

To the

- Members of the Nordic Combined Committee

For information to:

- National Ski Associations
- Michel Vion
- Niklas Carlsson Member Athletes Commission
- Inggard Lereim, NOR (Medical Committee)

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

Blochstrasse 2 3653 Oberhofen/Thunersee Switzerland Tel +41 33 244 61 61 Fax +41 33 244 61 71

Oberhofen, 24th October 2022

Minutes of the 88th Nordic Combined Committee Meeting Hotel Hilton, Zurich-Airport (SUI), 30.09.2022

Dear Ski Friends,

We have pleasure sending you today the Minutes of the 88th Meeting of the Nordic Combined Committee held online on 30th September 2022.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Nordic Office in Oberhofen until **10**th **November 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 nice and beautiful summer.

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

Lasse Ottesen

Race Director Nordic Combined

Enclosure: ment.

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION Nordic Combined Committee

Minutes of the 88th Nordic Combined Committee Meeting Hotel Hilton, Zürich-Airport (SUI), 30.09.2022

AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the meeting
- 2. IOC Presentation
- 3. Members present
- 4. Approval of the agenda
- 5. Approval of the minutes of the Nordic Combined Committee Online 13.05.2022
- 6. Report from Summer events 2022
- 7. WC and COC 2023-24 calendar
- 8. Rules & Regulation update / proposals.
- 9. Proposals to the FIS Council
- 10. Other items arising
- 11. Next meetings

All proposals and decisions of the Nordic Combined Committee are subject to the approval of the FIS Council, 22.10.2022.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair Horst Hüttel (GER) welcomed all members and guests to the 88th meeting of the Nordic Combined Committee at 12:30 CET. Appointment of Secretary, Sophie Hargesheimer.

2. IOC Presentation

"Milano Cortina 2026 - Nordic Combined"

IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell welcomed all members of the Nordic Combined committee.

Kit McConnell (IOC)

Being open about the decision-making process is very important. The IOC Executive Board acts on the decisions from the Olympic Programme Commission and will present the recommendation in the IOC Session. Kit gives an explanation of the programme principles: Max. 2900 overall athlete quota, gender equal participation, new events that accommodate athletes within the quota and without additional venues. They received 23 proposals in total, 16 from FIS for OWG 2026. A decrease in the overall quota from Pyeongchang to Beijing happened to reach gender equality. To further decrease the quota, a reduction of quota spots in NC (from 55 to 36) and SJ (from 55 to 50) took place. The reason for the decision against NCW: Universality is missing in Nordic Combined (same countries are represented, missing diversity on the podium, European focus), popularity media wise is missing, NC was the lowest ranked discipline over almost all 13 indicators in the last 3 OWG. (f.e. Viewing hours, Audience). Starting times have an influence on popularity, but are not the only reason for the low ranking. "We don't want to kill NC, we want to connect in a better way with the audiences to keep it in the program, as well as develop Women's NC".

The next steps are the definition of the qualification systems, the development of participation and audience.

"The stronger you are in Milano Cortina, the higher the chances for future participation of NC. We are here to support as a partner to develop Nordic Combined in all indicators".

Horst Hüttel (Chair)

We are in close communication with IOC, NSAs and the athletes since the decision was made in June 2022.

We already proved successful participation in the YOG and great development in the last 8 years since we started working on NC women

Niklas Carlsson (FIS)

FIS has been spoiled with adding new events at every OWG. FIS has to proactively work on development of NC because there is a fantastic history of NC for almost a hundred years.

There is a big difference between World Cup and OWG audience wise. We can see an European focus during World Cup and top 3 ranking audience wise, but unfortunately not during OWG.

F.e. Snowboard very successful during OWG due to the high diversity in nations

but does not have a big WC tour.

No dramatic changes are needed in the rules to get more nations on the podium but instead we can work around starting times to prioritize NC for the OWG 2026. It is necessary to reach the big markets globally as well as to get a long-term planning for all winter sports to grow the participation of nations.

Creative ideas are needed on how to improve Nordic Combineds attractiveness until the spring meetings.

Edgar Fossheim (NOR)

NC is a classic sport but there's been great improvement. NC had the most exciting events in Beijing and everybody in Norway talked about those competitions. We shouldn't lose the heart of our sport with making too many changes. Instead, the IOC has to understand the soul of Nordic Combined.

Kit McConnell (IOC)

Well known athletes are needed to support the audience value globally. NC is a traditional event, but this is not enough, exciting events, maybe new formats, are needed to improve the interest.

Billy Demong (USA)

Everybody was caught off guard by the decision. We had a similar situation in the US after cutting of funding for SJ / NC.

A common understanding of the goals is needed: What are the next steps after OWG 2026? Cutting the quota and expecting more nations is not possible Question: Is it the Councils task to develop NC or the committees?

Ivo Pertile (ITA)

Without a perspective it is difficult to motivate our youngsters, positive goals are necessary to keep the development moving.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

It is very difficult to not only decide against the women but also cut the quota. Question: On what topic will the IOCs focus be?

Kit McConnell (IOC)

The IOC wants to see an overall positive development. An open communication is needed and we will make sure to also take small positive steps into account when making decisions in the future.

Jim Woolsey (CAN)

If the message of "IOC wants NC to be successful" would be public, it would be easier to keep the motivation of young athletes. We only saw negative headlines after the decision, without a wish of cooperation visible for the public.

Irina Gladkikh (IOC)

Working together is necessary and we saw a great media representation ahead of the IOC decision, but it came too late. It is necessary to get in touch with your National Olympic Committees to support NC and to let them make proposals for the upcoming Games.

"You know your sport and we know what the audience wants, so we have to bring those two parts together to have a successful future for NC"

Kai Bracht (GER)

The number of athletes/nations is a big indicator in the decision making process. Question: How can we bring more nations if the quota is cut?

Irina Gladkikh (IOC)

We are working together with FIS to change the qualification system. A reduction of athletes per nation is needed, to keep the overall number of nations high.

Jyri Pelkoven (FIN)

Question: How does the IOC decide which new sport to add?

Irina Gladkikh (IOC)

The IOC doesn't add any sport if there is no proposal from the host committee. Ski Mountaineering will have to send a new proposal if they want to participate in 2030. NCW proposal has to come from FIS since NC is already an Olympic sport.

Kit McConnell, Irina Gladkikh and Niklas Carlsson left the meeting at 13:15 CET.

Horst Hüttel commented on the presentation from IOC Sport Director Kit McConnell.

Working together is necessary to create a successful strategy until 2026. Universality for IOC means more nations fighting for the podium not necessarily bringing new nations into the Games.

Bill Demong (USA)

We need a close exchange with IOC and national representatives from the Council to work on a strategy. Cooperation with SJ Committee and OCs is also needed.

Horst Hüttel (Chair)

The FIS Council will support NC.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

According to the presentation of the IOC Principles, we have to find a timeline for FIS from September 2022 until May 2023. We have to update of rules and regulations regarding the new Olympic quotas (36), the proposal is as follows: team Sprint replaces Team Event, 2 quota spots per nation, one P-athlete for all NOCs with 2 quota spots.

Jyri Pelkonen (FIN)

We have to think about NC as a product. 12 - 15 nations and more single quotas to have attractive races could be an option.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Participation of more nation in the Team event is necessary.

Jan Rune Grave (FIS)

Smaller nations have better opportunities to send athletes to the Olympic with the new system.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

The long-term goals for 2030 are LH and NH events for both genders and Mixed Team event.

Mario Stecher (AUT)

Proposal: Keep Team Sprint for both genders plus the Mixed Team event.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

It is not realistic to get additional medal events in 2030. We will not get quota spots

back in 2030, the proposal will be for 36/36 with both genders. New proposals are welcome.

Mario Stecher (AUT)

We should use the audience in Planica to present concrete plans.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

IOC representatives are invited to the WSC in Planica as the big events will be the IOCs focus.

Günter Csar (AUT)

Decisions are needed ahead of Planica, proposals are not enough.

Bill Demong (USA)

Proposal: we could have a press conference in Planica to present decisions.

Horst Hüttel (GER)

From an IOC perspective, NC formats are not the issue but the universality is.

Lasse Ottesen presentation of the Road to 2030: the main targets are participation and audience / Universality.

How to get there: Nations support, media diversity, formats, starting times

Lorenzo Pala (Infront)

New formats make things more complicated, more years are needed to implement big changes. The goal should be one TV slot for NC (2h) for the entire event not two separate slots (SJ/CC).

3.	Members Present HUETTEL Horst GER AIT OUARCHIKH Hicham MAR	Remarks Chairman	Substitutes
	BUKOVNIK Janez SLO CHASHCHYN Leonid BLR CHUDY Peter SVK	Excused	no replacement
	DUBROVSKI Stanislav RUS	Excused	no replacement
	KAPLAN Necati TUR	Excused	Yenal Vangolu
	KNOTTEN Guri SUI	Excused	Joel Bieri
	MICHALCZUK Jakub POL	Typused	
	NAZAROVA Lena UKR PERTILE Ivo ITA	Excused	
	SLAVIK Tomas CZE		
	TAHK Suzanne EST		
	VERVEYKIN Andrey KAZ		
	WOOLSEY Jim CAN		
	SATO Tomoki JPN DEMONG Bill, USA GOUY Etienne, FRA PELKONEN Jyri FIN FOSSHEIM Edgar NOR	Excused	Noriko Ozawa
	CSAR Günter AUT		NA (42 1 11 22
	HEROLA IIkka FIN	Excused	Martti Jylhä

Thea Oihaugen NOR

HAIM Harald AUT

PONIKVAR Uros SLO

KOJONKOSKI, Mika FIN

DE MARTIN TOPRANIN Virginia ITA Not present

Not present
Not present

OTTESEN Lasse FIS Race Director

GRAVE Jan Rune FIS Assistant Race Director

KRAUS Guntram FIS Coordinator / Equipment Control

NEUMAYER Michael FIS COC Coordinator HARGESHEIMER Sophie FIS Media Coordinator

LÖSCHER Kerstin FIS Equipment Control Women

Guests:

Kit McConnell IOC Sports Director

Irina Gladkihk IOC

Niklas Karlsson
Jacqueline Stark
Mario Stecher
Luca Gianmoena
Alan Johnson

FIS Secretary General
FIS Women's Committee
AUT Sports Director
OC Val di Fiemme
OC Park City

Ulf Seehase FIS IT

Angela Wiartalla OC Oberstdorf

Lorenzo Pala Infront Jukka Tahkola OC Ruka

Thea Oihagen and Edgar Fossheim (NOR) left the meeting due to the presence of the Belarussian Committee member.

4. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair Horst Hüttel (GER) presented the agenda that was sent out on 12.08.2022. The Committee <u>approved</u> the agenda.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Nordic Combined Committee online meeting, 13.05.20212

The minutes were sent out on 04.06.2022. The Committee approved the minutes.

6. Report from Summer events 2022

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Oberwiesenthal

Mixed Team / Ind. m&w with livestream and live TV. On Sunday, the finish was on Fichtelberg. The starting times must be reconsidered because of the wind.

Oberstdorf

Ind. m&w in the middle of the week, but great spectator turnout. We had no livestream but 6 nations on the podium.

Tschagguns

SGP was held at the same time as Youth Cup and the feedback about this common event was good. Two Ind. m&w with men's Trial Round cancelled due to long women's event. More spectators were expected due to the weekend timetable.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

There is an interest from Norway to host a SGP event in 2023 with live TV (NRK) fixed and Eurosport Germany interested.

Horst Hüttel (Chair)

Nations need to be present in all SGP events.

Lasse Ottesen:

The priorities of the teams have to be figured out before finding organizers, if it's too expansive to go to Norway, staying in Middle Europe is the consequence.

Günter Csar (AUT)

We had 94 athletes, 32 girls, 62 boys in Youth Cup with many different nations in the top 3 (7 in girls races, 6 in boys races).

We saw very successful and diverse events.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

We received positive feedback from athletes regarding cross run. Jarl Magnus Riiber requested a running event for the SGP.

Jan Rune Grave (FIS)

Thanks to Günter Csar and AUT for hosting this event, the YC is one of the most important events.

Cross run was a great promotion. Proposal: Could we have a cross run for SGP?

7. WC and COC 2023-24 calendar

Michael Neumayer (FIS)

Presentation of COC calendar 2022-23

The US events were unfortunately cancelled. The first event in Ruka is not confirmed yet.

We will have the Test event for "Super Sprint" in Rena as well as the test event "7.5 km" for women.

There will also be a mass Start in Oberstdorf, so all competition formats are represented during the season.

We have events in Lahti during a break-weekend in World Cup, his is a possibility for athletes to join COC events.

Finales will be held in Oberwiesenthal (replacing Klingenthal).

COC Calendar click here.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Proposal: Women's SGP points valid for qualification for WC. Otherwise, we have no WC events for the women without points until the first event in Eisenerz (January 2023).

Jan Rune Grave (FIS)

Proposal: For all seasons without first period events, SGP points are valid for WC qualification.

Horst Hüttel (Chair)

Proposal: FIS Cup replacing COC in the future to support OCs with FIS money.

Michael Neumayer (FIS)

COCs are expensive, but, small nations can compete there because the OC pays the quota.

FIS Cup is cheaper for the OC, but no athlete is paid for so it is more difficult for the teams to participate.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Ewoxx costs can be reduced f.e. in Rena (Norway uses its own system), the goal would be to low the costs for the OCs

FIS President Johann Eliasch joined the meeting at 15:10 CET.

Johann Eliasch (FIS)

"If you want to be a champion, figure out what you already can". NC is a great discipline, but we have some challenges. People expect top level performances but don't understand the immense variety performing wise between SJ and CC, which makes it a challenge. "How can we make the sport more appealing now?" The IOC's decision was very disappointing, and I never stopped complaining about it. FIS has to think strong and hard to make it more appealing as a television product. "You have my full support and I am fighting for you".

Ask your federations for support and we will fight together.

Bill Demong (USA)

The biggest issue is the missing diversity in nations on the podium. If the US is on the podium again, we could reach a bigger market.

Johann Eliasch (FIS)

Even if US is on the podium, we have to think about formats, the key to success is a more attractive picture for viewers.

FIS President Johann Eliasch left the meeting at 15:25 CET.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Presentation of Women's World Cup calendar 2022-23
We have a special program in Oslo with a 2-day event for women.
WCW Calendar, click here.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Presentation of Men's World Cup calendar 2022-23 WCM Calendar, <u>click here</u>.

Proposal from GER: "German Trophy" for German events Extra Prize money and sponsor for this trophy but the presence at all events necessary to win.

Jan Rune Grave (FIS)

World Cup points etc. are the same, only system to figure out the winner has to be newly calculated

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Question: Any proposals on how to calculate the winner? F.e. World Cup points, ranking?

Kai Bracht (GER)

More marketing and advertisement (leader bib etc.) are needed, to make the tour idea visible.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Presentation of Women's World Cup calendar 2023-24 draft. Japan is back on the calendar. YOG (Korea) 19.1.-2.2.2024 have to be considered. TRIPLE planned in Seefeld for the first time.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Men's World Cup calendar 2023-24 draft

Ruka moved one week later and FIS Games (February) planned but not confirmed. "If we don't have enough events, the format doesn't matter". Therefore, filling the calendar is the highest priority. Support from the NSAs needed to have as many events as possible also for the women.

Günter Csar (AUT)

Proposal: Events in primetime (Christmas) are necessary to use the viewers interest during this period.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

There are ongoing discussions with SLO regarding Silvester Tour for SJW. They were interest in hosting NC instead if SJW was not possible. Maximum of events in Austria, Germany and Norway is reached, so more nations are necessary to host events without having to cut out other competitions for a "Silvester/Christmas" event.

Kai Bracht (GER)

Question: Is there any interest in the US about hosting NC?

Billy Demong (USA)

The interest is there and venues are new. The raise of interest would be even bigger, if there would be medal candidates from the US.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

The current goal is a World Cup in the US latest in 2025. But, it would be necessary for all top athletes to join this event.

8. Rules & Regulation update / proposals.

ICR rule update:

505.3.2 Daily allowance from CHF 100, - to CHF 125,-

Confirmed by the Committee.

Jan Rune Grave (FIS)

SGP test phase for value of the tail wind had good results. We went from 21% to

50% for all levels, The suit rule change has an impact on the value of the SJ product.

Proposal confirmed.

Guntram Kraus (FIS)

Giving crotch measurement in average +2cm, we are Following SJ with this rule. The first trial of body height measurement was not ideal, so it was decided to add a plate at the feet to make it as fair as possible. The stretching of the suit has gone through new rule (+2-4cm). Institutes for body scans are needed, to take the athletes measurements, it would be a fair and equal way to get the measurements and less work for EQC.

New measurement and suit size Confirmed.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Thanks to Guntram Kraus for his work and the close cooperation with SJ. We received positive feedback from the teams about the procedure. The focus should be on the sport not on EQ discussions. The goal is to keep all rules for one Olympic period.

Nations supporting Nations Concept

Top 5 nations would be sharing training camps, knowledge, wax support etc. We will receive a report from those nations about development in spring 2023. The goal is to bring more nations to the podium.

Horst Hüttel (Chair)

Question to the top 6 – 10 nations: Is this idea helpful?

Jakub Michalczuk (POL)

It is a good idea to support our team. New training concepts would be very helpful, also to get a new perspective. Integration would help our athletes to gain confidence.

Question: Are there development programs from NSAs available that could be used?

Tomas Slavik (CZE)

We are supporting shared training camps, but are not in favor of knowledge sharing. It is a great chance to step up our performance, but the different equipment is of course still a problem.

Horst Hüttel (Chair)

The top 5 nations have to share, it is the only way to become bigger as a sport.

Etienne Gouy (FRA)

Question: Will the top 5 nations be happy if the smaller nations "take away" their podium spots?

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

They have to understand the urgency of nation development in the current situation we are in regarding the OWG. The strong nations are needed and their feedback is positive. The concrete plans of support are up to the nations. The only other chance would be to cut of quota spots in WC and COC to get more variety of nations on the podium.

Bill Demong (USA)

Coaches have to agree on the supporting system. Supporting the cutting of the quota proposal.

Peter Chudy (SVK)

Our main goal is participation in JWSC 2023. Slovakia wants to bring M&W and would be thankful for support.

Mario Stecher (AUT)

We argainst equal wax proposal, the contracts with (wax/service) companies make this complicated.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

If Nations supporting Nations works, no wax concept is needed. No need to put this in the rules, since the top 5 nations support the idea.

The goal is to get financial support from FIS.

Bill Demong (USA)

We are developing a women's training group planned in Lake Placid. NSAs interested in joining, can reach out.

The goal would be an exchange of knowledge. It would be financed through sponsorship and fundraising.

Jan Rune Grave (FIS)

Other disciplines (SJ/CC) have to follow in the future, when they'll be facing the same issues.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

WC Ranking system

We have to increase the value of regularity in participation. An idea could be to have WC points for top 50.

Proposal: Sub Committee to present proposal in the spring

Bill Demong (USA)

Cutting the quota brings higher value of COC

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

We could use the idea of doing an "Olympic Style" system. CC has the same issue but more time is needed to develop a concrete plan for implementation

Prize Money Update:

FIS pays 20% of the total amount of PM. 10% increase for the athletes and 10% less payment for OCs.

Proposal: Add 10% to existing Prize Money

Proposal accepted.

Proposal: Ruka and Seefeld prize money system will be swapped

Proposal accepted.

Proposal: Germany Trophy.

Proposal accepted.

Proposal: Super Sprint

On a course length of 700-800 m (uphill parts and corners needed), the top 25 goes into quarter final, top 2 go to semifinal etc.

The calculation for SJ part same would be the same as in Mass Start.

We would like to have a Test event in Rena (COC).

Proposal accepted.

Kai Bracht (GER) presenting the "Weinbuch" event.

The proposal comes from GER. The main goals are gender equality,

diversity/universality, media impact / audience.

Progressive proposals for formats are needed. Ideas have to be implementable for both genders and the best athletes should win.

Two proposals will be presented:

One format for good skiers: Power Compact Race

Starting order after SJ result, fixed gap for each rank, within 1min everybody is on the track

The positive side would be more fights and position changes (good TV pictures).

Mario Stecher (AUT)

Agreeing with proposal, especially if 7.5km races are planned in the future

Kai Bracht (GER)

One format for good jumpers: Cross Race

After SJ: 4 groups/heats with 10 athletes each (1-10, 11-20 etc.) with 2 CC races (short distance with obstacles). After the first race, exchange of athletes in each heat. Final race would gather the following athletes: Heat 21-30, Heat 11-20, Heat 1-10.

The positive side would be more visibility of each athlete, it would be easier to gain WC points, and it represents a compact new course.

Jyri Pelkonen (FIN)

Obstacle course can be a challenge for the OCs.

Kai Bracht (GER)

The course distance should not extend 1 km.

Jan Rune Grave (FIS)

Question: Do you have a local event where you can test this?

Horst Hüttel (Chair)

The test will take place during the Deutschlandpokal. Videos and experiences will be shared afterwards

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Agreeing with first proposal, it is easy and simple to understand. We can have a test event in COC, already in 2022-23 season will be discussed.

Michael Neumayer (FIS)

Proposal: Test event in Oberwiesenthal at the COC finals.

Horst Hüttel (Chair)

Clear plan needed before the season start to communicate already in Ruka.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Proposal: Startright NC Women WC 22-23 with SGP points

Proposal to be discussed in Extraordinary Executive Board meeting November

- Proposal: Team Sprint and Mixed Team

- TS test COC: 45pts per min

- Team & Mixed Team: From 45 to 60 pts per min

Proposal postponed due to not enough committee members present.

- Mixed Team as normal event, taking away the average calculation

Proposal to be discussed in Extraordinary Executive Board meeting November

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Top 5 Nations meeting to be held end of October for further discussions around the proposal "Nations supporting Nations Concept".

NC Committee confirmed that an Extra Executive Board meeting should be held first part of November and gave the Executive Board the power to decide on the open topics from this meeting.

9. Proposals to the FIS Council

Calendars 2022-23 and 2023-24 Prize Money update NC 2030 strategy

10. Other items arising

Jakub Michalczuk (POL)

Question: Updates on the fluor ban?

Jan Rune Grave (FIS)

Fluor ban is valid since 2021 but only the testing procedure was postponed for a vear.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

FIS team will do tests during the season, but they are no DSQ reason.

Jacqueline Stark (AUT)

Representative from the FIS Women's Committee, the mentorship program in progress. The general questions are: What kind of women do we want to encourage? Where is help needed? What is the best way to offer support? One person per NSA is responsible to collect the Status Quo and see where concrete support from FIS is needed. It would be helpful if the Race Director is taking part in the meetings to help figure out where Nordic Combined women need support.

Lasse Ottesen (FIS)

Thea Oihagen was taking part in the Autumn Meetings, we receive great support

from the Athletes Commission.

Ilkka Herola and Thea Oihagen sent their points in advance, which were all covered during today's meeting.

11. Next meetings

Horst Hüttel (Chair)

Nordic Combined already had to fight in the past, so working together is the only option to build a successful future now

FIS Spring meetings, $14^{th} - 15^{th}$ April 2023 in Zurich. FIS NC Committee meeting $3^{rd} - 5^{th}$ May 2023 in Dubrovnik.

The Chair Horst Hüttel closed the meeting at 17:45 CET.