



PARA SNOWSPORTS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

SPRING MEETING 2023

To

- Members of the Para Snowsports Committee
- Para Sub Committee Chairs PAL, PNS, PSB

For information to:

- Johan Eliasch, FIS President
- Michel Vion, FIS Secretary General
- Niklas Carlsson, FIS Deputy Secretary General
- National Ski Associations

Oberhofen, May 16th, 2023

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome & roll call

Dexter Paine congratulated the Para Snowsport Committee members and invited them to be creative, open-minded, and proactive in turn of the development of the Para Snowsports agenda under FIS. It was a great journey, during the transition phase, and all steps were done as per the agreement with IPC and IBU. This season was special and highlighted that Para Snowsports deserve and belong to be part of the FIS.

Roll call was done by Dimitrije Lazarovski on behalf of the chair. Mohammad Khadim was replaced by Mohammad El Etri and the athlete representative was excused. The majority of the members were present at the meeting. The Committee can make all necessary decisions and recommendations to the FIS Council.

Committee Members

Chairperson	PAINE	Dexter	USA	Present
Vice Chairperson	ARNHOLD	Stefano	BRA	Present
Member	KAST	Magdalena	ARG	Present
Member	PODBORSKI	Stephen G.	CAN	Present
Member	TAVIAN	Paolo	ITA	Present
Member	JAKIC	Roman	SLO	Present
Member	STOFFEL	Olivia	SUI	Present
Member	El Etri	Mohammad	UAE	Proxy
Member	MAYRHUBER	Hermann	AUT	Present
AFG	Hall	Adam	NZL	Excused
CAG	Teitsma	Falco	NED	Present

Conference

Redpath	James	GBR
Makovnik	Martin	SVK
Milosevic	Jugoslav	SRB
Arai	Hideki	JPN

	Wolf	Justus	GER
FIS Staff	Lazarovski	Dimitrije	
	Gudermann	Elke	
	Getzmann	Laura	
	Dudas	Timotej	
	Chiracu	Antonio	
	Dojcinovic	Jelena	
Guests	Ali Bombardier		AUS
	Jan Uberall		AUT
	Dustin Heise		CAN
	Len Apedaile		CAN
	He Yongju		CHN
	Ju Heyong		CHN
	Xue Han Jong		CHN
	Christina Penche		ESP
	May Peus		ESP
	Milan Augustin		FISU
	Paola Matringe		FISU
	Roy Young		GBR
	Andreas Scheid		GER
	Anne O'Connor		IRL
	Markus Malsiner		ITA
	Michele Di Gallo		ITA
	Cristina Bellante		ITA
	Eugenio Rizzo		ITA
	Gerti Taschler		ITA
	Sarah Dapoz		ITA
	De Godenz Pietro		ITA
	Mirai Furuya		JPN
	Sawano Hiroshi		JPN
	Andrey Nevzorov		KAZ
	Leon Svetlin		KSA
	Sana Alfayez		KSA
	Rajko Kosic		MNE
	Wopke de Vegt		NED
	Hege Moller		NOR
	Age Skinstad		NOR
	Torbjorn Broks Pettersen		NOR
	Ligocki Lukasz		POL
	Gal Jakic		SLO
	Jurica Stankovic		SRB
	Didier Bonvin		SUI
	Seraina Mischol		SUI
	Marco Isenschmid		SUI

Vincent Yang	TPE
Mohammad Al Aini	UAE
Olha Zinkiv	UKR
Allan Serrano	USA

2. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was approved unanimously.

3. Introduction to the role of the Committee and presentation of the organising structure of the Para Snowsports at FIS

Stefano Arnhold presented the complete structure and Para Snowsports's current position inside this structure. It is unique, and Para Snowsports managed to retain from the IPC structure the Athlete Focus Groups and Coaches Advisory Group and bring these groups into the FIS structure. These two groups provide feedback from the field of play and ensure that all athletes and coaches have a voice in the decision-making process.

The inclusion process under the FIS structure will continue to move towards a healthy integration, enabling Para Snowsports to rise to a new level, and contributing to FIS brand awareness by lending a close and emotional connection to sports fans and viewers worldwide. Mr. Arnhold highlighted that in this process Para Snowsports needs to keep its identity, its personality, autonomy, and ability to govern its Para Disciplines.

4. Report from the Chairperson (Paine Dexter)

Dexter expressed great appreciation to all members of the different Working Groups (WG), Sub Committees (SC) and Committee. The work that has been delivered in lead up to the FIS Technical Meetings has been enormous, and it is pleasure and honour to chair such a passionate group of individuals. We are looking to continue delivering a great job in the coming seasons, and in front of us is a significant amount of work that has to be delivered preparing and presenting in Spring 2024 the Strategic Plan for the Para Snowsports. Today we will have the opportunity to see a presentation about the FIS Strategic Plan and we have to make sure that the Para Snowsports Strategic Plan is compatible and in alignment with the FIS Strategic Plan.

Again, I am grateful for all the great work that all of you put together and I am looking forward to working with you.

5. Report from the Executive Board Chairperson (Stefano Arnhold)

Stefano echoed Dexter's words and thanked all members from different forums. The Para Snowsports has great support from the FIS President and Secretary General and this is important to be underlined. Para Snowsports should continue showcasing the possibilities and transfer all obstacles into opportunities.

We have a unique opportunity and we need to take it and maximize it. We will work on the Strategic Plan and making sure that our activities are in harmony with the FIS Strategy.

6. Report from the Sub Committee Para Alpine Skiing Chairperson (Jana Palovicova)

Jana has reported about the delivered meeting and discussions about different rules and other proposals that have been submitted by Nations. The WG made a great job and we are able to

accept many important rule changes today. Some rule changes related to equipment and classification were sent to different FIS Committees and experts groups for further consideration.

Dexter invited Committee members to vote and Steve supported it.

All proposed rule changes were anonymously accepted.

7. Report from the Sub Committee Para Nordic Chairperson (Eileen Carey)

Eileen provided a full report about different discussions under the Sub Committee and WGs. Great work was done in different WGs and there is still ongoing dialogue about the Competition calendar. This is still an open topic.

Dimitrije reported that none of the Para Snowsports have presented nor have been in a position to present the competition schedule for the next season. As long as the FIS World Cup able-bodied calendar is not approved, it is very hard for the Para disciplines to discuss or confirm the dates of the competitions for the coming season. Additionally, the long-term calendar will not be approved for the next few seasons as long as the centralisation of the rights for the World Cup is not secured.

The accepted proposal from the members of the Committee is that the Para Snowsports calendar will be presented in the current and next seasons one month after the able body calendar is approved.

Dexter invited Committee members to vote on the presented rule changes for Para Nordic. Steve supported the proposal.

All proposed rule changes were anonymously accepted.

8. Report from the Sub Committee Para Snowboard Chairperson (Wopke De Vegt)

Wopke made a short presentation about the discussed and presented rule changes. All the dialogues were very positive and in support of the further development of the sport. It is clear that we will need to work more on the development of the sport, especially on the women's side. Wopke presented a short video from the last women's camp and proposed that we should make more of those.

Dexter invited Committee members to vote on the presented rule changes for Para Snowboard. Steve supported it.

All proposed rule changes were anonymously accepted.

9. Para Snowsports Classification update (Laura Getzmann)

- 9.1. Vision Impairment New Classification system implementation,
- 9.2. Classification changes,
- 9.3. Research applications in the field of Classification.

Laura provided an overview of different Classification requests that will be presented to the FIS Council for approval.

1. Vision Impaired classification system change with proposed data collection/shadow season 2023/24.

2. Other classification rule changes
3. Short stature testing plan

The plan for implementation of all these changes was discussed in detail which initiated additional discussions by different Committee members.

Dexter put forward Classification changes for approval. Steve supported it.

All proposed rule changes were anonymously accepted.

10. Para Snowsports Factor calculations (Antonio Chiracu)

10.1. New Factor calculation project

FIS received proposal for research application related to the Factor calculation from the Polytechnic University of Bucharest. The proposal was elaborated by the management team and have presented to the FIS Research AHU. The research will suggest to substitute both Para Snowsports by both Para Disciplines of Alpine Skiing and Nordic Skiing and provide future base for follow up and calculation of the new Factors.

We are looking forward outcome of this research. The expected outcome is in six months from the moment of approval.

11. Paralympic Winter Games

- 11.1. Report from the site inspection, RDs
- 11.2. Report from the Management office (Dimitrije Lazarovski)

The test events in Snowboard and Alpine skiing were delivered in the past season. The achieved quality of the delivered event is very good and we are looking forward to the coming season for new testing and improving the quality of the venues and team experience.

The lead person for the MiCo communication is Event Director Ms Sandra Spitz and we are articulating all communication to the MiCo over one channel. So far, we have good and reliable communication with MiCo and we are looking forward to the first test event in Val Di Fiemme, ITA for the Cross Country and Biathlon events.

12. Transfer of governance (Dimitrije Lazarovski)

- 12.1. Update & Discussion of content
- 12.2. Next steps

We made great steps forward in a very short period of time. It is still less than a year from the moment that the sports were transferred from IPC to FIS and we have already delivered three WSCs, full season of WCs in all 4 disciplines and have transferred all documents and related forms under the FIS structure. We will not stop with our transfer of governance as we have frequent and progress communication with other FIS disciplines in order to further look for the synergies between able bodied and Para disciplines.

FIS colleagues were very supportive and we are looking forward to the next competition season.

13. Relationship with the IPC (Dimitrije Lazarovski)

- 13.1. Development activities
- 13.2. MiCo26 Medals event application status

IPC has informed us about the opportunity of securing 4 development camps in Nordic and Snowboard disciplines. The plans should be submitted by FIS to IPC by mid-May and camps should be delivered in late 2023 and 2024. We will inform the NSAs about the development of this great initiative.

MiCo26 applications were submitted and we are waiting for the reply from IPC. For Alpine skiing there are no changes, medal events programme remained the same. For Nordic there is only one change in Biathlon event format. For Snowboard FIS has requested full medal count for women and have added one more medal event – snowboard cross team event. In addition we have sent request to IPC with exchange of the Banked Slalom with the Dual Banked Slalom.

We are looking forward to the reply of IPC in the coming months.

14. Relationship with the IBU (Elke Gundermann)

14.1. Report from the Working Group meeting

The relationship with the IBU is very frequent. Today we will approve the WG Biathlon that will provide additional support to the Para Nordic and in particular Para Biathlon.

We will continue working very frequently with IBU and make sure that the relationship is only growing.

Further to the Agreement between IBU and FIS, we will look to upgrade it and make sure that it reflects the current relationships that already exist and it is out of scope of the current agreement. It is great that the relationship between two organisations has grown so quickly.

The members of the Biathlon WG were presented

The Biathlon WG members were anonymously accepted.

15. FIS Development activities (Dimitrije Lazarovski)

15.1. Education

15.2. Athlete and coaches training opportunities

The education of the athletes and coaches is one of the priorities of FIS. The new education platform is about to be selected and Para education will be part of it. Further to online education, on snow sessions will be organised and two are already set for Alpine skiing and Cross Country. We will continue making sure that education activities are inclusive. Both sides can learn from each other and like that improve their knowledge.

16. Proposals to FIS Council

The management team together with Stefano will prepare all documents for the Council by 11th May. All rule changes and supported documents must be prepared and submitted on time to the FIS Office for further submission on time to the FIS Council.

17. Other Business

Snowboard Race Director has presented situation from the WSC where one team did not show up at the medal ceremony. The event days were changed due to the warm weather but the

medal ceremony was kept on the same date and time. Unfortunately, the particular team was not present. The Race Director has tried to get in touch with the coach and secure the participation of the team members with no luck.

The following proposal was put forward to the Committee members for acceptance.

1. Letter signed by Johan and Michel to be submitted to the particular NSAs as last warning that this behaviour will not be tolerated.
2. Conference call to be organised with the athletes and National Team Coach that have not been present at the Medal Ceremony.

Dexter put forward proposal to the Committee members for acceptance. Steve supported the proposal.

Proposal was accepted anonymously.

18. Next meetings

- 18.1. FIS Technical Meetings: 27 to 29 September.
- 18.2. FIS Workshop: date/location 29 September to 01 October.

Dexter has concluded the meeting at 11.55h.

The members of the Para Snowsport Committee were invited for lunch.

Dexter Paine
Chairperson