

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  
- Philippe Gueisbuhler  
- COC Coordinators

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**

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Oberhofen, 13.10.2021

**Minutes Sub-Committee Meeting for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country  
Thursday, 30.09.2021, 16:00 – 19:00 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 online, 30.09.2021.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Nordic Office in Oberhofen until **30<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.

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,



Pierre Mignerey  
Race Director Cross-Country

**Enclosure: ment.**

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION  
Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country**

**Minutes Sub-Committee Meeting for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country  
Thursday, 30.09.2021, 16:00 – 19:00 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. Proposals from the Working Groups, Sub-Committees and National Ski Associations
7. World Cup rules 2021-2022
8. COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar 2021-2022
9. Draft World Cup calendars until 2025-2026
10. JWSC and U23 WSC update
11. OWG update
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 01.10.2021 and to the approval of the FIS Council, 22.10.2021 (tbc)**

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

Chris Grover welcomed the members of the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups and opened the meeting on Thursday, 30.09.2021 at 16:00 hrs CET.

**2. Members Present**

**Excuses / Replaced by:**

Chris Grover, USA, Chair

Anders Byström, SWE

Joel Jacques, CAN

Olivier Michaud, FRA

Thomas Unterfrauner, AUT

Hippolyt Kempf, SUI

Zofia Kielpinska, POL

Hannu Koivusalo, FIN

Özkan Koyuncu, TUR

Nezu Shuhei, JPN

Sergey Kryanin, RUS

Not present

Petr Mach, CZE

Michal Malak, SVK

Albert Manhart, LIE

Finn Marsland, AUS

Andrey Nevzorov, KAZ

Gabriella Paruzzi, ITA

Robert Peets, EST

Milanko Petrovic, SRB

Not present

Uros Ponikvar, SLO

Puntel Franco, SPA

Andreas Schlütter, GER

Espen Bjervig, NOR

Jon Vidar Thorvaldsson, ISL

Not present

Yeui Gyu Im, KOR

Not present

Zografov Peter, BUL

Not present

Andriy Nesterenko, UKR

Jostein Vinjerui, GBR

Julio Moreschi, ARG

Timoleon Tsourekas, GRE

Vegard Ulvang, NOR

Chairman Cross-Country Committee

Pierre Mignerey, FIS

Michal Lamplot, FIS (Minutes)

Doris Kallen, FIS

Josephine Aschhoff, FIS

Madeline Nappey, FIS

Virginia de Martin, Athletes representative

Not present

Martti Jylhä, Athletes representative

Norbert Meier, CAN – representative of World Cup LOCs

### 3. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was sent out on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021. 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, 20.05.2021**

No remarks have been registered at the FIS Office.

The Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups approved the minutes.

### 5. **Report from FIS**

Pierre Mignerey informed the Sub-Committee about the new FIS structure. Since June 2021 FIS has the new president. Michel Vion is the new Secretary General. FIS Director Philippe Gueisbuhler remains in his position.

Sandra Spitz has moved from the FIS Cross-Country team and to become the FIS Event Manager. Sandra is responsible for the overall FIS coordination of major events such as OWG, WSC, YOG. Madeline Nappey has joined FIS Nordic office.

The Extraordinary FIS Congress will meet on 8<sup>th</sup> October to discuss and decide on the proposal of the updated FIS statutes. The main issues concern governance and to define FIS values, principles and objectives.

The Extraordinary Congress will also deal with the proposal to change the name of FIS, either to International Snowsport Federation or International Ski and Snowboard Federation.

#### **FIS Council Nordic Future Vision Working Group**

A FIS Council Working Group for Nordic Future Vision has been appointed. The mandate of the Nordic Future Vision Working Group is to review and recommend aspirational plans for growing participation and enhancing competition.

Erik Roeste was elected as the Chairman of the Nordic Future Vision Working Group and Martti Jylhä, Franz Steinle, Martti Uusitalo, Elena Vyalbe, Enzo Smrekar and Gumny Wojciech (Vice-President Polish Ski Federation) were appointed as the members.

### 6. **Proposals from the Working Groups, Sub-Committees and National Ski Associations**

Following proposals were sent to the Sub-Committee and will be discussed:

- USA: Team Sprint in Dresden
- ITA: calendar application for JWSC 2022
- UKR: Move from EEC to Slavic Cup

### 7. **World Cup rules 2021-2022**

At the spring meeting it was approved to organize a mixed team sprint and a mixed relay in Falun. Both mixed events will be in free technique. No individual World Cup points will be awarded for these test events.

During the autumn meeting the competition format was discussed and approved.

#### **Mixed Team Sprint**

Each team will consist of 1 woman and 1 man. The athletes will alternately ski 6 laps each in the following order: Woman / Man (12 laps in total). The last 2 teams will be eliminated after laps 2, 4, 6, 8, 10. Overlapping rules will apply. No physical contact between the competitors will be required for the exchange. Mixed teams (from different nations) are not allowed. The Sub-Committee voted about the number of teams/NSAs allowed to enter the race. The vote confirmed that 1 team/NSA will be allowed.

For the qualification each athlete will individually ski one lap (interval start). The result of the qualification round will be calculated by accumulating the times of both athletes and the 20 best teams will be qualified for the Final.

### **Mixed Relay**

Each team will consist of 2 women and 2 men. Each athlete will race 5 km in free technique in the following order: Woman / Man / Man / Woman. Mixed teams (from different nations) are not allowed. The Sub-Committee voted about the number of teams/NSAs allowed to enter the race. The vote confirmed that 1 team/NSA will be allowed.

### **Team Sprint format in Dresden**

The USA proposed to change the format of the Dresden Team Sprint F to the previous format, where each leg of the Team Sprint skis 2 laps prior to the exchange, rather than the current format of exchanging every lap.

After the discussion the Sub-Committee decided to keep the existing format in Dresden – exchange after each lap.

**Cooperation between nations –** NSAs were asked to confirm their agreements with other nations as soon as possible.

### **Athletes changing facilities**

NSAs were encouraged to provide feedback to FIS if athletes will be using common changing space (World Cup rules 12.2) provided by FIS Cross-Country World Cup organizers. Feedback is expected by 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

### **C-19 update**

FIS has organized a couple of Educational Webinars, which deal with virus information, vaccination, outlook by experts, etc. All the information and recordings of the seminars can be found on the FIS website under the C-19 information hub.

The C-19 testing protocol for the winter season 2021/22 is still subject to approval. However, it will most likely include following principles:

- National Health Regulations are still paramount.
- In order to access a World Cup event a negative PCR test result must be provided by all participants (regardless if they have been vaccinated or not). The PCR test cannot be older than 72 hours prior to the event (accreditation).
- During Event «C19 Prevention Proof or Test» must be provided. Either a valid vaccination / previously infected certificate or another C19 Test on site after day 2 or 3.

The FIS Passport will be updated and will feature new functionalities (details to be communicated later). The FIS passport will again have whereabouts information and a health questionnaire. It will also read tests results and vaccination certificates. It will be able to read QR codes and be compatible with the EU Green Pass.

It is important to keep in mind the C-19 pandemic is not over yet and it is still important to follow hygiene rules, wear masks and be fully vaccinated. The World Cup group should be as well separated from other groups with lower C-19 protection standards.

In regard to the preparation for FIS Cross-Country World Cup events, organizers and NSAs should closely monitor evolution of travel restrictions and events regulations. Organizer are expected to again provide Covid-19 guidelines (access & onsite rules for

each event). The FIS team has updated the Field of Play Guidelines and they will be sent to NSAs and organizers.

C-19 regulations and a risk assessment should play an important role in organization of the team area (changing rooms, catering, etc.).

### **Official side events**

The Sub-Committee also discussed athletes' involvement in official site events – e.g. athletes presentation, bib presentation, etc. Provided that such events take place outside, and maximum hygienic measures are followed, the Sub-Committee approved that such events can take place.

## **8. COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup**

Pierre Mignerey reminded the Sub-Committee members of the priorities of the calendar frame, which are:

- Athletes participation
- Climate change
- International dimension
- Gender equality
- Financial sustainability
- Audience

\*For more information please see the presentation or older minutes of the Sub-Committee.

There are four main principles, which were approved in May 2021 and which should be kept in mind when the long term calendars are discussed:

- The FIS Cross-Country World Cup season starts on the last weekend of November and ends on the 3rd weekend of March
- The World Cup calendar is organized in 5 blocks and includes free weekends
- The organizing nations and venues will be selected in order to reduce travel and optimize logistics (block of races in the same region)
- Calendar planning will take into consideration the possible coordination with SJ & NC

During the summer of 2021, the distribution of events/weekends between different NSAs has been finalized, taking into account coordination with other Nordic disciplines. In order to finalize the confirmation process of the long term calendars, input from the new FIS top management and the FIS Council working groups is needed. The number of races per event weekend will not be finalized until the general concept is approved by the FIS Council and the FIS Council Working Group for Nordic Vision.

This discussion will continue during the winter. The Working group for the FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar will meet after the OWG. By the end of March 2022, a long-term calendar proposal will be sent to NSAs. Until 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022 NSAs will be obliged to give written feedback to FIS. Consequently, the long term calendar will be discussed at the FIS Spring meeting in 2022.

### **FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar 2021/22**

No changes and no remarks

### **FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar 2022/23**

Dates of the World Cup events in Milano and Les Rousses are subject to confirmation as there is a possibility to swap them.

World Cup weekends in Lahti and then Oslo – A solution needs to be found in coordination with the other Nordic disciplines, the Norwegian Ski Association and the IBU.

#### **FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar 2023/24**

Canada and USA have been working on a project of 3 weeks of competitions in Canada and USA. The host cities would be Canmore and Calgary (CAN), Minneapolis and Cable (USA). The provisional competition schedule features a sprint and 2 distance competitions in Canmore (THU, FRI SAT), and a Monday city sprint in Calgary. Minneapolis will host 3 races (sprint + 2 distance). Cable will organize a sprint and a long distance competition together or independently (TBC) with the American Birkie 50 km F.

Swiss Ski has some ideas about new World Cup venues in Switzerland. Goms plans to invest 10 million CHF in the stadium, and Engadin is very eager to again organize the FIS Cross-Country World Cup.

FISI has expressed interest in hosting World Cup in (Cogne or Pragelato) on the weekend after Tour de Ski. There are already a lot of events in Italy. The interest of FISI is noted and will be discussed in the spring.

Germany has proposed to include once again Oberhof in the World Cup calendar in January.

The weekend in December is reserved for Sweden. Feedback on a long-term plan and priorities is expected from the Swedish Ski Association by the next meeting in the spring of 2022.

Trondheim will host the FIS Cross-Country World Cup in December 2023. Nordic Combined and Ski Jumping will go to Trondheim later during the season. Trondheim and Lillehammer will alternate hosting the FIS Cross-Country World Cup.

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

The proposal for the 2024/25 has a very good combination of event locations. A possibility to swap Lahti and Falun weekends should be checked. This would be the only way how to have a Nordic weekend in Lahti.

Feedback from Sweden is missing regarding the host of the last World Cup before the WSC in Trondheim.

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

The Sub-Committee discussed and approved that the first weekend after the OWG 2026 should be a sprint weekend.

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

Basic frame was presented, again Sweden should provide feedback about their priorities in terms of venues.

### **9. JWSC and U23 WSC update**

In September, the Polish Ski Association informed FIS that only SJ and NC events can take place in Zakopane. Cross-Country competitions cannot be hosted in Zakopane because of reconstruction of the speed skating stadium, which is next to the Cross-Country stadium.

Since then, FIS has been looking for alternative solutions with different NSAs. FISI has sent an official application for Toblach. The Norwegian Ski Association has been working on an application for Lygna.

Taking over organization of the JWSC so close before the season has a lot of challenges. In order to support the LOC, the proposal to increase the maximum price for accommodation from 100 CHF to 125 CHF was supported. The proposal will be submitted to the FIS Council for approval.

Also in the long-term, the increased maximum price for accommodation could help to increase the quality of the event. Michel Vion, FIS Secretary General pointed out that coordination of FIS disciplines should be taken in consideration. There are different maximum prices for accommodation for other disciplines.

The Sub-Committee supported the proposal to the FIS Council to increase the maximum price for accommodation also in the future.

**10. OWG update**

FIS staff will go to Beijing for a site inspection from 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021. On 6<sup>th</sup> October, a presentation of the LOC Beijing will be shown at 16:00 CET.

**11. Other items arising**

The Ukrainian Ski Association sent an application to withdraw from the Eastern Europe Cup and move to the Slavic Cup. Slavic Cup nations confirmed at the Sub-Committee meeting their readiness to welcome Ukraine into the Slavic Cup already in the upcoming season 2021/22. The proposal was approved by the Sub-Committee and will be sent to the FIS Council for approval.

**12. Next meeting**

FIS Congress Vilamoura (POR) 22. – 28.05.2022

**13. Closing of the meeting**