

To the:

- Members of the Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country

For information to:

- Cross-Country Executive Board
- National Ski Associations
- Johan Eliasch
- Michel Vion
- Philippe Gueisbuhler
- Sandra Spitz

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Oberhofen, 23.05.2022

**Minutes Meeting Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country
Online Meeting, 16.05.2022 17:00 – 20:00 hrs CET**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you the Minutes of the Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country today, held online, 16.05.2022

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

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. We wish you a successful winter season.

Kind regards,

SUB-COMMITTEE RULES AND CONTROL

Uros Ponikvar, Chair

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION
Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country**

**Invitation Meeting Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country
Monday, 16.05.2022, 17:00 – 20:00 hrs CET**

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of a secretary
3. Members present
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Approval of the minutes of the meeting S.C. for Rules & Control Cross-Country, Zoom platform, 29.09.2021
6. Report and information from the FIS Race Director
7. Proposals and issues from other Sub-Committees
8. ICR matters: Precisions/ Guidelines
 - 8.1 ICR Update Proposal
 - Proposals from RUS NSA
 - Appeals procedures (A. Rosa)
 - 8.2 Other ICR update proposals
9. FIS Calendar/FIS Points
 - 9.1 Report from P. Mach
10. Homologation matters
 - 10.1 Report from the Homologation working group
 - Homologation of specific courses
 - 10.2 Nomination of the Regional Homologation Inspectors
 - 10.3 Homologation Inspectors assignments
 - 10.4 Homologation Inspectors seminar
11. TD matters
 - 11.1 Report from the TD Matters' Working Group
 - 11.2 Feedback Nordic Office (J. Aschhoff / U. Ponikvar)
 - 11.3 Online TD Report – Update
 - 11.4 Online TD Education / Examinations (A. Rosa)
 - 11.5 TD Seminars 2022-2023
 - 11.6 TD/ TDA/ Jury Members nominations
 - World Cup Season 2022/23
 - JWSC 2023
 - WSC 2023
 - Universiade USA 2023 – confirmed
 - EYOF 2023
 - YOG 2024
 - JWSC 2024?
12. Next meeting
13. 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 on 26.05.2022

1. Opening of the meeting

Uros Ponikvar (SLO) opened the meeting on Monday May 16th, at 17:00 hrs CET and welcomed the members of the Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country, FIS Staff, invited guests and observers.

2. Appointment of a Secretary

Michal Lamplot (FIS)

3. Members Present

Members present	Remarks	Substitute
Ponikvar Uros (SLO)	Chair	
Apedaile Len (CAN)	Not present	
Borca Daniel (ROU)	Not present	
Durco Peter (SVK)	Present	
Eppinger Karl-Heinz (GER)	Present	
Flury Christian (SUI)	Present	
Jelisijevic Radojko (SRB)	Present	
Dr Kielpinska Zofia Stefania (POL)	Present	
Konya Balint (HUN)	Present	
Koyuncu Özkan (TUR)	Present	
Leemets Vahur (EST)	Present	
Marsland Finn (AUS)	Excused	
Moreschi Julio Cesar (ARG)	Present	
Nesterenko Andriy (UKR)	Present	
Nezu Shuhei (JPN)	Present	
Pettersen Torbjorn Broks (NOR)	Present	
Rosa Anna (ITA)	Present	
Sargsyan Gagik (ARM)	Not present	
Serrano Allan (USA)	Present	
Sundbaum Mikaela (SWE)	substitute	Sanna Hallberg Petterson
Tsourekas Timos (GRE)	Present	
Unterfrauner Thomas (AUT)	Present	
Vedenin Vyacheslav (RUS)	Not present	
Viljanmaa Annmari (FIN)	Present	
Vodrazka Jakub (CZE)	Present	
Young Roy (GBR)	Not present	
Zografov Petar (BUL)	Present	
Björkestol Hermod (NOR)	Honorary Member	

FIS Staff Present:

Vegard Ulvang (NOR), Chair, Cross Country Committee - Present
Pierre Mignerey, Race Director
Ulf Seehase, Josephine Aschhoff, Madeline Nappey, Michal Lamplot, Doris Kallen

Guest Requests Present

several guests from NSAs, LOCs and TDs

4. Approval of the agenda

The agenda has been sent on 04.04.2022 and is approved.

5. Approval of the minutes of the online meeting Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country, 29.09.2021

The minutes are approved.

6. Report and information from the FIS Assistant Race Director

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 about:

- When competition skis will be requested in the in a closed area before the start
- Ski marking
- No waxing between the rounds at sprint races

7. Proposals and issues from other Sub-Committees

Following proposals were submitted before the meeting of the S.C.:

From the S.C. for Popular Cross-Country Skiing

- Cold temperature in popular competitions
- Rule update proposals (ITA)
 - Time penalty as new possible sanction at popular races did not get support within sub-committee
 - Sub-Committee supports the idea to allow TDs that need to work on sanctions or appeals after the competition to have right for extra day of re-imburement
 - The proposal to introduce extra sanctions that would prohibit skiers doing serious violations taking part in future competitions did not get support within sub-committee

RUS

- Pre-requisites for WC TD
- Rule on ICR update frequency

SWE

- Extra TD in sprint competitions
- Possibility to DSQ with immediate effect (i.e. red card)

8. ICR matters: Precisions / Guidelines

8.1 ICR Update Proposals

Appeals

Anna Rosa reported about the outcome of the working group, which was given a task to discuss if and independent body can/should appeal a Jury decision, when the imposed sanction is considered as not sufficient.

Conclusion is that if a Jury feels that the given sanction is not sufficient, the Jury should use ICR 224.13: "The Jury shall have the right to submit to the Appeals Commission recommendations for suspensions beyond the event in which the offence occurred."

The working group discussed if ICR 387.1 used in popular skiing should be extended to other competitions. The conclusion is that this rule should be applied only popular competitions.

Sometimes when obvious mistakes in results (calculation, etc.) happen, it could be good if not only NSAs but also the FIS Office could file an appeal to the appeals commission.

For some situations it would be also good to extend the authority of the appeals commission through internal review procedure. This procedure should be used only in case of obvious and proven calculation mistakes. The Appeals Commission can be activated on its own to ensure that the official FIS results are correct.

Appeal documents

The S.C. gave task to FIS Cross-Country staff to clarify what documents and when should be available for appeal party. Report is expected at the next S.C. meeting in the autumn 2022.

Then S.C. will prepare updated wording of the respective rules if necessary.

Composition of the Jury

Minor adjustments of ICR 303.1.1 and 303.1.2 – one FIS Race Director will be member of the Jury. This modification will give flexibility to FIS Cross-Country staff. Supported by the S.C.

FISU proposes to add a Jury member appointed by FIS. Zofia Kielpinska informed the S.C. the proposal comes from FISU. The reason to add the Jury member is for educational purposes, FISU and LOC will equally share costs connected to adding the Jury member. The change would be effective for University games 2025. Pierre Mignerey pointed out that this ICR change should be postponed to 2024.

Swedish Ski Association proposed to add TD Assistant also for FIS and COC competitions. The national TD assistant can do the tasks from another location using technical support such as TV production, videos live stream and communication channels. In such setup the assistant TD will get reimbursement only for day of competition.

Some nations were in favour some nations were against this proposal (not all FIS and COC competitions are televised, adding TD Assistant will increase the costs for LOCs). After the vote the proposal was rejected.

Race format – Recommended Norms

The S.C. approved the proposal to have 1 classic track in the start corridor of sprint competitions as optional. Recommended width of the start corridor should be 3 m.

The S.C. approved the proposal to change number of classic tracks in some competition formats as stated below.

Format	Number of C tracks
Mass start C	3-4
Skiathlon (C part)	3-4
Pursuit C	2-4

Wording changes

Following ICR articles were updated:

352.2.1 Disqualification should be used ~~only for major infractions and~~ for infractions with a clear impact on the final result of a competition.

352.5.1 Written reprimand should be used for infractions of the rules that do not lead to a clear advantage for the offender. ~~or minor infractions with advantage to the offender.~~

352.6 Verbal Reprimand

352.6.1 Verbal reprimand should be used ~~for minor infractions or~~ to inform competitors that their technique or behaviour is very close to being in violation of the rules.

322.3 Entries – Substitution

322.3.1 Substitution is possible according to ICR art. 313.4.

322.3.2 The substitute athlete must start in the same position as the substituted athlete if their FIS points are the same or better than those of the ~~replaced~~ substituted athlete. If their FIS points are worse, they must start at the end of the field. ~~In such case, the original start position will be left empty.~~

322.3.3 The athlete takes the bib of the one they are replacing.

~~322.3.4 The original start position will be left empty.~~

Decision chart

The decision chart works very well for obstructions. However, should it be modified for infractions of classical technique? After the discussion the S.C. agreed not to change the decision chart.

Red card

Swedish Ski Association proposed that in some situations when a competitor has deliberately violated the rules during the competition in such a way that it had influence on the end result, it should be possible to DSQ this competitor during the race.

The S.C. stated that DSQ of a competitor during the race is problematic because athlete's right to protest and appeal would be reduced. After a discussion the S.C. rejected the proposal.

8.2 Other ICR update proposals

Less frequent rules changes

Russian Ski Association proposed that rules changes should be done less frequently, only every 2 or 4 years.

The S.C. rejected the proposal. It is important to keep the flexibility and ability to react quickly on newly emerged situations and problems.

9. FIS Calendar / FIS Points

9.1 Report from P. Mach

Petr Mach reported about the conclusions of the WG. The goal of the WG was to find weak points of the system and Propose possible improvements.

The WG proposed following changes:

- Set one maximum value 999, which will be “Maximum value of FIS points in any case (races, no FIS points, ...)”.
- For calculation of race penalty, we should use top 5 athletes in the results and for calculation we should remove the one with best points and the one with worst points. Then we add up FIS points of the remaining 3 athletes and we will divide it by dividing coefficient.
- Dividing coefficient (DC) should be calculated in the way, that basic coefficient is 3 (normal average) and this is dividing by improving ratio (we offer improving ratio IR = 14,3 %), i.e.
$$DC = 3 / (1 - IR) = 3 / (1 - 0,143) = 3,50$$
 (rounded to 2 decimal places). This is change of actual DC (3.75), because by this way there is improving ration 20% so far.

The S.C. approved this proposal. Changes will be first simulated during the upcoming season and will be implemented from 2023/24 season.

The WG also found that one of the most problematic things is using FIS points as main criteria for qualification for big events (WSC, OWG). This is the main reason for many problems and for using weak points of the system. WG for FIS points recommends that FIS points should not be used as main nomination criteria for big events (WSC, OWG). The WG, however, did not have this topic as a task. The Cross-Country Committee should deal with it.

The S.C. approved the calendar and FIS points deadlines. For more information see the presentation of the meeting.

10. Homologation matters

10.1 Report from the Homologation working group

Allan Serano reported about the discussions from the homologation working group.

Regional Coordinators need to assign Inspectors for courses expiring after 10 years. The HI will use their discretion to determine is the courses can be certified remotely, or if site visits are necessary. All courses need to be updated to the new certificate format.

Besides the regular work, the WG discussed if courses used for long distance competitions (30 km and longer) that don't fit the fixed norms can be certified. Do the current ICR prescribed climb norms allow for enough range to meet all levels?

The majority of certified course is 7.5 km and shorter. Since 2019 when an event is entered in the FIS calendar, information about course length must be included. However, it is not possible to follow up what course is actually used in the winter.

The WG proposed to review the norms for long distance competitions (ICR 310.1.1.1). The S.C. discussed the importance of the HD in the norms. After the discussion the S.C. approved that the last line of 310.1.1.1 will be valid for competitions 20 km and longer.

The S.C. also approved the changes of ICR 310.1, with long distance competitions being races 20 km and longer:

310.1 Table for Distances and Course Lengths

Race Format	Competition Distance (km)
Interval Start competition	2.5, 3.3, 3.75, 5, 7.5, 10, 15, 20 or more
Mass Start competition (middle distance)	10, 15, 20
Popular competitions	No limitations
Mass start (long distance)	more than 20 km
Skiathlon	5+5, 7.5+7.5, 10+10, 15+15
Pursuit competition (2 nd part)	5, 7.5, 10, 15, 20 or more
Relay competition (teams with 3 or 4 competitors, can include mixed gender)	2.5, 3,3, 5, 7.5, 10
Individual Sprint	1 – 1.8
Team Sprint	2x(3-6) x 1 – 1.8

The same principles will be valid for other competition levels, but the norms will be reduced by 10% (ICR 310.1.1.2).

311.2.5 Norms for Cross-Country courses.

311.2.5.1 The HD, TC and MC of the homologated competition courses for OWG, WSC, U23WSC, JWSC and WC competitions should be within the following norms:

<u>Course distance (loop length)</u>	<u>Minimum climb (in PHD m)</u>	<u>HD</u>	<u>MC (in PTC m)</u>	<u>TC</u>
<u>Sprint F</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>max. 50 m</u>	<u>0 – 30 m</u>	<u>0 – 60 m</u>
<u>Sprint C</u>	<u>1 climb > 15 m</u>	<u>max. 50 m</u>	<u>15 – 40 m</u>	<u>20 – 60 m</u>
<u>2.5 km</u>	<u>1 climb > 25 m</u>	<u>max. 50 m</u>	<u>25 – 50 m</u>	<u>75 – 105 m</u>
<u>3.3 km</u>	<u>1 climb > 25 m</u>	<u>max. 65 m</u>	<u>25 – 65 m</u>	<u>100 – 140 m</u>
<u>3.75 km</u>	<u>1 climb > 30 m</u>	<u>max. 80 m</u>	<u>30 – 80 m</u>	<u>110– 160 m</u>
<u>5 km</u>	<u>1 climb > 30 m</u>	<u>max. 100 m</u>	<u>30 – 80 m</u>	<u>150 – 210 m</u>
<u>7.5 km</u>	<u>2 climbs > 30 m</u>	<u>max. 125 m</u>	<u>30 – 80 m</u>	<u>200 – 315 m</u>
<u>Longer loops used for</u>	<u>2 climbs > 30 m</u>	<u>max. 125 m</u>	<u>30 m or more</u>	<u>25-42 m/km</u>

<u>competitions</u> <u>20 km or longer</u>				
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311.2.5.2 The HD, TC and MC of the homologated competition courses for other levels of FIS competitions should be within the following norms:

<u>Course distance (loop length)</u>	<u>Minimum climb (in PHD m)</u>	<u>HD</u>	<u>MC (in PTC m)</u>	<u>TC</u>
<u>Sprint F</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>max. 50 m</u>	<u>0 – 30 m</u>	<u>0 – 60 m</u>
<u>Sprint C</u>	<u>1 climb > 15 m</u>	<u>max. 50 m</u>	<u>15 – 40 m</u>	<u>20 – 60 m</u>
<u>2.5 km</u>	<u>1 climb > 25 m</u>	<u>max. 50 m</u>	<u>25 – 50 m</u>	<u>68 – 105 m</u>
<u>3.3 km</u>	<u>1 climb > 25 m</u>	<u>max. 65 m</u>	<u>25 – 65 m</u>	<u>90 – 140 m</u>
<u>3.75 km</u>	<u>1 climb > 25 m</u>	<u>max. 80 m</u>	<u>25 – 80 m</u>	<u>99 – 160 m</u>
<u>5 km</u>	<u>1 climb > 25 m</u>	<u>max. 100 m</u>	<u>25 – 80 m</u>	<u>135 – 210 m</u>
<u>7.5 km</u>	<u>2 climbs > 25 m</u>	<u>max. 125 m</u>	<u>25 – 80 m</u>	<u>180 – 315 m</u>
<u>Longer loops used for competitions 20 km or longer</u>	<u>2 climbs > 25 m</u>	<u>max. 125 m</u>	<u>25 m or more</u>	<u>25-42 m/km</u>

The S.C. requested that the course for the mass start competitions at 2023 NWSC Planica, SLO must be homologated.

10.2 Nomination of the Regional Homologation Coordinators

Regional coordinators – the list of regional coordinators remained unchanged:

10.3 Homologation Inspectors assignments

Uros Ponikvar was appointed as homologation inspector for 2025 NWSC Trondheim, NOR. Markus Kohler was appointed as homologation inspector for YOG 2024, PyeongChang, KOR.

10.4 Homologation Inspectors seminar

The homologation seminar is going to take place in Norway, 2nd – 4th September 2022, location TBC. More information will follow later.

11. TD matters – see meeting ppt

11.1 Proposals

Russian Ski Association proposed that before getting TD assignments at World Cup, the TD must get assignments at lower level of competitions.

The S.C. agreed that it is necessary that World Cup, WSC and OWG TDs work at lower level of competitions. It is important for increasing the quality of competitions as well as for education of other referees.

However, the S.C. did not accept it should be a condition for getting the TD assignment at World Cup, WSC or OWG. NSAs are responsible for involving their TDs in competitions and education.

Italy proposed to extend the period of TD assignment until after the end of the popular competition. The reasoning is that sometimes Jury has to work after the race has been completed. If there are cases 72 hrs after the race, then the TD has right to ask for another day of reimbursement.

The S.C. in general agreed on the principle. Uros Ponikvar will clarify when the TD assignment official ends. Final decision will be done at the next meeting.

11.2 Online TD Report

The update of the online TD report is in progress. Beta testing is taking place during May. The system will be ready by the beginning of the winter season 2022/23.

11.3 Online TD Education / Examinations (A. Rosa)

Anna Rosa reported about the progress of the online TD education system. There are different online education solutions. SJ uses a tool on Berkutschi, Finnish Ski Association has their own online education system.

Ulf Seehase from FIS IT department confirmed that the online education tool will be developed for the all FIS. Details are still TBC, e.g. which platform will be used, etc. FIS will host the online education tool on its domain.

In order to proceed with preparation for the launch of the online tool, a batch of questions should be collected. Vahur Leemets was appointed as the leader of the WG, which will start collecting the questions. Other members of the WG will regional TD coordinators. Status update is expected at the next meeting of the S.C.

11.4 TD Seminars 2022-2023

The S.C. discussed organisation of TD seminars in different regions. At its last meeting the SC approved the principle that the on-site TD seminar in the full set up (with TD examinations and TD license validation) should take place every 2 years. TD update should be organised between the TD seminar.

Due to C19 pandemic it was not possible to organise on site TD seminars (with the exception of Eeastern Europe TD seminar, which took place last fall). Scandinavian Cup would like to organise their TD seminar also this year in order to be able to have TD exams. At the same time, the rotation system as described above should be maintained. After the discussion the S.C. agreed to organise TD seminars in the following way:

Year 1: TD seminar in OPA, SCAN, North America + homologation
Year 2: FIS seminar in SCAN + TD seminar in EAST, OCEAN
Year 3: TD seminar OPA and SCAN, North America + homologation
Year 4: FIS seminar in OPA + TD seminar EAST, OCEAN

TD seminars should follow the geographical areas (TDs and candidates from the geographical region have priority, participants from other regions can take part only if there is a free capacity). FIS seminar is open for all participants from all regions, no exams will be carried out at the FIS seminars.

The plan for the seminars are:

OPA - TD seminar in Planica, SLO October 7th – 9th 2022.

SCAN – TD seminar, TBD

North America – TD seminar, TBD, from xxx to xxx

Far East – online TD update TBD

11.5 TD/ TDA/ Jury Members nominations

- Presented preliminary TD assignments.
 - **World Cup Season 2022/23**
 - **JWSC 2023**
 - **WSC 2025**
 - **Universiade USA 2023 – confirmed**

- **Universiade ITA 2025**
- **EYOF 2023**
- **JWSC 2024**
- **OWG 2026**

12. Next meeting

FIS Autumn Meetings, Zurich (SUI), last week of September

13. Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 19:50 CET.