

To the
- Members of the Sub-Committee for
World and Continental Cups Cross-Country

For information to:
- Cross-Country Executive Board
- Sub-Committee for Women's Nordic
- National Ski Associations
- Johan Eliasch
- Michel Vion
- Philippe Gueisbuhler
- Sandra Spitz
- COC Coordinators

Oberhofen, 24.05.2022

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

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**Minutes Sub-Committee Meeting for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country
Tuesday, 17.05.2022, 16:00 – 20:00 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, 17.05.2022.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Nordic Office in Oberhofen until **15th June 2022**.

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 autumn.

Kind regards,



Pierre Mignerey
Race Director Cross-Country

Enclosure: ment.

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

Invitation Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country
Tuesday, 17.05.2022, 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 2022-2023
8. COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar 2022-2023
9. Draft long term World Cup calendars
10. JWSC and U23 WSC update
11. WSC 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 18.05.2022 and to the approval of the FIS Council, 26.05.2022

1. Opening of the Meeting

Chris Grover welcomed the members of the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups and opened the meeting on Tuesday, 17.05.2022 at 16:00 hrs CET.

2. Members Present

Chris Grover, USA, Chair

Espen Bjervig, NOR

Anders Byström, SWE

Yeui Gyu IM, KOR

Joel Jacques, CAN

Hippolyt Kempf, SUI

Zofia Kielpinska, POL

Hannu Koivusalo, FIN

Özkan Koyuncu, TUR

Sergey Kryanin, RUS

Petr Mach, CZE

Michal Malak, SVK

Albert Manhart, LIE

Finn Marsland, AUS

Olivier Michaud, FRA

Julio Moreschi, ARG

Andrey Nesterenko, UKR

Andrey Nevzorov, KAZ

Nezu Shuhei, JPN

Gabriella Paruzzi, ITA

Robert Peets, EST

Milanko Petrovic, SRB

Uros Ponikvar, SLO

Puntel Franco, SPA

Andreas Schlütter, GER

Jon Vidar Thorvaldsson, ISL

Timoleon Tsourekas, GRE

Thomas Unterfrauner, AUT

Jostein Vinjerui, GBR

Zografov Peter, BUL

Excuses / Replaced by:

Present

Present

Not present

substituted by Chris Jeffries

Present

Present

Present

Present

Not present

Present

Not present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Not present

Present

Not present

Present

Not present

Not present

Present

Present

Present

Vegard Ulvang, NOR

Pierre Mignerey, FIS

Michal Lamplot, FIS (Minutes)

Doris Kallen, FIS

Chairman Cross-Country Committee

Virginia de Martin, Athletes representative

OK

Martti Jylhä, Athletes representative

OK

Meier Norbert, CAN – representative of World Cup LOCs

Guests

A number of guests from different National Ski Associations, Organizing Committees, SRS, FIS Marketing AG, Infront, EBU were present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was sent out on 4th April 2022. 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, 30.09.2021

No remarks have been registered at the FIS Office.

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

5. Updated FIS Cross-Country Staff structure

Pierre Mignerey informed the S.C. about the updated FIS Cross-Country Staff structure.

Pierre Mignerey – Race Director, responsible for overall coordination, calendars and starting times, sport development, OWG and WSC main contact

Doris Kallen – World Cup Coordinator, responsible for World Cup coordination, liaison with LOCs, TV matters, official communications, marketing and sponsoring activation.

Michal Lamplot – World Cup Race Director, responsible for sport matters, permanent Jury member, courses and homologation, equipment control and TD matters.

TBC – Media Coordinator – media services, content creator, social media, marketing support

Josephine Aschhoff, Madeline Nappey – FIS Nordic Office – Administration, onsite support.

6. Report of the last FIS Council Meetings

Michal Lamplot informed the members of the S.C. about the current situation of the fluor ban. FIS, IBU and the manufacturer Bruker have been developing the fluor testing instrument as well as the QUANT model. During that time, several field validation tests have been, and will be, conducted. The development process has not been concluded and will continue during the upcoming months. Further development and field validation will be conducted during the upcoming months to further develop the system. During the summer/fall **all** NSAs and SRS companies will have the chance to test material at dedicated occasions.

Testing can be done both inside in a cabin and outdoors in a tent. At competitions, the testing will take place close to the start, in the pre-start area, and/or in the finish area. The detailed description of the testing procedure for each FIS discipline will be communicated to all stakeholders in due time.

The pre-race flow will be impacted by the testing procedure. Cross-Country Committee will have to decide:

- When competition skis will be required in the in a closed area before the start.
- Ski marking.
- Whether waxing between the rounds at sprint races will be allowed.

7. Team and SRS feedback

No online survey was conducted after last season. An open meeting with teams (staff, coaches, etc.) and SRS was organized to debrief the season.

Conclusions

- Accommodation
It is important to have good communication between teams, the LOCs and the LOCs with the various hotels. Some teams had problems with late changes, which were not communicated to hotels.
Sometimes the accommodation, which was for the maximum FIS price did not match with the quality of the hotel.
Some hotels did not follow World Cup rules (full board, meals in the hotel)
FIS Cross-Country staff will follow up these issues directly with respective LOCs.
- Team facilities
Changing in waxing rooms should be avoided. The best solution is if teams can get dedicated changing cabins, alternatively if the changing room/tent is big enough.
Team areas should be covered with WiFi and LOCs should provide bins to separate waste. Enough toilets should be provided in the team areas.
- Course access
Sometimes the course access schedule was communicated too late. It is desirable to have even more restrictions in difficult snow conditions.
- FIS passport and Covid
Feedback from last season is that some LOCs did not use the FIS passport. Situation like this should not happen. Covid testing during the past 2 seasons was extremely expensive for teams.
It is not yet clear what C19 requirements will be next winter. More information will be provided at the next FIS meeting.

8. Athlete feedback

Virginia De Martin and Martti Jylhae presented the results of the annual athlete survey. 114 responses were collected, 44 women and 70 men from 25 different NSAs took part in the survey. On average the participants had 6 years of World Cup experience.

For details of the survey please see the presentation which was sent before the meeting.

9. LOC Survey

Norbert Meier informed the S.C. about the results of the LOC survey. 10 LOCs (out of which 3 were TDS) from Scandinavia & Central Europe took part in the survey.

Generally, organizers claimed that their financial goals were not met.

- Increased costs due to pandemic were not always covered by FIS additional funding.
- A lack of spectators reduced revenues for the LOCs.
- LOCs could not provide sponsor benefits due to pandemic restrictions.

Spectators

Despite a better situation than in the previous season, spectators were not allowed at two venues. Some organizers also did not meet their spectator attendance targets; most had lower targets than pre-pandemic.

Sponsorships

- Continues to be a trouble area for LOCs.
- Main LOC sponsor prospects are in regional partners and relates to # of spectators (see above), or equipment suppliers.

- Challenged to attract new sponsors & retain current at same \$ level.

Athlete/Nation Participation

Late season World Cups were effected by Russia/Ukraine situation.

Organizational Challenges

- Pandemic restrictions continued to pose numerous challenges.
- LOC staffing/volunteer changes due to pandemic.
- Swiss Timing problems (new staff?).

TV broadcast

- Some very positive comments about host broadcasters.
- Suggestion to explore standardized TV production with one producer (like STS) to create a more uniform TV product.

Cost Savings

- LOCs continue to operate on very tight budgets.
- Financial risk management top priority.
- Need to look for greater efficiencies in all FIS hosting rules.
- With further increase in Prize Money in 2022/23, LOCs need more revenue.
- Utility costs expected to increase; wax truck plug-in costs.
- Costs of hosting FISMAG and Swiss timing staff (20 pax) is excessive.

Corona Virus Pandemic

- Costs : average 60,000CHF / Range : 8,000EUR – 120,000EUR
- FIS pandemic allowance (20% of prize money) was not enough to offset cost increases due to pandemic in most cases.
- 1 LOC unhappy with their NSA re sharing of FIS pandemic cost reduction allowance.
- General concern about lack of transparency of financial transfers.
- Pandemic measures expected to continue in 2022/23.

Summary

- Another very challenging season.
- Financial challenges widespread.

10. Proposals from the Working Groups, Sub-Committees and National Ski Associations

Following proposal were sent by NSAs:

USA	Bibs for female staff
FRA	Team Sprint qualifications
CAN	Formats U23
FIN – FRA – CAN	Calendar applications
FIS Staff (team feedback)	Event preparation group
	Seeded Group / Starting order
	Deadline for registration system
	New staff bibs system
	Mixed Relay
	Mixed teams (different nations)
	Start quota
	Prize money
Working group for WC Points	New WC point table
Working group for WC calendar	2022-2023 FIS WC Calendar

11. World Cup rules 2022-2023

Event preparation group

The S.C. approved creation of one group, which will deal with all situations (C19, snow, etc.). Members of the group will be:

- FIS, hosting NSA, LOC, athletes represented
- Other stakeholders involved if necessary or consulted by the FIS Staff
- Report to FIS top management for final approval

Seeded Group

To standardize the number of seeded athletes for all formats, the Seeded Group will be defined as the 15 best athletes registered to compete: the overall World Cup leader and the rest according to the current Distance or Sprint World Cup Standing.

Starting order in stage events

After the vote (10 against, 9 in favor, 1 abstain) the S.C. rejected the proposal, which stated that Overall Tour de Ski standing should be used for all athletes when assigning their start bibs – not to use Distance or Sprint FIS points.

Registration & Entries

Deadline of the preliminary entry has been moved to 8 weeks before the respective first competition. This change of the deadline will give the possibility to include the booking for waxing cabins in the preliminary entries (8 weeks before each event instead of 15th September for the entire season).

The 8 week deadline approved.

Staff bibs

The season debrief with teams from the last seasons revealed that:

- The current bib system is too complicated
- There are frequently suspicions that nations are incorrectly using bibs from partner nations.
- Cooperation between nations really helps some smaller teams.

The staff bibs system should be:

- Simple = same system every weekend (team routine).
- No detailed Jury/LOC control required (like checking which nation is racing or not).
- Avoid unnecessary stress of the system.

US Ski & Snowboard proposed to introduce up to two (2) additional Course bibs specifically for women to encourage gender balance.

In order to improve the bib system and also to include the US proposal, a new system for course bibs was proposed:

- **3 types of bibs:** Course (2 colors), Start/Finish, and Staff.
- Number of bibs depends on Nation ranking from previous year (see table below).
- **Teams will not be allowed to use bibs from another nation.**
- Implement a system of additional bibs to encourage gender balance and collaboration between nations.

Rank nation cup 21-22	Course	Start / Finish	Staff
1 – 20	4	3 + 1 Press Att.	Up to staff quota
Other NSAs ranked	2	1 to 2	
Not ranked	Decided by RD	1	
National Group		2	8

Additional Course bibs for women staff

- A maximum of two (2) additional Course bibs are made available to each nation that are reserved only for women.
- The bibs are intended to encourage nations to develop and utilize female coaches and technicians on the World Cup.

Additional bibs for cooperation between nations

- A maximum of two (2) additional Course bibs are made available to the nations signing a cooperation agreement (max 2 bibs per cooperation agreement).
- These bibs can be used during the entire World Cup season (whether athletes from that nation are present at the start or not).
- The bibs are intended to encourage nations to cooperate or bigger nations to support smaller nations on the World Cup.

A team can have up to **8 total course bibs every weekend** if they have **2 women in the testing staff** and a **valuable collaboration** with a smaller nation.

Mixed relay

The S.C. approved the concept that each NSA may have 2 teams in the mixed relay. After the vote (majority of 8 votes out of 20) the S.C. approved the racing order for the mixed relays will alternate between Woman / Man / Woman / Man and Man / Woman / Man / Woman.

Mixed nations

After the vote (13 in favor, 7 against, 1 abstain) the S.C. approved that it will be allowed to have mixed teams (different nations) for those National Ski Associations which do not have enough athletes to form their own team. No more than 2 NSAs can form 1 team.

Quota exception for weekends with team competitions

To encourage smaller nations to attend World Cup stages with team events, the S.C. approved the concept that each nation has the right to enter 4 athletes in all individual competitions if there will be a Relay or a Team Sprint during the same World Cup stage (even if their basic quota is lower than 4). This will not apply for the organizing nation (due to the national group quota).

Prize money

The 3rd and final step of the World Cup prize money increase will be effective for the upcoming season. The new prize money distribution will be:

8.1.6 Individual events

CHF ~~45'500~~ 50'000 per event, divided between positions 1–20:

1. CHF	15'000. (12'500)	11. CHF	900.—
2. CHF	10'000. (8'500)	12. CHF	800.—
3. CHF	5'000.—	13. CHF	700.—
4. CHF	4'300. (4'200)	14. CHF	600.—
5. CHF	3'300. (3'200)	15. CHF	500.—
6. CHF	2'300. (2'200)	16. CHF	400.—
7. CHF	1'700. (1'600)	17. CHF	350.—
8. CHF	1'300. (1'200)	18. CHF	300.—
9. CHF	1'100.—	19. CHF	250.—
10. CHF	1'000.—	20. CHF	200.—

For team events the updated prize money distribution will be:

8.1.7 Relay and Team Sprint events

CHF ~~35'500~~ 40'000 per event, divided between teams 1 – 6:

1.CHF	15'000. (14'000)	4.CHF	4'000. (3'500)
2.CHF	10'000. (9'000)	5.CHF	3'000. (2'500)
3.CHF	6'000. (5'000)	6.CHF	2'000. (1'500)

Team Sprint qualification

The French Ski Association proposed to use the individual qualification system tested in Falun in March of 2022 for the upcoming 2022-2023 season. The S.C. strongly supported the proposal and sent the proposal to a Working Group which will deal with the whole concept of the team sprint. The WG will meet in June.

World Cup points

The Cross-Country Executive board created Working Group to review the World Cup points system in order to:

- Increase and keep the fight for the Overall WC standings until the end of the season.
- Encourage the athletes/nations to start at more WC events.
- Increase the value of regular attendance.
- Increase the number of athletes/nations ranked in the final Overall rankings

Proposal

- To keep 100 points for the victory (known by our viewers, same for all FIS disciplines).
- To give points to more athletes => top 50 instead of top 30.
- To significantly reduce the World Cup result point gap between the top 4 athletes.

The working group recommended to keep the bonus points for Mass Starts races and to remove the individual WC points scored at Team Events (not a fair system for individuals). For the exact World Cup point distribution list please see the presentation.

The S.C. approved the proposal.

12. COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar 2022-2023

Pierre Mignerey presented draft of the FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar as it was discussed at the Working Group for World Cup calendars.

There were several open issues:

Venues

The S.C. had to decide between Beitostølen and Östersund as the host of stage 3 of the World Cup. In order to reduce the footprint and not to increase costs for teams, the S.C. decided to assign the World Cup to Beitostølen, NOR which is closer to Lillehammer.

Tallinn, EST was approved by the S.C. as the host of the city sprint. The Norwegian Ski Association suggested there should be limitation on staff, equipment and trucks for this World Cup stage. This topic was assigned to the WG, which is dealing with these questions.

Distances

After a vote, the S.C. decided that Skiathlon in Lillehammer will be 20 km (10 km C + 10

km F) and interval start race in Davos will be 20 km. The S.C. requested that Davos investigate the course length to see if it is possible to use a longer loop than 5 km in order to keep the competition fair for all competitors.

Techniques

The S.C. decided to change Lahti Sprint to C and Tallinn Sprint to F.

13. Draft long term World Cup calendars

Pierre Mignerey presented the draft of the World Cup calendar for the season 2023/24. Detailed discussion will take place at the next S.C. meeting in the autumn.

14. JWSC and U23 WSC Update

Michal Lamplot reported about the JWSC & U23 WSC (presentation attached). The competition program for the JWSC & the U23 WSC Whistler-Squamish is not yet ready, because of the expected decision of the Cross-Country Committee concerning equal distances for women and men.

The JWSC & U23 WSC 2023 will take place from 27th January to 5th February 2023.

NSAs are kindly asked to provide the FIS staff with preliminary information about planned number of athletes and staff.

The S.C. for World Cup & Continental Cup also sent the Cross-Country Committee the decision about competition formats and distances at the JWSC & U23 WSC.

15. WSC update

Uros Ponikvar informed the S.C. about the latest news from the WSC Planica 2023. There will be limitations of the wax trucks, number of small vehicles. The teams will be using shuttle service provided by the LOC.

Women's and Men's mass start competitions will start in Tarvisio, ITA. After 15 km they will come to Planica. The rest of the competitions will take place on the courses in Planica.

16. Other items arising

The S.C. started the discussion about other very important items. Mainly about the gender equality – if women and men should compete in the same distances.

The Cross-Country Committee will decide about this matter. If approved, equal distances will be tested during the upcoming winter season. The final confirmation of competition distances will be done at the FIS meeting in spring 2023. In the meantime, FIS Cross-Country staff will discuss the proposed changes with all stakeholders.

The Executive board created and gave a mandate to several working groups.

WG for the Future of Team Sprint format

The WG should meet ASAP to discuss how to improve the team sprint format. The S.C. gave the starting point to the WG – individual start for the team sprint qualification. The WG is expected to present a proposal in the FIS Autumn meetings.

Limitation of skis and staff

The goal of the WG is to work on reduction of the costs for LOCs and NSAs. The proposal should be ready for the Autumn meetings. The WG should also work on the concept of limitation for the World Cup in Tallinn, EST.

Review WC point system and value of overall standings

The WG should work on the ways how to increase the value of overall standings, the Nation's Cup and the Team Cup standings. The proposal is expected for the FIS Autumn meetings.

POL application to OPA Cup

The S.C. was informed about the application of Polish Ski Association to join the OPA Continental Cup (and to leave Slavic Cup). The S.C. understands the intention (to compete in a high-quality competition series). However, if Poland leaves the Slavic Cup there will be only Slovakia, Hungary, and Ukraine remaining in the Slavic Cup. Currently the OPA is one of the biggest continental cups in Cross-Country skiing and operates as a kind of "B" World Cup. The S.C. gave the task to the FIS Cross-Country staff to look at the COC structure from a bigger perspective. A situation report and potentially some suggestions are expected at the FIS Autumn meeting.

17. Next Meetings

The next meetings will take place during the following FIS events:

- FIS Autumn Meetings Zurich (SUI), 26.09. – 30.09.2022

18. Closing of the Meeting

Chris Grover thanked the members for the very constructive work and closed the meeting at 20:30 hrs.