

To the

- Members of the Alpine Committee
- Members of the Alpine Conference

For information to:

- Johan Eliasch, FIS President
- Michel Vion, FIS Secretary General
- Niklas Carlsson, FIS Deputy Secretary General
- Jenny Wiedeke, FIS Communications Manager
- Christian Salomon, Chief Commercial Director

Oberhofen,23.05.2023

Minutes of the Alpine Committee Meeting, Friday, 05.05.2023 held in Cavtat (CRO)

Dear Ski Friends,

We have pleasure in sending you today the Minutes of the 96th Meeting of the Alpine Committee held on 05.05.2023.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Office in Oberhofen no later than 15th June 2023 (flere@fisski.com).

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.

Kindest regards,

Massimo Rinaldi

Chairman Alpine Committee

Mosous Roll

Janez Fleré

Alpine Technical Coordinator

FIS Staff

- Sandra Spitz, FIS
- Peter Gerdol, FIS
- Markus Waldner, FIS
- Alberto Senigagliesi, FIS
- Hannes Trinkl, FIS
- Markus Mayr, FIS
- Janez Hladnik, FIS
- Raimund Plancker, FIS
- Emmanuel Couder, FIS
- Andreas Krönner, FIS
- Mike Kertesz, FIS
- Tatjana Luessy, FIS
- Jordi Pujol, FIS
- Wim Rossel, FIS
- Daniel Defago, FIS
- Matjaz Vrecl, FIS

Other Committees, Working Groups

- Horst Hüttel, GER, Nordic Combined Committee
- Uros Ponikvar, SLO, Cross-Country Committee
- Mika Kojonkoski, FIN, Jumping Committee
- Aki Murasato, JPN, Equipment Committee
- Rudi Huber, SRS
- Hubert Hörterer, GER, Medical Committee
- Chris Moore, CAN, Legal and Safety Committee
- Verena Stuffer, ITA, Athletes Commission
- Leif Kristian Nestvold Haugen, NOR, Athletes Commission

Organisers OWG/WSC

- OC WSC 2023 Courchevel Meribel, FRA
- OC YOG 2024 Gangwon, KOR
- OC WSC 2025 Saalbach Hinterglemm, AUT
- OC OWG 2026, Milano-Cortina, ITA
- OC WSC 2027 Crans Montana, SUI

Honorary Members

- Oskar Fischer, GER
- Christian Poley, AUT
- Svein Mundal, NOR
- Tone Vogrinec, SLO
- Bernhard Russi, SUI
- Ken Read, CAN

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION **Alpine Committee**

Invitation Meeting Alpine Committee Friday, 05.05.2023, 14:00 hrs.

AGENDA

1. Welcome Massimo Rinaldi

2. Roll Call Janez Fleré

3. Approval of the Agenda Massimo Rinaldi

4. Approval of the Minutes of the 95th meeting held in Zurich Oct 2022. Janez Fleré

5. Reports

> 5.1 FIS Strategic Plan Fiona Stevens Niklas Carlsson

> 5.2 Chairman Massimo Rinaldi

6. Executive Board Massimo Rinaldi

Sub-Committees / Working Groups:

7. Evaluation

7.1. Data and Timing Working Group Daniel Defago Classification of Alpine Competitors Jeff Weinman 7.2.

8. Women's Alpine Skiing Karen Korfanta

9. Alpine Courses Elena Gaja des Ambrois

10. Alpine Rules Michael Huber

11. Alpine Technical Delegates Markus Malsiner

12. Alpine World Cup

Walter Vogel 12.1. Working Group Coaches Women Paul Kristofic 12.2. Working Group Coaches Men Thomas Stauffer

Stefano Pirola 13. Intercontinental Cup 13.1. European Cup Herbert Mandl 13.2. Nor-Am Chip Knight

Michihiko Nakamura 13.3. Far East 13.4. South American Cup Ernesto Cingolani 13.5. Australia New Zealand Cup Jono Howson

14. Youth Questions Jordi Pujol 14.1. Junior World Ski Championships Jordi Pujol

15. Ski Cross Klaus Waldner 16. Material and Equipment

Massimo Rinaldi

17. Athletes Commission

Verena Stuffer Leif Kristian Nestvold Haugen

- 18. Reports from Organisers of the previous and next major Championships:
 - 18.1. 2023 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Courchevel-Meribel (FRA)
 - 18.2. 2024 Youth Olympic Winter Games, Gangwon (KOR)
 - 18.3. 2025 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Saalbach Hinterglemm (AUT)
 - 18.4. 2026 Olympic Winter Games, Milano-Cortina (ITA)
 - 18.5. 2027 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Crans Montana (SUI)
- 19. Questions, Various
- 20. Next Meeting, 27th to 29th September 2023, Zurich (SUI)

All proposals and decisions of the FIS Alpine Committee are subject to approval of the FIS Council at its Meeting to be held in Zurich (SUI), 24.05.2023

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

The Chairman, Massimo Rinaldi (ITA), welcomed all Alpine Committee members present to the meeting. He also welcomed FIS General Secretary Michel Vion, FIS Council members and Working Group members.

2. Roll Call

Janez Fleré (FIS) conducted the Roll Call. Apologies were received from Executive Board members Claus Ryste (NOR); Tommy Eliasson (SWE); Janka Gantnerova (SVK); Tania Poutianen-Rinne (FIN); Ernesto Cingolani (ARG), Chairman South American Sub-Committee; Michihiko Nakamura (JPN), Chairman Far-East Cup and Jono Howson (NZL), Chairman ANC Cup.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda, without additions or remarks, was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the 95th Meeting held in Zurich (SUI) September 2022 were, without comments or remarks, unanimously approved.

5. Reports

5.1 FIS Strategic Plan (Fiona Stevens, NZL - Niklas Carlsson, FIS)

The FIS Strategic Plan was presented by Fiona Stevens (NZL), FIS Council Member and Niklas Carlsson (FIS), FIS Deputy Secretary General. (See attach)

5.2 Chairman (Massimo Rinaldi, ITA)

The biggest challenge of the past winter Alpine season was definitely the climate change and the high cost of the energy. These two factors put our sport on the ropes, and all organisers had to work very hard to deliver their events under the demands they faced.

After a hot summer and the difficulties for all nations to organise the summer training for their teams, the winter began under pressure for everyone to ensure safe and fair races.

The start of the 2022/23 season was certainly not favorable, with cancelled races, due to rain or warm temperatures that did not allow resorts to produce enough snow.

Fortunately, the New Year was slowly better in time for the classic races.

The highlight of the Alpine season, the FIS World Championships in Courchevel-Meribel (FRA), was fantastic in aspect, sunny days and high performance from all athletes.

The new starting order for the speed events was appreciated and gave the top 10 racers fairer race conditions.

The new format of the Team Alpine Combined, held in St. Anton (AUT) during the FIS Alpine World Junior Championships, gave all of us the opportunity to test this new format for the first time and gave us more data and feedback for discussion of the potential implementation of the new event at all levels.

The work done by all the Sub-Committees was much appreciated, as revised and new proposals, implementation or updating of the rules was a primary

focus. Our disciplines need to be updated, as the sport is continuing to evolve, the rules must follow.

During the past season, close to 3000 races were organised around the World. It is a number we can all be proud of given the challenges that we faced.

The positive takeaway is that Alpine is growing at every level, with high numbers of participation, giving FIS a bright future. It is our duty to keep a very high standard and keep the interest highest as possible.

I would like to thank the members of the Alpine Executive Board, the members of the Sub-Committees and the Race Directors for their work and commitment.

6. Executive Board (Massimo Rinaldi, ITA)

The Board meet online two times during the last period and here in Dubrovnik, we had just two meetings in person.

The Executive Board members discussed proposals and ideas about the qualification system for the next Olympic Winter Games 2026.

At the end a proposal was agreed upon and will be forwarded to the FIS management to be discussed together with the IOC to develop the final qualification system.

The agenda was full of debated topics and put the members into deep discussion as there were many different points of view.

Some of the main themes were:

- the Fluor Wax Ban: full implementation from the current season is going to be implemented at the big events.
- the use of the airbag recommended for the upcoming winter season (just for level 0) and mandatory from the 2024/25 season
- new format of the Team Combined (TC) already tested for the first time during the WJC in St. Anton (AUT) and adaption to the proper World Cup rules.

I am very proud to lead this board with high experienced members.

We all are looking forward for the best future for our sport, and to the next Southern Hemisphere winter season.

The following proposal will be sent to approval to FIS Council:

Mandatory use of Airbag protector for Alpine events in the season 2024/25

3.5.2.1 Protector with airbag system

3.5.2.3 Technical specifications

- Once triggered, the inflation time must not be greater than 200 milliseconds (in the temperature range -20°C to +30°C)
- Once inflated, the airbag cushion should not deflate immediately but remain fully inflated for minimum 3 seconds.
- Once inflated, the airbag cushion should cover minimum one of the following areas: shoulders, neck, back, or chest.
- For body parts protected by aircushion: To assess the effect of energy absorption in the airbags, a specific test template must be used by the specified test institute. To meet the requirements, the maximum average impact value must be below 18 kN, and at least one of the impact values must be below 6 kN, based on European standard EN1621 protocols.
- The airbag must be designed so that unintentional deployment does not prevent athletes from continuing to ski.
- The maximum thickness of protectors (untriggered) with airbag technology must not exceed 45 55 mm.
- The airbag must include a back protector based on European standard EN1621-2.

The use of Airbag protector is recommended for alpine events.

3.5.2.4 The use of Airbag protector is determined for alpine events as follows:

- Airbag system is strongly recommended for World Cup speed events in the 2023/24 season
- Airbag system is mandatory for World Cup / WSC / OWG speed events from the season 2024/25
- Airbag system is strongly recommended for COC speed events in the 2024/25 season
- <u>Airbag system is mandatory for World Cup / WSC / OWG and COC speed events from the season 2025/26</u>

A non-removable FIS compliance label affixed to the protector, close to the neck, is standard. The label certifies compliance with the FIS equipment specifications and the supplier's safety standards (product description).



There were no Questions or Remarks.

The Chairman Massimo Rinaldi thanked the Chairmen of the various Sub-Committees, their members as well as the Executive Board members, the various Working Groups and the FIS Staff for their work and continued support.

7. Evaluation

7.1 Timing Working Group (Daniel Défago, FIS)

Daniel Défago (FIS) reported briefly on behalf of the Working Group.

They established the protocol description draft for the digitalization of the timing tapes. The manufacturer will review it during the summer.

They also work to extract all timing booklets common parts (Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country, Freestyle, Snowboard) into one document, like for example the timing devices requirement which is not directly concerned to the TD and the Timekeeper.

A new Lab approached FIS to propose the homologation of timing devices, after reviewing the possibilities offered and the costs, they decided to decline the offer.

The Working Group also reviewed the rules update suggested by the Alpine Rules Sub-Committee which make totally sense.

They are very happy about the quality delivered by all timekeepers; they are all transparent and collaborating very well.

- Missed System A times: Alpine skiing: 34 missed system A times / 2803 races = 1.21%
- Sync issues: Alpine skiing: 1 / 2803 races = 0.36%

7.2 Classification of Alpine Competitors (Jeff Weinman, USA)

It was a challenging winter in the Northern Hemisphere season resulting in many canceled and rescheduled events.

There were 2,810 alpine races valid for FIS points in season 2023, down from 3,112 in season 2022. There were 185,531 athlete starts in those races down from 193.558.

An error was found in the vertical drop of a processed race which the chair brought to the attention of FIS staff. The IT Team is working on changes to the result parser which will check for problems with the vertical drop in the future when results are processed.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, changes were made to the process for requesting special quotas at races. We will need to edit the Rules for the Points book to reflect the new procedure.

Thank you to all the FIS Staff for their work and in particular to Janez Flere for his dedication and tireless work.

8. Women's Alpine Skiing (Karen Korfanta, USA)

Women's Sub-Committee congratulates Mikaela Shiffrin (USA) on her extraordinary Athletic accomplishments during the 2022-2023 season.

Thank you to the Women's FIS Race Directors, Peter Gerdol (FIS), Alberto Senigalesi (FIS), Markus Mayr (FIS), Andi Krönner (FIS) and Giulia Candiago (FIS) for all their efforts to improve women's alpine ski racing. Despite early season weather issues between Race Directors, sites and race organisations only one event was cancelled in the entire season.

Thank you to Sarah Fussek (FIS) for presentation on Safe Sport and a special thank you to Stefanie Gerber (FIS) for all her help over the past 8 years and we wish her well going forward.

9. Alpine Courses (Elena Gaja, ITA)

Alpine Courses met in Dubrovnik (CRO) on Thursday 4th May with 12 out of 16 members present or represented, together with some inspectors.

Since the previous meeting in Zurich (SUI), 400 reports were received and related Homologation Certificates issued; at the moment there are around 220 new requests for homologation or re-homologation to deal with during the coming summer but it's pretty sure that this number will raise in the coming weeks.

Very interesting reports were presented by Alpine FIS Race Directors and Europa Cup Coordinators, which are to be thanked very much once more, giving the inspectors important insights in order to always improve the quality and usefulness of their work; specifically, some good suggestions have been provided for filling the reports with core elements and giving to the competition courses' owners the correct advices in order to organise the best possible races from a safety perspective.

Specifically, the new graphic layout of the Homologation Certificate has been presented, as part of the harmonization of all certificates across all FIS disciplines, thanks to Daniel Defago (FIS) and the IT department, leading us to be more environmentally friendly and economically virtuous when deciding to stop printing on paper and sending via ordinary mail the Certificates; from now on these will only be sent via email and/or available on line, and the FIS Data Base will therefore always have the latest valid and correct version.

This decision resulted in a minor correction of an article in the rules concerning homologations, for which the Rules Sub-Committee already gave his support: the same is asked to the Alpine Committee.

650.5.4 Issue and Publication of the FIS Homologation Certificate

The Chair of the Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses will examine and ratify the documents received via the "Homologation On Line System"

The FIS System will automatically send a digital copy of the

Homologation Certificate and Booklet to the Applicant, to its National Ski Association and to the Inspector, while the original 'paper' copy of the Homologation Certificate will be sent by standard mail only to the Applicant.

Finally the list of Homologation or re-Homologations has been shown and amended, reporting all the assignments to be taken care of during the upcoming summer season

10. Alpine Rules (Michael Huber, AUT)

Generally it was a very good, lively, concentrated, disciplined Meeting. Thanks to everyone involved, especially those who attended at the workshop rules end of March, without it would not be possible to establish the agenda and proposals and run the Meeting so smooth.

For the Chairman's report, information was given, that FIS will schedule the next Technical Meeting in Spring at this early date as well, the Congress separated a few weeks later.

Statistical Data of FIS Alpine races 2022/23 was introduced (-216 from the average 3.000).

During the 01:40 hour Meeting the following proposals were dealt with as given with the agenda (see wording and articles in the enclosure):

<u>SUPER-G 2-RUN RACE:</u> As asked for and decided by the Alpine Executive Board, the principle of the Super-G shall stay as a one run event. So, no rule change about that.

<u>PENALTY TIME PARALLEL:</u> As asked for, at the Fall Meeting, no new proposal was possible to establish, based on the request (real time calculation). So no rule change about that. The 0.5 sec. penalty time is still valid in the ICR.

STEPPING BACK RULE: At moment only possible after a complete stop in Slalom. In all other cases and alpine events not permitted. The proposal to establish a general "no step back rule" for all cases was discussed with several arguments in favor and against. A vote took place, with 15 yes votes and 6 no. In favor means the consistence of the rule, a safety issue. Those against see negative effects about the motivation of racers, a lack of possibilities. If the Alpine Committee thinks, that this should get more study, please give us advice. Otherwhise, I have to ask for to adopt and forward to FIS Council.

614.2.3 Interdiction to Continue after a competitor stops

If competitors come to a complete stop (e.g. after a fall), they must no longer continue through previous or further gates. This interdiction is valid in all events with a fixed start interval (Downhill, Super-G, Giant Slalom, Parallel). Only exception is for Slalom (art. 661.4.1), as long as the competitor:

- does not interfere with the run of the next competitor or,
- have not been passed by the next competitor.
- A gate has been passed correctly when both the competitor's ski tips and both feet have crossed the gate line. If a competitor loses a ski, without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must have crossed the gate line. This



rule also applies when a competitor has to climb back up to a gate. (art. 614.2.3)

Where there is no outside pole, both feet and ski tips must have passed the turning pole on the same side, following the normal race line of the slalom crossing the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole. If competitors lose a ski, without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must meet both requirements. If competitors have not correctly crossed the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole and does not follow the normal race line, they have to climb back up and pass around the missed turning pole. Where there is an outside pole (first and last gate, delayed gate, and combinations (hairpin, vertical) art. 661.4.1. is valid.

<u>OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD:</u> Unanimously adopted was the rules update, to use modern forms of communication instead of a board, if announced by the Jury at the First Team Captains Meeting.

617.2.3 The official notice board can be replaced by an official communication channel announced at the first Team Captains Meeting by the Jury.

<u>CATEGORY / LEVEL DEFINITION:</u> Unanimously adopted was the rule introduction, to give a definition about the Levels within the ICR. Thanks to SubC Classification, the related "1st page FIS point list" will be printed in the FIS Point Book.

FIS Points and Participation at FIS competitions
Reference is made to the Rules for the FIS Alpine Points (integral part of the ICR).

618.1 Category / Level

The 1st page of the FIS points list shows the Classification of Competitions (see art 201.3) also known as Categories and grouped into levels. The list of all Categories and levels can be found on the FIS Website: FIS points list (fis-ski.com)

<u>DOUBLE ENTRIES CLARIFICATION:</u> Unanimously adopted was the rules precision about Double Entries. The overall rule for all disciplines was adopted for Alpine, to compete in two races the same date and same place. For different places, the old rules stay valid.

215.2 National Ski Associations are not permitted to enter and draw the same competitors in more than one competition on the same date.

621.12 Double Entries

In Alpine Ski Competitions, the following precision of the overall art. 215.2 is valid: if two competitions take place at the same site, competitors can be entered for both events. If two competitions take place at different sites, the only exception is as follows: If competitors have started in a competition they cannot appear as DNS 1 in another competition on the same day, except for a DH training. If competitors are entered into and drawn for a DH competition and subsequently leaves this competition in order to participate in another DH competition, they will not be permitted to return to the first DH competition. The FIS

Office will refer all double entries to the FIS Council for appropriate action.

<u>RE-RUN CLARIFICATION:</u> Not adopted. The proposal was presented as discussed and agreed upon at the workshop rules. Goal was to avoid re-run questions in the case that the racer blocks himself by own equipment or a broken gate pole. Several arguments were discussed, main argument was the wish to keep freedom to Jurys to decide for the individual case. A vote took place, with 7 yes votes and 13 no.

<u>DELAYED GATE COMBINATIONS:</u> Unanimously adopted was the precision about the minimum distance of the delayed gate within a delayed gate combination with 0.75 m.

A gate must have a minimum width of 4 m and a maximum of 6 m.

The distance from turning pole to turning pole of successive gates must not be less than 6 m and not more than 13 m (valid for all categories).

Exception U16 - U14 competitions:

- between 7 m and 11 m

The distance between gates within combinations (hairpin or vertical) must be not less than 0.75 m and not more than 1 m. The gates in hairpin or vertical combinations must be set in a straight line. Delayed gates must have a minimum distance of 12 m and a maximum distance of 18 m (U16 - U14 Competition 15 m) from turning pole to turning pole. The distance between the gates within a delayed combination must be not less than 0.75 m from either turning pole

<u>SUPER G PANEL COLOR:</u> Unanimously adopted was the proposal for safety reasons to enable in Super-G in special cases a different color of the gate panel (e.g. red gate with red backtrop in front of net). This already was possible in Downhill, but not in Super-G.

The gates must be alternately red and blue. In special where a panel colour cannot be seen properly against the backdrop (e.g. safety netting), the Jury can decide an alternative colour for the gate panel for that specific gate to improve visibility. The gate panels are to be approx. 75 cm wide and approx. 50 cm high. They are fastened between the poles so that the lower edge of the panel is approx. 1 m above the snow and should be capable of tearing or breaking away (art. 690)

<u>TEAM COMBINED:</u> Unanimously adopted was the principal proposal from the Athletes Commission of the new wording of art. 1211.ff. The old version of a Combined Team Event was deleted and a new wording based on the new principles was supported. To explain shortly about the principles: Two competitors are teammates, one competing a Speed Event, the other the one run Slalom. Both times are added for the win.

- 1211 Team Combined
- 1211.1 If the Alpine Combined is held as a Team Combined, art. 1101.f are valid.
- 1211.2 *Eligibility*

The maximum number of teams (per nation) each with 2 competitors (same gender) to participate at the event will be determined by the respective rules (Major Event Rules, Cup Rules, FIS Rules etc.).

1211.3 <u>Team Composition</u>

Each competitor is allowed to start only in one run, and only for one team. The competitors that make up the team (teammates) must be named before the draw by the team captain. No changes can be done after the draw.

1211.4 Starting Order 1st run

The starting order for the first run (DH / SG or SL in exceptional case) is determined by the respective rules (Major Event Rules, Cup Rules, FIS Rules etc.).

1211.5 Starting Order 2nd run

Starting numbers given to the team for the 1st run remain the same for the 2nd run. The starting order for the second run is determined by the result list of the 1st run except for the first 30 places who will start in reversed order.

1211.6 A competitor will not be permitted to start the 2nd run if his teammate was DSQ, DNS, NPS or DNF the first run.

<u>1211.7 Results</u>

The Combined results are calculated by adding the run times of the teammates of both runs.

1211.8 Points and Prizes

Cup points may be awarded, based on the respective rules but will be split, half for each teammate (Cup Rules, etc.). The same prizes of honor have to be awarded for both teammates, Prize money based on the respective rules will be split, half for each teammate.

I would like to ask Alpine Committee for their support and to forward the proposals which were adopted to FIS Council by end of May.

Minor adjustments with no change of a rule principle about timing and parallel was accepted and supported, as well the wish about the precision of the Homologation Rules, which is guided by the Sub-Committee Alpine Courses.

No case of an Alpine Appeal during the past year was reported be Josef Zingerle (ITA) as Chair of the Appeals Commission.

No other ICR changes were informed from other Alpine Sub-Committee.

11. Alpine Technical Delegates (Markus Malsiner, ITA)

The Meeting of the Sub-Committee for Technical Delegates was held on Wednesday 3rd May in the morning with almost all the members present.

The Commissioners made their report about the last winter season which went smoothly with all the ups and downs due to the snow situation creating postponements and cancellations.

A total of more than 3500 competitions were carried out without major problems thanks to the good cooperation between the Commissioners and thanks to all the 490 alpine TD's.

Nowadays it is not easy to find as dedicated people who voluntarily carry out such a responsible job and we are more than glad that we still can cover all of our events.

The commissioners organised last autumn the TD clinics and updates in presence as it was in the past before Covid 19 and all were satisfied to discuss the topics tete a tete and not anymore via online conference.

There is a strong statement from all our TD Commissioners and Technical Delegates that the unequal payment at the different levels of our events cannot be accepted and it is not reflecting the daily work and duties of the TD's at lower level events, where they carry the full legal responsibility and where the TD has to organise safe and fair competitions with less volunteers and less local experience.

The Sub Committee asked again to review and to change the decision regarding the existing rule for the per diem payment to the TD's to CHF 125.- for all level of events.

The proposed Technical Delegates for the FIS Alpine World Junior Championships 2024 in Haute Savoie (FRA) are:

Women Petr Zahrobsky (CZE)
Men Omar Galli (ITA)

12. Alpine World Cup (Walter Vogel, GER)

The Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup discussed the necessity of long-term calendars. It became clear that the current short-term planning massively hinders the work especially for organisers, but also for other stakeholders. Therefore, the Sub-Committee unanimously demands:

The Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup requests the FIS Council to return to the previous practice of long-term calendar planning. The calendar for the following season must be fixed 12 months before the start of the season.

The Calendars for 2023/24 were presented and forwarded to FIS Council with the unanimous recommendation to integrate Zagreb (CRO) into the Calendar.

An athletes' proposal for higher prize money and an amended distribution system to the Top 30 was discussed. The Sub-Committee supports the proposal under the condition that the organiser's share is maximum of CHF 120.000.-- The rest shall be contributed by FIS. In general, the continuation of the 20% contribution by FIS is highly appreciated. If no significant increase to the current prize money is decided, the adjustment of the prize money distribution will not be applied.

The Sub-Committee members support a proposal by the Athletes' Commission to grant the athlete with the highest bib number above 30 who places in the top 30 special prize money and a bib number behind the 30 (plus 500 point racers) in the next race of the corresponding event. Details are worked out during the summer.

Proposals from SRS concerning quota and working spaces were tabled till the fall meeting.

The following proposals were supported by the Sub-Committee and forwarded to FIS Council:

Rules and Precisions World Cup rules

3.2 Basic quota

Downhill / Super-G

Minimum requirements:

Maximum 80 FIS points in the respective event according to the valid FIS points list (valid also for 500 points competitors and those qualified

from Continental Cups).

For Men's events:

Competitors must be ranked within the first 150 of the valid FIS point list in the event concerned or within the first 30 of the WCSL in one of the following events SL, GS, SG, DH or AC₋ (competitors qualified through first 30 of the WSCL must have a maximum of 80 FIS points in DH or SG (not necessarily in the respective event) according to the valid FIS points list.

Alpine Combined (AC)

Minimum requirements:

For Alpine Combined with DH a maximum of 80 FIS points in DH is required and for Alpine Combined with SG a maximum of 80 FIS points in AC, SG or DH is required.

Only for women's events: National Ski Association, whose quota is six (6) or less competitors, (Basic quota one [1] + national quota five [5]) may participate in each Alpine Combined with a maximum of six (6) competitors. These competitors must only fulfill the minimum requirements.

For Men's events:

Competitors must be ranked within the first 150 of the valid FIS point list in the event concerned or within the first 30 of the WCSL in one of the following events SL, GS, SG, DH or AC (competitors qualified through first 30 of the WCSL must have a maximum of 80 FIS points in DH or SG (not necessarily in the respective event) according to the valid FIS points-list.

3.3.1 Replacement of competitors

Qualified competitors from within the national quota can be replaced by competitors ranked within the first 60 of the WCSL or within the first 120 ranked (80 for men's events) on the valid FIS points list, each in the respective event, or by competitors who have at least 500 WCSL overall points (if the conditions according to art. 3.2 are fulfilled).

3.5 Number of participants at the race / Downhill training

A team may enter a maximum of nine (9) Women's and eight (8) Men's active competitors for each event (not included are competitors from art. 3.8).

For teams up to a size of 7 qualified competitors, 2 additional competitors are allowed to participate in the official training for one Downhill, 3 in case of two Downhill competitions. and double Downhill.

For teams of 8 and more qualified competitors, 3 additional competitors are allowed to participate in the official training for one Downhill, 4 in case of two Downhill competitions.

These additional competitors for training must fulfill the minimum requirement of a maximum of 80 FIS points in Downhill.

For men's event see art 3.2

Rules for the Team Combined (TC)

- Is the result of a Downhill (or Super G) run and a single Slalom run held according to the technical regulations for Slalom and those for Downhill or Super G. The Team Combined event consists of two runs. (see ICR, art. 621.3.3, 621.11.2)
- Downhill and Super-G events of Team Combined must be held on courses specifically homologated for Downhill or Super-G respectively. The Slalom may be held on these courses.

 If possible both runs should be held on one day (exceptions can only be decided by the Jury).

Eligibility

World Cup rules, art. 3 are valid for the eligibility of the participating athletes.

Participation

The Teams are formed by athletes from the same gender and nation.

The competitors that make up the team must be named before the draw. No changes can be done after the draw.

Quotas

Each nation can start with the maximum quotas allowed for the respective speed event (Downhill or Super G).

Draw

Enrollment and starting order draw are defined by the World Cup rules, art. 9. Teams must be nominated before the Team Captain's Meeting.

- Each competitor is allowed to start only in one run.
- Starting numbers given to the team for the 1st run remain the same for the 2nd run.

• Starting order 2nd run

The starting order for the 2nd run is determined by the result list of the 1st run except for the first 30 places who will start in reverse order. A competitor will not be permitted to start the 2nd run if his teammate was DSQ, DNS, NPS or DNF in the first run.

• The Combined results are calculated by adding both competitors' run times.

World Cup Points

Points will only be awarded if both competitors completed the respective runs (World Cup rules, art. 10.2 applies).

World Cup points will be awarded for all the cups (Nations' Cup, Overall Individual Cup and Event Cups – DH/SG and SL) - points awarded to each athlete of the team, using the points distribution as listed below.

Team Combined World Cup distribution (for each athlete in the team):

1 st	50	16 th	8	
2 nd	40	17 th	7	
3 rd	30	18 th	7	
4 th	25	19 th	6	
5 th	22	20 th	6	
6 th	20	21 th	5	
7 th	18	22 th	5	
8 th	16	23 th	4	
9 th	14	24 th	4	
10 th	12	25 th	3	
11 th	10	26 th	3	
12 th	10	27 th	2	

13 th	9	28 th	2
14 th	9	29 th	1
15 th	8	30 th	1

No WCSL and FIS points will be awarded for the Team Combined.

- Prize Money: According to World Cup rules art. 6 (divided by 50% between the two athletes in the team)
- ICR Rules 1211 apply where no specific Cup Rules are defined

12.1 Working Group Coaches Women (Paul Kristofic, USA)

Peter Gerdol (FIS) reported on behalf of the Working Group Coaches Women. A couple of Meetings with all coaches were organised during the winter season with excellent cooperation between Head Coaches and FIS Team and between all coaches.

Next Meeting will be held in Zurich during the second week of May with a full agenda. Main topics will be the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group, a debrief of the past season and feedback from the coaches regarding general items.

The World Cup calendar presented today and the proposed rules will be discussed at the Meeting.

Finally in Zurich at the FIS Fall Meetings the last Meeting before the start of the season will be organised.

12.2 Working Group Coaches Men (Thomas Stauffer, SUI)

Markus Waldner (FIS) reported on behalf of the Chair of the Working Group, Thomas Stauffer (SUI) who was not present at the Meeting.

Five Meetings were organised between Sölden (AUT), first Race of the season and Soldeu (AND) at the World Cup Finals. Next meeting will be held online and will be scheduled as soon as the World Cup Calendar is confirmed.

At the last Meeting, serious issues concerning some problems with ski rooms and accommodation that happened during the season were discussed. It is necessary to find solutions with those organisers.

With the new full implementation of the FIS fluor ban, lockers in the ski rooms will be necessary to install.

Due to the high number of racers missing or straggling a pole and continuing, the Working Group will support the idea to sanction the racer with an impairement of his start position (20 places & not before starting position 45) for the next event.

13. Intercontinental Cup (Stefano Pirola, CHI)

Finally, after three years affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Continental Cups Circuit had a normal season with full calendars in all Cups and a lot of races at very high levels. Starting with the Southern Hemisphere Cups, ANC and SAC, they were able to organise Continental Cup events with a huge foreign participation due to the removal of the travel restrictions that allowed also that the Northern Hemisphere Teams do their classical training camps in the ski resorts in the Southern Hemisphere with excellent snow conditions, following by the Northern Hemisphere season with different snow conditions, difficult for the Europa Cup but at the end great season, and also good conditions for the Nor-Am Cup and the Far East Cup, that came back after two years without races.

At the end, more than 200 events were held in the season 2022/23:

EUROPA CUP	74
NOR AM CUP	49
FAR EAST CUP	28
SOUTH AMERICAN CUP	38
AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND CUP	12

Regarding the future, the ANC and SAC they already have their calendars ready for the next season and will be distributed and presented by each Chairman later.

At the end of this report, I would like to thank the COC and FIS EC Coordinators Jordi Pujol (FIS) and Wim Rossel (FIS) for their work and, to all the NSA and Organisers for their big contribution to the development of our sports and to the Chairman's of each Cup and last but not least, to all the staff at the FIS Office, specially Janez Flere (FIS) and Tatjana Luessy (FIS), for their constant support

13.1 European Cup (Herbert Mandl AUT)

The Chair started with a big thanks to all the organisers for the big support they gave to the European Cup.

He also says thanks to the FIS Profesionals who oversee all the Europa Cup events, Jordi Pujol, Wim Rossel and Matjaz Vrecl.

He mentioned that many Speed Event organisers are asking to increase the actual accommodation fee due to the higher cost they are having.

This will mean that the teams / NSA will have to pay this higher cost in the future to participate in DH or SG Europa Cup events.

He also mentioned that they need to get more interest from media and raise the value of the Cup.

Draft calendars for the next season were presented with a good balance of events and sites.

The following proposals were confirmed by the Sub-Committee and have to be sent to FIS Council for final approval:

2.2.1.2 Extra guota in COC events for athletes within the best top 30 WCSL

Athletes ranked in the best 30 of the WCSL are assigned a personal quota in addition to the nation's basic and nation quota for all COC competitions in the event concerned. This is only for the COC competitions in the geographical region where these athlete's National Association is a member. (EC* Athletes over quota do not have the right of payment of expenses as per art 7 and 7.1)

2.6.1 Inscriptions and entry deadlines

All entries must be sent to the respective Organisers or National Association (as stated in the FIS calendar) at least seven (7) days in advance of the first race (tech) or official training (speed).

For EC and NAC, National Ski Associations must use the FIS online registration system for entries. The Organisers are only allowed to accept entries submitted within the communicated deadlines and through the FIS online entry system.

Entries not made according to the rules shall not be entitled to accommodation expenses.

3.2 After the first group (*EC/NAC)

After the 1st group the competitors are enrolled start according to art. 3.2.1 (450 / 200 Cup points), followed by the present competitors ranked within the top 30 of the World Cup Starting List (WCSL). The following 15 competitors start according to the respective cup event standing, unless they are within one of the two above mentioned groups. Finally, 30 competitors of the respective cup event standing incl. the 450 points competitors are considered.

In case the first 30 competitors in Alpine Combined do not have Cup points, respectively FIS points in Alpine Combined, competitors will be considered according to the DH respectively SG FIS points - depending on which event will be held for the Alpine Combined.

The same procedure is valid for those competitors after start number 30 who do not have AC FIS points.

Special Group: 450 (EC, NAC) 400 (FEC) 200 (SAC, ANC) Cup points

3.2.1 Special Group: 450 (EC, NAC) 400 (FEC) 200 (SAC, ANC) Cup points Competitors who have accumulated at least 450 (EC, NAC) 400 (FEC), 200 (ANC, SAC) Cup points in the overall classification in the past or current season of that Continental Cup are enrolledstart as number 16 in all events in that Cup only, unless they have a right to start in the first 15. If there is more than one competitor with 450 (EC, NAC) 400 (FEC) 200 (SAC, ANC) Cup points then they start in the order of their Cup points in that event, or FIS points if they have no Cup points. If competitors cannot make use of this facilitation due to injury, they may use it at the first 3 races of the following season. This is valid for a

3.2.2 Winner or qualifier from each Continental Cup starts 31.

maximum of 3 starts irrespective of the events.

The Continental Cup event winners from the previous season (Southern Hemisphere same season), and best placed competitor from the respective Continent (including all competitors with the same total points as the winner or the best placed competitor from the respective continent) will be named on a separate list on the FIS Website.

These competitors have the right to start as number 31 in all the other Continental Cups (except EC Finals), if they are not already ranked in the top 30. If there is more than one present, they will start in order of their Cup points in that event, or FIS points if they have no Cup points. This right is only valid for the event concerned.

EC.4.4.1 Quotas

Each nation is entitled to participate with their valid <u>national</u> quotas <u>(art. 2.2)</u>. In the case of Downhill, Super-G and Alpine Combined (or Giant Slalom and Slalom) taking place at one event, the nation's higher quota in Downhill, Super-G or Alpine Combined, is valid in all of the three (or two in case of Giant Slalom and Slalom) events.

EC.4.4.2 Qualification

The conditions for the basic quota according to art. 2.1 remain valid. The additional competitors in the national quota must be ranked within the top 45 (top 30 in Alpine Combined) in the European Cup overall standings in the respective events. There is no moving up or replacement. Furthermore, all competitors from the Special Group (450 EC points competitors) in the current season have the right to start. All top 30 competitors from the actual WCSL before the first Team

Captains' Meeting also have the right to start in the event concerned. This last group of competitors is not counting to define the top 45 (top 30 in Alpine Combined) qualified for the finals.

Art 3.2.2 (Continental Cup winners) does not apply for the EC Finals.

EC.6.1 Training or racing on European Cup courses

No training or racing is allowed on European Cup courses for two (2) days before the start of official training or the first competition - irrespective of the event or course. Failure to comply with this rule will lead to disqualification or refusal to allow the respective competitor to start

EC.6.2 Free-skiing on the race hill

Free-skiing (with or without gates) can be organised on the race hill on the days before the race for SG or GS only with the approval of the European Cup Coordinator in agreement with the Local Organiser

13.2 Nor-Am Cup (Chip Knight, USA)

The Nor-Am Cup had a successful season in 2022/23 with 49 races contested across four events: 8 DH, 10 SG, 15 GS, and 16 SL. Unfortunately, three events had to be canceled in the end due to weather: one Women's SG, one Men's SG, and one Men's GS.

This year the Nor-Am Sub-Committee made three fundamental changes in the calendar.

First, we shifted away from calendaring AC and Parallel events, which reduced the number of calendared races per gender from 30 to 26, and it allowed us to create a more periodized calendar for the athletes through the season.

Second, we started the DH and SG races at Copper Mountain (USA) this year, which is an approachable speed venue for junior athletes. This strategic change in direction yielded twice the number of athletes on the start list compared to the previous year.

Still, ongoing challenges remain for the Nor-Am Cup. Hill preparation continues to be an enormous undertaking for individual race organisers and the host NSAs – U.S. Ski & Snowboard and Alpine Canada – both of which commit a large amount of financial and human resources to create elite-level venues with very little outside support. Creating a Nor-Am calendar that meshes at appropriate time with the World Cup calendar, utilizing elite venues and the existing hill preparation, and allowing cross-over competition opportunities for young athletes, is impossible without long-term World Cup calendars in place. Costs associated with hosting races and traveling between resorts in North America are rising at a rate higher than inflation, combined with the difficulty of finding and maintaining speed venues, is a massive developmental issue for our sport. The gravity of this problem is intensely critical in the U.S. and Canada, but the challenge is certainly shared around the world.

Looking ahead, we are actively planning the calendar for the 2023-24 season. There are 24 events per gender on the current draft. The calendar starts in December with speed events at Copper Mountain (USA), before moving to the World Cup venues of Beaver Creek (USA) and Mont Tremblant (CAN). After the New Year, the Cup resumes with technical races at Stratton (USA) and Burke Mountain (USA). A break is planned in late January and early February

during the Youth Olympic Games and World Junior Championships. In late February, Nor-Ams will resume at Georgian Peaks (CAN), Osler Bluff (CAN), and Mont Sainte-Marie (CAN). Lastly, the Finals are planned to take place in March with speed events at Whistler (CAN) and technical events split by gender between Panorama (CAN) and Jackson (USA).

13.3 Far East Cup (Michihiko Nakamura, JPN)

A written report from the Far-East Cup was read by Hiroshi Sawano (JPN) who replaced the Chairman excused for the meeting.

"The situation in the Far East: Our region has lagged the rest of the world in mitigating COVID prevention programs.

The number of FIS races is slowly recovering as it was before.

Now all countries in our region are opening their gates to travellers without PCR testing results and vaccination approval.

I have been in contact with my colleague, members of the Far East Cup Sub-Committee and pleased to present the proposed calendar for speed events for the 2024 season. China will return as the host of the race. The people of Zhangjiakou (CHN) are eager to carry on the legacy of the Beijing OWG. The local organising committee and the venue owner in Yanqing (CHN) have agreed to plan a speed event in December 2023.

The calendar is being finalized with Chinese Ski Association. This movement is a great opportunity for the FIS Alpine TD development and training program, especially for China, which needs TDs to support and promote FIS Alpine competitions, and I am sure that it will be a major pillar for Alpine marketing in China.

However, scheduling an event is not easy. We need a lot of support from the FIS side, including education such as speed clinics for athletes, coaches, and race organisers. Also getting ski equipment will be a concerning topic. It is not easy for athletes to purchase new equipment and even to order them. Therefore, we would like to ask distributors to collect used equipment and start a movement.

<u>Feature concerns</u>: The situation in the group countries is affected by the Ukrainian crisis as the whole world is suffering from the economy, rising prices of energy costs, food, manufacturing products, and many others. It is just getting too expensive to organise races. Even for athletes and teams traveling cost is a huge concern. Accommodation costs have risen by more than 20%. In countries like Japan, where the NSA does not financially support the events, it is difficult to retain current organisers and super difficult to find new ones.

I have received several emails asking to change the rules for the accommodation fee.

As this is a complaint from the Secretariat currently, I have asked them to make a formal request. I would like to discuss this topic for the 2025 season and hope lead to a proposal solution."

13.4 South American Cup (Ernesto Cingolani, ARG)

Begino (ARG) gave the report about the last very good season of SAC, replacing the Chairman Ernesto Cingolani (ARG), who was excused.

"After two years with no activity at all due the Pandemic situation we can finish a very successful season with only one race cancelled and a lot of races with minimum penalty because of the big quantity of foreign racers, some of them World Cup racers.

Now we are about to start a new season. We will start the SAC season in Chapelco (ARG) in the first week of august and with 24 SAC races in total scheduled. The speed is returning to Argentina with two SG in Las Leñas as organiser, after some years with no activity. Very good news!!!!

More and more teams training in South America mostly in La Parva and El Colorado in Chile and Ushuaia in Argentina, so we expect again races with a very good level of athletes.

I hope the snow would join us again this year"

13.5 Australia / New Zealand Cup (Jono Howson, NZL)

No report was given from the ANC Sub-Committee.

14. Youth & Childrens Questions (Jordi Pujol, FIS)

The 38th meeting of the Youth&Childrens Questions Sub-Committee was held in Dubrovnik with 24 members present.

Different reports were given by Janez Dekleva SLO (Children's Races Organisers), Jenny Shute GBR (FIS Medical Committee & FIS Snow Safe Policy), Andrew Cholinsky FIS (Bring Kids to the Snow – FIS Snow day event) and Josip Kosutic (CRO, Sports Director International Schools Federation).

Rainer Senoner (ITA) on behalf of Val Gardena (ITA), candidate for the WSC 2029, reported about the speed training camp for developing National Ski Associations free of charge scheduled last December 2022. They will organise a similar camp next December

He also confirmed that Speed Clinic only for OPA countries and 4 SG & DH FIS (W & M) open to every NSA will be organised in Val Gardena during December 2023.

There was a short presentation from St. Anton (AUT) organiser of the successful World Junior Championships held last January.

A short report from the 2024 organiser in Haute Savoie (FRA) was given.

The next organiser is in 2025, Santa Caterina (ITA) and Switzerland who was candidate for 2026 has move the bid to 2028.

Chip Knight (USA) presented a proposal to limit the number of starts for U18 1st year to 30 starts and U18 2nd year to a maximum number of 40 starts. In both cases Speed events not included. The proposal was postponed to the Fall Meeting.

FIS Council will appoint the new Chairman during the next Meeting, end of May 2023.

14.1 FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships (Jordi Pujol, FIS)

Report is included in 14. Youth & Childrens Questions

15. Ski Cross (Klaus Waldner, FIS)

The work of the Sub Committee for Alpine Ski Cross has during the winter of 22/23 circulated mainly regarding the ICR project which is now ready for acceptance by FIS Council. The project has been spearheaded by the vice Chair Heli Herdt (GER) who has led and been the main contributor to this extensive process.

In the process there has been involvement from many different people but a special thanks to the Chair of the Sub-Committee of Alpine Rules, Michael Huber (AUT) who has been of great assistance.

They are happy to look back at a strong season consisting of:

- The Freestyle & Snowboard World Championships in Bakuriani (GEO)
- 12 World Cup races at seven different venues,
- 11 European Cup races in three different venues.

Junior World Championships, San Pellegrino (ITA)

To be able to execute an extensive season like this during a full-blown energy crisis does not only need focused management but also dedicated investors in the shape of National Ski Associations, rights holders and local organisers willing to lend us their effort, infrastructure and venues.

He would like to extend the Ski cross family's gratitude to all of them in contributing to grow our sport now and for the future.

Looking to the upcoming season there is a calendar consisting of:

- 21 scheduled World Cup races at 12 venues across 8 countries
- 17 scheduled European Cup races in 8 locations across 6 nations
- 10 scheduled Nor-Am Cup races in 5 locations
- Youth Olympic Games in Gangwon (KOR)
- Ski Cross World Junior Championships (OPEN)

Coming into the new season there will be a full implementation of the FIS fluor ban which will affect the processes of how the testing protocols will be carried out. Even though there are still some worries within the community on how this will be executed in an already strained financial situation on site for most venues, they rely in the experience and knowledge brought by FIS.

During their spring Meeting they learned that officials will be trained to be able to carry out these tests, but the success of this project relies on the fact that we all must put an extra effort into ensuring that this transformation runs smoothly. Ski Cross as a community need to stay focused on the long-term goal of creating a more sustainable global sports organisation.

The ongoing discussion about where Ski Cross stands remains undecided for the moment but they as a community are aligned in the belief that moving along our own path is in the best interest for the sport to be able to develop even further. As a first step they remain hopeful that they will for the upcoming season run their races according to the new Ski cross ICR and that the work of keeping the Cross community aligned when it comes to shared venues and infrastructure remains strong.

Dubrovnik (CRO) showed that they need to improve the tunnel of rules proposals and procedures to be able to work more efficiently with changes and this work is to be carried out in collaboration between Ski Cross Chair and the Chair for Snowboard Cross Stephan Knirsch (GER) to be ready for presentation at the fall Meetings.

Finally, they would like to thank the FIS management for the support and to Race Directors Klaus Waldner (FIS) and Christian Cretier (FIS) for providing a stable calendar for both the Skicross World Cup as well as the Europa Cup.

16. Equipment (Massimo Rinaldi, ITA))

The Meeting of the Equipment Committee is scheduled after the Alpine Committee Meeting.

The proposal to make the use of the Airbag System for Speed World Cup events mandatory from the season 2024/25 approved by the Executive Board, will be presented in the Equipment Committee Meeting.

17. Athletes' Commission (Verena Stuffer, ITA-Leif Kristian Nestvold Haugen, NOR)

Verena Stuffer (ITA) and Leif Kristian Nestvold Haugen (NOR) have been elected again for the next term 2023-2027 as Athletes' representative. They thanked for the trust they got from the athletes and thank them for having delivered a great season with many records. Thank all the stakeholders to have delivered good races.

They had productive meetings in the Sub-Committees and very appreciate collaboration with the new established Athlete Health Unit and a very constructive work.

They also appreciate the improvement in the TV-graphics that have been seen during the past season.

The Athletes proposal of the Team Combined has been discussed and they are glad that this format will for the first time implemented in the World Cup season 2023/24, after having it already tested during the World Juniors Championships in St Anton (AUT).

The proposal to increase prize money has been supported by Club 5 and it will go to FIS Council for approval.

The proposal "Highest bib qualified for the second run "has been supported and the details will be defined until the FIS spring Meetings.

Comments about the World Cup Calendars:

- Womens' calendar is balanced between tech and speed events
- Mens' calendar is still lightly unbalanced.

The also remind that it is important to have a long-term World Cup calendar.

18. Reports from Organisers of the previous and next major championships:

There followed a series of short presentations by representatives of the venues briefing committee members of the final reports or current states of preparation.

- 18.1. 2023 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Courchevel-Meribel (FRA)
- 18.2. 2024 Youth Olympic Winter Games, Gangwon (KOR)
- 18.3. 2025 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Saalbach Hinterglemm (AUT)
- 18.4. 2026 Olympic Winter Games, Milano-Cortina (ITA)
- 18.5. 2027 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Crans Montana (SUI)

19. Questions, Various

The Chairman thanked all for the hard work carried out during this week to all Committee and Sub-Committee members, Working Groups and the Executive Board and wish all the best for the next winter season.

For more details regarding all Sub-Committee meetings see www.fis-ski.com under Members Section.

20. Next Meetings

FIS Autumn Meeting, 27th to 29th September 2023, Zurich (SUI) There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 16.00hrs

For the Minutes, Janez Fleré Read and approved by Massimo Rinaldi, Chairman Alpine Committee