

To the

- Members of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup
- Peter Gerdol, Chief Race Director World Cup Women
- Markus Waldner, Chief Race Director World Cup Men
- Alberto Senigagliaesi, Race Director World Cup Women Speed Events
- Markus Mayr, Race Director World Cup Women Technical Events
- Hannes Trinkl, Race Director World Cup Men Speed Events
- Raimund Plancker, Assistant Race Director Men Speed Events
- Janez Hladnik, Race Director World Cup Men Technical Events
- Emmanuel Couder, Alpine Operational Event Coordinator

For information to:

- Johan Eliasch, FIS President
- Michel Vion, FIS Secretary General
- Niklas Carlsson, FIS Deputy Secretary General
- Massimo Rinaldi, Chairman Alpine Committee
- Stefano Pirola, Chairman Intercontinental Cups
- Jenny Wiedeke, FIS Communications Manager
- Christian Salomon, Chief Commercial Director
- Sandra Spitz, FIS Event Director
- Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Technical and Administrative Coordinator

Oberhofen 14.11.2022

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup Friday, 30.09.2022**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup, which was held on 30.09.2022.

We kindly ask that you to send any remarks to the FIS Alpine Office in Oberhofen by the **20<sup>th</sup> October 2022** (luessy@fisski.com).

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.

Enclosed please find the agenda.

Kindest regards,



Walter Vogel  
Chair Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup

## INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup

Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup  
Friday, 30.09.2022

**All proposals and decisions of the Sub-Committee are subject to the confirmation of the Alpine Committee and to the approval of FIS Council in October 2022**

### 1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

Walter Vogel (GER) opened the meeting by greeting and welcomed all present and introducing two new members of the Sub-Committee Miha Verdnik (SLO) and David Chastan (FRA).

### 2. Roll-call

After going through the roll call Walter Vogel (GER) was keen to emphasise that it would be important to achieve gender equality in Committees as well as in sport itself.

### 3. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved by the Sub-Committee.

### 4. Approval of the minutes of the online meeting held on 12.05.2022

The minutes were approved by the Sub-Committee.

### 5. Reports

#### a) from the Chairman Walter Vogel

Walter Vogel starts his report mentioning that during the spring meetings, long-term calendars were one of the main topics. During the Executive Board meeting, Johan Eliasch (FIS) and Michel Vion (FIS) explained that long-term calendars are in the evolution phase because they would like to explore new destinations to add value to the World Cup. At the moment there is nothing final yet, so it is still in the planning stage. China is definitely one of the markets to be explored. Opinions are divided on this point but what concerns us most is that they are obviously published early enough to allow the stakeholders to plan and not to find ourselves in the situation of last spring and thus lose respect and credibility. Long-term calendars are crucial because then we can invest in the future with enough time to be able to plan.

The long-term draft Calendars proposed by the Race Directors are rather conservative taking into account all possible variants.

In addition to this subject are the development and addition of night races, extension of the winter season is also one of the subjects, although it is not a very convincing solution precisely because it goes against climate change and lack of interest.

Compat future oriented format is another subject to be considered and the basis of the questions is always how to execute the formats.

Obviously improving and developing the media and marketing side of the World Cup is on the radar.

Walter Vogel (FIS) also discussed the possibility of a possible Executive Board consisting of 7-10 experts from the World Cup Sub-Committee where the various

proposals are discussed in a more targeted manner. Organisers, FIS Marketing, athletes, SRS and TV should be consulted when needed.

He finished his report by thanking Tatjana Lussy (FIS), Peter Gerdol (FIS) and Markus Waldner (FIS) as well as the FIS management for their work.

**b) from Markus Waldner, Chief Race Director World Cup Men**

Markus Waldner (FIS) greets everyone and begins his report on the past summer. He thanked all organisers and stakeholders. He is delighted that we can finally start talking about the SkiFestival again and that the Covid seems to be behind us and that the Covid restrictions can be put on standby, being aware, however, that should the emergency arise again, we are ready with plan B.

The summer inspections went well with both old and new organisers, such as Palisades Tahoe (USA) and Aspen (USA). He was very impressed by these American locations where very interesting competitions can certainly be organised.

The inspection in Soldeu (AND), where the finals will take place, was very productive and the work done will certainly bear fruit.

It is important to mention that, given the times we are living in regarding the energy crisis, the organisers showed no doubts as to the sustainable viability of the events, in terms of snow production and energy expenditure.

The Workshop held in Innsbruck by the TV experts was very productive and they thanked Robert Waleczka (EBU) and Emmanuel Couder (FIS) for organising it.

Discussions were held on how to optimise and improve camera angles during TV productions and how new solutions can be implemented.

**c) from Peter Gerdol, Chief Race Director World Cup Women**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) echoes what Markus Waldner (FIS) said and thanked the commitment of all organisers and stakeholders during the summer. He, too, emphasised that all inspections were done with a Covid-free winter in mind.

The TV directors were always present during the summer inspections and it is interesting to see how we can improve productions and accommodate the creative ideas of the TV directors in order to show a better and more appealing product.

The opportunity was also taken to inspect new locations that could potentially become new organisers for the World Cup.

There are both new organisers as well as some who have been missing from the women's calendar for several years, and with the latter, an attempt was made to be closer to them and support them in their questions and needs, such as Sestriere (ITA), Spindleruv Mlyn (CZE), Soldeu (AND) and Zermatt-Cervinia (SUI-ITA).

Michael Huber (AUT) wanted to ask the M&M (FIS Media & Marketing) on behalf of Austria Federation to be more flexible and conservative in their growth. Also consider the Continental Cup as a world wide series for growth and centralisation. Austria supports this project but reiterates the call to be conscious.

**d) from Christian Salomon, Chief Commercial Director**

Christian Salomon (FIS) was excused by Walter Vogel as being ill.

**e) from Athletes' Commission**

Verena Stuffer (ITA) excuses Lief Kristian Haugen (NOR) for not being present, but

the Sölden preparation is approaching.

On the athletes' side, she emphasises that it is also important for them to have long-term calendars.

She is keen to report that the new Alpine Combined formula presented last spring will be used for the first time at the Junior World Championships in St. Anton (AUT) in 2023.

Verena Stuffer (ITA) wishes all athletes a good season, especially without too many injuries (as last season compared to the previous one).

Srečko Medven (Club5) asks to be entitled as Club5 to a dedicated part during the Sub-Committee to express their proposals and ideas with the right to vote.

Walter Vogel explained and emphasized that Club5 can always express their ideas and thoughts and will be integrated when topics concerning them are discussed. But he's open if stakeholders like organizers and SRS become an integrated part of the sub-committee.

## **6. Rules season 2022/23**

### **6.1 Alpine Combined Quota**

The proposal has been accepted.

### **6.2 Information Parallel Quota**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) took the floor and explained the point.

### **6.3 Information about the new starting order DH**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) took the floor and explained the point.

### **6.4 Information about the new prize money**

Peter Gerdol explained that the FIS Council had decided to increase the prize money by 10% and that therefore the minimum prize money would be CHF 132,000. FIS Council decided to extend the FIS contribution by 20% on the minimum prize money.

The proposal for a change in the distribution of the competition prize from first to 30th was also expressed.

Michael Huber (AUT) expressed, also on behalf of the athletes' commission, a desire to distribute the prize money more appropriately, especially in positions four to ten.

Walter Vogel emphasised that the list presented is only a recommendation, not a rule, and that therefore the distribution is up to the organisers.

He therefore invites the athletes' commission to propose a new rule for the distribution of prize money.

Srečko Medven (Club5) emphasised that increasing the prize money is not easy for the organisers at the moment. He asked for support from FIS to double the prize money for the organisers and thus satisfy the athletes.

Walter Vogel became aware of the global struggle over rising costs and asked Michel Vion to explain the situation in FIS.

Michel Vion (FIS) understands that the organisers are facing difficulties but like

them all the other stakeholders and believes that the solution of the 10% increase is plausible.

FIS would like to pay the full amount, but it is a process and cannot happen overnight.

## 7. Calendars 2022/23

Peter Gerdol (FIS) went through the 2022/23 Women's calendar:

- The Zermatt-Cervinia (SUI-ITA) Organising Committee has enlisted the help of Val Gardena (ITA) and Crans-Montana (SUI) to benefit from their experience. All the logistic part is good, a lot of work still has to be done on the second part of the glacier.
- Killington (USA) made a big improvement in the finish area with new lodges that can be used for the public and VIPs in order to reach a new record of attendees.
- Lake Louise (CAN) races are confirmed. The Organising Committee is very committed by having increased the number of crew on the track and on the machines.
- Sestrière (ITA) is again part of the calendar with a new chairlift allowing better circulation.
- By having a tech event weekend between Lake Louise and St.Moritz, it provides the time needed to get the equipment back to Europe via cargo flight and therefore schedule two Downhills and one Super-G in St-Moritz. (SUI)
- Zagreb (CRO) will host two Slalom races as the men are no longer on the calendar. There is still a question mark regarding the start time of the second day.
- Kranjska Gora (SLO) will host, in cooperation with Maribor (SLO), the two Giants Slalom. The decision to move Maribor races to Kranjska Gora has been taken due to the lack of snow of the past years.
- The highlight of the season will be the World Championships in Courchevel-Meribel (FRA). The women's races will take place in Méribel.
- The women's tour will make its return to Kvitfjell (NOR) since the finals in 2006.

Robert Waleczka (EBU) made a remark about the starting times to avoid overlapping with other major events and asked to take this into consideration for the future.

Markus Waldner (FIS) went through the 2022/23 men's calendar:

- Given the dense presence of Downhill races in the men's calendar, the speed events will not be replaced in case of cancellation.
- The accommodation for the athletes is in Zermatt (SUI) and the subject of helicopters has often come up. It's not forbidden to use them but strongly not recommended. In case of cancellation, Monday 31 October is the last potential day to replace the race.
- 3 events in Lake Louise (CAN) with a double Downhill and one Super-G will take place.
- A change of order for Beaver Creek (USA) with firstly two Downhills and then the Super-G.
- Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER) will host a Night Slalom in early January instead of Zagreb.

- In Wengen (SUI), the start of the Super-G will be given at the start of the Alpine Combined in order to ski the "Hundschof" twice.
- Double Downhill races in Kitzbühel (AUT)
- Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER) will mix a speed and tech event because there is a need for a Giant Slalom before the World Championships.
- A minor change in the program of the World Championship in Courchevel-Méribel (FRA). Team Parallel Event will not take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February but on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> at 12pm in Méribel. And the qualification for the individual parallel will be in the stadium of Courchevel on Tuesday evening at 5pm followed by the individual parallel race on Wednesday in Méribel.
- Palisades Tahoe (USA) is new in the calendar and will host a Giant Slalom and a Slalom race.
- Due to the late decision regarding the races in Aspen (USA), the teams will be accommodated in Snowmass.

Robert Waleczka (EBU) mentioned that the Junior World Championships in St. Anton (AUT) will be broadcasted live.

#### **7.1 Covid Situation**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) thanked the Medical Committee for their support and help over the past two years which has allowed the Audi FIS Ski World Cup to continue.

He describes the three scenarios enclosed.

### **8. Long-term Calendar**

Walter Vogel presented and explained the two 2023/24 draft calendar options, one with FIS Games and one without.

After several questions, Michel Vion (FIS) expressed a few points about the FIS Games. For the moment there is no candidates interested and, in the case of planning the FIS Games for the 2024 season, the disciplines would not be held in the same place. However, the plan is to have all the disciplines in one place for 2028.

As the FIS Games is a pure FIS project, the aim behind is to have a solid product, to be able to manage the event itself and to increase the prize money.

Walter Vogel also mentioned that the interest of experienced organisers and candidatures have been considered for the coming seasons, but the calendar after 2023/24 cannot be presented today.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) and Markus Waldner (FIS) went through the Long-Term calendars and presented the two versions, with and without FIS Games.

The Men's and Women's draft calendars still contain some free spots depending on whether the FIS Games will take place or not.

Markus Waldner (FIS) expressed the importance of maintaining the races in Lake Louise (CAN) as a way to launch the speed season. He also mentioned the possibility of going to China or Japan, if the FIS Games will not take place.

Regarding the races in China, Robert Waleczka (EBU) mentioned the problem of the time zone difference in relation to the loss of value in Europe, if the TVs could not be live. In order to avoid this, Michel Vion (FIS) replied that it would be night races if the World Cup had to go there.

Miho Glavic (CRO) mentioned his deception about not having any men's races in Croatia and asked to reassume the decision and submit some races in the Calendar.

Michel Vion (FIS) mentioned the desire to add new destinations to the calendars in order to reach key markets.

Michael Huber (AUT) proposed to establish the calendar according to the Olympic cycles as the lack of certainty about the future is causing serious problems with the stakeholders. He also made two concrete requests; to receive the 25/26 calendar for the 2023 spring meeting and secondly to think of a solution to the lack of interest after the Olympic Games and the World Ski Championships.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) asked for more details regarding the confirmation of the dates for Zermatt-Cervinia and wishes to receive the calendar up to 2027 at the 2023 spring meetings. Peter Gerdol (FIS) explained that the "tbc" next to 2023/24 calendar in Zermatt-Cervinia was about the dates, not the location.

Everyone agreed that calendars should be known earlier to give organisers security and allow them to invest and plan. the Sub-Committee requires calendar to present at the spring meeting by 2027.

The calendar 2023/24 with the FIS Games was approved by 14 votes to 1 abstention.

After a lengthy discussion on the long-term calendars, Walter Vogel explained the 14 criteria on which the FIS management wants to base the future of winter sports.

1. Grow our footprint, viewership, fan engagement and value globally.
2. Balance money, viewership, and fan engagement.
3. Be fair for the FIS family.
4. Minimise cost and travel
5. Reduce our carbon footprint and be sustainable.
6. Develop more iconic destination and races.
7. Have high quality events continuously from the start to the end of the season.
8. Optimise snow and weather conditions.
9. Have more races during the Christmas and New Year's period when interest in our sport and our events is very high.
10. Try a new destination each year.
11. Develop new markets for FIS Alpine World Cup.
12. Keep interest high throughout the entire season, including November and March.
13. Adapt to local and global broadcast scheduling requirements.
14. Facilitate resort investment in infrastructure and technology.

Phil McNichol (CAN) asked what's the process with these 14 criteria and who's going

to work to turn them in action. Walter Vogel (GER) explained that these are criteria for World Cup organisers. This gives the Sub-Committee a guideline on which criteria to base its decisions.

## 9. Presentations

### 9.1 Finals 2023 Soldeu (AND)

David Hidalgo Vila (AND) presented some logistical details concerning Soldeu as the shuttle transportation, the access to the slopes, the opening lift time, the accommodation, the race office, accreditation's location, Team hospitality, Team's ski room and parking. He went also through the opening ceremony's program, public bib draw, and their sustainability plan.

### 9.2. New World Cup Organiser Palisades Tahoe (USA)

Kristen Costa (USA) went through some logistical details regarding the airport, the slope's location, accommodation, accreditation, media centre's location and training facilities. She mentioned that the training area will be open from Monday 20th February.

## 10. Miscellaneous

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) gave an update on the hosting contracts, which should be ready with some minor adjustments and presented in the near future. The main goal is to regulate the relationship between FIS, the National Ski Associations and the organising committees.

The wish is to increase the value of the races by allowing the media and the organisations to share more content in order to increase the visibility of our sport.

## 11. Next meeting, to be announced

Next meeting will be held in Dubrovnik CRO) between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## 12. Closing of the meeting

Walter Vogel concludes by thanking all participants.