper is patient”, but the actual situations must be inspected
- Close collaboration with IOC Medical Games Group (incl Wolfgang Schobersberger)

*Turel* raised concerns about medication like fentanyl to bring and administer in China which is very important for first aid treatment of seriously injured skiers. *Hörterer* confirmed that this discussion is taking place with the Medical team and he sees the need to further train the local medical teams on when and how to administer since the local team is the only team that can treat the skiers on the slopes, the team doctors are only allowed to support.

*Hörterer* thanked *Gueisbuhler* for the great support he and *Shute* receive. Equally *Gueisbuhler* shared back the appreciation with *Shute* and *Hörterer* in their tremendous efforts in the medical preparation oversight ahead of the Games.

*Gueisbuhler* echoed the exceptional situation with cancellation of test events, limited inspection visits, limited expertise in China in terms of e.g. high level snowboard events and such. The IOC is pushing very hard for inspections to take place without lengthy quarantine restrictions, so the FIS Sports and Medical Team can go on site for inspections.

## 6. Reports FIS Medical Supervisors 2020/21

### a. 2021 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Cortina (ITA)

*Swanberg* reported:

- No pre-inspection visit due to pandemic, but preparation calls have taken place

- Thanks to local Medical chief Andrea Apollonio who did an outstanding job
- Strict C19 protocol prior to accreditation as well as during the event, smooth processed and well organised
- Good cooperation with FIS RDs
- TCMs in person (limit 1 coach/nation), as well as online available
- Most of doctors anestheologists, good skiers, support of ski patrollers
- Well organised, well equipped, helicopter set-up with back up, ambulances
- Most injuries taken care in local medical center, some ACLs
- One person to Beluna hospital (LOC staff)
- No concussions, was good to see
- Thanks to Andrea Apollonio, Tatjana Lüssy, Hörterer and Fussek for assistance

**b. FIS Snowboard/Freestyle Championships, various (SWE/KAZ/USA)**

*Shute* reported:

Due to cancellation of Beijing events, four different venues in four different countries stepped in on short notice. Communication with all CMOs took place remotely, no pre-inspection visits due to pandemic, which certainly is not ideal and should remain an exception. Massive pressure on all CMOs, thanks to all of them who did an excellent job. Equally

1. Cross – Idre Fjall SWE (very recently hosted a World Cup event; experienced CMO and medical team). No major problems, even though only a couple of weeks to prepare
2. Alpine and Parallel SB – Rogla SLO. Due to hold WC event; WSC this preceded this. Experienced CMO. No major injuries, but one serious case of Covid admitted in need of oxygen.
3. MO / AE Almaty – KAZ. This event immediately preceded the WC Finals. Abylay went to great lengths to fulfil Medical requirements, including meeting directly with government to arrange helicopter transfers and use of opiate analgesia. No major injuries, but a number of cases of C-19, particularly in one team (5 members, probably arrived with it) whole team eventually had to withdraw from the competition). Special thanks to Abylay Ongarbayev (CMO at the event) for his great work.  
A lesson, in that the C-19 plans were excellent on paper, but less good in practice, especially re transport. *Rinaldi* supported C19 logistics on site, to be congratulated.
4. Park & Pipe – Aspen USA. Experienced CMO and team, no major problems.

**c. FIS Ski Flying World Championships, Planica (SLO)**

*Turel* reported (Special thanks *Turel* who replaced *Lereim* on short notice for on site Supervision due to travel restrictions.):

- Good cooperation with LOC and CMO, as well as SLOADA
- C19 event protocol with many tests

- Well qualified medical doctors at the event, well equipped facilities and emergency service at disposal also available out of competition hours
- Minor injuries dealt by ambulance transport
- Transportation to Trauma center by helicopter
- Well planned and professionally carried out by experienced medical team
- Safety of jumpers was set as a priority during the entire event
- Thanks to *Lereim* for support and preparation of the Supervision role and report

*Lereim* thanked *Turel* for stepping in to carry out the task in a perfect manner.

Besides, *Lereim* would like to take the opportunity to thank and congratulate the LOC Planica medical team to/for the perfect initial treatment of the Norwegian ski jumper on the hill as well as in the hospital.

*As usual, the written reports are available on the FIS Medical Committee FISCloud link.*

## 7. FIS Covid-19 Prevention Guidelines & Protocol

*Hörterer* reported about the FIS C19 Medical Support group in place since spring 2020 when regular meetings have taken place every second week, with more regular weekly update meetings during the winter season. Thanks to his colleagues from the Committee with a specific mention of *Shute* and *Lereim* as very active and supporting members of the C19 support group. (Additionally special thanks to the external support group members Dr Schobersberger and Prof Knolle).

The work for the 2021/22 Guidelines has started, including now also an external Vaccination expert.

*Damsgaard* serving as the Expert for Testing & Hygiene protocols summarised last season as follows (in excerpt):

*“In the preparation for this meeting, I just went through my FIS Covid correspondence. I think we did good. Our initial “FIS Covid” contact was made end-July last year and the first draft version of a FIS fitted Covid-19 protocol was available 11<sup>th</sup> August. A few days later the draft turned into what we today know as **FIS World Cup Risk Management Covid-19 Testing Protocol.**”*

*Based on the protocol, **FIS C-19 Support Group & Stakeholders Meetings** were initiated as webinars for which we all prepared Power Point presentations covering various covid topics we believed were relevant for support groups and stakeholders and relevant for securing a safe racing environment. I am relieved and happy to say – as the season is over – the rest is history!*

*But how did we get there? The World came to a complete lockdown end of March last year. Television pictures from Italy and Spain displayed a virus out of control. In April and May everyone seemed to hold their breaths. In June, Mixed Martial Arts, professional boxing and the Bundesliga Soccer league showed that sport was alive if covid testing and restrictions were implemented. (...) Cycling was looking to secure the start of the postponed Tour de France starting end of August with a few smaller races leading up to the Tour starting beginning of July. (...)*

*In July, Sarah got to know about the protocol. We quickly had it modified to fit FIS purpose now including national regulations for testing and isolation. During the period of modification, we met with UEFA, Motorsport, Soccer leagues, global PCR testing companies numerous times in preparation of the protocol and in the development of the FIS Covid Passport. We also included invaluable hands-on experience from Summer Ski Jumping in CZE and POL as well as inputs from FIS colleagues representing the various FIS disciplines which all together polished the protocol to its state where it was launched by FIS.*

*We have experienced covid positives during the season – as expected. I think the common perception is that FIS has dealt with them professionally and to most people’s satisfaction. We have encountered LOC’s with low standard covid protocols and gently guided them in the right direction. We have supported the World Championships organizers and found a willingness to cooperate out of the ordinary. Upon requests, we have met with single skiers and their management to inform and comfort them of the FIS and LOC guidelines. With short notice, we have supported changes in locations of events like the Junior World Championships and made sure guidelines were provided and upheld. We have assisted isolated positive young at age skiers or false positives quick tests to return to their countries with help from national authorities. This is only a fraction of examples that I am aware of. Jenny, Hubert, Sarah and Dimitrije have been involved in cases I will never even know existed.*

*Bottomline is that in line and cooperation with national authorities, skiers and their management, LOCs and Support Groups we all pulled in the same direction making the impossible 2020/2021 FIS World Cup season possible.”*

Fussek gave an overview from FIS Administration in terms of SARS-CoV-2 testing numbers registered through the FIS Passport application on the level of World Cup, World Championships and Junior World Championships.

Total C19 testing: 103’500  
Positive cases registered: 105

Positive case numbers do not include positives cases (e.g. from home country tests prior to travel) not reported to FIS, but the main goal has been achieved of keeping positive cases out of the World Cup travelling family and the events. This was achieved through the implemented pre-arrival policy whereby every one attending a World Cup or World Championships event had to do a PCR (ideally, alternatively Antigen in exceptions according to local protocols) test prior to receiving an accreditation.

Future of Testing Protocols for season 2021/22. In line with the 2020 (2021) Tokio Summer Olympics policy, it is assumed that for the next winter season Vaccination will not (respectively not entirely) replace testing activities. For the summer events, the testing protocol in place during last season will apply for the time being.

*Detailed report split on the FIS Disciplines available on request (or on FIS website).*

## 8. Update FIS Anti-Doping Activities 2020/21

*Fusek* gave an overview on current Operational structure of the FIS Anti-Doping Department, the role of the FIS Anti-Doping Expert, FIS Anti-Doping Advisory Group and FIS Medical Committee as well as a staffing update. The Anti-Doping structure was continuously developed further with best practice (Integrity Hotline, external advisory group, Investigations office with investigations capacity on case by case basis, data privacy officer, CAS Anti-Doping Division in first instance cases, mandatory education, cooperation with the International Testing Agency and research partner – to name a few).

Mrs *Vanda Wallace-Jones* started as FIS Anti-Doping Coordinator January 2021. She brings along extensive experience 20+ years from Summer International Federations (incl cycling, athletics) and as already in her first months contributed significantly to the upgrade of the daily anti-doping operations.

*Wallace-Jones* introduced herself and continued to guide the Committee through the Doping control testing numbers of the previous summer and winter season. In summary, it was shown that even though Skiing (as in other sports globally) has seen a stop in testing during end March and April 2020, the operations were taken up as soon as this was possible. The national situations were reviewed regularly to flexible adapt the testing plans, and during summer testing was back at full speed. All testing activities were carried out under additional hygienic prevention measures due to C19 virus situation.

*Hörterer* welcomed *Wallace-Jones* on behalf of the Committee and will be happy to receive regular updates going forward.

*Presentation available on request.*

## 9. Various

### Future Medical Supervisors 2022

- i. FIS Alpine Junior WSC 2022, Panorama (CAN), *Chris Beavington (CAN)*
- ii. FIS Ski Flying World Championships 2022 Vikersund, *Inggard Lereim (NOR)*
- iii. FIS Nordic Junior WSC 2022, Zakopane (POL), *Roman Erlikhmann (RUS)*

*Proposals will be submitted to FIS Council for approval.*

Medical Supervisors for 2023 and 2024 will be open during next Meeting in autumn.

### Ski Jumping – injury data collection

*Lereim* reported on the new project on Ski Jumping injury data collection in collaboration with FIS Ski Jumping Race management and Andy Wenger, building up on the model of the FIS Alpine injury database.



### Transgender policy

*Shute* urged that FIS to progress with a Transgender policy to put in place. Due to C19 additional activities this has not yet been progressed since early 2020.

## **10. Next meeting**

Contrary to latest tradition, it was decided that should the autumn meetings take place in person, the entire Medical Committee should convene there (and not only the Project Group).

FIS Medical Committee:  
FIS Autumn Meetings, Zurich (SUI), Friday, 1 October 2021

Project Group of the FIS Medical Committee: Thursday, 30 September 2021 (late afternoon/ evening)

*Gueisbuhler* thanked the Committee as well as FIS Administration for the joint efforts and excellent contributions, and he is looking forward collaborating with the Committee in the future.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking the members for their participation and active contributions and looks forward to hopefully soon meeting in person.

*For the Minutes*  
*Sarah Fussek (FIS)*