

To the

- Members of the Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country
- Chairs Sub-Committees Cross-Country

For information to:

- Cross-Country Executive Board
- National Ski Associations
- Michel Vion
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**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD
FEDERATION**

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Oberhofen, 17.05.2024

**Minutes Meeting Sub-Committee for Rules & Control Cross Country
Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portoroz (SLO), Tuesday, 07.05.2024, 08:00 – 12:00 hrs CET**

Dear Ski Friends,

We are pleased to send you the Minutes of the Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country, held on 07.05.2024

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Nordic office in Oberhofen until
30th June 2024.

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. We wish you a successful season.

Kind regards,

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION



Anna Rosa
Chair Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Rules and Control

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION
Invitation Meeting Sub-Committee Cross-Country Rules & Control
Grand Hotel Bernardin, Portoroz (SLO), Tuesday, 07.05.2024, 08:00 – 12:00 hrs CET

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of a secretary
 - 2.1 Members present
 - 2.2 Approval of the agenda
 - 2.3 Approval of the minutes of the meeting S.C. for Rules & Control Cross-Country Zürich, 28.09.2023
3. Season overview
 - 3.1 General overview
 - 3.2 Fluor control
 - 3.3 New challenges
4. Rules
 - 4.1 Updates proposals
 - 4.2 Para nordic status
5. FIS Officials
 - 6.1 Coordinators
 - 6.2 Candidates' management
 - 6.3 Seminars and TD updates
6. Homologations
7. Proposals or topics from other Sub-Committees
 - 9.1 S.C. for Roller Skiing
- WC TD list season 2024/2025
 - 9.2 S.C. for Popular CC Skiing
- WL/EL/SC provisional TD list season 2024/2025
 - 9.3 S.C. for Para nordic
8. TD/TDA/jury members season 2024/2025 +
9. Other matters arising
10. Closing of the meeting
 - 10.1 Next meeting

All proposals and decisions of the Sub-Committee are subject to the confirmation of the Cross-Country Committee on 08.05.2024 and to the approval of the FIS Council on 04.06.2024

1. Opening of the meeting

Chair Anna Rosa (ITA) opened the meeting on May 7th, at 08:00 hrs and welcomed the members of the Sub-Committee for Rules and Control Cross-Country, FIS Staff, invited guests and observers.

2. Appointment of a Secretary

Annmari Viljanmaa (FIN) is appointed.

2.1. Members Present

Members present	Remarks	Substitute
Anna Rosa (ITA)	Chair	
Len Apedaile (CAN)	Not Present	Ilona Gyapay
Daniel Borca (ROU)	Not Present	
Karl-Heinz Eppinger (GER)	Not Present	
Sanna Hallberg-Peterson (SWE)	Present	
Huard Anael (FRA)	Present	
Matus Jancik (SVK)	Present	
Radojko Jelisijevic (SRB)	Not Present	
Zofia Stefania Kiepinska (POL)	Present	
Balint Konya (HUN)	Not Present	
Özkan Koyuncu (TUR)	Present	
Vahur Leemets (EST)	Present	
Finn Marsland (AUS)	Not Present	Sandra Paul
Seraina Mischol (SUI)	Present	
Julio Cesar Moreschi (ARG)	Present	
Andriy Nesterenko (UKR)	Present	
Torbjoern B. Pettersen (NOR)	Present	
Gagik Sargsyan (ARM)	Present	
Allan Serrano (USA)	Present	
Timoleon Tsourekas (GRE)	Not Present	
Thomas Unterfrauner (AUT)	Not Present	Alois Stadlober
Vyacheslav Vedenin (RUS)	Not Present	
Annmari Viljanmaa (FIN)	Present	
Jakub Vodrazka (CZE)	Not Present	Petr Mach
Masahito Watanabe (JPN)	Present	
Roy Young (GBR)	Not Present	
Petar Zografov (BUL)	Not Present	

Guests and FIS Staff Present

Uros Ponikvar (Chair, Cross Country Committee)
Michal Lamplot (FIS Race Director), Simon Caprini (FIS RDA), Doris Kallen (WC Coordinator) Synne Dyraug (Media Coordinator), Ulf Seehase (FIS IT), Madeline Nappey and Jessica Rochat (FIS Nordic office)
Enzo Macor and Rober Peets (FIS Equipment Controllers)
Georg Zipfel (Para nordic RD), Elke Gundermann (FIS Para nordic office)
Several guests from FIS NC Staff, NSAs, LOCs and other sub-committees' members.

2.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda has been sent on 08.04.2024 and is approved.

2.3 Approval of the minutes of the meeting S.C. for Rules & Control Cross-Country Zürich, 28.09.2023

The minutes are approved.

3. Season overview

3.1 General overview

Anna Rosa presented a summary of last season.

Approx. 1900 races were organized in 40 different countries (CC 1700/36 and ROL 250/21), with more than 160 FIS appointed TDs. 2 protests (1 in WC, 1 in NJC) were submitted, 1 accepted and 1 rejected. The Appeals Commission has received 4 appeals (1 from WC, 1 from National level, 1 from WMA, 1 from Popular). 2 submitted by the respective competition jury, 1 by the FIS office and one by an NSA. 2 appeals were upheld, 2 partly upheld. Majority of the rules' infractions were technical violations (45%), followed by obstructions (21%). The total number of sanctions given increased from last season up to approx. 800 sanctions and almost half of the sanctions given were **verbal reprimands** (48%).

Based on this, it was concluded that in jury work, the verbal reprimands are abused. The clear message from WC athletes was also that the meaning of the verbal reprimand as a sanction is unclear. After extensive discussion in the S.C., it was decided that the use of sanctions at all levels should be one of the topics in the upcoming FIS TD seminars. In addition, a WG was created to clarify the sanctioning procedure and to summarize materials related to the topic for the next meeting and for the education. Sanna Pettersson-Hallberg (SWE) was appointed leader of the WG.

Homologation overview

Chief of HI Coordinators Allan Serrano (USA) stated that the main goal in homologation is to provide safe and fair competition conditions. The homologation certificates are currently valid for 1900 courses, of which 168 are new and 152 renewed by 15 different HIs. The FIS CC office should be informed by the OCs or the TDs when changes are made to the courses present in the initial calendar. It is important for OC and HI to also consider the plan B when preparing the competition courses, due to changing conditions.

At the WC level, Allan Serrano emphasized the importance of the well-functioning cooperation with FIS RDs. Sustainability and practical issues have always been considered when appointing the HIs. In addition, some special cases were presented such as Davos – 2 Valleys, Toblach – 3 Zinnen (outside the norms) and others for the upcoming season.

He has also intensified the cooperation with the athletes' representatives to deepen their understanding of the homologation matters and to get their input for the topic.

3.2 Fluor control

Anna Rosa presented a short review. The official fluor control was performed in approx. 500 races. In general, the season went smooth, with significantly fewer episodes to solve than expected. One major issue, already discussed during the executive board and popular S.C. meetings, occurred at the Engadin ski marathon and led to an Appeal started by the FIS Nordic office.

Participation of FIS Fluor testing Coordinator Augusto Gillio

Augusto Gillio summarized that the fluor testing procedure is widely committed in many countries, but more education is needed to increase the number of certified FIS Equipment Controllers. Last season 9 FIS EC devices and 70 other devices were used by the 25 FIS certified Equipment Controllers.

A letter will be sent to all NSAs to inform about certification of fluor equipment controllers and request procedure for support from FIS. Reference augusto.gillio@fis-ski.com.

Anna Rosa underlined that according to ICR 224.8 all the jury decisions shall include the evidence. Therefore, there must be a proof (pdf) of the positivity to the fluor control for the next season, including the offender's information, date/place and codex, the name of the equipment controller, the results of the measurements and the clear indication positive or negative. **A pdf sample has been developed.**

Important to also remind that in case of a sanction the correct ICR article must be put in the TD report and that this should be supervised by the regional coordinators during the season.

3.3 New challenges

Anna Rosa focused on some cases from last season, where the **activists attempted to interrupt the competitions**. Currently, such occurrences are not covered in the ICR, so the rules need to be updated to give to the juries the possibility to make decisions in such situations. It is important to be prepared and to acknowledge that something independent from our wish might happen, someone's race might be influenced, yet the competition might continue.

S.C. agreed that cancelling the competition should be the last option, also to prevent activists from using our platform as their channel of influence. After the discussion, Anna Rosa suggested to create a working group which she invited all the S.C. members to join. The rules' wording will be discussed in FIS Autumn Meeting.

4. Rules

4.1 Updates proposals

The following changes, updates and adjustments were proposed and approved by the S.C.

I.C.R.

~~311.1.3 At OWG, WSC, JWSC, WC and COC Cross-Country competitions the courses may only be used in the direction established in the homologation certificates.~~

311.2.1 [...] The ~~details on~~ homologation procedure ~~are~~ is described in FIS ~~Cross-Country homologation manual Homologation procedure for crosscountry skiing courses~~ (Link to the doc section)

~~311.2.2 In competitions designed for Cross-Country sport promotion it is possible to use courses outside of the homologation standards providing they have been approved by the Sub-Committee for Rules and Control. For WC events, it is possible to homologate courses outside of norms for climb and course length, provided they have been verified as safe and fair by a homologation inspector.~~

316.2 With hand timing the time will be taken when ~~any part of the competitor~~ the toe of the first boot crosses the finish line. The finish controller determines the correctness of passage across the finish line.

316.2.1 In the case of competitors falling as they cross the finish line, the competitors will be assigned their finish time as per articles 316.2 316.3.5 or 316.43.6 if all the parts of their bodies are moved across the finish line without any outside assistance.

352.1.4 For OWG, WSC and WC competitions sanctions can be given by a unanimous decision of two jury members (including TD) providing that they are not from the same nation. ~~RD and RDA are considered FIS/neutral.~~

311.2.7 At OWG, WSC, JWSC and WC competitions, the highest point of a Cross-Country course should not exceed ~~4800~~2000 m.

Torbjörn Broks Pettersen (NOR) opposed the rule change, based on the possible health consequences and the lack of fairness for competitors living at sea level. Uros Ponikvar and Michal Lamplot described the statement received from the Medical Committee experts familiar with high altitude medicine. The S.C. voted on and the rule was approved with a majority vote (12 votes in favor and 3 votes against).

361.2.1 Protests according to the art. 361.1.1 – 361.1.5 at the ~~location~~ race office or the email address designated in the official program or on the official notice board or at the team captains' meeting.

~~326.3.2.3 In case of substitution when semi-finals are used, the Team will lose its starting position and will have to start at the end of the field. The original start positions will be left empty.~~

~~326.6.2 Due to the timeline pressure of running successive heats it is not possible to allow protests during the semi-finals. Protests will only be accepted after the finals.~~

~~326.6.3 During Team Sprints, ICR 224.7 does not apply.~~

361.1.5 Against decisions of the jury. Also see exceptions 325.6.2 ~~and 326.6.2.~~

361.3.5 Against jury decisions ~~that are not sanctions~~

The wording of the following 2 articles will be clarified for the Autumn meeting:

325.7.1 In case of competition interruption of qualification while competitors are still competing, the competition will be cancelled. ~~When the interruption is temporary, the jury can decide to resume the start.~~

321.7 Competition interruption
In case of competition interruption while competitors are still competing, the competition will be cancelled. ~~When the interruption is temporary, the jury can decide to resume the start.~~

322.2.1 Recommended norms

Organisation/preparation	Arrow or flat start grid	Arrow or flat start grid
Classical tracks	Odd number 3 or more	(Optional) Odd number 3 or more

323.2.1 Recommended norms

Organization/preparation	Arrow or flat start grid	/
Classical tracks	Odd number 3 or more	/

326.2.1 Recommended Norms

Organisation/preparation	Arrow or flat start grid	Arrow or flat start grid
Classical tracks	Odd number 3 or more	(Optional) Odd number 3 or more

327.2.1 Recommended norms

Organization/preparation	Arrow or flat start grid	Arrow or flat start grid
Classical tracks	Odd number 3 or more	(Optional) Odd number 3 or more

The wording of the following article will be clarified for the Autumn meeting:

~~315.3.1 The Mass Start should be carried out using angled start lines in shape of an arrow. This means that the athlete with start number 1 has the most favorable start position followed by start number 2 etc. Each competitor should be separated by a fixed distance interval. Number one will be in the middle position; even numbers are placed on the right and odd numbers on the left side of the arrow. The numbering mark should be placed to the right or in the middle of the track.~~

The following article was discussed, cause of repetitive cases where it was not considered:

204.1 A National Ski Association shall not support or recognise within its structure, nor shall it issue a licence to participate in FIS or national races to competitors who:

204.1.2 accept or have accepted, directly or indirectly, any money-payments for the participation at competitions,

The S.C. decided to address the topic to sport integrity direction.

Anna Rosa reminded the need to consider 311.2.9 while planning the calendar. A discussion followed and the S.C. decided to support keeping longer loops (5 km) for interval start, where that is possible.

FIS Points rules

The Congress received a proposal from ARM/IRI/LBN to revert the FIS points calculation for cross country skiing competition to the system used before 2023/24 season. The proposal was forwarded to the S.C. by the CCC and discussed by the S.C.

Andriy Nesterenko (UKR), Gagik Sargsyan (ARM), Özkan Koyuncu (TUR) and Sandra Paul, substituting Finn Marsland (AUS), spoke against the news system, especially because of the higher points achieved by competitors, compared to previous system. Petr Mach (CZE), former leader of the WG that developed the new formula, explained the reasons behind the change: 1. the exclusions of the highest and lowest point for the calculation compared to previous exclusions of the 2 highest; 2. the division by 3,5 compared to previous 3,75; 3. 999 as maximum value. The Chair of CCC explained that the new system was approved in spring 2022, enforced in spring 2023 and determined also new OWG qualification criteria. OWG qualification criteria is already approved by IOC and cannot be changed.

Based on such motivation The S.C. decided not to support the proposal and keep the current formula. At the same time Anna Rosa added that further action might be taken in the direction of improving the current system even more.

Madeleine Nappey from FIS Nordic office introduced the facts and issues related the injury status paperwork.

The following updates were explained and approved by the S.C.

3.5 Injury Status

3.5.1 Request injury status

When competitors injure themselves and apply for the single penalty, the National Ski Association must apply to the FIS within 3 weeks after the day of the injury or medical operation for the approval of a single penalty using the official form "Single Penalty" and submitting a medical certificate.

The medical certificate must contain an estimation of the length of the injury.

If the status as injured is approved and according to the valid FIS points at the date of injury there will be added a penalty of 22%, but minimum 4 points respectively maximum 26 points to the original FIS points before the injury break. The injury status shall start on the day of the injury.

As soon as the competitor starts in a FIS competition she/he will lose her/his injury status.

3.5.1.2. Duration

The injury status shall start on the day of the injury or medical operation. The injury status can be applied for maximum 365 days.

The medical certificate must contain an estimated date of return to competition. The injury status is not extended automatically. If the injury is longer than 365 days, the National Ski Association has to apply for the injury status again with a written request and medical certificate to FIS.

3.5.1.2 Termination of the injury status

The injury status ends:

- After a maximum of 365 days since the day of the injury or medical operation
- If a competitor starts in a FIS competition during the injury status period

3.5.1.3 FIS points after return to FIS competitions

After the end of the injury status, competitor ~~must~~ should compete in FIS competitions before the publication of the next FIS points list.

The competitor will lose all FIS points if he or she does not start in a FIS competition before the next publication of the FIS Points list, following the end of the injury status.

Anna Rosa underlined the importance of reading and following these procedures and to ask to the FIS Nordic office for help in case of need. She also showed the updated **deadlines for the FIS Point lists** for upcoming season.

FIS Technical Officials rules

The following updates and adjustments were proposed and approved by the S.C.

6.1 TD education and examination *During the subsequent 2 years training period, the TD candidate must gain experience in key positions at minimum 2 FIS event (Cross-country, Para nordic or Roller skiing) where at least one of them must be on snow. This experience must be evaluated by a licensed FIS TD in a report to the Regional TD coordinator (see Assessment ~~form A~~ published in the Cross-country documents section of the FIS website in the member section of the FIS website).*

[omissis] (see Assessment ~~form B~~ published in the Cross-country documents section of the FIS website in the member section of the FIS website).

A candidate who fails the examination can request to be re-examined at the next seminar. A candidate can be examined maximum 2 times and the Assessment A collected must be no older than from the previous 4 seasons.

6.2 HI education and examination

At the end of the training period the HI candidate can take the examination at the subsequent FIS HI seminar where he or she will lead a working group ~~and~~ will prepare a short presentation and will take an oral examination (max 15 minutes) meant to investigate his or her theoretical knowledge.

7.1 TD Nomination

TDs for the OWG, WS.C., ~~and~~ JWSC and UWG are proposed by the FIS Race Director and the Chair of the S.C. for Rules and Control and forwarded by the Sub-Committee for R&C to the CC Committee, who will review the proposed nominations before forwarding them to the FIS Council

TDs for World Cup, *EYOF, AWG and YOG* are proposed by the FIS Race Director and the Chair of the S.C. CC Rules & Control and forwarded by the Sub-Committee for R&C to the CC Committee.

FIS Homologation procedure rules

1.1 Application

For OWG/NWSC/World Cup competition sites the inspector must be from a different country, for all other competition sites and for WC city sprints the inspector can be from the same country and NSA can propose a name.

4.2 Para nordic status

Anna Rosa described the current situation of Para nordic integration. Cross-country skiing technical officials are educated also on Para nordic rules but the Para nordic S.C. currently refers to the Para Snow Sport Committee and not to the Cross-country committee, as if it was another discipline.

5. FIS Officials

5.1 Coordinators

Jakub Vodraska resigned, and **Anna Guzik (POL)** was proposed as new HI coordinator for Central/Eastern Europe region. The S.C approved.

5.2 Candidates' management

The new **online TD candidate management tool** has been introduced thanks to the FIS Nordic office and FIS IT. It is replacing the old paper version. Online forms are already reachable from the FIS member section by every FIS TD, who got the instructions by the office, and a meeting has been organized for the Regional TD coordinators to show them the new system. In the next step, the same system may also be applied to the HI candidates.

SUI NSA asked for exception for TD candidate Alexander Walpen to take his exam in Autumn 2024. Proper documentation was provided and Seraina Mischol (SUI) explained the situation. The S.C. approved.

MKD NSA requested to suspend the TD licence of Gjoko Dineski due to an internal issue. At the same time Gjoko Dineski proved to be a member of the MKD NSA by providing the declaration of a ski club, that is regular member of the MKD NSA, that confirms his membership and activity. Based on these elements the S.C. rejected the request.

Anna Rosa asked to the representative of the Far East, Masahito Watanabe (JPN) that they should distribute the TD appointments more evenly among the TDs in the region and that young TD (and candidates) should be encouraged.

Vahur Leemets (EST) introduced the project to develop an educational and examination tool on the new FIS online learning platform. The work has just started, and he invited the regional and national coordinators to contribute. A meeting with Cornelia Blank (FIS) is scheduled after the S.C. meeting.

5.3 Seminars and TD updates

The following Seminars will be organized:

- **HI Seminar 10.-12.5.2024, in Ramsau (AUT)**
- **Western Europe TD (OPA) 11.-13.10.2024, in Pragelato (ITA)**
- **Scandinavian /Baltic TD 8.-10.11.2024, in Falun (SWE)**

- **North America TD 18.-20.10.2024, in Canmore (CAN)**

The following online updates will be also organized.

- **ROL** >> May/June TBD
- **Para** >> Autumn TBD
- **WC** >> October/November TBD
- **Central/Eastern Europe** >> November TBD
- **Oceania** >> June TBD

The following seminars will be organized in 2025/2026:

- FIS TD Seminar organized in Western Europe (OPA) >> Fiemme (ITA)
- Central Eastern Europe TD Seminar
- Far East TD Seminar
(**Dates and locations to be submitted before next spring meeting**)
- Oceania TD Seminar
(**Dates and locations to be submitted before next autumn meeting**)

6. Homologations

Allan Serrano introduced the HI candidates (9 attending their first seminar, 4 taking the exam) that will participate to the seminar scheduled in Ramsau (AUT) in the incoming weekend.

7. Proposals or topics from other Sub-Committees

7.1 S.C. for Roller Skiing

WC TD list season 2024/2025

Roller skiing WC and WSC nominations for season 2024/2025 have been submitted and presented to the S.C.

7.2 S.C. for Popular CC Skiing

WL/EL/SC provisional TD list season 2024/2025

The WL TD nomination for the season have been submitted and presented to the S.C.

The EL and SC TD nominations and the updated WL nominations will be presented on the Autumn meeting.

FIS Popular TD guidelines will be updated by a WG.

8. TD/TDA/jury members season 2024/2025 +

The nominations are presented and approved by the S.C.

9. Other matters arising

No other matters.

10. Closing of the meeting

Chair Anna Rosa closes the meeting at 12:20 hrs.

10.1 Next meeting

Next meeting will be at FIS autumn meeting in Zurich.