

To the
- Members of the Telemark Skiing Committee

**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND
SNOWBOARD FEDERATION**
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Oberhofen, 16th November 2023

**Minutes Meeting of Committee for Telemark Skiing
Zurich, 28th and 29th September 2023**

Dear Telemark Friends,

We are pleased to send you the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee for Telemark Skiing held on Thursday, 28th September, from 13:00 – 17:00 and on, Friday 29th September from 08:00 - 12:00 in Zurich.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the Chairman, Andrew Clarke.

We would also like to take the opportunity to inform you that the minutes are available on the Member Services section of the FIS Website: www.fis-ski.com.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.

Kind regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION

Andrew Clarke
Chairman
Committee for Telemark Skiing

Enclosure: ment.

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION
Committee for Telemark Skiing

AGENDA

Thursday, 28th September 2023

1. Welcome/ Apologies
2. Finances
 - Report 22/23
 - FIS Support 23/24
 - Budget 23/24
3. World Cup Calendar 23/24
4. Rule Changes

Friday, 29th September 2023

1. Working Group Reports:
 - TD Working Group – Andreja Jovan
 - Rules Working Group – Stefan Schär
 - OC Working Group – Christian Leicht
 - Athletes Working Group – Jasmin Taylor
 - Media Working Group – Jack Harvard-Taylor and Sam Decout
2. World Cup Coordinator replacement
3. TeleKidz update – Sam Decout
4. AOB
5. Close

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

Thursday, 28th September 2023

1. Roll Call/ Apologies

Present:

CLARKE Andrew (GBR)	Chair
BIRCHLER Hans-Peter (SUI)	Member
DIXON Neil (FRA)	Member
GOBERG Birger (NOR)	Member
TAYLOR Jasmine (GBR)	Athletes' Commission

Not present/Apologies:

LARSEN Troels Tore (DEN)	Member
LEICHT Christian (GER)	Member
PERREAULT Stephane (CAN)	Member

Not Present/no Apologies:

ALLIOD Edoardo (ITA)	Member (3 rd time without Apology)
HORVATICEK Franc (SLO)	Member (3 rd time without Apology)
PRIBYLOVA Anezka (CZE)	Member (3 rd time without Apology)
PULIDO Nazaret (ESP)	Member (3 rd time without Apology)
HIROSE Kohei (JPN)	Member

Observers/Guests:

PERY Adrian (GBR)	(Present by Video Call)
MANSART (GBR)	Coach
ERIKSEN Gøril Strøm (NOR)	Athletes Working Group
WENGER Christoph (SUI)	Organiser
SCHÄR Stefan (SUI)	Rules Working Group
JOVAN Andreja (SLO)	WC Coordinator
KESSLER Alex (GER)	Race Director
MAFFEI Sabrina (ITA)	Organiser
ANSELMO Daniele (ITA)	Organiser
PIVA Alessandro (ITA)	Organiser
DOJCINOVIC Jelena (FIS)	FIS (minutes)
BLUM Alexandra (FIS)	FIS (only present half of the meeting)

2. Welcome – Andrew Clarke (AC)

Chair, Andrew Clarke (AC) opened the meeting and reported on last season. He reported that there were a lot of activities in 2022/23 season: a snow Kidz campaign, an equipment project, as well as, of course, competitions. AC highlighted a special announcement from FIS for the ongoing FIS Games 2028 that saw the Telemark discipline on the programme of events. AC thanked everyone for all they have done and contributed in the past, and will continue to do in the future, for the discipline. AC also noted that he will contact Committee Members who miss three consecutive meetings through the NSAs.

3. Finances – Hans-Peter Birchler (HB)

HB reported finances for last season. There have been some issues with fees being paid into the correct accounts. Invoices are issued to Federations, not to the organisers and as a result the fees have been paid into the NSA accounts. The issue has been flagged by HB and will be rectified for future payments.

At the Spring meeting, it was decided to purchase Telemark equipment to support the Telekidz and outreach programmes. HB reported that this equipment had now been purchased and was being stored in France.

AC remarked that the Telemark budget was in good health but that expenditure in the future might have an impact on the ability of the committee to support critical items, such as payment of the race director which may become cost prohibitive without the income or funding to support it. We must consider new ways to attract funding as a material increase in athletes' and organizer fees at this moment is not likely viable. Our search for a headline sponsor continues.

The approved budget and forecasted expenditure for season 2023/2024 is as follows:

- Media CHF 16,500
- WC Coordinator CHF 9,500
- Committee expenses CHF 3,100
- Telekidz and outreach projects CHF 7,000
- WG expenses CHF 3,000
- Live timing CHF 3,000

4. World Cup Calendar 23/24 – Andreja Jovan (AJ)

AJ was pleased to report that the WC season will begin in ITA this year in December.

AJ discussed the calendar with some notable comments about Bardonecchia and Livigno. Without cancellations this season will see 23 races across the World Cup which is an increase based on previous years.

During the discussion, AJ offered that we need regular organisers so that we could register races in advance and not searching for final decisions with the calendar in December.

There has been some discussion about continental races. The question was raised about how do we might develop the sport on a regional scale and whether there was merit in returning to continental cup competition.

With the growth in participation, that is hoped via our outreach and Telekidz programmes we will grow the grass roots of the sport and will therefore need more races in the future. This will require a tiered approach from children's races through FIS to national, continental and world cup competitions.

AJ reported that Norway had expressed an interest as a possible candidate for WSC in 2027. The NOR representative, Birger Gøberg (BG) was asked to encourage the organiser to submit the application.

5. Rule Changes – Stefan Schär (SS)

There were no rules to be discussed. Changes to rules for the 2023/24 season are in the updated TICR.

Results boards are no longer required in the finish area. WhatsApp groups will update on results and start lists. This will be communicated at the first team captain's meeting.

Daniel Défago, Chief of FIS Timing Working Group, joined the meeting, and there was a discussion about A and B systems and how to run parallels. It was concluded that the FIS race in Bardonecchia will try the photo finish system, and Christophe Wenger (CW) offered to run this trial.

Friday, 29th September 2023

1. Roll Call/ Apologies

Present:

CLARKE Andrew (GBR)	Chair
BIRCHLER Hans-Peter (SUI)	Member
GOBERG Birger (NOR)	Member
LEICHT Christian (GER)	Member
TAYLOR Jasmine (GBR)	Athletes' Commission

Not present/Apologies:

DIXON Neil (FRA)	Member
LARSEN Troels Tore (DEN)	Member
LEICHT Christian (GER)	Member
LARSEN Troels Tore (DEN)	Member
PERREAULT Stephane (CAN)	Member

Not Present/no Apologies:

ALLIOD Edoardo (ITA)	Member (3 rd time without Apology)
HORVATICEK Franc (SLO)	Member (3 rd time without Apology)
PRIBYLOVA Anezka (CZE)	Member (3 rd time without Apology)
PULIDO Nazaret (ESP)	Member (3 rd time without Apology)
HIROSE Kohei (JPN)	Member

Observers/Guests:

PERY Adrian (GBR)	(Present by Video Call)
WENGER Christoph (SUI)	Organiser
SCHÄR Stefan (SUI)	Rules Working Group
JOVAN Andreja (SLO)	WC Coordinator
ERIKSEN Gøril Strøm (NOR)	Athletes Working Group
BLUM Alexandra SUI	FIS (minutes)

2. Working Group Reports:

TD Working Group – Andreja Jovan (AJ)

There is nothing to report. In November, there will be an online meeting. Coaches and three candidates will be added to the meeting. **The online meeting will take place on 22.11 or 23.11.2023.** Invitations will be sent by Christian Leicht (CL= or AJ).

Rules Working Group – Stefan Schär (SS)

SS reported that the Rules Working Group met during the season at the races. He noted that the Rules Working Group continue to receive Rule Proposals from the NSAs very late. **The committee decided that Rule Proposals are to be received no later than 31 March each year (i.e., 31/4/24; 31/4/25; 31/4/26, and so on). If**

they are not received by this date each year then they will not be considered.

[Telemark Rules Proposals.pdf \(fis-ski.com\)](https://www.fis-ski.com/telemark-rules-proposals.pdf)

This deadline provides the Rules Working Group enough time to enable a thorough review of the proposal(s) and make changes if needed. SS reported that the Rules Working Group often meets during the races. Adrian PERY (AP) added that it would be beneficial to have an online meeting with the whole working group to discuss the items important to the group. This meeting will be arranged following the receipt of the Rule Proposals.

The chair thanked the Rules Working Group for the hard work they do.

- OC Working Group – Christian Leicht (CL)

Christian Leicht reported that the OC Working Group had several online meetings last year. He said that there would be an online meeting with the members of the OC Working Group before the start of each season. This meeting will be held in November. CL added that it would be a good idea to invite organisers to Portoroz or Zurich to talk to them face-to-face in the future.

- Athletes Working Group – Jasmin Taylor (JT)

The Athletes Working Group requested that a free day was placed between the World Cup and Junior World Championships. AJ has now added this to the program.

Prize for the overall best Junior

JT reported that the Athletes Working Group had discussed the prize given to the overall best junior in their meeting. AJ explained that this prize was not an FIS prize and added that it was awarded twice a year under local arrangements. Norway usually organises one of the prizes. Gøril Eriksen (GE) mentions that it was no longer done in Norway; however, she believed that Norway could do it again. She offered to discuss it with the Sport Director in Norway. AJ added that Bastien Dayer and Amélie Reymond-Wenger (Go Telemark) have awarded the best overall women's and men's Junior prize last year in Mürren. JT added that it would be a good idea to suggest to Sam DECOU (SD) to create a post on social media to celebrate newcomers and the best Junior athletes. This would acknowledge the athletes publicly if the award from Bastien Dayer and Amélie Reymond-Wenger were not to be continued.

Consistent Podium

AJ remarked that she reminded organisers of the requirement to have a consistent Podium backdrop at each race and will do so again at the OC meeting in November and prior to the races. CL reminded the committee that there is a roadmap for the organisers that covers all organising aspects.

AC emphasised the importance of clearly defining the expectations in the Rules so that the organisers can make the podium more consistent.

The committee discussed different backdrop ideas for a consistent podium presentation. They decided that the backdrop should be printed on a water-resistant canvas that can be rolled up and changed by the organizers of the races. This will allow the organizers to put the sponsors of the races on the backdrop. AJ and CL will be responsible for deciding the backdrop size and what needs to be on it. CL undertook to provide AC with the dimensions required and AJ would provide guidance on the imagery required for the backdrop. AC would then investigate the costs involved in printing a backdrop that could be affixed to a frame that would need to be provided by the organisers. AP added that there is a FIS marketing publication (Advertising) on how the start and end of the race should look. AP also mentions that the frame needs to be anchored to withstand the strong winds at the start. This action point was noted by AJ and CL.

AJ agreed to organise the Leader BIBS. There should be an **overall best Female and Male Junior BIB**; the colours of the BIB must be decided soon.

Athletes and TeleKidz Events

JT mentioned that the athletes would donate time for the TeleKidz events as long it is organised beforehand; she will discuss this with SD to arrange availability.

One official Livestream Link for all competitions

Telemark could be included in the FIS App/Livestream if the OCs and FIS agree. The benefit of this approach is that it would be easier to promote one official livestream link, making it easier for interested people to watch Telemark. However, AC adds that a hypothetical advertising conflict may exist between OC sponsor and FIS Livestream. The committee asked FIS if it is possible to include Telemark in FIS

Livestream and what needs to be done to make it happen. Post note – this has been agreed with the FIS and Telemark will be permitted to stream via the FIS platform.

Athlete Health Unit contacted the Athletes Commission

The Athlete Health Unit contacted the Athletes Commission regarding a questionnaire about safety and integrity in Telemark. The questionnaire focused on the athletes' equipment, themselves, and the racing setup. Findings from the questionnaire showed safety concerns around the jump. The Athlete Health Unit will research solutions to improve the safety of the jump. Safety of the jump is of paramount importance to the race organisers and the jury. To mitigate potential safety issues there is a mandated training day to test the jump outside of race conditions so adjustments can be made as required,

Terrain impacts the construction of the jump and so it is not possible to attain complete consistency. If athletes or coaches have concerns about the construction of the jump from a safety perspective, they should raise it with the, CoR, Jury and/or the Race Director. On race day, a coach and racer will be designated as the point of contact to whom athletes can raise concerns.

The jump must be designed to make it challenging for all levels of athlete, but the overriding factor is always safety. It was agreed that course setting was a critical component associated with jump safety and should not be ignored.

Judging Bias

A recent independent study concluded that there was bias in telemark judging. In discussion on how to address this, it was widely agreed that a **certification for judging** is required. This would create a standard and hopefully reduce bias. Those qualified by the system would then be permitted to judge at World Cup and World Championship levels. AJ offered that the NSAs could organise certification locally. AC offered that there should be a proper education system with a set of objectives for the judges. AC added that if it is technical education, then FIS might assist with funding it. AP mentions a gate-judging booklet that can be reviewed, but the video needs to be updated. HB proposes to do the judges' education at the races. He makes an example of having an extra day with a workshop at Melchsee-Frutt, which could be with approved expenses of the rule working group. AC proposes connecting TD, Rule,

and OC Working Group to build a framework for an education day. (Judge Education Day). AJ proposes one theory and one practical day (What is in the minutes can be communicated)

- **Media Working Group – Andrew Clarke (AC)**

Sam Decout (SD) has been approved to provide media coverage again this year. Last year SD did a brilliant job covering the WC and various athletes across the season. This initiative has been critical in Telemark being seen more widely. AC thanked on behalf of the committee and athletes for his great work.

3. TeleKidz update – Andrew Clarke (AC)

There are already 10 separate TeleKidz events planned for this coming season, all in Europe with seven nations involved. 30 children are anticipated to attend each one, so a chance for 300 children to be introduced to Telemark. The progression of TeleKidz would be to scale it up by ten events each year so that by 2025 we have 30 events. The aim is to have participants sign up for an annual newsletter to keep them informed about the sport.

The next step in this development pathway is children's races and a structured approach to support growth. The outreach program aims to build participation first and then develop more competitions (FIS Continental European Cups and World Cups, etc.).

AC encouraged dialogue among the nations to contribute to further development. HB remarks that it would be essential to have local activities all season around the TeleKidz events. Children who attend the event need to have continuity if these programmes are to be successful. He added that care was needed as the committee would not be able to support events in the future without a funding line and that raising the event number every year without this would have a detrimental impact on our budget. Organisers will be asked to produce a one-page feedback report following the event to be submitted to SD.

4. World Cup Coordinator replacement

AJ will retire from the World Cup Coordinator/Race Director (WCC) position at the end of the 23/24 season. Committee members discussed the job description and compensation

package to be considered for her replacement. The application process will start around Christmas, with a decision to be made prior to the end of the season.

AC mentioned that AP would be a good fit for the job, and that there is a need to conduct a soft handover from AJ to the new incumbent in season 24/25, with AJ shadowing the new WCC.

AJ will provide a list of the tasks to be completed by the WCC and send it to Alexandra BLUM, who will prepare a job description so that we can start the talent search in December. The salary range is CHF 16,000 to 21'000 and will be decided depending on experience and other factors. HB agreed to meet with AP to discuss further during one of the WC races. (Les Houches)

5. Miscellaneous

Clarifications Calendar 2023/24 and 2024/25

HB asked AJ if the calendar for the season 2023/24 is set. AJ responded that the final calendar would be shared 9th of October.

HB also asks what is planned for the calendar in 2024/25. AJ replies that there are already some strong candidates identified for 2024/25 season.

FIS Database Children Athlete

CW asks if it is possible to include children in the FIS Database. It would make creating the start list for children's races a lot easier. Additionally, when the NSA uploads their athlete in the FIS Database, they take care of the Athlete Declaration, which resolves the insurance problem. Without an FIS Code, they need to check every name for children's races, which is tedious. Post note – following investigation at the FIS this option is not possible.

Prize for the best Junior in the World Cup

JT and CW discussed having a contract with GoTelemark for the prize money of the best Junior in the World Cup. The prize money would be CHF 1,000 each for best man and best woman. This should encourage Juniors to continue competing in Telemark for many years. The prize money should be handed over at the Finals in Bardonecchia. GoTelemark will send a proposal to AC to set up this contract.

Job Description Video Meeting

AC and HB will have a video meeting on 15.12.2023.

6. Closing of the meeting

The next meeting will be in Portoroz 05th to the 09th of May 2024.