

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
- Jean-Philippe Vulliet, 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
- Emmanuel Couder, FIS World Cup Event Coordinator (Men)

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- Jenny Wiedeke, FIS Communications Manager
- Jürg Capol, FIS Marketing Director
- Sandra Spitz, FIS Event Director
- Atle Skaardal, FIS Technical Expert
- Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Technical and Administrative Coordinator

Oberhofen 08.10.2021

**Minutes of the online meeting of the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup  
Wednesday, 30.09.2021**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you the minutes of the online meeting of the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup, which was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

We kindly ask that you to send any remarks to the FIS Alpine Office in Oberhofen by the **15<sup>th</sup> October 2021** (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.

Kindest regards,



Walter Vogel  
Chairman Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup

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

**Invitation Meeting Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup  
Thursday, 30.09.2021, 13:00 - 16:00 hrs.**

### **AGENDA**

**1. Welcome and opening of the meeting**

Walter Vogel, Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup, opens the meeting welcoming all presents and the new members.

**2. Roll-call**

Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Coordinator, calls the Roll (attached list).

**3. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda makes changes:

- report from the athletes' commission
- item number 11 will be postponed to the spring meetings until the council confirms the long-term strategies through the working group implemented
- point 12.3 will be added with a proposal from Italy

**4. Approval of the minutes of the online meeting held on 21.05.2021**

The previous minutes have been approved.

**5. Reports**

**a) from the Chairman Walter Vogel**

Walter Vogel (GER) began his report by mentioning that the new leadership in FIS aims to work towards the future of the sport. For this reason, specific working groups have been set up to discuss future strategies.

Given that the long-term strategy has not yet been decided, it is clear that point 9 will be explained but future calendars will not be presented. He asked for clarity from the council so that the contracts with the organisers and the various stakeholders can proceed.

Another very important topic is the centralisation of rights, and a matter of discussions within NSAs and organisers, why the meeting will give insights into future planning of FIS.

Having said that, we have to focus on the coming season and unfortunately again on the situation caused by Covid19. This season will be different and maybe more difficult from last season because each country will have its own rules and we will encounter new challenges to meet them. The planned FIS financial contribution for federations and organisers is an important support.

He concluded by thanking Peter Gerdol, Markus Waldner and Tatjana Lüssy for their great work.

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

Markus Waldner (FIS) welcomed everybody and thanked Walter Vogel for its excellent introduction.

His report will be similar to that of the spring as there will be no major changes to the calendar already presented.

During the summer, discussions were held with the organisers about the return of spectators to most of the locations.

He mentioned the inspection with Kitzbühel as one of the most productive in terms of safety for the athletes given the previous edition which was borderline in relation to speed.

The inspection in Courchevel-Méribel for the finals was very positive and the new slopes are ready to entertain exciting races.

He was very confident for the start of the season, the experience gained from the previous season will certainly help in the management of the future.

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

Peter Gerdol (FIS) also welcomed those present and also began his report by mentioning the hope of having the public present next season.

He explained that the red bubble will be maintained during the next season for a reason of safety of the teams and the athletes.

The bubble system will be kept with some modifications. Sölden and Lech/Zürs will be the first races of the season that will set the standards for the rest of the events.

There have been inspections for the upcoming World Championships in Courchevel and Saalbach and they have been very productive.

In September there was a very interactive workshop between FIS, TV right holders and TV directors where interesting insights came out.

**d) from Jürg Capol, FIS Marketing Director**

Jürg Capol explained the marketing presentation by analyzing some factual data:

- 70 per cent of the media impact of the Ski World Cup comes from 5 nations: Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Sweden.
- The overall audience numbers do not satisfy the market and see great room for improvement.
- Another problem is the broadcasting time of the races and the highlight of the competition which in some races comes too early.

The data shown during the presentation makes think about opportunities for improvement with proposals to shorten the race time and create different leagues.

He also suggested a downhill structure of A- and B-level races on the same day with promotion and relegation during the season.

A top-tier race could showcase just 24 elite downhillers. A World Cup downhill typically has more than 50 starters and continues long after the podium result is known.

The keywords are harmonisation and entertainment with the aim of taking the product to another level.

Walter Vogel (FIS) commented positively on Jürg Capol's proposals, pointing out that they always have to find the right compromise between the show and the sporting side. When there are only 24 competitors left in the first division, it can be demotivating for younger athletes.

Srecko Medven stressed that we have to consider the shows and new opportunities so that sport does not suffer.

e) **from athletes' commission Verena Stuffer (ITA) and Leif Kristian Nestvold-Haugen (NOR)**

Verena Stuffer thanked and greeted those present and introduced Leif Kristian Nestvold-Haugen as the new member of the athletes' commission.

Leif took the floor and explained the document called 'The Future of Ski Racing' they had created together based on the opinions of the athletes.

As a first topic, he wanted to thank the cooperation that FIS has shown towards the athletes.

Having said that, he emphasised that the main disciplines were still the main part of the sport and also the data showed that.

There is a substantial need to create a solid base with regard to the shaky disciplines (Parallel and Alpine Combined) and to understand in which direction these disciplines are going in order not to always feel like the guinea pigs of the product.

Taking ski jumping as an example, he proposes to increase the number of night races in order to increase the interest of the audience and leave the fans with the pleasure of practicing it.

Finally, he asked to think of a concrete way to enhance the product and continue to make the sport fascinating.

Srecko Medven calls for organisers to be involved in these initiatives.

**6. Rules season 2021/22**

**6.1 NZL Proposal, Extension for one year longer on the 2019 ANC winners**

Due to the on-going Covid-19 situation, government controls and closed borders between Australia and New Zealand for the entire winter season, the 2021 ANC series was cancelled. It was therefore proposed that the 2019 ANC series winners would have their titles, points and entitlements for athletes would be extended again for the 2021/22 Northern Hemisphere season. See 6.3.

**6.2 Alpine Combined Quota**

The proposition that for the season 2021/2022, the nation's higher quota, WCSL 2019/20 or WCSL 2021/22 would be valid. The Sub-Committee approved the rule change.

**6.3 ARG-CHI Proposal, to use the best FIS points ranked competitors as 2022 SAC winners**

Similar to the situation that occurred in Australia and New Zealand, the SAC Sub-Committee proposed to give the rights for the winners of the SAC to the best South American athletes ranked in the 7th FIS points list in the corresponding disciplines. As 6.1 und 6.3 have the same background, both applicants agreed on the proposal of ARG-CHI in the run-up to the meeting. The proposal was approved.

## 7. Calendars 2021/22

Markus Waldner (FIS) was very satisfied with the creation of the calendar because the athletes' wishes were respected and totally balanced calendars were created.

The strategy behind it is the same as last season.

The event in Lech/Zürs was introduced to give continuity to the parallel and in no way affects the athletes' programmes.

It was decided with Beaver Creek organisers to swap the dates of the Super G and the Downhill. (Downhill on Saturday and Super G on Sunday).

The slalom in Zagreb has been scheduled for the 5th in order to give the athletes a day of rest before the Adelboden race and so the athletes have been taken care of. The organisers wanted to hold the slalom on the 6th, but after much discussion it was decided to hold it on the 5th.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asked for the time of the race to understand the logistical dynamics.

Markus Waldner (FIS) replied that normally they will travel by charter the next day, as soon as the calendars are confirmed the details will be fixed.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) echoed Markus in their satisfaction at having found the right balance for next season's calendar which will have the same foundations as last season.

He mentioned that there are no major changes from the traditional calendar starting with Levi, with a double event, moving on to North America and returning to Europe with the races in St. Moritz and France. Courchevel will host the women's giant slalom and for the first time there will be in use the new hospitality infrastructure.

He hopes that this year the Maribor race will be in a position to host the World Cup with a renovated snow making system by Techno Alpine.

While the men will have a weekend off before the Olympics, the women will be competing in Garmisch-Partenkirchen because the women's Olympic schedule allows for these races.

There is great enthusiasm for the Courchevel and Méribel finals and the great work done on the new slopes.

Walter Vogel (GER) admits that he's happy to have the North American races back on the calendar. However, there are problems with entering Canada because of the different health regulations between Europe and Canada regarding vaccination.

This remains an issue for discussion.

Michel Vion (FIS) first thanked Verena and Leif for their presentation. He then moved on to the subject of Canada, which is proving to be a very difficult one, as many athletes are unable to enter Canada because of the double vaccination request from the Canada Health authorities. He hoped to find a solution as soon as possible hopefully in the next 24 hours.

Patrick Riml (AUT) asked when there would be a definitive answer.

Michel Vion (FIS) confirmed that there will be an answer in the next 24-48 hours.

## 8. Information - Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022

Atle Skaardal (FIS) gave an update on the Olympic Games.

The work is progressing well and he gave an explanation about the logistics and the slopes of the event as far as the Alpine skiing part is concerned.

Speed and Tech events have two completely different finish areas.

The Olympic village and training tracks will open on 27 January.

International doctors, rescue teams and professional ski patrols are already under contract.

There will be no international guests but there will be national spectators.

#### **9. FIS Long-term planning**

Walter Vogel (GER) regrettably admits that there will be no long-term calendars to present.

Michel Vion (FIS) mentioned that the governance of FIS has been changed and that the main objective is to focus on the value of the product.

Working groups have been implemented which will work specifically with the aim of improving the product, provide guidelines and above all give a future vision for the sport. Format, contents and global strategy will be discussed in detail.

The “FIS Alpine Future Vision Group” will gather for the first time on 13 October 2021.

Iiro Kaukonen (FIN) asks if stakeholders will be updated during the process before the spring meetings.

Michel Vion (FIS) replied that the information would be kept confidential for at least 2-3 months and then slowly shared. There will be brainstorming sessions where feasible and concrete ideas will be considered.

Walter Vogel (GER) said that he had asked to have at least next season's calendars in advance and to share them before spring.

Urs Lehman (SUI) stresses that the priority is to focus on concrete directions and that is the aim of the Working Group.

#### **10. Covid-19 Minimum Requirements and procedure for the season 2021/22**

Dimitrije Lazarovski (FIS) explained in detail the testing procedure for next winter through the presentation. He emphasised that last season FIS completed more events than any other federation and the procedures put in place were effective, which is why they will continue to work in the same direction to ensure safety. He recommended vaccination as an effective way of protecting oneself and the community.

This organisation will be travelling the world and therefore must ensure maximum security for its internal members and those hosting the World Cup. Last season this protocol proved to meet high safety standards and the aim is to continue to do so in the run-up to the Olympic Games.

PCR testing is the golden standard because it is the only way to make sure you avoid

infection.

He invited everyone to be present for the seminar on Monday 4 October.

## **11. Miscellaneous**

### **12.1 Report status quo Working Group Starting Order (Thomas Stauffer)**

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) wanted to update those present on the work of the Working Group (see enclosure).

The process was to send out a survey and collect responses to understand the demand from all stakeholders.

What emerged is that the best skier has the chance to win, the competition has to be exciting and of course it has to be fair. The ideal length should be around 60 minutes.

Taking the 4 proposals and considering the points that emerged from the questionnaire they are working to find the fairest and most exciting solution.

Walter Vogel (FIS) asked the sub-committee for providing early feedback to the working group so that a rule would be in place for at least four years in the spring.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asked question if you have considered re-establishing the two runs for the downhill.

Markus Waldner (FIS) replied that it was still a proposal that could be considered for the future and in the Working Group.

### **12.2 Information TP rules**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) explains that it is a clarification of the mixed parallel rules where if one team draws with the other in the small or big final, they will have the same time.

### **12.3 Higher quota for Parallel event**

Massimo Rinaldi (FISI) explains the proposal above. For each event a national quota is calculated periodically according to the World Cup Starting Lists (WCSL). The proposed rule was to provide provisional starting lists taking in consideration the best quota between the WCSL and PWSL, which was approved by the sub-committee.

Walter Vogel (FIS) after asking if there were any questions, he approved the proposal.

## **12. Next meeting**

FIS Congress Vilamoura (POR), 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## **13. Closing of the meeting**