



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE SKI
INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION
INTERNATIONALER SKI VERBAND

To:
Members of the FIS Speed Skiing Committee

For information to:
- Speed Skiing NSA

Copy to:
- Gian-Franco Kasper, FIS President
- Sarah Lewis, FIS Secretary General

Oberhofen, 7th October 2009

**Minutes Speed Skiing Committee
Zurich (SUI), 26th September 2009**

Dear Skifriends,

We take pleasure in sending you today the Minutes of the meeting of the Speed Skiing Committee held in Zurich (SUI), 26.09.2009.

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: <http://www.fis-ski.com/>.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution and we wish you a successful season with plenty of snow!

Kind regards,

Speed Skiing Committee

*Dick Taplin, GBR
Chairman*

Enclosure: ment.



CH-3653 Oberhofen (Switzerland), Tel. +41 (0)33 244 61 61, Fax +41 (0)33 244 61 71
FIS-Website: <http://www.fis-ski.com/> ftp-site: ftp://ftp.fis-ski.ch
TVA – VAT – MWST: 377 542

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

AGENDA

**for the Meeting of the Speed Skiing Committee
Saturday, 26.09.2009, Hotel Hilton Airport, Zurich (SUI)**

1. Roll call
2. Welcome by the Chairman
3. Accept minutes of last meeting
 - Cavtat 22nd May 2009
4. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in the agenda)
 - See list of actions attached
5. Plans for World Championships 2011 and later
 - 2011 – ?
 - 2013 – Sun Peaks (CAN)?
 - 2015 – Austria?
6. 2008/2009 World Cup season reports
 - Individual winners
 - Trophies
7. Outline Calendar for 2009/2010 season
 - Bids requested and confirmed (see outline programme attached)
8. Homologation Issues (Luc Cristina)
 - Potential new pistes: Slovakia (L. Sandor), Norway (P. Kjellstrom), Cervinia (D. Berthod)
 - Visit to NZE (L. Cristina)
9. TD Working Group (TD WG) Report (Luc Cristina)
10. Speed Rules changes:
 - To be advised
11. Sponsorship reports
12. Any other business
13. Dates of next meeting – Antalya (TUR), May/June 2010

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

1. Roll call

The Chairman, Dick Taplin opened the meeting, Saturday, 26th September 2009 at 10.00 hrs.

Present:

Richard Taplin	GBR	Chairman
Marco Cozzi	ITA	(vice Dante BERTHOD)
Per Kjellström (PK)	SWE	
Philippe May (PM)	SUI	Rep Philippe May
Jean-Lou Montes (JLM)	FRA	
Luc Cristina (LC)	SUI	TD & Homologation Coordinator

Apologies:

Kalevi Häkkinen	FIN	Honorary Member
Richard Beare	CAN	
Dante Berthod	ITA	

Guests:

Francesco Cattaneo (FC)	FIS	IT Office
Ingrid Christophersen	GBR	TD
Daniel Défago	FIS	IT Office
Walter Druetti	ITA	TD
Judith Lessing	FIS	Office Secretariat
Dave Pym	CAN	(only part meeting)

Not present:

Ladislav Sandor	SVK	
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2. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all delegates and visitors who had come a considerable distance to participate, and hoped that this would be another fruitful meeting. Kalevi Hakkinen, Honorary Member and past Chairman, had sent his best wishes to the Committee; these wishes were reciprocated with the hope that his knee injury would soon be fully healed. The Chairman proposed that the programme for the coming season must be finalised, and that the meeting should review the Speed Ski Rules, incorporating the Precisions from recent years as well as those necessary to create separate events for SDH and SDH(Jun) to help the sport grow.

3. Accept minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held in Cavtat (CRO) on 22 May 2009, were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in the agenda) (these Decisions relate to May minutes)

Decision 2: Vars are undertaking major changes to their piste, and LC will await those before making further recommendations.

Decision 3 & 4: Hundfjallet unable to make changes to piste at current time, so races would be limited to a lower maximum start level.

Decision 6: Chairman has written to OSV with this suggestion. Possibility of Les Arcs (FRA) for 2013 or 2015.

Decision 7: Will continue with same Nations Cup scoring system for season 2009/2010 (incorporated in Rules).

Decision 14: PK has investigated possibility of surface transport between resorts, but has found it to be too expensive. SWE team have an agreement with SAS for enhanced weight allowance to move skis.

Decision 15: FC advised that the FIS IT department would coordinate all point calculations for speed skiing (both FIS Points and SSWC points).

Decision 16 & 17: FC advised that FIS would maintain a coordinated list for Speed Skiing. FIS Points would continue to be calculated on the basis of the best S1 skiers, but it would be possible to hold separate SDH and SDH(Jun) races, for which he would supply suitable race penalties.

Decision 17: FC advised that he would be producing a programme for Speed Ski results, which would be distributed to race organisers free of charge.

5. Plans for World Championships 2011 and later

Hundfjallet (SWE) originally bid for the 2011 World Ski Championships, but have since withdrawn because of changes in organisation and management of the resort. PM advised that Verbier-Nendaz (SUI) have offered to hold these Championships, and the Chairman will write to FIS Council to seek their approval for this move.

Sun Peaks (CAN) have expressed an interest in the World Championships for 2013, and Les Arcs (FRA) for either 2013 or 2015. Dave Pym, Sec-Gen of the Canadian Ski Federation, expressed cautious support for the Sun Peaks bid, which will have to await suitable sponsorship; his current concern is for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

JLM advised that Les Arcs may be interested in making the necessary changes to bring their piste back to standard, including improved access and grooming the off-piste moguls. If these changes were made, they could look to hold the French Championships as a FIS race one year, a WC race in year 2 and then a bid for a WSC. This could be as early as 2013, but would more likely be for 2015.

Decision 1: The Chairman is to write to FIS Council to seek their approval that Verbier-Nendaz (SUI) may hold the 2011 World Speed Ski Championships in place of Hundfjallet (SWE).

Decision 2: The Committee will continue to work towards holding the 2013 Championships in Sun Peaks (CAN), and the possibility for those in 2015 to be held in Les Arcs (FRA).

6. 2008/2009 World Cup season reports

The Chairman apologised that the medal/trophy mix-up at the WC Finals had still not been rectified and, particularly, that Brian Morris (USA) had not received his medal for the SDH class. It was agreed that the system for allocating WC points needed to be improved for the future, and FC agreed that this would be coordinated by the FIS IT department. However, this will mean that all organisers will need to provide results in a standard format, for which FC would provide (free) a race programme and results template. Furthermore, the organiser of the WC MUST have the WC points list before the start of the events.

Decision 3: FIS (action FC) would produce a standard race programme to all Speed Ski OC; this would produce 'scratch' results as well as in the format required by FIS to allocate WC points in the different categories.

Decision 4: FIS would regularly publish WC points lists, and specifically provide the OC of the WC Final races a full list of points for each category (S1 Men, S1 Ladies, SDH Men, SDH Ladies, SDH (Jun) Men, SDH (Jun) Ladies).

7. Outline Calendar for 2009/2010 season

LC advised that Recoaro are not prepared for FIS events for 2010 (see below). This means that the Vars WC Race will open the season. In addition, the Committee accepted the offer of the Finnish Ski Federation to move the date of the Salla races (2 x WC) to 14 to 17 March, to allow racers longer to get to the following races in Sweden. The 8 race calendar to date is:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Comment</i>
23-25 Jan 2010	Vars (FRA)	Opening WC race
4-7 Mar 2010	Sun Peaks (CAN)	2 x WC races
14-17 Mar 2010	Salla (FIN)	2 x WC races
20-24 Mar 2010	Idre/Hundfjallet (SWE) Idre (20/21)/Hundfjallet (23/24)	2 x WC race Hundfjallet limited start height
19-22 Apr 2010	Verbier-Nendaz (SUI)	WC Final

In addition, PK advised that SWE would be holding a number of national speed ski races, specifically in Orsa, and the Committee requested that these – and similar races elsewhere – should be registered as FIS races, allowing competitors to gain FIS Race Points. The first such race was likely to be before Christmas.

Decision 5: PK would investigate registering SWE races as FIS races, using TDs as agreed with LC.

8. Homologation Issues (Luc Cristina)

LC advised that there had been reasonable progress with homologating the new piste at Recoaro (ITA), and the dossier had been virtually completed. However, he had now been advised that the administration of the resort had changed, and the process was now stalled. It was stated that resorts are not always aware about the requirements for homologation and races, and LC agreed to produce a simple dossier for potential resorts and organisers covering all these issues.

Decision 6: Marco Cozzi would ascertain what the problem is, and help to continue the process towards full homologation. LC would produce a homologation and race organisation dossier.

Member Sandor had not attended any Committee meetings since his appointment, nor provided details of the new resort originally suggested in SVK. The Committee had heard nothing more from Cervinia (ITA) to date, and expressed the hope that the new resort management would help to reinstate this 'heart of speed skiing' back in the calendar. The potential NZE piste had also not advanced, and it was agreed that FIS Council should be asked to carry forward the grant of SFr 4,800 for LC to undertake homologation/training duties in AUS/NZE when required.

Decision 7: Chairman will write to FIS Council requesting that grant be carried forward to 2010/2011 season.

PM advised that he had been approached by the Andorran Ski Association to assist in creating a new piste in Grand Valira (AND) (near Soldeu) and advising on the race organisation. The Committee assured him of their maximum support.

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

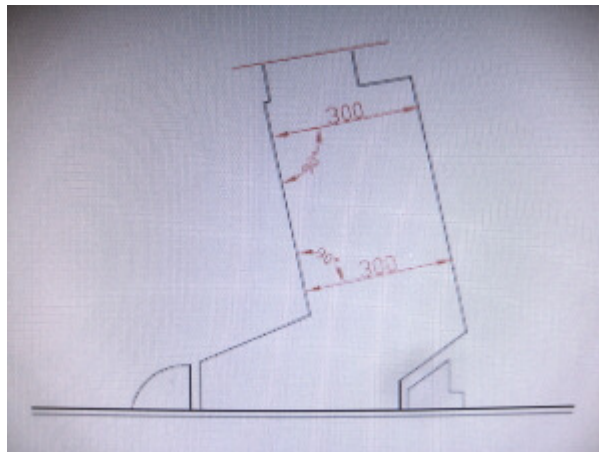
The TD Working Group had not met in Zurich, but a number of suggestions had been made by members. These included:

- a. Forerunners. In principle it was hoped that the ROC would provide forerunners. Whether they come from the resort or from the competitors, they should be qualified to the highest category represented (S1, SDH or SDH(Jun)).
- b. Results. The Committee acknowledge that the presentation and management of results and subsequent SSWC Points had been poor during 2008/9. It was agreed that all organisers must present results to FIS using the programme which will be supplied by FIS.
- c. Number of runs. Racers often come from a great distance to participate in races, and can be disappointed by the low number of runs achieved each day. TDs are directed to encourage organisers to hold at least 3 runs each day (weather permitting), with smaller height changes if necessary.

Decision 8: The Chairman will remain in contact with Francesco Cattaneo (FIS) about producing and distributing a Speed Ski results programme to all ROC.

10. Speed Rules changes

- a. Rules. In the event of any disagreement over the rules, all TDs are reminded that the English-language version takes primacy over other versions. Any querier should be referred back to the Speed Ski Committee for resolution.
- b. Measurement of ailerons. After discussion it was agreed that the current rule – where measurement is parallel to the ski – is difficult to achieve, and varies with the rake of the boot. It was agreed that the last sentence of Rule 1234.7 should be amended to read '**The maximum depth of the fairings, measured from the front of the shin, must not exceed 30 cm**'. The diagram is to be changed to that below:



- c. Junior Category in S1. There was considerable discussion over having separate rules for Junior racers in the S1 category. By a majority, the Committee agreed that the rules should reflect the view that S1 was the elite class, and that all racers in S1 would be treated equally. Furthermore, the rules permitted the jury to exclude racers who were not felt to be qualified for higher start positions. It is noted that Per Kjellstrom (SWE) did not agree with this view.
- d. Ski poles. Concern has been expressed over the use of poles with acute – often 90 degree – angles. It was agreed that Rule 1234.3 should read “ ... **must be free of sharp or prominent parts, as must the entire pole.**”
- e. Reserve Days. Rule 1232.6 is to be amended by including direction on the use of Reserve Days. It was agreed that the rule should also state “**As soon as one of the official days is cancelled, then the Reserve Day must be used.**”

- f. Protests. SWE had asked that competitors protesting about another's equipment should not have to deposit SF100,- (or equivalent in local currency). This was not agreed, the Committee feeling that the need to support the protest would deter minor and malicious complaints.
- g. TD Equipment. SWE have suggested that all TDs should be equipped with a digital camera and rulebook. The Committee agreed that this was good practice, and was followed by most, if not all, TDs.

Decision 9: These changes will be passed to Judith Lessing for inclusion in the new Speed Skiing Rulebook.

11. Sponsorship reports

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the major limitation on Speed Skiing was finding funds to reward racers and repay organisers and resorts; this funding needs to come from sponsorship. Having access to such funding also means that the Committee would have more control over dates and locations, to better tune the programme for all concerned. In the current economic climate, finding sponsors was difficult, but all those concerned with the sport were asked to make every effort to find such financial support.

He noted that ING were reputed to have pulled their support from the Renault F1 team in the wake of the recent adverse publicity over race tactics. The Chairman agreed to try to locate a contact within ING to whom to speak about sponsorship for speed skiing.

Decision 10: All Committee members, and the wider Speed Ski community, were urged to identify sponsorship opportunities, and the seek sponsorship from these.

Decision 11: The Chairman will endeavour to contact ING with a view to obtaining sponsorship.

12. Any other business

- a. Artificial Towers to raise start. The Committee discussed whether organisers should be allowed to artificially raise the start height/inclination with artificial towers. It was felt that, in moderation, this could make the sport more exciting, which would be good for media and sponsors. However, the sport must also be aware of environmental issues, and act responsibly.
- b. Sun Peaks TD. Because of personal and business limitations, Blake Andreassen will be unable to TD the Sun Peaks races. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact Dave Pym to ascertain if the Canadian Ski Association could help Sun Peaks to meet the travel costs of a European TD.

- c. Norwegian TD training. LC had been advised that Paul Proitz (NOR) wished to train as a Speed Ski TD. It was agreed that this would be beneficial to the sport, but that it was up to the Norwegian Ski Federation to propose and sponsor him.
- d. Entry for Speed TDs. JLM introduced the concept of taking national speed TDs and bringing them up to FIS level, as opposed to only giving further training to existing FIS Alpine TDs. It was agreed that it was up to a National Ski Federation to make such a proposal, and the Committee would then need to attend a national TD update to ascertain what further training was required and possible.

Decision 12: The Chairman to contact Dave Pym (Canadian Ski Association) to seek support to sending a European TD to officiate at Sun Peaks.

13. Dates of next meeting – Antalya (TUR), May/June 2010

The Chairman advised that the next meeting would be held during the FIS Congress in Antalya. In principle this would be at 10.00 on Wed 2 Jun 2010.

In closing, at 17.30, he wished all members a safe journey home.

For the minutes:

Richard Taplin