

To the

- Members of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup
- Atle Skaardal, Chief Race Director World Cup Women
- Markus Waldner, Chief Race Director World Cup Men
- Jean-Philippe Vuillet, Race Director World Cup Women Speed Events
- Hannes Trinkl, Race Director World Cup Men Speed Events
- Markus Mayr, Race Director World Cup Women Technical Events
- Emmanuel Couder; Coordinator Men's World Cup

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- Stefan Huber, FIS Event Director
- Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Technical and Administrative Coordinator

Oberhofen, 12.06.2019

**Minutes of the Sub-Committee Meeting for the Alpine World Cup
Hotel Croatia Cavtat-Dubrovnik (CRO), Friday, 31.05.2019**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you the minutes of the Sub-Committee Meeting for the Alpine World Cup, which was held in Cavtat-Dubrovnik, 31st May 2019.

We kindly ask that you send any remarks to the FIS Alpine Office in Oberhofen by the **21st June 2019** (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.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.

Kindest regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION



Niklas Carlsson
Chairman Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup

Enclosure: mentioned

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

**Minutes of the meeting Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup
Friday, 31.05.2019, 08:00 hrs., Conference Room "Ragusa"**

All proposals and decisions of the Sub-Committee are subject to the confirmation of the Alpine Committee and to the approval of the FIS Council in May in Cavtat-Dubrovnik (CRO).

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

2. Roll-call

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

3. Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved by the Sub-Committee.

4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held in Zürich on 28.09.2018

The minutes are approved by the Sub-Committee.

5. Reports

a) from the Chairman Niklas Carlsson

The Chairman is proud to see that there is always big interest and passion for the World Cup meeting.

He mentions the difficulties of last season due to the weather conditions that obstructed 2 race weekends, one in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the other one in Sochi. He congratulates the organizers for the huge effort and the commitment they have had.

He congratulates Andorra for the amazing finals they organized.

He congratulates Mikaela Shiffrin and Marcel Hirscher for their outstanding performances winning the Overall World Cup many years in a row.

He confirms that Cortina World Championship program will include the Parallel. After the Zurich conference last year, several working group sessions have been held to improve the Parallel format. They have decided to include it during Cortina World Championship along with the Alpine Combined -For that reason it is important to develop its value throughout the World Cup. With an increased schedule, the World Championship time period will be extended from 2 to 3 weekends.

Working Group composed by 5 members of the council had several meetings during the spring to find the way to work on getting the Alpine Combined stronger and make sure to make it more attractive for the next 2-3 years.

He underlines the challenge for the race directors to increase the calendar and he asked to support their choices that will bring a lot of compromises. He congratulates

their amazing work on finding the right solution to set the right balance between disciplines in the calendar that has never been so changed in the past.

He thanks the organizers and the national ski associations to support the development of the Alpine World Cup.

He has asked for the cooperation from the council and the organisers in terms of accepting the necessary changes to the World Cup, which will require flexibility and understanding on everyone's part to make work.

He thanks to all of the stakeholder (broadcasters, media, rights holders, organizers, ...) for their tremendous work. They keep pushing the limits and the budgets to make the World Cup a better place and the improvements so far in term of quality are huge.

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

Markus Waldner (FIS) starts by mentioning that they are already focus on the next season but he wants also to analyze their past mistakes and learn from those to improve year by year.

All in all, it was a very successful season with a lot of challenges as always but in term of snow they can't complain because the Alps were very gentle with them with huge snowfall especially in Austria and Tirol. Thanks to the last generation snow making systems, the conditions were always good and the race cancellations wasn't because the lack of snow but because too much snow.

He mentioned the work of the weather experts that are facing a lot of issues during the winter to be always clear and accurate in term of weather informations due the fact that all the decisions were made under a well-aimed weather forecast by our expert.

He affirms that flexibility was another key word in the last season, thanking all of the stakeholders for being flexible in terms of changing programs because without it, more races would have been cancelled.

He goes through the last season program with 42 races scheduled including the 6 competition in Are. Unfortunately, Soelden has been cancelled for the second time in a row due to a strong wind and also Val d'Isere Slalom has been cancelled. Luckily both races have been promptly rescheduled in Saalbach thanks to the Austrian Ski Association. Garmisch-Partenkirchen weekend cancellation was really hard to swallow and he was really sorry for the German Ski Association. They tried to reschedule Garmisch-Partenkirchen downhill in Kvitfjell but due to a strong wind on Friday the downhill has been definitely cancelled. Garmisch-Partenkirchen Giant Slalom wasn't rescheduled and consequently cancelled. Last cancelled race was the Super-G in Bansko due a really strong snow falls in the morning. In total 3 races have been cancelled and the season ended with 39 races carried out plus 6 World Championship events for a total number of 45 competitions.

The highlight of the season was the World Championship in Are. On the men's side, travelling issues cause a lot of stress for the organizers and the teams and force them

to adapt the first downhill training program. Consequently, they took the decision to have an off-weekend before the big events to avoid problems in the future.

In Sweden they faced 2 challenging weeks due to the changing of weather forecast but at the end they delivered all 6 events in safety and fairness.

He wanted to thank once again Are's organizers for making this last World Championship possible.

Once again, he mentions how important was the flexibility of the stakeholders to make the World Championship happened and to switch Kitzbuhel's program for the first time in history. This underlined the importance of the value of the sport in term of safety.

He also mentions the World Cup Finals in Soldeu, where everything was perfect and congratulate the organizers for the outstanding work they did for the last World Cup week.

He continues by underlining the numbers of injured athletes, 18 in the top 50 especially in the speed events with different kind of injuries. He aims to analyze this topic with the teams, the organizing committee and the industries to find the way to reduce this number.

He was pleased to tell that Mark Gisin was in Val Gardena to thank his rescuers for their amazing job and to announce that he will be back on track for the next season.

He mentions the good cooperation with skis industries in the giant slalom 30 meters ray skis. This change proved to be very positive, with more dynamics turns and it brought a good show in this discipline which is the core of Alpine Skiing. On the other hand, the course setting has to improve and this is one of their goal for the future.

Markus Waldner (FIS) explains that he had a meeting with the coaches after the season and they underlined the heavy programs of the calendar which is always a main topic. He also thinks that the calendar is truly overloaded and the major problem is January period for the speed events because the athletes don't have any time to recover. The goal for the future is finding a good harmony between tech and speed weekends.

Markus Waldner (FIS) also takes the time to remember all the retirements from big names in the Circuit as Felix Neureuther, Aksel Lund Svindal, Thomas Fanara and so on. He was also pleased to see new strong successors like Clement Noel. He congratulates Marcel Hirscher for his eight straight Overall win and recognizes his very continuous performance throughout the season

He ends by complimenting his colleagues for the great work throughout the winter, mentioning that Sophie Clivaz retired from her role and Gianluca De Cristofaro will replace her.

To conclude, he thanks all the partners of the World Cup: EBU, Infront, the broadcasters, Swiss Timing, the organizers, the FIS team, and all those who work behind the scenes to make it happen.

c) from Atle Skaardal, Chief Race Director World Cup Women

Atle Skaardal (FIS) starts by explaining that it was a ups and down winter due to the complex weather conditions but in general all the event has been really well received and TV numbers are comparable to the men's tour.

He mentions the established organizers and in particular in US where the Women's tour struggled in the past to confirm the event itself. He points up at Killington's organizers job as an example where they were able to produce an event of 30.000 spectators.

After the ups, he also talks about the downs and the missed races weekends in St. Anton and Sochi. These cancellations have been very tough to face for the stakeholders in general.

He sadly mentions the issue that he personally had to face in Crans Montana with the timing problem, saying that they are working hard with Swiss Timing and Longines to avoid these kinds of issue in the future.

He agrees with Markus Waldener (FIS) that injuries is a very tough topic and he is sorry to see that the number of injured athletes is increasing not just in the World Cup but mostly into the lower levels. They are taking good initiatives and they will never stop working in this direction in term of decrease this number in the future.

The World Championship in Are were a struggle due to the weather conditions, but the set up they found once they arrived was perfect. Together with the organizing committee and the jury worked well to always find right solutions to complete the 6 events in the program.

The Parallel event last year made a good step forward and it has been implemented in a very good way by St. Moritz for example. The basics around the Parallel are set and everybody are eager to get the final confirmation for the Parallel Cup. The rules are set with the aim of harmonise and clarify the product.

The Alpine Combined came back stronger into the calendars and it brought some challenges to implement this event once again and to convince the organizers and the broadcaster that is still a good product.

This season has lost 4 speed races, one of which was the Alpine Combined, so they weren't able to assign the World Cup trophy.

He thanks all the partners of the World Cup: EBU, Infront, the broadcasters, Swiss Timing, the organizers, the FIS team, and all those who work behind the scenes to make it happen and congratulate Andorra for the great show they delivered during the World Cup finals.

He ends by complimenting his colleagues for the great work throughout the winter mentioning that Christine Feehan retired from her role and Giulia Candiago will replace her.

d) from Jürg Capol, Marketing Director

He starts his presentation underlining the media impact comparison between 2017/18 and 2018/19 season where the Ski Jumping has highest numbers then Alpine Skiing.

He affirms that in general the number of viewers is stable and it doesn't show particular progress. The core market is represented by 5 countries which generate the 74% of the viewers. Germany and Austria are generating the 50% of the media impact in general. Seeing this data, the goal is distributing the values and increasing the viewers.

He examines the live audience by venue and he underlines Zagreb with impressive numbers because it is in second position between Soldeu, which held the World Cup finals, and Kitzbuhel's which is one of the bigger events in Alpine Skiing.

Jürg Capol (FIS) asks to Vedran Pavlek (CRO) what has been their secret to have such a great number of live Audience.

Vedran Pavlek (CRO) replies that they adapted the starting time with the market request and they moved both races in the afternoon instead of morning. They also coordinated the timing with other events like Tour the Ski.

Jürg Capol (FIS) continues by showing his concern regarding the Downhill starting list order due to the fact that viewers are interrupting watching the race very early because they already know the result.

He reports the importance on watching into the future of Winter Sport and he underlines the importance of Alpine Skiing fans. The fans are the core of the Winter Sport community so FIS has to work in the direction of understanding their needs, interact with them, know them, improve their approach. This will add value to the sport in general and to its partners.

He concludes his presentation by pushing the sport side, the marketing side, the stakeholder in general and the communication side to create all together engagement and revenue for Alpine Skiing.

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) refers to the optimization project that has been done 10 years ago and he pushes all the stakeholder to look into a bigger scale and to improve and to develop together the Alpine Skiing World Cup with a proper structure with the aim to face future changes in the suitable way.

He proposes to make a project with established working group to present in Zurich 2020 with concretes inputs by all the stakeholder.

Wolfgang Maier (GER) complains about the speed events draw formula, the implementation of Alpine Combine and Parallel races are creating issues into the calendars of the upcoming seasons and the World Championship are taking 3 weekends instead of 2. He doesn't understand the strategy and the direction that Alpine Skiing is taking and he aims to solve problems instead of adding them with the purpose of really develop this sport and not disintegrate its credibility.

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) understands Wolfgang Maier's frustration but he also underlines that all the changes are made to develop and improve in the interest of World Cup.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) points out the working group created in Soelden during the Chief of Media Meeting in October 2018. This Working Group is based on findings from the survey sent out to athletes from all the nations. The aim is developing and improving the digital and creative part of the Alpine Skiing World Cup based on to athletes' answers.

6. Rules season 2019/20

6.1 ITA Proposal World Cup starting order DH

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) remarks how important is this topic and how difficult is finding the right solution to satisfy everybody.

The proposal that Italy presented is not ready yet to go through and he asked Italy to lead this topic in a working group to be presented in Zurich next October.

Alfons Thoma (ITA) explains the proposal.

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) underlines the importance of having the right formula, because once it has been decided, it will be used for the next 4 seasons.

Wolfgang Maier (GER) suggest to postpone the decision on this proposal to Zurich and working on it.

7. Calendars 2019/20

Atle Skaardal (FIS) goes through the 2018/2019 women's calendar, mentioning the following events:

- The slalom opening in Levi has been moved one week later in November 23rd
- The PAR has been included in St. Moritz with the new rules
- Courchevel GS will anticipate Val D'Isere Speed events on Tuesday 17th
- 1st January Parallel TBD
- Val D'Isere, Zauchensee, Crans Montana and La Thuile will held the 4 AC
- Sestriere has been anticipated in January due to high season in Italy and it has been switched with Maribor.
- La Thuile took Meribel place due to February's high season
- The World Cup finals in Cortina will use just one finish area.

It makes a total of 43 competitions in 23 resorts, with a quite tight schedule but a good balance between disciplines.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) points out the importance to keep considered the new resorts like Slovakia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria and so on because their big commitments and their great job so far.

Atle Skaardal (FIS) explains that it's always very challenging to find the right solution because the interest is very high and many resorts want to be part of the calendars. The goal is considering all the applications and find the perfect balance to keep the value of the events.

Markus Waldner (FIS) goes through the 2018/19 men's calendar, mentioning the following events:

- The calendar is getting very hard to manage and the number of races is increasing year by year, he asks the support from the Council to help him to find the right balance and right solutions.

- Levi has been moved one-week later November 24th
- Bormio will hold the first AC of the season instead of the superG with a Slalom first run and SuperG second run format. Also, the Alpine Combined will be on Sunday to keep the spectators motivated.
- 1st of January City Event is still to be defined. Davos (SUI) proposes to host the event and the final decision will be made by July 10th.
- Madonna di Campiglio will be in January instead of December
- Chamonix will host a tech weekend due to the fact that the weekend after will be in China with speed disciplines and this require time for the team to face the travel.
- Yanqing is presenting a very impressive project and incredible constructions work are going on to be ready at the beginning of November and host the first World Cup event as Test event for the next OWG.
- Yuzawa Naeba (JPN) will decide whether or not to host two Giant Slaloms instead of one Giant Slalom and one Slalom. This change is a consequence of the AC implementation in the tight calendar. The final decision will be made by June 10th.

Hinterstoder will have a special format for the Alpine Combined with both inspections in the morning and both courses set with the intention to create a more compact event.

It makes a total of 46 competitions in 23 resorts.

Srecko Medven (Club 5) wonders the real value of the implementation of the Alpine Combined and the Parallel in the Calendar. He points out that the organizers are facing big investments to sustain the feasibility of the races and to maintain the high-quality standard that FIS is asking them. He asked FIS to consider long-term contract with the organisers so their investments could be considered meaningful. He also asked to be clear in term of strategy to avoid lack of consistency in the sport but rather giving it value.

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) explains that the aim of Alpine Combined implementation is to increase the real value of the discipline itself in making it more attractive. He also responded regarding the long-term commitment saying that it is definitely one of their main goal and regarding the long-term strategy he agrees with Srecko Medven that has to be reviewed to give consistency to this sport.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) reminds a past sentence “We have to make choices on what is good for the sport and what is good for skiing” underlining his disagreement that Hinterstoder (AUT) Giant Slalom is not anymore in the calendar and he remarks that Yuzawa Naeba (JPN) slalom has to have definitely been added into the calendar because the show they were able to produce was great.

Markus Waldner (FIS) replies that they will work hard to find the best solution to find the right balance between disciplines and organizers.

Robert Waleczka (EBU) remarks the importance to not overlapping for major events in future.

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) concludes point 7 remarking to the council the importance of being really careful on the decisions that will affect the upcoming season programs. He hopes that the present situation was an extraordinary fact and it will not happen again

in the future.

8. World Cup calendar proposals 2020/21 – 2021/22

Atle Skaardal (FIS) goes through the 2020/2021 calendar for the women's Tour and mentions the following events:

- Alpine combined will continue strong in the calendars
- Interesting possibilities to close the gap between Soelden and Levi implementing a race weekend at the beginning of November
- China is hosting the women's test event
- 8 downhill races planned but the idea is to get to 9
- Cortina World Championship is taking 3 weekends instead of 2

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) proposes to switch the Parallel with the Super-G during St. Moritz weekend, meaning SG on Saturday and PAR on Sunday.

Atle Skaardal (FIS) responds positively to this request.

Atle Skaardal (FIS) goes through the 2021/2022 calendar for the women's Tour and mentions the following events:

- Established weekend or weekday night event at the beginning of November to fill the gap between Soelden and Levi
- Sestriere and Kronplatz are the two candidates for the open weekend at the beginning of March (05-08 March). He aims to have a speed weekend so he asked to have other candidates for this weekend.
- Courchevel-Meribel are hosting the next World Championship so the 2021/22 finals will be in France.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) submits Lenzerheide as a candidate to fill up March gap at the end of the season with speed disciplines.

Markus Waldner (FIS) goes through the 2020/2021 calendar for the men's Tour and mentions the following events:

- Due the fact that the Cortina World Championship has already started running a 3 week program, he proposed to move one of the Classic World Cup races in Garmisch-Partenkirchen after the World Championship in Cortina, taking the place of the weekend in Bansko.
- However, the exclusion of Bansko from the World Cup calendar means that Bansko will no longer host the next Junior World Championships and therefore not deliver Bansko World Cup races for the 2020/21 season. This would lead to the loss of the venue for the JWC and the need to find other candidates to host it.
- Panorama (CAN) and Italy are two open possibilities for the JWC.
- The decision regarding the Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Bansko weekends is still under discussion.

Wolfgang Maier (GER) claims that German Ski Association will not accept to be kicked out from the calendar.

Tzeko Minev (BUL) underlines their discontent for this issue. He wondered why FIS arrived at this situation with just one season margin and with approved calendars in the

last 3 years. In case of cancellation they will definitely face financial issues and this is not acceptable.

Markus Waldener (FIS) totally understands the critical situation and he will work hard to find the best solution.

- Soelden Opening planned 31st October for the Women and 1st November for the Men's has to be defined due to the national holidays in Austria. Austrian Ski association asked to anticipate the race weekend for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons.

Race directors said that bringing the Sölden weekend forward is not supported by the broadcasters due to the increased gap between Sölden and Levi. In addition the time frame preparing the glacier in October is very tight already and bringing the weekend forward is involving higher risk of losing the races.

Markus Waldner (FIS) goes through the 2021/2022 calendar for the Men's Tour and mentions the following events:

- Garmisch-Partenkirchen topic is still open in discussion because the weekend before the Olympics has to be off of races.

9. Parallel Events Rules

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) starts by congratulate the working group, headed by Ken Read (CAN), that has worked on the Parallel format for the World Cup events.

The proposal is based on run and re-run to permit the athletes to ski on both courses and to satisfy the broadcaster request for a one-hour event just 16 athletes will take part at the finals. World Cup points will be distributed to the top 16 athletes in addition to the athletes places 17th- 30th in the qualification.

Atle Skaardal (FIS) says that harmonizing the event has been the goal of the past months. The Parallel as a event itself has been set with an new and independent starting list for the next season called PWSL (Parallel World Seeding List) and an independent World Cup trophy.

The official wording for the parallel events, included City Event or Team Event, is Parallel (PAR). After the qualification just 16 athletes will take part to the Parallel finals (starting with the round of sixteen) instead of 32. Athletes ranked from 17th to 30th after the qualification will score World Cup Points for the Parallel Cup.

Daniel Defago (FIS) explains that the Parallel World Seeding List (PWSL) is valid for the upcoming season 2019/20 meanwhile a proper WCSL (World Cup Starting List) for parallel will be established from 2020/2021 season. The PWSL follow FIS points so it means that it will be publish in the same time as the other Fis List and it is based on the highest number of best ranks in all 4 disciplines.

10. Start field reduction proposal

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) explains that the start field reduction proposal has been a recurring topic in the past year and he congratulates the Working Group composed by men's coaches for the well-made work they proposed.

An athlete must be ranked within the first 150 on the FIS points list or in the top 30 of the WCSL in any event, from the previous level of maximum 80 points. 33 nations will

fill these requirements. This would result in a reduction of approximately 5-10 athletes per competition.

Miho Glavic (CRO) complains that the proposal is too strict for small nations and young athletes, asking to review the proposal and make it less restrictive. He suggests to increase to 200 Fis Points instead of 150.

Srecko Medven (Club5) agrees that the proposal is very well-done and the Club5 members are very much in support of it.

Wolfgang (GER) requests to postpone the decision until Zurich, due to the fact that 80 Fis points is a very strong number-- a number which he feels should be re-considered.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) in replying to Miho Glavic (CRO)'s request reminds that the organising nations have double quota and also remind that Europa Cup is still very important to consider in term of connection with World Cup.

Srecko Medven (Club5) reminds that the World Cup is not the proper place to train but nations and athletes have to be ready to face a World Cup race as a proper competition.

Niklas Carlsson (FIS) calls the vote.

The proposal has been approved by the Sub-Committee, with 10 votes for and 3 votes against, and will be forwarded to the Alpine Committee.

11. Procedure to apply for the Final 2022/23

Candidates have until the 1st of July to submit presentations in Zurich, where they will be voted on. If there are more than 2 candidates, the same logic will be applied as is in the World Championships, where the winner must win by a majority vote. At the moment, the candidates who have submitted proposals so far include: Andorra (AND), Lenzerheide (SUI) and Kvitfjell/Hafjell (NOR).

12. Miscellaneous

Josep Maria Ramentol (AND) presented a recap video made during the successful finals Andorra held at the end of last season.

13. Next meeting – Zürich (SUI), 01.-05.10.2019

14. Closing of the meeting

The Chairman concludes by saying that it was a very productive meeting and he underlines once again to the council the importance of being accurate and sensitive to decisions that effect short term programs.

He thanks the FIS staff, both on the hill and at the office, for their tremendous work and closes the meeting.