

To the

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

For information to:

- Cross-Country Committee
- FIS Management
- COC Coordinators

Oberhofen, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Minutes Cross-Country Committee  
Friday, 30.09.2022, 08:00 – 12:00 hrs**

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 in Zurich, 30.09.2022.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Nordic Office in Oberhofen until **30<sup>th</sup> October 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](http://www.fis-ski.com).

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution. We wish you a nice autumn.

Kind regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION



Michal Lamplot  
Race Director Cross-Country

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

**Minutes Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups Cross-Country  
Friday 30.09.2022, 08:00 – 12:00 hrs**

**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 30.09.2022 and to the approval of the FIS Council, 22.10.2022**

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

Chris Grover welcomed the members of the Sub-Committee for World and Continental Cups and opened the meeting on Friday, 30.09.2022 at 08:00 hrs CET.

**2. Members Present**

Chris Grover, USA, Chair

Ulf Morten Aune NOR

Anders Byström, SWE

Marko Gracer, SLO

Yeui Gyu IM, KOR

Chris Jeffries, CAN

Guri Knotten, SUI

Stepan Kaliba, CZE

Zofia Kielpinska, POL

Hannu Koivusalo, FIN

Özkan Koyuncu, TUR

Sergey Kryanin, RUS

Albert Manhart, LIE

Georgio Marchesini, IRL

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

Ferran Pubil, SPA

Andreas Schlütter, GER

Jon Vidar Thorvaldsson, ISL

Timoleon Tsourekas, GRE

Ondrej Tuka, SVK

Thomas Unterfrauner, AUT

Jostein Vinjerui, GBR

Zografov Peter, BUL

Uros Ponikvar, SLO

Pierre Mignerey, FIS

Michal Lamplot, FIS (Minutes)

Doris Kallen, FIS

Synne Dyrhaug, FUS

Virginia de Martin, Athletes representative

Martti Jylhä, Athletes representative

Meier Norbert, CAN – representative of World Cup LOCs

**Excuses / Replaced by:**

Present

Not present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Present

Excused

Present

Present

Not present

Present

Excused, Substituted by Noriko Ozawa

Present

Present

Not present

Not present

Present

Not present

Not present

Present

Replaced by Michael Bonfert

Present

Present

Chairman Cross-Country Committee

Present

Present

Present

### **Guests**

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

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

The agenda was sent out on 22 August, 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, 17.05.2022**

No remarks have been registered at the FIS Office.

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

### **5. Report of the last FIS Council Meetings**

Pierre Mignerey informed the S.C. members about the long-term goal to integrate Para-Nordic in all areas of Cross-Country Skiing. Integration will include ICR, TD education, homologation etc. The goal is to have Para-Nordic fully integrated until after 2026.

Key persons in the FIS Para Nordic team are Elke Gundermann, FIS Para Nordic Coordinator and Georg Zipfel, FIS Para Nordic Race Director.

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

Following proposal were sent by NSAs:

EST	Regulation of skiing equipment, testing and common waxing at the FIS Cross-Country World Cup in Tallinn, EST.
GER	Proposal to use shorter loop than 5.0 km (3.3 km) for interval start competitions
Working Group for Team Sprint	Report from the working group meeting with proposals for changes of the team sprint format.
Prize Money	Proposals for the split of the Overall World Cup Prize Money
Cooperation between nations	Several NSAs sent application for waxing cooperation between nations

### **7. World Cup rules 2022-2023**

A few adjustments of World Cup rules were presented (changes in red).

#### **2.4 Athletes Start Quotas for Team Competitions**

Each nation has right to enter 2 teams.

Mixed teams (different nations) are possible only for those National Ski Associations, which do not have enough athletes to form their own team.

If a NSA already has their own team in a team event (relay, mixed relay), it is not allowed to create an additional mixed-nation team with another NSA.

No more than two (2) NSAs (nations) can form a single team.

### 2.7.3.2 Additional course bibs for cooperation's 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 **regardless of the number of cooperating nations**).

These bibs can be used by the **respective cooperating nations** during the entire World Cup season (whether athletes from that nation are present at start or not).

The S.C. approved following cooperation between nations and confirmed extra bibs as follows:

COOPERATING NATIONS	NUMBER OF EXTRA BIBS
NOR/GBR/LAT	2
CZK/SVK/POL	2
AUT/HUN	2
SUI/LIE	1
ITA/THA	1
FIN/EST	2
FRA/AND/ESP	2
SWE/IRL	2
USA/AUS	2
*KOR/JPN	1-2 TBC

### Prize money increase

In July this year the FIS Council approved a general 10% prize money increase for all World Cup events, men and women, beginning in the 2022-23 season. Of the new 110% prize money, FIS will contribute 20% of the total sum. New total prize money in Cross-Country will be:

- Individual events CHF55'000 (instead of CHF50'000)
- Team events CHF44'000 (instead of CHF40'000).

The proposal is to keep the prize money split for individual and team events as they are (after the last step of the increase - Individual events CHF 50'000 and team events CHF 40'000) and collect the extra money (CHF 5'000 and CHF 4'000 per event) from all World Cup events except Tour de Ski and put them in the overall pot for the Overall World Cup prize money.

The extra prize money from all Tour de Ski stages to be put in the Overall Tour de Ski prize money. The proposal will:

- Increase the Overall World Cup prize money
- Increase the number of athletes who will get the overall prize money
- Increase the value of the Overall World Cup and encourage athletes' participation

Two proposals were presented (split for top 20 or for the top 10 in the Overall World Cup standing). The majority of the S.C. members voted for the top 20 split.

Place	Overall Prize Money (CHF)
1 <sup>st</sup>	50 000,00 CHF
2 <sup>nd</sup>	40 000,00 CHF

3 <sup>rd</sup>	30 000,00 CHF
4 <sup>th</sup>	20 000,00 CHF
5 <sup>th</sup>	15 000,00 CHF
6 <sup>th</sup>	10 000,00 CHF
7 <sup>th</sup>	8 000,00 CHF
8 <sup>th</sup>	6 500,00 CHF
9 <sup>th</sup>	5 000,00 CHF
10 <sup>th</sup>	4 500,00 CHF
11 <sup>th</sup>	4 000,00 CHF
12 <sup>th</sup>	3 500,00 CHF
13 <sup>th</sup>	3 000,00 CHF
14 <sup>th</sup>	2 500,00 CHF
15 <sup>th</sup>	2 250,00 CHF
16 <sup>th</sup>	2 000,00 CHF
17 <sup>th</sup>	1 750,00 CHF
18 <sup>th</sup>	1 500,00 CHF
19 <sup>th</sup>	1 250,00 CHF
20 <sup>th</sup>	1 000,00 CHF
<b>TOTAL applied</b>	<b>211 750,00 CHF</b>

### **Future of Team Sprint**

The S.C. members received a summary of the working group for the future of team sprint. The working group proposed to modify the team sprint in the following way:

#### Proposal 1: individual qualification

Qualification will be organized as interval start. Each athlete will ski the competition course. First all 1<sup>st</sup> leg skiers will compete, then all 2<sup>nd</sup> leg skiers will compete. Their times will be added up and a final ranking of the qualification will be created.

The exact format of the qualification (start intervals, starting order) will be finalized together with TV experts.

### **The S.C. unanimously approved the proposal**

#### Proposal 2: 2 athletes / 3 laps per athlete in the Finals

The W.G. proposed to keep the current format of team sprint in the Final. There will be 2 athletes per team, and each athlete will ski between 3 and 6 laps.

### **The S.C. unanimously approved the proposal**

#### Proposal 3: 15 best teams qualified for the final

The WG proposed to increase the number of teams in the final from 10 to 15. More nations will be represented and create more interest worldwide.

### **The S.C. unanimously approved the proposal**

#### Proposal 4: elimination system

The WG proposed to introduce elimination element in the team sprint. Proposal is to eliminate the 2 last teams during lap 3 and lap 4. The elimination point should be placed in the middle of the lap and not at the exchange to guarantee the possibility for the jury

to stop the eliminated teams before the exchange. The goal is to push teams to ski fast from the beginning of the race.

**The S.C. voted against the proposal, with 11 votes against and 9 votes for the proposal.**

Proposal 5: to keep exchange with contact

**The S.C. unanimously approved the proposal**

### **Mixed Team Sprint**

Mixed Team Sprint is a very attractive format for athletes, but the competition duration is not long enough to create a good value for TV broadcasters. The S.C. approved that on the World Cup level the mixed gender event will be the mixed 4 x 5 km relay, while the team sprint will be organized as a gender specific event (team sprint women + team sprint men).

## **8. COOP FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar 2022-2023**

Several items related to the upcoming FIS Cross-Country World Cup were discussed.

Norbert Meier pointed out that a lot of LOCs have been dealing with impact of increasing costs (energy, containers, temporary infrastructure, etc). Rising costs could make it very challenging to produce snow and inflation pressures are impacting LOCs financial health.

These challenges will be very different from site to site depending on the local situation. Flexibility and common understanding from all stakeholders will be necessary to solve each individual situation and minimize the impact on LOCs and teams.

If necessary, World Cup rules adjustments can be proposed by the FIS Cross-Country Management (FIS Staff + Chair of World Cup S.C. + Chair of the Cross-Country Committee) to the FIS Top management.

### **Shorter lap for interval start competitions**

Due to very high energy costs, GER proposed to make an exception from ICR 311.2.9 and to allow shorter laps to be used in interval start competitions.

The S.C. approved this proposal as an exception valid for all World Cup organizers of the 2022/23 season.

To guarantee good quality TV production, recommendations will be sent to organizers, how to arrange intermediate timing positions.

### **World Cup organizers**

#### Milano

There is pending information about the status of the World Cup in Milano. FISI presidential elections take place on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Status update and confirmation of FIS Cross-Country World Cup is expected ASAP after the election of the new FISI president, the election will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> October, a feedback is expected by the end of October.

#### Tallinn

Estonian Ski Association proposed reduction of skis, equipment, testing and common waxing at the FIS Cross-Country World Cup in Tallinn. A special working group was created, which will create a more detailed proposal. This proposal will be sent to the members of the Sub-Committee and will be discussed at an online meeting at the end of October or early November.

### Falun

LOC Falun has proposed through the Swedish Ski Association to swap the competition days of mixed relay (from Sunday to Friday) and interval start (from Friday to Sunday). The swap would be good for spectators on site. However, it will be very difficult to find good TV slots for 2 interval starts on Sunday. Also, the participation of athletes and teams might be lower if the mixed relay takes place on Friday. The Sub-Committee voted and rejected the proposal, thus the competition program in Falun remains unchanged.

### Lahti

As a follow-up of the mixed team sprint discussion, the S.C. approved to change the mixed team sprint to single-gender team sprints in Lahti.

## **9. Draft long term World Cup calendars**

The S.C. discussed the FIS Cross-Country World Cup calendar 2023/24. There are several open points, which need to be followed up.

### Nordic Opening

The FIS Cross-Country World Cup as part of the Nordic Opening in Ruka should start one week later, on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. The weekend before is aimed to be kept free for a possible NC and SJ event in Russia. Cross-Country does not plan to participate in World Cup in Russia in the season 2023/24.

The Finnish Ski Association informed the S.C. that these dates are problematic because the venue will be full of guests coming to celebrate the Finnish Independence Day. There is also a possible clash with Freestyle World Cup. Coordination between FIS disciplines is necessary.

### FIS Tour de Ski

Swiss Ski sent an application asking that Davos is part of the Tour de Ski 2023/24. It will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Davos Nordic. The LOC proposed a special point to point competition.

Val di Fiemme also should be on the Tour de Ski calendar with final stages of the Tour.

The proposed dates represent an issue for DSV and Oberstdorf due to the 4 Hills tournament and an extra competition of ski jumping women. DSV and LOC Oberstdorf will follow up this discussion and will come back to the FIS Cross-Country staff before the end of October. The other option is to start the Tour de Ski earlier. A longer Tour de Ski could be appealing for athletes, since the 2023/24 season will not see any major title event.

### FIS Games

A major factor which will influence the FIS Cross-Country calendar 2023/24 is a potential FIS Games. The FIS Games is a title event concept in the season without a WSC or OWG. It will be organized every 4 years. Details of the concept (number of races, etc.) is yet to be defined, however, the FIS Council requested disciplines to prepare 2 versions of their World Cup calendars: one with and one without the FIS Games. Disciplines should book two weekends for the FIS Games – 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The FIS Council will decide on hosting the FIS Games in 2024 at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### World Cups in Canada and USA

Hosting of the FIS Games in 2024 would impact possible World Cup events in North America, which have been scheduled in February 2024. Several options of dates for



Canada and USA have been discussed. Both associations would prefer hosting in February, but options to have the last World Cups of the season has not been rejected.

Cable, USA is expected to confirm the feasibility of hosting the World Cup by October 13, 2022.

The S.C. gave mandate to the working group for the World Cup calendar to discuss all options and prepare a proposal for the FIS Council. In any case, the final version of the FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2023/24 will be discussed at the next FIS spring meeting in 2023.

#### **10. JWSC and U23 WSC Update**

Michal Lamplot reported about the JWSC & U23 WSC (presentation attached). The S.C. voted about the order of the mixed relay. There were 2 options:

- M/W/M/W
- W/M/W/M

The S.C. approved that mixed relay at JWSC, U23 WSC and YOG will be in the order of W/M/W/M

#### **11. Continental Cups**

##### Eastern Europe Cup

In case RUS and BLR athletes are banned from taking part in FIS competitions outside of their home country, KAZ should still be allowed to organize competitions of the Eastern Europe Cup (member nations are KAZ, BLR, RUS) and gain the COC World Cup quota. The S.C. approved this proposal.

##### South American Cup

The South American Cup successfully organised its first season. Evaluation will be done together with the SAC coordinator. A report will be presented at the next S.C. meeting and a proposal as to when the SAC should get a World Cup quota will be discussed.

##### OPA and Slavic Cup

In the spring POL sent a membership application to OPA. The OPA Presidential conference has not decided yet on the application. For the upcoming season POL remains in the Slavic Cup. Should POL be accepted in OPA by the OPA Presidential conference, the S.C. still must evaluate the consequences of this application for the Slavic Cup. The S.C. will have to approve or reject the application. The case will be followed-up in the spring 2023.

#### **12. Other items arising**

##### LOC voting right

Norbert Meier presented the proposal that a LOC representative should have a voting right at the S.C. for World Cup and Continental Cup. A good discussion took place about the role, involvement, and contribution of LOCs in the work of the S.C.

The summary of the discussion is that the contribution and inputs from LOCs are very valuable for the S.C. Opinions of LOCs are always considered. On the other hand, FIS is organized by the principle of NSAs. NSA represent different interests (athletes, coaches, LOCs, etc.). Therefore, giving LOCs a vote at the S.C. would go against the organization principles of FIS and its Committees and Sub-Committees.

**The S.C. voted with 10 votes against the proposal of LOC voting rights and 5 in favor. The proposal was rejected.**

#### Fluor update

Michal Lamplot presented an update of the fluor ban. The full presentation can be found attached. Next steps for the upcoming season were presented. The main goals for the winter 2022/23 will be:

- Collect and analyze more data
- Educate all service teams
- Change the atmosphere and build trust

There will be several field validation tests next winter, which will be accessible to all teams. Exact dates and locations are TBC. The preliminary plan is:

- Lillehammer
- Davos
- Toblach
- Oslo
- Falun

In addition, a competition procedure test will be carried out in:

- Oslo
- Falun

The working group for fluor ban implementation will meet online to discuss next steps.

#### **13. Next Meetings**

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

- FIS Spring Meetings Dubrovnik (CRO), 03. – 05.05.2023

#### **14. Closing of the Meeting**

Chris Grover thanked the members for the very constructive work and closed the meeting 11:45 hrs.