

To the
- Members of the Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses
- Europa Cup Coordinators

For information to:
- Johan Eliasch, FIS President
- Michel Vion, FIS Secretary General
- Philippe Gueisbuhler, FIS Director
- Daniel Défago, IT Manager Assistant
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Oberhofen, 9th June 2022

**Minutes Online Meeting Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses
Wednesday, 11.05.2022, 18:00 – 20:00 hrs CET**

Dear Ski Friends,


We have pleasure sending you today the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses held online on 11th May 2022.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Office in Oberhofen until **15th July 2022** (aschhoff@fisski.com).

We would also like to take the opportunity of informing 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. For those in the southern hemisphere we wish you best of luck for the coming winter.

Kind regards,



Elena Gaja des Ambrois
Chair Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses

Enclosures: - Presence List
- List of assignments as of 7.6.22

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION
Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses

Minutes Online Meeting Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses
Wednesday, 11.05.2022, 18:00 – 20:00 hrs CET

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

Elena Gaja (EG) welcomes all members, inspectors, Race Directors, EC Coordinators, FIS staff and guests and opens the 113th meeting of the S.C. Alpine Courses at 18:00h CET. It is sad to have this meeting again online as there are much more fruitful discussions when gathering in person. The last meeting in presence was in fall 2019 in Zurich.

2. Members present

The roll is called, list of excused members was received, see enclosed list of presence. EG informs about two retirements in the USA, Mr. Paul Mahre and Mr. Kurt Engel: she thanks both of them for the excellent cooperation in the past 8 years.

There are also 4 new candidates which will have to be confirmed by the Council: from NOR Atle Skaardal and from USA Jake Treadwell, Ron Bonneau and Carl Guenzel. It is also noted that Patrick Riml (AUT) moved to the U.S. and will from now on serve as inspector overseas.

3. Approval of the agenda

The Agenda was sent out by email on April 9th and everybody received it. EG would like to add to Miscellaneous a brainstorming and information about C nets, how they are used and considered around the world.

The Agenda is unanimously approved.

4. Approval of the minutes of the 112th meeting, 29.09.2021

Minutes were sent out on October 27th, 2021: no remarks were received so far, nor done during the meeting, therefore Minutes are unanimously approved.

5. Reports

5.1 Chair

Since September 2021, 441 Homologation Certificates have been issued, half of them (219) right before the winter by the end of November, and half (221) during the racing season. Nevertheless, in the FIS Database there are still 300 pending requests, where less than 30% have been received in 2022. This means that more than 70% of these requests have been made in the previous seasons, so all inspectors are kindly asked to carefully check their To-Do lists and tell the Chair the old missions to be deleted. In any case, during the next fall meeting, missions older than 2017 and not confirmed will be deleted by default.

EG informs also about some housekeeping rules:

- pay attention to the fact that Speed and Tech events need separate Inspection Reports, as per their different validity
- remind that the number of columns filled in the Inspection Report MUST be the same as the number of rows filled in the upload window in the system, because only this way all variants will be printed on the Certificate
- mandatory use of the most updated IR form, version 2.3 approved in Sep. '21 and published on the FIS website the following October
- according the latest FIS Statutes approved in Oct. '21 which state in art. 4.1:
*"The official language of FIS, including all of its constituents, is English.
All documents and communications by FIS will be in English".*
from now on every Inspection Report has to be filled in English ONLY.

- It would be good to have, in time for the spring meeting, the majority of the requests to deal with, in order to organize the planning of the next summer: so far around 70% of the NSA are missing so EG presumes that the number of 300 pending requests will raise up considerably in the following weeks.

5.2 FIS Race Directors

Jean-Philippe Vulliet, retiring RD Women WC Speed Events

this was his last season and this is his last SC Alpine Courses meeting. This past season was great, probably the best one in the past 9 years. The weather was good and there was a lower number of injuries compared with previous seasons. Nothing special needs to be mentioned on the safety side, unless always keeping in mind that the first safety measure is the snow preparation.

A special thanks goes to Elena who leads the SC very well!

No questions.

Peter Gerdol, CRD Women WC

on women World Cup tour it was a very intense season but we were able to hold all races. Beijing OWG was not easy because of the missing test events and only an internal test was performed prior the OWG. This is why it has been realized that the women GS course was too short and steep, therefore the Jury decided to use men's start. The homologation inspector of the course, Valentin Gichev, was also present on site and the decision to use the men's GS start also for women was taken together (and it worked very well.)

PG reports about a project which is a more complete version of the ISPP: it is called Athletes' Health Unit and the focus is an injury prevention and mental support of the athletes.

Another project, started last season, is particularly focused on the jumps' measurement and data collection with the aim to build safer jumps while gathering more information on them over the seasons; it was done in Zauchensee and in Crans-Montana, where thanks to the measurements, the jump was even corrected.

For the summer, inspections on site are planned again and will be confirmed as soon as the calendar will be approved. No questions.

Alberto Senigaliesi, new RD Women WC Speed Events from next season

he greets all members. He has joined all speed events in the past season to learn from Jean-Philippe and is looking forward to his new job at FIS.

Markus Waldner, CRD Men WC

during past season, there was much more cooperation with course setters in speed disciplines and also in general, and there was a huge focus on course preparation.

The new approach decided during the fall WG Coaches' meeting, about stop using the telemeter for course setting, gave a good result in terms of controlling the overly aggressive equipment set-up and reducing the injuries. About safety just few crashes, but without very severe consequences: in one case the overlapping of the slip skirt was too short, 1meter is the best, and in another one the clamps were not elastic and blown away, releasing the slip skirt consequently. A SG was held in Wengen as replacement, it gave a positive outcome and therefore for the upcoming season another SG is planned again, but starting above the Hundschopf so needing an exception to be confirmed by this Sub Committee. Few injuries, but below the average. Tool for jump measurement very helpful. Poles of Bnets occasionally broken after a fall, so used less thick poles in the Bnet's 1st row.

Hannes Trinkl, RD Men WC Speed Events

there were only two injuries this season and as on the women's side, they also measured the jumps and focused on the course preparation. The jump in Kitzbühl was adjusted after the measurement and will remain adjusted also in future. To prevent

injuries also the poles need to have an adjustment after a broken hand at OWG.

Elena has questions to Hannes and Markus:

1) Were there any problems about the safety planned by the Homologation due to the non-use of telemeters? The answer is no. The current way of measurements should be continued as it provides good information.

2) What will be the vertical drop for the Super-G in Wengen? Markus explains that it is planned to use the start of the Alpine Combined, so the vertical drop would be 50m more than the maximum for a Super-G. The final start position is not defined yet.

Julie Lemieux (CAN) asks about the slip skirt issue: who specified the overlap? Waldner explains that a margin for the overlap is needed, and by experience a 1m overlap is working fine. At the same time an overlap with rubbers (elastic clamps) is needed as otherwise the slip skirts do not hold.

Emmanuel Couder, RD Men WC, Tech Events:

we have some projects ongoing. One for the data of course preparation and another one for the course setting protocol. Last named was decided last minute, but it is a help for course setter and the control this season was really efficient.

The collection of the course preparation data was very helpful. One outcome was that water is important but needs to be used carefully. Now, that tourists are back on the slopes, not everything necessary for a race preparation can be done. With the help of the established database, they can exactly see what has happened and where. The data will be used for the preparation of next year's competition courses.

Elena asks which kind of data we are talking about: Emmanuel answers that it is mostly the preparation with the Chief of slope and a collection of actions of all events that happened (snow, rain, high temperature). The data will be stored so next time it can be discussed and learned.

No more questions to the Race Directors. Elena thanks all RDs for their reports and assures as usual the help and cooperation of the SC whenever needed.

5.3 Continental Cups Coordinators

Jordi Pujol, EC Women:

it was a really good season despite Covid and difficult weather. No injuries on Speed side. Unfortunately, we lost the speed finals due to the extremely warm weather.

On the tech side, it was worked with water as much as possible.

Only few injuries but nothing very serious. There are some new sites in the upcoming season which will be inspected during the summer.

No questions.

6. Exception's requests received and further implementation on the Homologation certificates

ICR art. 650.1.2 says: "*Exceptions may be granted by the Council.*", and ICR art. 801.2.4.1 specifies: "*Exception for cases where the number of direction changes cannot be fulfilled due to unusual terrain, the Homologation certificate will show that an exemption has been granted*".

During the last racing season three cases have been brought to the attention of the SC for Alpine Courses that, after careful evaluation, have agreed to forward them for the Council approval.

The matter concerns the great difficulty during the race setting to respect the min/max number of direction changes, due to the extremely steep (rarely) or flat (more often) portion of the competition courses: instead of getting into complicated and dangerous calculations, trying to find the correct percentage for these tracks, Elena proposes that the rules about gate distance are prevailing on the ones about direction changes given

by the percentage of vertical drop. It needs to be taken into account that once an exception is given, it is valid from date of approval until revoked. Elena thinks that this way we can be pretty sure that this rule will work even if the technique or the equipment rules will change somehow.

No further remarks, so Elena will forward the proposal to the Council.

7. Requests for homologation inspections: updated list

Elena shows the list of homologation requests to check and amend it where necessary. The latest version (as of 7.6.2022) is attached to these minutes.

8. Miscellaneous

EG wants to hear the global opinion on C-nets, how they are considered and used worldwide? Have there been any legal implications? The background of this question are several cases and court decisions in Italy not being in favour of the TD when it comes to the use of C-nets especially in Slalom races.

Julie Lemieux (CAN) comments that in both Eastern and Western Canada, C-nets in the finish area are very unusual, only B-nets are used. Julie is not aware of any legal implications but noticed that B-nets are used more often than before.

Paul van Slike (USA) comments that in the US smaller venues with flat slopes use C-nets. To him, this works only if the Finish area is big enough. He also agrees that B-nets are more common to use and adds that he is not aware of any legal issues.

Bernard Gayraud (GRE) says that Greece uses a lot of C-nets because they lack B-nets Michihiko Nakamura (JPN) explains that in Japan they started to use B-nets after the World Cup. He expresses his concerns about the position of the timing board in the finish area rather than for the use of B-nets. He always pays attention that the timing board is placed close to the Exit gate.

Toni Franz (SWE) adds that in Sweden C-nets are used only in few places. The use of polyfences with a small diameter is more common because it allows to print advertising on the fences. In the past poles of glassfiber have been used for these polyfences but now they start to use B-Net poles as these are of better quality. He comments that polyfences are only 1.2 m high but the big advantage is that LOCs can sell advertising space to sponsors and finance the fences.

Nobody experienced the use of C-nets in Speed events.

Last point: the approval of the SG in 2 Runs done by the Rules SC 2 hours ago.

She recalls that last October this Sub Committee was asked to give his opinion and some nations gave their feedbacks, none of them in favour of this proposal, so she was surprised when seeing many nations in favour of it but never expressed their opinion in our fall meeting. Some also changed their mind which was surprising in a such short timeframe (6 months). Anyway, the details will be discussed in fall.

9. Next meeting

Zurich (SUI), last week of September 2022.

10. Closing of the meeting

EG hopes to see everybody in person again in Zurich. She thanks everybody for their cooperation not just for today but also all the time during the season. Thanks to Daniel Defago for the technical assistance, and above all to her best right-hand Josephine for the essential cooperation all along the season.

Thanks to everybody for attendance and help.

Wishes for a sunny and restful summer season! Take care and stay healthy.