

To the

- Members of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup
- Atle Skaardal, Chief Race Director World Cup Ladies
- Markus Waldner, Chief Race Director World Cup Men
- Jean-Philippe Vuillet, Race Director World Cup Ladies Speed Events
- Hannes Trinkl, Race Director World Cup Men Speed Events
- Markus Mayr, Race Director World Cup Ladies Technical Events
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- Jürg Capol, Marketing Director
- Stefan Huber, FIS Event Director
- Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Technical and Administrative Coordinator

Oberhofen, 08.10.2018

**Minutes of the Sub-Committee Meeting for the Alpine World Cup
 Hotel Hilton Zurich (SUI), Friday, 28.09.2018, 08:00.**

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 Zürich (SUI), 28th September 2018.

We kindly ask that you send any remarks to the FIS Alpine Office in Oberhofen by the **30. October 2018** (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, 28.09.2018, 08:00, Conference Room “Panorama A/B/C”**

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 November in Oberhofen (SUI).

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

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

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 held in Costa Navarino (GRE) on 16.05.2018

The minutes are approved by the Sub-Committee.

5. Reports

a) from the Chairman Niklas Carlsson

The Chairman is looking back on a fast and great summer. He is happy that the FIS Council confirmed all the proposals made in Costa Navarino, including the quota limitation and the individual parallel as a discipline at the World Championships from Cortina 2021 on.

Also he notes the commitment of the organisers and the NSAs to improve the World Cup. This passion is the biggest asset of this Sub-Committee. The collaboration between the stakeholders is great. It feels like the World Cup is one team, even though sometimes there are different opinions.

However, he remarks that in the future, priorities will have to be made and some adjustments may be painful to go through, for example the start field reduction.

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

Markus Waldner reports from the different summer activities.

Due to Hannes Trinkl's injury, the speed inspections had to be moved back to late summer, but up to the Final inspections in Are and Soldeu, all the summer inspections are completed.

He explains that the organisers and NSAs have been working on the feedbacks from last season, mainly the camera positions, the start times, the course

preparation, safety installations and snow-making systems. Some Classical sites had internal conflicts within their LOCs, but everything is in place for next season.

He adds that the FIS staff also visited technical partners like Leitner/Prinoth, Kässbohrer and Technoalpin, in order to be informed about the latest improvements and better advice the LOCs.

In the speed venues, the issue of the quality of the first training has been discussed. Markus Waldner informs that technical advisors will be sent to some venues in order to start the base preparation earlier.

He concludes by mentioning the RAI 2 will be back with live coverage this winter, so some start times had to be adjusted in Italy.

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

Atle Skaardal notes that a lot of details are discussed with the organisers during summer, but that's the way to improve the World Cup.

He states that the main focuses have been the following:

- establish "bad weather strategies" in order to be better prepared to face weather issues and action quickly,
- review the course preparation, intending to use more water on the speed courses,
- maximize the cooperation between mountain management, LOC, FIS staff and other experts to better support the early course preparation phases
- encourage snow farming and the use of snow factories for some organisers

He also mentions and compliments some organisers for their big investments: Soldeu (with the bridge that connects the course and the village), Cortina (with a new redesigned finish area) and Val d'Isère (with a new gondola).

He goes on with the individual parallel events, and states that the parallel is a new format, in addition to the classic disciplines. Some sites have been using it and hope to attract new fans with this format. St. Moritz will host a parallel slalom this winter and managed to raise the TV value to almost the same amount as a SG.

The Chief Race Director also reports from his inspection in Beijing, where the first World Cup race will take place in one and a half year. A lot is going on, but time runs fast.

d) from Jürg Capol, Marketing Director

The Marketing Director starts by informing that the contract with Audi has been renewed until 2022 and the contract with Longines until 2032. The fact that strong partners believe in the World Cup on a long term perspective is a very good sign.

Audi will no longer be present on the World Cup Tour with its "Home of Quattro", but they are introducing "E-Tron". Our partners are concerned by climate change and the message Audi is sending is also very positive for the image of the World Cup.

Jürg Capol presents the TV figures and confirms that the number of hours and the

audience are stable. The five key markets for the alpine world cup are still Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Sweden.

However, he thinks that the average audience should be improved. It is not good enough for the strongest product within FIS.

He reports about the host broadcasters meeting held this summer. The TV directors are key partners that love our sport and want to present it in the best possible way. He says that we can no longer ignore their feedbacks. The audience wants to see the best athletes of the world in a compact format.

6. Rules Season 2018/19

The Chairman explains that these points are in relation with point 10 in the Agenda. The decision to include the parallel events in the World Championships program made it urgent to clarify the format of this discipline in the future. It is also important to establish parallel as an alpine discipline, available at all FIS levels. He explains that a working group has been created to work in this.

Ken Read, member of the working group, explains that a document with the framework of the parallel disciplines for all the FIS levels will be presented for review in Dubrovnik. The goal is to implement the full package in 2019/20 and have a chance to propose this discipline to the IOC for the program from 2022 on.

Niklas Carlsson explains that the point 10 of the agenda tabled and will be reviewed in details at the next meeting. At this point, the rule needs some fine tuning, so the big steps will come in spring.

- 6.1 Proposal RD, harmonisation parallel events with qualification run – PSL or PGS

Markus Waldner agrees that it is important to implement on all levels, but wonders if a sign for harmonisation should already be given this year. The parallel events in Alta Badia and in Courchevel/St.Moritz are not using the same qualification system.

He goes on mentioning that it could be an option to use the first run of the Alta Badia GS as a qualification, but without protecting athletes anymore, just taking the best 32 of this qualification run, just like in Courchevel/St.Moritz.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) comments that it's not ideal to make a minor adaptation now and then change the whole system next year. It becomes hard to follow and explain. SUI would prefer to keep the rule as it was.

Niklas Carlsson confirms that the rule change is not approved, that the format stays as it was in Alta Badia.

- 6.2 Precisions parallel events with qualification run – PSL – PGS

Atle Skaardal explains the minor rule adjustment that proposes to enrol the athletes in a different way. Before, the enrolment was made based on the WCSL-SL, it makes more sense to enrol the athletes according to their qualification time, this was a strong recommendation from competitors and coaches after the parallel event in Courchevel December 2017

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) asks what kind of start gate is used.

Atle Skaardal answers that it was a normal start gate up to now, but the plan is to use a parallel start gate in the future.

Niklas Carlsson confirms that the rule change is approved and that that the athletes will be enrolled according to their ranking in the qualification. (for season 2018/19 ladies format only)

- 6.3 City Event

The Chief Race Directors would like to adapt the point distribution for the City Events and no longer award the same number of points to ranks 5-8 and 9-16. The total time of the last round would be used to rank the athletes, and they will receive corresponding World Cup points.

Marius Arnesen (NOR) comments that it is already hard to have the Overall top guns to the event and with this rule it would become even less interesting for them. Norway would not change the rule, all other members are in Favour for the change.

Niklas Carlsson confirms that the rule change is approved and that the points will be awarded differently.

To conclude on the rule changes, Niklas Carlsson affirms that it is very important in the future to have an athletes' representative to engage in the debate. If it cannot be Daniela Merighetti or Hannes Reichelt, they should design a representative without a right of vote, but it's important to know their opinion on the rule changes.

7. Calendars 2018/19

The Chief Race Director of the ladies' World Cup Atle Skaardal quickly goes through the calendar for the upcoming season and mentions the following events:

- St. Moritz will host a PSL.
- Val d'Isère will host three races and Courchevel two. It's a good package before Christmas time.
- In Oslo the ramp will be raised in order to have an additional gate.
- Maribor will host Friday-Saturday races due to the travel to Are
- The first training will take place on Monday in Are.
- Most issues are solved in Spindleruv Myln. It's a Friday-Saturday race program due to travel to Soldeu.

He concludes that the calendar is balanced with 9 downhills and 9 slaloms.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) notes that it would be interesting for media to know the procedures for the VISA in Sochi.

Atle Skaardal answers that Lucy can inform but he is confident that it will be a smooth travel.

The Chief Race Director of the men's World Cup Markus Waldner also quickly reviews the calendar 2018/19:

- Levi: the dates have been adjusted following a request of German TV.

- Lake Louise – Beaver Creek: travelling with a charter flight.
- Bormio: the internal conflicts resulted in FIS taking over the leadership and the organisation. Investments are made on the side events and a tunnel has been built at the end of Canalino.
- Adelboden: the evening programs are moved down to Boden
- Wengen: big investments in optic fibre
- Kitzbuehel: a good solution has been found to accommodate the EC races without damaging the World Cup line.
- Are: three trainings will take place, but one of them will not go all the way down.
- Bansko: the width of the final pitch has been increased by 30%
- Kvitfjell: internal problems are resulting in a new sports management, still to be determined by the Norwegian Ski Association. Investments will be made in side events and more staff on the course.
- Soldeu: two training, starting on Monday.

8. World Cup calendar proposals 2019/20 – 2021/22

Atle Skaardal goes through the 2019/20 ladies' World Cup calendar, mentioning that the goal in the future is to establish more classical sites. It is not so easy, especially in February, as there are some limitations (venues that have their high season at that point, others who can't guarantee snow, others that are linked to races on the men's Tour, ...). He comments on the following venues:

- St. Moritz is taking over the first week when the Tour is returning to Europe.
- Val d'Isère and Courchevel are built around the week-end before Christmas.
- Oslo: it looks like a long term commitment can be made.
- Meribel is not confirmed yet due to accommodation issues.
- Cortina will host the World Cup Finals.

He goes on with the 2010/21 calendar.

- Flachau stays as the strong night event we can build on.
- Jasna is moved after Flachau.
- Kronplatz is moved before the World Championships.
- The first World Cup will be held in Yanqing, with DH and SG.

Atle Skaardal gives some details about the 2021/22 calendar.

- US Ski & Snowboard is looking into the options for the opening week-end. FIS would love to go back to Killington.
- OESV is looking for the best venue for the events between Christmas and New Year.
- The timing of the Are World Cup is still open.
- Méribel-Courchevel will host the World Cup Finals.

Lucy Zhuravleva (Sochi) affirms that Sochi is interested in being part of the calendars 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Atle Skaardal answers that he will consider this option.

Markus Waldner takes over and starts going through the 2019/20 calendar.

- Madonna di Campiglio will take place on December 30, due to the calendar around Christmas. They are looking into solutions for accommodation.
- The first World Cup will take place in Yanqing. The hill is very demanding and

the mountain very exposed to winds.

- Naeba is very motivated and started the preparations already.
- Cortina: the basic course design is ready and they are working on a platform at the start.

He then talks about the 2020/21 calendar.

- The alpine combined have disappeared from the calendar and the parallel events are have their own discipline and globe.
- In Sölden there is a project to level the glacier.
- In Wengen the AC will be replaced by a two run downhill.
- In Gröden there is also the option to replace the SG by a two run downhill.
- Garmisch-Partenkirchen is still before the World Championships.
- Bansko is included in the calendar again. They will host Junior World Championships as well.
- Lenzerheide will host the World Cup Finals.

Markus Waldner goes through the 2021/22 calendar.

- The OWG will be the highlight.
- There will be no race in Europe on the week-end before the travel to the Olympics.
- Garmisch-Partenkirchen will take place after the OWG, maybe with different disciplines (GS and parallel).

9. Start field reduction strategy

Niklas Carlsson explains that this recurring topic is now made a priority, because the asking became a demanding and it is time to react. The host broadcaster want it, the organisers want it, and the World Cup needs it. The goal is to have the best athletes shown more on TV.

The World Cup has not the same aim as the World Championships, where all the nations can participate. The World Cup has to be the highest league and not accessible to everyone.

He knows that it will be a difficult step, especially for the NSAs, but it is a curcial step to improve the World Cup. The biggest nations have already made a step in Costa Navarino, accepting to cut their quota, and now everyone needs to join the movement.

Niklas Carlsson presents a possible strategy for the start field reduction. (Presentation attached)

A further step will be to change the quota allocation for the nations' quota. Going down to the Top 60 nations only, then Top 50, 40 and 30. This goes hand in hand with an increase of the level of the Continental Cups, which may require a special fund from FIS, for more support, for live streaming or for prize money.

On the paper, those steps work fine, but the questions are: how does the sub-committee feel about this? Is this a good option? How far should we go?

The Chairman encourages every member of the sub-committee to discuss this during

winter, so a plan can be put in place in spring.

Srecko Medven (Club 5) comments that this is the best possible way to start the process. He knows that it will take time, but the sub-committee has to put milestones on the way. The TV broadcasters should give the rhythm for this evolution, what they do, and we should follow for the benefit of sport.

Robert Walezka (EBU) asks if there is a timeline for this change.

Niklas Carlsson answers that the second step is to be discussed and made in spring, so it could be implemented for the 2019/20 season if the FIS Council accepts it. The third step will take another year.

Robert Walezka (EBU) goes on and asks that besides the start field, the overlapping of major events within FIS is also a topic to consider.

Calum Clark (USA) asks that the sub-committee identifies best practices from other Iffs or Leagues that had the same issues. He says we need some guidance and experience from other sports.

Niklas Carlsson answers that ski jumping is going through this as well. Their advice was to do it step by step. We can't do drastic changes without taking a huge risk to lose what we have.

He concludes that every member should think about it and talk about quotas in winter to come up with a great proposal in spring.

10. Parallel Event Rules

This topic was already discussed above.

11. Final 2018/19

Soldeu is presenting the latest news within its organisation. The finals inspection is taking place right after the fall meetings.

12. Miscellaneous

As the manufacturers are becoming a more and more important part of the World Cup, a new World Cup award will be introduced from this season on.

13. Next meeting – Cavtat-Dubrovnik (CRO) 28.05. – 01.06.2019

14. Closing of the meeting

START FIELD REDUCTION

- Do we need to do anything?

START FIELD REDUCTION

Facts:

- The startfield (specially on the mens site) has been growing over the last years to sizes hard to handle.
- Broadcasters are asking / demanding for much shorter format of competitions.
- More nations have athletes participating in the World Cup
- For a global sport, we are unique, giving all member nations the possibility to participate with athletes that is on a low level.

CHALLENGES

- We want the best of the best to participate.
- We want to have many nations to participate, to increase the interest of the sport globally.
- We should remember that the World Ski Championships allows all member nations to participate.

We need to balance these two points.

- How?
Develop the current system, Make a new system

START FIELD REDUCTION

- Is this rocket science?
- How will it feel?

**“KITES RISE HIGHEST
AGAINST THE WIND, NOT
WITH IT”**

– SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

FIRST STEP

- Decided by the FIS Council during the FIS Congress.
- We lowered the maximum quota (men) which will effect the biggest teams.
- This will effect the best of the best at start.

SECOND STEP (TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE SPRING)

- Many of the nations use the nations quota for athletes who are not the best of the best, for coming young athletes or late bloomers.
- Reduce the level of FIS points for basic quota drastically from 120 or 80
- Maybe use ranking in the future instead of FIS points.
- Reduce the level of ranking for replacement of competitors.

THIRD STEP (SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE)

Change the system of quota allocation for the nations quota.

- From top 60
- To top 50
- To top 40
- To top 30

Increase quality of Continental Cups

- Look into a dynamic way how to qualify from Continental Cups to World Cup during the season.