

To the
- Members of the Speed Skiing Committee

For information to:
- National Ski Associations
- Gian Franco Kasper
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INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

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Oberhofen, 29.04.2011
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**Invitation Meeting Speed Skiing Committee
Hotel Bernardin, Portoroz (SLO), 03.06.2011**

Dear Speed Skiing Friends,

I am pleased to invite you to the meeting of the Speed Skiing Committee:

Meeting: Friday, 03.06.2011, 10.00 – 18.00 hrs, Room “Adria 1”

Place: Hotel Bernardin
Obala 2, SI-6320 Portorož (SLO)
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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate and contact me. We look forward to meet you in Portoroz. Thank you very much for your cooperation and have a safe trip to Slovenia.

Kindest regards,

Dick Taplin
Chairman Speed Skiing Committee

Enclosure: Agenda June 2011

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION
Speed Skiing Committee**

**Invitation Meeting Speed Skiing Committee
Friday, 03.06.2011, 10.00 – 18.00 hrs, Conference Room “Adria 1”**

AGENDA

1. Roll call
2. Welcome by Chairman
3. Accept minutes of last meeting:
 - Zürich (2 Oct 2010) (attached)
4. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in Agenda)
5. World Championships – Verbier (18 – 20 April 2011)
 - Report from those present
6. Plans for World Championships 2013 and later
 - 2013 – Sun Peaks (CAN)?
 - 2015 – San Domenico (ITA)/ Pas de la Cas/Grandvalira (AND)?
 - 2017 - ?
7. 2010/11 World Cup season reports
 - Nation’ Cup winners
 - Individual winners
 - Race cancellations (Vars/FRA)
 - Trophies
8. FIS races:
 - Pas de la Cas/Grandvalira (AND)
9. Outline Calendar for 2011/12 season
 - Bids requested
10. Homologation Issues (Luc Cristina)
 - Potential new pistes: Slovenia (Chairman)
 - San Domenico (D. Berthod)
 - Visit to NZE (L. Cristina)
11. Working Group (TD WG) Report (Luc Cristina)
 - Speed Rule changes:
 - To be advised
12. Sponsorship Reports
13. Any Other Business
14. Dates of next meeting – Zürich (SUI) Sat 8 Oct

All proposals and decisions of the Speed Skiing Committee are subject to the approval of the FIS Council.

Roll call, apologies and membership

Members:

TAPLIN Richard	GBR	Chairman
ANTOR Nadal	AND	
BAR Jean-Louis	FRA	
BARBLAN Alexander	SUI	vice MAY Philippe
CHRISTINA Luc	SUI	TD Coordinator
CHRISTOPHERSEN Ingrid	GBR	Ladies' Liaison
KJELLSTROM Per	SWE	
LESSING Judith	FIS	Item 6ff
MONTICONE Alberto	ITA	

Guests:

CATTANEO Francesco	FIS	IT Coordinator
COZZI Marco	ITA	TD
DEFAGO Daniel	FIS	IT Operations

1. The meeting opened at 10.00. The Chairman welcomed the new members. Nadal Antor was the new delegate for AND and it was particularly pleasing to welcome a new country to the Committee, as well as a new member. Alberto Monticone had been nominated by ITA as their official delegate, after a number of years as a stand-in, and Jean-Louis Bar replaced Jean-Lou Montes who had served the Committee for many years; the Committee wished Jean-Lou well.

Welcome by Chairman

2. The Chairman thanked everyone for making the effort to attend. There was a full agenda to be considered, and he hoped to get through it effectively. Questions of note included the preparations for the 2011 World Ski Championships in Verbier – and it was very useful to have Alex Barblan present from that resort – and the question of numbers of participants and nations present to constitute a World Championship. Per Kjellstrom thanked the Chairman for his report in the 2010 FIS Bulletin, in which the status of non-Olympic sports was discussed. A number of topics were added to Item 12: Any Other Business.

3. Points concerning FIS IT Support were taken early to allow the IT members withdraw. Francesco Cattaneo was thanked for his work over the past year in producing a new race programme, calculating FIS Points, and producing a WC Points programme. He agreed to investigate producing a Nations' Cup points programme, which encapsulated the rules originally laid down by J-L Montes. He advised that new programmes were in the FTP area of the website, he discussed the possibility of producing an instant intermediate time at Verbier by using radar timing, and he advised that Tag Heuer had updated their timing programme for speedskiing. The meeting discussed the requirement for a World Championships to include at least 8 nations, and he advised that this limit should be measured against the whole event, not to the individual categories of racer (S1, SDH and SDH(Jun)). However, the meeting agreed that each category had to have at least 3 finishers for the result of that category to count. At a later stage in the meeting, it was agreed that since there was no official category of S1(Jun),

there could not be a FIS 'Junior World Champion'. However, it was agreed that WSC organisers should be strongly encouraged to present a 'Best Junior at the World Championships' trophy.

Accept minutes of last meeting

4. The minutes of the TD WG meeting on 15 May 2010, and from the main meeting held in Antalya on 2 Jun 2010, were accepted as true and accurate. The Chairman thanked Per Kjellstrom for having chaired the latter meeting in his absence due to work commitments.

Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in Agenda)

5. Most matters arising were included with later agenda items. The following were discussed:

5.1 Les Arcs withdrawal. It was agreed that the problems which eventually led to the withdrawal of Les Arcs last season largely stemmed from poor communication leading to frustration. Jean-Louis Bar advised that the resort organisation had undergone changes subsequently, and the piste had been rehomologated for FFS races following FIS guidelines. He indicated that Les Arcs might wish to organise a FIS race at the start of the season, and this was warmly welcomed by the Committee. Luc Cristina advised that Les Arcs had a current FIS homologation for a restricted start position, and that further work was required to restore the full homologation.

5.2 Resort Support Following the discussion on Les Arcs, and the safety netting required, the Committee discussed the general problem in getting sufficient safety material. Marco Cozzi asked what had happened about the offer of assistance from LISKI for safety netting, and then brought Dr Diego Parigi (MD of LISKI) into the meeting. Dr Parigi advised that he had looked at the possibility of providing a stock of safety nets, along with a technician and transport, but the small and wide-spread number of events made this uneconomical. In addition, TV and advertising exposure was of little practical PR benefit, since the general public would not be investing in such safety equipment. He proposed approaching regional distributors who might loan safety netting to speedski organisers, with the possibility that such equipment might be purchased 'used' by resorts afterwards. The Chairman agreed to provide him with a timetable of events to allow LISKI define a support strategy.

5.3 TD Expenses There was considerable discussion over what were valid expenses for a TD. In clarification, organisers should be aware that they were required only to pay for travel, accommodation, meals and lift pass for the TD, in addition to a per diem allowance of SFr 100,- for each day of competition and travel. TDs were not entitled to free extended stays, alcoholic drinks, family expenses etc.

6. Plans for World Championships 2011 and later

a. Verbier-Nendaz 2011. Alex Barblan gave the committee an update on preparations. The summer had been difficult for the resort, both because of glacier retreat, and a major avalanche which had exposed a number of major rocks. These had been removed, and a 'ramp' had been constructed at the top end of the piste – accessible from the Mont Fort cablecar station – in order to realign the piste. This gives an opportunity to start at a higher location, and they requested permission to use the piste to its full homologated potential – weather and snow conditions permitting; the Chairman agreed to write to FIS Council with that request. The detailed programme would be posted on the Internet by the end of the year, and they hoped to precede it with a FIS SDH Race. Mr Barblan asked whether Verbier might host the Final of the SDH WC. The Committee felt that this was a question which should be discussed with Vars, and Jean-Louis Bar agreed to do that.

b. Sun Peaks 2013. The Chairman reported that he had been in contact with the organisers of the Sun Peaks WC to determine if they would wish to hold the 2013 WSC. While they were interested in principle, and this had tacit support from the Canadian Ski Federation, the organiser – Adam Earle – was concerned over the costs and sponsorship required. The Committee unanimously agreed that it was essential that a WSC be held outside Europe, and that such an event in Sun Peaks would benefit all North American racers, as well as helping those in the Pacific Region (NZE, JPN, KOR etc). Mr Barblan offered assistance, both in reviewing the outline budget for a WSC, but would also be very happy to host Mr Earle during the 2011 Championships, including providing free accommodation and lift pass, to allow him to see the event in person. The Chairman agreed to pass these details to Mr Earle, as well as contacting the Canadian Ski Federation to seek their further support.

c. WSC 2015. the Committee discussed the opportunities for the WSC in 2015 and later. ITA indicated that they might be able to host the Championships at San Domenico, which they were trying to bring back into use. There were also hopes that AUT might support their speedski athletes by hosting a WSC, albeit they were not currently running any events in that country. Mr Barblan advised that, while not ideal to have the event in the same resort every time, Verbier-Nendaz had experience of this event, and would be happy to be considered if no other resort was interested.

7. 2009/10 World Cup season – any further details:
There were no additional points raised under this Item.

8. Outline Calendar for 2010/11 season

a. Speedevent Berg Isel, Innsbruck. No further details had been provided about this event, and so the question was currently closed.

b. Race calendar. A number of new dates and additions had been made to the calendar, which is attached as Annex A. The Committee were most concerned at the very tight programme from Salla (FIN), through Idre/Hundfjallet (SWE) and on to the WC Final in Vars (FRA). It was suggested that it would be advantageous if both Salla and Idre/Hundfjallet could be run a week earlier (Salla: 21-23 March, and Idre/ Hundfjallet on 25 – 29 March). Failing that, in order to give athletes time to travel from Scandinavia, it was agreed that Vars could not start before 9 April, which would mean that the WC Final would fall on Mon 11 April, rather than on the Sunday. Miss Lessing would contact Salla, Per Kjellstrom would contact the Idre/Hunfjallet organisers, and Jean-Louis Bar would contact Vars to investigate these potential date changes.

9. Homologation Issues (Luc Cristina)

a. Alberto Monticone advised that Recoarro would not now be seeking homologation. However, San Domenico was a potential replacement, and he would liaise with Luc Cristina to have that piste homologated for early use.

b. The homologation for Pas de la Cas/Grandvalira (AND) had been completed and was signed off by the Chairman at the meeting. The Committee looked forward to their first event, due in March 2011.

c. The Committee expressed concern that, with a comparatively large number of AUT speedskiers – especially in the SDH category – they lacked local facilities and events. The Chairman reported that Ingo Hopfgartner (Alpina) had advised high hopes for resurrecting the Goldeck piste, in that the new owners (STRABAG) had a development plan including

additional lifts, restaurant and a winter driving arena. The Chairman also undertook to contact Dieter Posch to seek a Committee nominee from AUT.

10. TD Working Group (TD WG) Report (Luc Cristina)

There were no additional points for discussion since the last meeting in May 2010. TDs had been provisionally nominated for all events, including bringing Blake Andreassen from CAN to a European event, as agreed by FIS Council. Unfortunately, Blake had written to advise that, because of work commitments – his Toyota dealership was expanding – we was both unable to come to Europe, and unable to act as TD in Sun Peaks. Since there is no other current Speed Ski TD in N America, the Chairman was directed to seek FIS Council approval to use the funds allocated for Blake to send a European TD to Sun Peaks instead.

11. Speed Rule changes:

a. The Rule changes discussed in May, and ratified by the Committee in June, had been agreed by FIS Council, and would be incorporated into the on-line Rules by Judith Lessing.

b. Christer Weiss had written, suggesting that Training Runs should be run in BIBO order rather than in bib order. This was discussed by the Committee, which felt that there was good reason to continue to run in bib number order during training, since athletes could then use these runs to make changes to their style without feeling that they had to 'compete'.

c. Mr Weiss' suggestion about TDs having to wear helmets as a good and safe practice was referred back to the TD WG for consideration, as this was not a Rule change.

12. Sponsorship Reports

Other than the contact with LISSKI (reported above), there have been no changes – or success - in sponsorship.

13. Any Other Business

There were 3 items of AOB:

a. SWE had raised the question of how costs, and especially, time could be cut for the athletes. There are no 'full-time' speedskiers, but the vast majority are employed, and thus have to take holiday away from work – which might also lead to a loss of earnings – in order to compete in the full WC circuit. The Committee discussed various ways in which this might be addressed, including counting 'best 4 or 5 results' out of the season. However, that suggestion would lead to some events becoming less popular than others, and thus reducing the number of events on the circuit. The best option would be for the sport to grow, particularly in N America, in which case we could consider creating a Continental Cup environment, with a more limited WC 'Final' circuit.

b. Per Kjellstrom had investigated means of moving competitors' equipment around more cheaply, thus allowing them to travel by budget airlines and other economic means. However, he had not found a solution, and enquired whether other disciplines had achieved this. Judith Lessing undertook to investigate within FIS.

c. The Rules require that SDH racing suits meet Alpine Race Equipment standards, which includes the requirement to be tested for minimum air permability, which is indicated by 'plombing'. There are few test rigs around, although a number of suits had been sent to FIS for testing over the summer. It was agreed that equipment is a personal responsibility,

but that TDs might need to send race suits away for test, especially in the circumstances of a complaint by another racer/team.

The meeting closed at 15.20.

Date of next meeting – Portoroz (SLO) (31 May – 5 June 2011)

ANNEX A: PROVISIONAL SPEED SKI PROGRAMME AS AT 2 OCTOBER 2010

Date	Location	Comment
Jan 2011 (TBD)	Les Arcs (FRA)	FIS race Limited homologation
03-06 Mar 2011	Sun Peaks (CAN)	2 x WC races
12-13 Mar 2011	Pas de la Cas/Grandvalira (AND)	FIS race
27-30 Mar 2011	Salla (FIN)	2 x WC races
02-06 Apr 2011	Idre (SWE) – 02-03 Apr Hundfjellet (SWE) – 05-06 Apr	WC race WC race
08-11 Apr 2011	Vars (FRA)	WC Final
16-17 Apr 2011	Verbier (SUI)	FIS SDH race
18-21 Apr 2011	Verbier (SUI)	World Speedski Championships

Seeking potential changes:

- a. Salla (FIN) possibly 21-23 Mar 2011
- b. Idre (SWE) possibly 25-26 Mar 2011
Hundfjellet (SWE) possibly 28-29 Mar 2011
- c. Vars (FRA) possibly starting on 9 Apr 2011

ANNEX B: ACTION LISTING

Action 1: *Francesco Cattaneo* to investigate Nations Cup programme.

Action 2: *All* to advise World Championships organisers to recognise the 'Best Junior at the World Championships'.

Action 3: *Jean-Louis Bar* to investigate if Les Arcs wished to run a FIS race to open the season, applying the current limited homologation.

Action 4: *Chairman* to pass details of Speed Ski programme to CEO of LISSKI (Dr Diego Parigi) so the latter can investigate possible sponsorship in kind.

Action 5: *Luc Cristina* to advise all TDs of rules for expenses.

Action 6: *Jean-Louis Bar* to investigate with Vars the possibility of Verbier-Nendaz running SDH WC Finals.

Action 7: *Chairman* to write to FIS Council requesting permission for Verbier-Nendaz to run World Championships to the full homologated potential of the piste.

Action 8: *Chairman* to contact Adam Earle with offer from Verbier-Nendaz to demonstrate their organisation and assist with budget.

Action 9: *Alberto Monticone* to investigate progress with homologation of San Domenico, and thence future race programme.

Action 10: *Judith Lessing* to request if Salla can hold their WC races from 21-23 March, *Per Kjellstrom* to ask Idre/Hundfjallet if they could run 25-29 March), and *Jean-Louis Bar* to ask Vars if they would be able to start a day later on 9 April.

Action 11: *Chairman* to contact AUT Ski Federation (Dieter Posch) about an AUT representative on the Speed Ski Committee.

Action 12: *Chairman* to write to FIS Council to request that budget set for Blake Andreassen (CAN) to come to Europe be used instead for a European TD to go to Sun Peaks.

Action 13: *Judith Lessing* to update Speed Rules with the agreed precisions from 2008-2010.

Action 14: *Judith Lessing* to investigate whether any disciplines within FIS had a system for moving athletes equipment (skis etc) rapidly and cheaply between race locations.

Action 15: *All* to note that next meeting would be in Portoroz (SLO) in the period 31 May to 5 June.