

To the

- Members of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup
- Peter Gerdol, Chief Race Director World Cup Women
- Markus Waldner, Chief Race Director World Cup Men
- Alberto Senigagliaesi, Race Director World Cup Women Speed Events
- Markus Mayr, Race Director World Cup Women Technical Events
- Hannes Trinkl, Race Director World Cup Men Speed Events
- Emmanuel Couder, FIS World Cup Event Coordinator (Men)

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- Jenny Wiedeke, FIS Communications Manager
- Jürg Capol, FIS Marketing Director
- Sandra Spitz, FIS Event Director
- Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Technical and Administrative Coordinator

Oberhofen 24.05.2022

### **Minutes of the online meeting of the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup Thursday, 12.05.2022**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you the minutes of the online meeting of the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup, which was held on 12.05.2022.

We kindly ask that you to send any remarks to the FIS Alpine Office in Oberhofen by the **4<sup>th</sup> June 2022** (luessy@fisski.com).

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.

Kindest regards,



Walter Vogel  
Chairman Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup

## **INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup**

**Minutes of the online meeting of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup  
Thursday, 12.05.2022, 13:00 – 17.15 hrs.**

**All proposals and decisions of the Sub-Committee are subject to the confirmation of the Alpine Committee and to the approval of FIS Council in May 2022**

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. Welcome and opening of the meeting**

Walter Vogel, Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup, opens the meetings and welcomes all presents.

#### **2. Roll-call**

Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Coordinator, calls the Roll (attached list).

#### **3. Approval of the agenda**

Michael Huber (AUT) ask the Chairman to add the following points to the agenda:

- Add Point 5. information about possible change of organizational FIS structures, especially in case of this Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup, and its remaining tasks in future. Including basic information about the intended centralized FIS marketing and its impact on the work of this Sub-Committee.
- Add Point 6.5. information about new rules and wording details to be considered for the “Tech / Speed Combined”, as indicated in the Calendar draft.
- Add Point 8.1. information about results of the presentation from the Athletes Representatives at the Fall Meeting 2021 (“The Future of Ski Racing”), including the Athletes wish of a fairer split of the prize money and improvements of the World Cup rule about the injury status.

#### **4. Approval of the minutes of the online meeting held on 30.09.2021**

The minutes are approved by the Sub-Committee.

#### **5. Reports**

##### **a) from the Chairman Walter Vogel**

Walter Vogel (GER) opened the meeting by greeting and congratulating FIS and all the stakeholders on the brilliant and difficult season that had just ended. Despite Covid-19 and further difficult conditions Alpine World Cup has again delivered in full. We have a stable product with strong partners.

After pointing out the positive points of the past season, he went on to highlight points that are creating the problems for the entire World Cup community. For the Sub-Committee, the processes have turned around in the last 12 months. Many directives and impulses come top-down and do not go through the usual funnel system. This applies in particular to the calendars.

The delay and disinformation has created quite a few problems, including a lack of trust in FIS, which is why it was deemed appropriate to meet at the World Cup

Finals to discuss a number of points together with the President and General Secretary.

An excerpt from the presented future World Cup strategy is: close the gap between Soelden and the beginning of December to be able to race every weekend by integrating new markets and nations like China; have balanced calendars, excel in TV productions, more night races and a new slot for races in the USA after the World Championships.

He again thanked those present especially for their patience over the last period.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) emphasised that the calendar was approved by FIS Council but not by the Alpine Committee and it should be the opposite. The long-term calendars were already available and had already been approved, while the latter was approved without the Committee viewing it.

Walter Vogel (FIS) apologised again but had no real response to this comment as the future of FIS as of today is still unclear because it is going through a period of transition that will certainly bring interesting changes.

**b) from Markus Waldner, Chief Race Director World Cup Men**

Markus Waldner (FIS) greets everyone and begins his report on the past season. He emphasises that it was a busy season and more difficult than the previous one due to the Covid situation and the return of tourism to the resorts. The strategy and protocols were similar to the previous season and as always, the cooperation between stakeholders was impeccable and crucial.

Because of the virus, the lead up to the Olympics was very stressful given the procedures put in place to prevent the spread and thus the doubt that the top athletes could reach China and the Olympic Games healthy.

38 competitions were scheduled, including the North American competitions that came back to the tour after a year of break due to the Covid. All races were run except for 3 races that were cancelled due to weather but all made up during the course of the season.

During the Olympics there were problems with the wind but all in all the races were run in a fair manner and he wanted to thank once again the commitment and the flexibility shown by all the stakeholders.

As every year at the end of the season we also looked at the injury situation and analysed that the aggressiveness of the materials is one of the main causes of injuries and the work done over the years is helping in this situation. The combination of less aggressive materials, course preparation and course setting are the main factors in preventing injuries.

The priority is always to ensure the safety of the athletes.

The season went well and again he wanted to thank the stakeholders for their incredible cooperation. He also congratulated Overall winner Marco Odermatt and Swiss Ski.

**c) from Peter Gerdol, Chief Race Director World Cup Women**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) echoes what Markus Waldner (FIS) has just pointed out and subsequently lists the various cancellations and replacements during the season. The pandemic substantially affected the Women's World Cup especially after the French competitions at the end of December and it was a very tense time ahead of the Olympics.

The Olympics was the highlight of the season and it was seen the importance of having test events in advance that would have alleviated some of the problems encountered during the event but all in all, the races ran smoothly.

A jump construction project was developed in both the men's and women's competitions to give the organisers more information and parameters to construct the jumps in speed events. The other project that was worked on during the season was digital measurement of the the gates, which gave more information about course-setting and distances.

Both projects have been evaluated and will continue to be implemented.

The competition for the World Cup titles was very interesting with 5 different winners for 5 globes awarded.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) also emphasises how important the cooperation of all stakeholders was and thanks them. He also thanked his team with special thanks to Jean-Philippe Vuillet who is retiring and welcoming Alberto Senigagliaesi the new Speed Race Director.

Verena Stuffer (Athletes' Representative) first of all thanks the stakeholders. As a representative of the athletes, she pointed out that in December there had been some issues with maintaining the bubbles and with the team hospitality, especially in the women's World Cup and unfortunately some of the skiers had to stop, but fortunately all the top athletes participated in the Olympic Games without infection.

**d) from Jürg Capol, FIS Marketing Director**

Jürg Capol explained the marketing presentation by analyzing some factual data:

- 65% of the media impact of the Ski World Cup comes from 4 nations: Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland.
- The overall audience numbers do not satisfy the market Media impact declined by 16% compared 2021/22 season
- and see great room for improvement.
- Another problem is the broadcasting time of the races and the highlight of the competition which in some races comes too early.
- The fact remains that the main channels of the leading nations still have high ratings and numbers.

Srecko Medven (Club 5) asks why the main channels no longer distribute the World Cup.

Jürg Capol (FIS) replies that it would certainly take a strategy to make the product worthwhile again, not only by FIS but also by the stakeholders.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asks Jürg Capol (FIS) how he sees it possible to attract the younger generation to our sport.

Jürg Capol (FIS) explains that there are no platforms where the main actions of the races can be seen. For example, as an international federation we are not present on TikTok, which does however provide a strategy.

Michael Huber (AUT) first of all emphasised that the numbers described are always very negative, but one must be aware that there is not only negative in the product but also a lot of positive that can absolutely be worked on. He also clearly asks what kind of direction the Federation is taking, especially pointing out that it is unfeasible to have a calendar from year to year and so late.

The Committee is made to discuss various strategies but it is important to discuss the calendars in advance to understand the direction to be taken.

Walter Vogel (FIS) points out that the moment is transitional and therefore difficult, and wants to emphasise how important established organisers are to perpetuate the value of the product.

Philippe Gueisbuhler (FIS) intervened to clarify rumors about the structuring of the FIS. Nobody wants to suppress what already exists, but they want to improve the product. Michael Huber (AUT) made it clear that Austria wants to be at the table when structural changes are discussed.

## **6. Rules season 2022/23**

### **6.1 Proposal Working Group Starting Order**

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) presents the proposal and how it's been developed.

Michael Huber (AUT) thanks the working group and confirms that the proposal is very good and emphasises the fact that this proposal is valid for Downhill and Super-G, but a route like this is also desirable for Giant Slalom and Slalom.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) showed his doubt in extending this proposal to the other disciplines as the future of the World Cup is unclear and therefore wonders whether to proceed with the approval of this proposal or wait.

Walter Vogel (GER) says it is important to make a decision on this issue.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asks what the procedure is once the vote is taken.

Walter Vogel (GER) explained that the procedure is, as always, the same - that is to present the proposal to the Alpine Committee and if there are no objections, it is passed to FIS Council before the Congress.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

### **6.2 Alpine Combined Quota (to be discussed in autumn – after the confirmation of the calendar)**

### **6.3 Parallel Quota (to be discussed in autumn – after the confirmation of the calendar)**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) explains the proposal.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) asks for extra quota with the aim of developing and growing the youth sector.

Walter Vogel (GER) points out that this is a topic to be discussed in 6.5.

### **6.4 Proposal SRS, Art. 4.3.2 (detailed definition for events with both gender)**

Walter Vogel (GER) presented the proposal discussed by SRS to increase the number of spots dedicated to SRS during World Cup races. It was eventually decided not to change the rule but to find customized solutions for the venues (plus maximum five quota at some men's races).

Rudi Huber (SRS) points out that there was no request to increase the quota but to bring it back to how it was before Covid.

Medven Screcko (Club 5) expressed the support of the organisers in case of needs and explained why Club 5 is against a rule change.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

### **6.5 SAC and TAC nomenclatures:**

Walter Vogel (GER) explained what the new combination nomenclatures are and pointed out that they have not yet been confirmed. (SAC: Speed Alpine Combined; TAC: Technical Alpine Combined)

The aim is to keep the spirit of the combination high and thus accumulate points for the sum of the two events. He emphasised that there are many questions about this and therefore many rules to be structured if one wants to go down this road. Above all, the main question is whether or not the idea works and therefore to develop appropriate rules.

Michael Huber (AUT) explains that if there are no rules about it, it is not possible to implement this proposal for next season.

Walter Vogel (GER) again asks for opinions on this, to see if it is necessary to continue working on it or not.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asks for thoughts back on the proposal to see what kind of improvements it could make.

Srecko Medven (Club 5) asks what the added value and consequences would be.

Phil McNichol (CAN) would like a real proposal so that it can be discussed concretely.

Walter Vogel (GER) asks again whether it is appropriate to have a working group or not.

Phil McNichol (CAN) confirms that it should be implemented, but that for next season it is impossible to implement this new strategy.

Walter Vogel (GER) concludes that there is a 50-50 split and therefore would like to open up the possibility of creating a working group with real rules.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) asks what happens to the calendars if these combined rules are not accepted.

Walter Vogel (GER) confirms that this strategy will not be implemented for next season and therefore the Sub-Committee does not support this proposal being implemented for next season even if the working group is implemented. As it has been decided that a working group will be implemented, the FIS management is also requested to have more clarity on the rationale behind this proposal.

Leif Haugen (athletes' representative) rightly points out that this proposal is unclear and therefore needs to be well thought out before being implemented.

It was therefore reiterated that the combined SAC and TAC would not be confirmed for next season.

## 7. Calendars 2022/23

Walter Vogel (GER) explained the development of the calendars no longer came from the race directors. New venues and new ideas are included, and the new direction of having a period of competitions in the USA after the World Championships has subsequently put pressure on established organisers who have had to leave.

As the Council has approved the calendars for 2022/23, the Sub-Committee doesn't have to vote on them. But members have an opportunity to express opinions after the presentation of the Race Directors.

The long term calendars for the next years should be worked out over the summer. Therefore, there is no vote on the World Cup Finals 2025 today.

### **Markus Waldner (FIS) presents the 2022/23 calendar:**

- The World Championships in Courchevel-Méribel (FRA) will be the highlight of the season and the schedule will be the same as at the World Championships in Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA) with 13 races in 14 days. There will be two venues so there will be no overlapping of tracks.
- The opening will always be in Sölden (AUT) and the big news will be the Zermatt-Cervinia (SUI/ITA) races, which will close the gap between the opening and the following races.
- There will be two new locations in the USA: Palisades Tahoe and Aspen.
- This change affects the non-presence of Kvitfjell (NOR) in the men's calendar.
- The total is 42 races.
- As for the Alpine Combined, the IOC has been asked to work on the combined that is feasible during the next Olympics.
- The Football World Cup in Qatar will make changes to the starting times of the Ski World Cup races.
- The two-run downhill races can be seen in Aspen (USA) and Beaver Creek (USA) but definitely not in Kitzbuhel (AUT).

- The total number of races is 14 downhill, 7 Super-G, 20 technical races.

Marius Arnesen (NOR) emphasises the unhappiness about the fact that Kvitfjell (NOR) is not on the calendar after 30 years of being part of the calendar, and the fact that it is not on both calendars men's and women's is simply not acceptable, especially since it was not communicated in advance. He asks FIS Management for clarification on this.

Walter Vogel (GER) states that this subject will certainly have to be discussed at the next FIS Council meeting because it is not the only case of unhappiness as there are many organisers who are fighting to be part of the World Cup calendar.

Marius Arnesen (NOR) emphasises the fact that he understands that these issues must be addressed to the General Secretary and FIS Management and will certainly be done.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asks why we go back to America after the World Ski Championships as the media impact will be low and logistical infrastructures are complicated.

Philippe Gueisbuhler (FIS) points out that for 10 years FIS has been asked to change and bring novelty to the calendar and the system. Changes have consequences such as the exclusion of historical organisers from the World Cup calendar and the inclusion of new locations. Obviously, this brings frustration, but also new opportunities.

Walter Vogel (GER) states that is obviously difficult to make decisions as the future is uncertain and the long-term calendars have not been defined yet.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) underlines the fact that there are organisers who have been on the long-term calendars for years and now it is difficult to create strategies for them.

Philippe Gueisbuhler (FIS) asks to try to understand and change the mantle for change.

Micheal Huber (AUT) agrees that the two-run Downhill for Kitzbuhel (AUT) is not acceptable and asks why Saalbach (AUT) is not in the men's calendar as it was a few weeks ago. There are rumors that the finals in 2024 will not be held in Saalbach (AUT) and this is unacceptable especially for the women's sector as it is a course they have never tried. He added that it is unacceptable that there are no long-term timetables and therefore it is impossible to create a structure.

**Peter Gerdol (FIS) explains the calendar** but is keen to point out that FIS Council has not approved and has therefore asked the Committee to evaluate the new combined formula and the two-run downhill option.

- Cervinia-Zermatt (SUI/ITA) new location. The organising committees decided to split the costs and Cervinia will be the headquarters for the women's World Cup while Zermatt will be the headquarters for the men.
- Compared to what was approved by FIS Council last time they gathered there is one change: Spindleruv Mlyn (CZE) has been brought forward by one weekend and there will be an empty weekend before the world championships.



- The calendar changes made to the men's calendar have obviously also had consequences for the women's calendar, such as the races in Kvitfjell (NOR) alternating between the two calendars from year to year.
- He took into consideration the strong demand of the athletes not to go beyond 40 races and managed to keep it.
- St. Moritz is the only location that could guarantee a two-run DH.

Walter Vogel (GER) opens the discussion about the implementation of two-run downhills. Peter Gerdol (FIS) gives consideration it is against the safety of the athletes and also the TV could become a problem to guarantee good exposure.

After the discussion Walter Vogel (GER) asks the Committee if they agree not to have the two-run DH.

Everyone agrees not to have Downhill with two runs.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) believes that two-run downhill is not a safe format for the athletes. He also asks if it is possible to have 2 Super-G in Aspen in the men's calendar to keep the balance.

Miho Glavic (CRO) underlines the fact that initially Zagreb (CRO) had two competitions whereas now there is only one. He points out that it is the race with the highest number of spectators and consequently underlines the fact that having only one race is financially risky. He therefore calls for the following options to be considered: move the Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER) men's slalom to the weekend before or after the speed weekend and move the Zagreb (CRO) slalom back to 5th January, otherwise schedule the Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER) slalom and the Zagreb (CRO) slalom between 1st and 5th January.

Walter Vogel (GER) confirms that the difficulty is similar to that of the Norwegian Federation and moving the races to Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER) is not an option as there are no TV spots due to other sporting events.

Certainly, this subject will be forwarded to FIS Council.

Fabien Saguez (FRA) asks if it is possible to create an alternation with Val d'Isere (FRA) and St. Moritz (SUI) in the women's calendar.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) says he has no answers regarding long-term calendars. He emphasised that France and Germany have no races on the calendar, and he understood the general frustration about this and would work to present a long-term calendar at the autumn meetings.

Micheal Huber (AUT) is keen to emphasise that it is important to have a test both for women and men before the 2025 World Championships in Saalbach (AUT) and if not, it is even more crucial to have the World Cup Finals in 2024.

Franz Julen (LOC Zermatt-Cervinia) saluted and thanked for the opportunity to present the new downhill in Zermatt-Cervinia. He explained the project consciously prepared for the difficulties that will have to be faced because of the weather. FIS and Swiss Ski

are the key bodies for the success of this project and in order to meet everyone's expectations, they have signed a contract with Rainer Senoner (LOC Val Gardena) to provide substantial help in the logistical organisation of the event as this is the first time that Zermatt-Cervinia is organising a World Cup.

Other experts were called upon to help with their advices and experiences in this project.

Swiss TV (SRF) will take care of the television production.

## 8. FIS Alpine Future Vision Working Group (final report)

Walter Vogel (GER) presented the Future Working Group report.

5 main recommendations:

- Night races during the week – Walter Vogel (GER) agrees
- Indoor races / Walter Vogel (GER) disagrees with the implementation of indoor races at the World Cup
- Alpine Combined / Notes that there is a need for a new format. The athletes' commission has made a good proposal and is in favour of pursuing it. Supported, Executive Board is dealing with this issue.
- Postpone the World Championships in order to keep the interest in the World Cup high. Not a technical issue, nothing against it.
- Unified World Ranking List - Try to develop the Continental Cups. Supported.

The Sub-Committee agrees with the Chairman.

Fiona Stevens (NZL) wanted to specify that the indoor races were not intended to be part of the World Cup but simply as parallel events to continue competing at a high level.

Srecko Medven (Club5) wants to emphasise how important it is to understand how we see the World Cup in five to six years to maintain the value of the product.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asks to reduce the field of starting athletes and find a solution including Wild Cards.

## 9. Miscellaneous

### 9.1 Quality and prize – accommodation

Walter Vogel (GER) emphasises that it is unacceptable that some organisers charge the highest price for hotels that have lower prices.

Maximum cooperation is called for in this regard and not abusing World Cup weekends to make money.

Srecko Medven (Club5) completely agrees and is aware that some organisers have abused or misunderstood the rule so will try to monitor this situation.

### 9.2 Sub-Committee for Alpine Rules – Proposal CAN penalty time

Ken Read (CAN) explains that this was a recommendation from the Parallel Working Group. It should be a sufficient difference in the penalty time and the main reason is to ensure that victory comes not because of the difference in course.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) explains that statistics show that the only case where it went over 0.5 was the men's final race in Lech/Zürs. He is not convinced that putting 0.75 solves this problem and wonders if this could be the solution.

Janez Flere (FIS) suggested to study the case and bring in substantial results even if the Alpine Committee and FIS Council accepted the proposal for the ICR.

### **9.3 Sub-Committee for Alpine Rules – Proposal of Intercontinental Cups**

The Sub-Committee unanimously accepted the Proposal that the FEC Winners from the Season 2020/2021 are qualified to start in the respective events of the FIS World Cup in addition to the national quota in the season 2022/2023.

### **9.4 Other topics**

Michael Huber (AUT) asks to add the Athletes' Commission proposal to the agenda. He also adds that Robert Waleczka (EBU) is not in favour of the two-run downhill.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) asks for clarification of the flour ban procedure.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) states that it is clear from the ICR that if fluorine is detected the athlete is disqualified. The procedure is still in progress.

Rudi Huber (SRS) is very concerned about this rule and has expressed his concerns about the machinery that will be used.

Walter Vogel (GER) confirms that it is important that these tests are carried out before races and not after.

Rudi Huber (SRS) calls for the topic of airbags to also be discussed at future meetings. It is important that the discussion is perpetuated and answers given to the companies that have invested in this process and obviously guarantee safety for athletes.

## **10. Next meeting, FIS Autumn Meeting, last week of September 2022**

Michael Huber (AUT) calls for a push to conduct the next meetings in presence.

## **11. Closing of the meeting**