

To the

- Members of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup
- Peter Gerdol, Chief Race Director World Cup Women
- Markus Waldner, Chief Race Director World Cup Men
- Alberto Senigagliaesi, Race Director World Cup Women Speed Events
- Markus Mayr, Race Director World Cup Women Technical Events
- Hannes Trinkl, Race Director World Cup Men Speed Events
- Raimund Plancker, Assistant Race Director Men Speed Events
- Janez Hladnik, Race Director World Cup Men Technical Events
- Emmanuel Couder, Alpine Operational Event Coordinator

For information to:

- Johan Eliasch, FIS President
- Michel Vion, FIS Secretary General
- Massimo Rinaldi, Chair Alpine Committee
- Bruno Sassi, FIS Communications Director
- Christian Salomon, Chief Commercial Director
- Sandra Spitz, FIS Sport & Event Director
- Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Technical and Administrative Coordinator

Oberhofen **21.10.2024**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup, Friday, 27.09.2024 held in Zurich (SUI).**

Dear Ski Friends,

we are pleased to send you the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup, which was held on 27.09.2024.

We kindly ask that you to send any remarks to the FIS Alpine Office in Oberhofen by the **18<sup>th</sup> October 2024** ([luessy@fisski.com](mailto:luessy@fisski.com)).

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](http://www.fis-ski.com).

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.

Kindest regards,



Walter Vogel  
Chair Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup

## INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup

Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup  
Friday, 27.09.2024

**All proposals and decisions of the Sub-Committee are subject to the confirmation of the Alpine Committee and to the approval of FIS Council in October 2024**

### AGENDA

#### 1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

Walter Vogel (GER) opened the meeting by greeting and welcomed all present and introduced the new members of the Sub-Committee.

#### 2. Roll-call

Janez Fleré (FIS) made the Roll-call (see enclosure).

#### 3. Approval of the agenda

Walter Vogel (GER) asked to move point 11.1 of the agenda after point 7.

#### 4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held in Portoroz (SLO) on 08.05.2024

There was a remark from the Austrian Ski Federation, correcting the point regarding the request from the Austrian representative to add a night giant slalom event to the race in Flachau (AUT). This feedback was well received, and since Peter Gerdol (FIS) is familiar with this proposal, it was decided not to amend the protocol, and the correction will still be reflected in the minutes.

Aside from this remark, there are no other corrections.

#### 5. Reports

##### a) from the Chair Walter Vogel

Walter Vogel (GER) opened his report with a series of key points. First and foremost, he mentioned the letter received from the Andorran president following the June congress, emphasizing the commitment of the Race Directors to include Andorra in the World Cup calendars for upcoming seasons.

The Wild Card rule has raised several questions in recent months. Walter Vogel (GER) clarified that the Athletes' Commission submitted the proposal directly to the FIS Council after the Portoroz (SLO) meetings. At this stage, the decision will be made at a higher level and not in this context.

Lastly, Club 5 proposed an amendment to rule 4.1.2. The previous version was not sufficiently clear for all Organisers, so adjustments have been made and will be presented later. Walter Vogel (GER) apologized for the procedural oversight regarding the earlier presentation.

##### b) from Markus Waldner, Chief Race Director World Cup Men

Markus Waldner (FIS) provided a report on the past few months, focusing on the following points: analyzing the critical issue of snow shortages and how to prevent similar problems from occurring again in certain locations.

There are still a few resorts where the summer inspections have not yet been conducted, but overall, he found the Organisers to be highly productive and

committed. He gave special mention to Sun Valley (USA), where investments are starting to pay off.

In general, the dedication shown by the Organisers is always remarkable, and he extends his gratitude to everyone for their hard work and passion.

**c) from Peter Gerdol, Chief Race Director World Cup Women**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) explained the key aspects of the summer, which, as always, was filled with numerous meetings not only with Organisers but also with all stakeholders, including broadcasters, SRS, and suppliers.

One of the main points he focused on was the importance of setting starting times as early as possible to allow for optimal planning, although this is not always feasible given the number of entities involved in the decision-making process.

The primary focus of the summer inspections was on course preparation. In addition, other aspects such as accommodation and logistics were also addressed.

Semmering (AUT) and Sun Valley (USA) were the two Organisers that had not yet been confirmed due to ongoing work. Both locations have made progress in the right direction and are now confirmed for the upcoming season's calendar.

**d) from Christian Salomon, Chief Commercial Director**

Christian Salomon (FIS) presented several key points:

- The doubling of FIS partnerships.
- What the future holds.
- Centralization efforts, where significant progress has been made but is still ongoing.

He emphasized the importance of completing this transition for the benefit of all disciplines. One of the next objectives is to begin building the commercial package for the upcoming World Championships and FIS Games.

The digital structure continues to grow, with an increasing scope, and the next step is to cover more behind-the-scenes content. Storytelling is the key concept for FIS TV and FIS video strategy. The Content Exchange platform is the new added value, providing dedicated content for athletes, NSAs, and Organisers. Cardrona (NZL) was highlighted as a very positive example.

Emmanuel Couder (FIS) provided an overview of the innovations for the upcoming season:

- Progress on Live Timing and Live Speed & Jump graphics.
- Introduction of digitized branding.
- Team Radio improvements and implementation of policies with teams.
- On-board Audio/Video.

**e) from Athletes' Commission**

Verena Stuffer (Athletes' Commission) expressed her gratitude to Chief Race Directors Peter Gerdol (FIS) and Markus Waldner (FIS) for listening to the athletes and working to implement necessary changes to the calendar, such as avoiding double events, ensuring a balanced schedule, reducing evening programs, and not having three consecutive speed weekends.

She understands how challenging it is to achieve a balanced calendar, but she once again congratulates the Chief of Race Directors for their efforts.

She also thanked the M&M department for moving in a more digital and TV-friendly direction, significantly improving the TV graphics, which have been greatly appreciated by the athletes.

## 6. Rules season 2024/25

### 6.1 Wildcard see World Cup rules art. 3.2.1

Walter Vogel (GER) explained that the Athletes' Commission worked on the rule that was published in July after obtaining approval from the FIS Council.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) took the floor, explaining that the procedure was unusual because it was not presented to the Committees, but still appropriate. The FIS Council has been working on some amendments and is still finalizing them. The final version will be published on the website once completed.

### 6.2 Precision art. 4.1.2 Arrival / Departure

Walter Vogel (GER) welcomed Rainer Senoner (Club5), congratulating him on his new presidency and inviting him to take the floor.

Rainer Senoner (Club5) opened his speech by thanking Srecko Medven (Club5) for his years of service. He commented that the clarification was agreed upon by reaching a compromise between the parties, but he emphasized that the topic of accommodation is always very challenging for the Organisers, and it is important to remain both sensitive and aware.

There was no opposition, and thus the clarification was approved.

## 7. Calendars 2024/25

Walter Vogel (GER) introduced point 7, highlighting that the direction taken by the calendars is very sound and reflects general needs.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) described the calendar for the upcoming season, which was approved in Portoroz (SLO), mentioning that there were two locations pending, but they have been confirmed.

- Levi (FIN) and Gurgl (AUT) will be paired with the men's races. The snow storage project in Levi (FIN) is expanding, allowing them to be ready for opening.
- Mt. Tremblant (CAN) presents a double event, but there are no alternatives there.
- Beaver Creek (USA) returns to the women's calendar.
- Semmering (AUT) is confirmed.
- January features the traditional stages.
- Regarding Cortina D'Ampezzo (ITA), it will serve as a sort of Olympic test, particularly concerning suppliers.
- Garmisch Partenkirchen (GER) returns in the women's calendar after two years.
- La Thuile (ITA) will hold races on Friday and Saturday to facilitate the transfer to Sun Valley (USA).
- The summer visit to Sun Valley (USA) was recently conducted and proved very productive, with the American committee working hard to make the requested changes. These will be important and successful Finals.

Rudi Huber (SRS) asked if there are any possibilities to move the start times of Levi (FIN) to nighttime. Peter Gerdol (FIS) confirmed that it was not possible, since there is no much interest from the broadcasters to have a night race on the week-ends.

Markus Waldner (FIS) expressed his satisfaction with the upcoming season's calendar, where the athletes, the main protagonists, were listened to. Although they were unable to find another event in the U.S. for the speed racers, efforts are underway with Copper Mountain (USA).

- The double Giant Slalom in Alta Badia (ITA) has been eliminated in favor of a slalom, ensuring there are no double events. The future project will involve the installation of artificial lighting to host a night slalom event.

- There are extensive works underway in Bormio (ITA), where the upcoming men's Olympic events will take place. The biggest challenge is to prepare the slalom course in optimal conditions, which requires adapting the terrain to meet the competition's standards.
- January follows the traditional schedule, and it was decided to eliminate the second downhill race in Kitzbühel (AUT), as the athletes expressed their preference for having only one winner of the Streif, giving proper value to the event and the winner.
- Saalbach (AUT) 2025 will be the main event of the season, and the World Cup Finals held in March 2025 served as a crucial showcase for preparing for the World Championships in the best possible way.
- In preparation for the 2027 World Championships, extensive work is being carried out in Crans Montana (SUI) to prepare the men's downhill course, which we will visit after the World Championships in Saalbach (AUT).
- Hafjell (NOR) is a new addition to the calendar. The other candidate for this weekend was Andorra, but it posed significant logistical challenges, making the travel unsustainable.
- He reiterated Verena Stuffer's (Athletes Commission) remarks, noting that it is very difficult to have a perfectly balanced calendar, but it is important to find a good compromise that takes into account the athletes' fatigue.
- It has already been decided that the replacement venues for the speed events will be Val Gardena (ITA) and Kvitfjell (NOR), while there will be no replacements for the technical disciplines, given the already overloaded calendar for technical events.

#### 8. Information – 2025 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Saalbach (AUT)

Markus Waldner (FIS) introduced the programme of 2025 FIS Alpine World Ski World Championships in Saalbach (AUT).

The opening ceremony and the first downhill training, along with the team parallel event, will take place on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> of February. Having these events on the same day is strategically important for both sport and marketing purposes.

Florian Phleps (Saalbach 2025) presented the weekly program for Saalbach (AUT). The start times were not written down but they are fixed. The start times for downhill trainings are scheduled so that there will be 3 full runs for both genders.

The first week will feature speed events, and Monday, between the two weeks, is reserved as a "reserved" day. The second week will focus on technical races.

The closing ceremony will be held on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Michel Vion (FIS) emphasized the success of the team parallel event in Courchevel/Méribel (FRA) and the importance of delivering again a successful event in Saalbach (AUT) to help reintroduce it to the Olympic program.

Janne Leskinen (FIN) suggested that the team parallel be held between the two weeks to ensure smaller nations, which may not be on site during the first week, can participate and have a competitive team.

#### 9. Draft calendars 2025/26 and 2026/27

##### 2025/26 Calendar:

Walter Vogel (GER) emphasized that this is only a draft, and nothing is confirmed yet. The main event will be the Olympics 2026 in Milano-Cortina (ITA) for both men and women.

For the men's calendar, there are strong candidates pushing to host races. Although there are rumors about a new project in Zermatt (SUI), it is not expected to materialize before 2028, as Crans-Montana (SUI) 2027 is the current priority.

On the women's calendar, no changes have been made since the draft presented in May 2024 in Portoroz (SLO). The calendar still has an open slot at the beginning of February and the event to be raced in Bansko (BUL) is still to be confirmed.

Lorenzo Conci (ITA), on behalf of FIS, proposed Tarvisio (ITA) to host a World Cup race on January 17-18, 2026.

#### **2026/27 Calendar:**

**Walter Vogel (GER) emphasized also here that this is only a draft, and nothing is confirmed yet.**

The highlight will be the 2027 World Ski Championships in Crans-Montana (SUI).

The men's calendar will see the return of Soldeu (AND), and Bansko (BUL) is also being considered. The location for the final is still to be confirmed, depending on whether Sun Valley (USA) delivers a successful event in March 2025.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) inquired about the potential return of Lake Louise (CAN) to the calendar.

Niina Hasslahti (CAN), representing Alpine Canada, stated that they are working hard to bring speed races back to the country.

For the women's calendar, some slots remain open. The event for races in Canada and the USA is still to be determined, with a preference for speed events. An open spot for technical races exists at the end of January 2027. Slovakia and Germany expressed interest in returning to the calendar, and Zagreb (CRO) could be an option pending further developments.

After the World Championships in Crans-Montana (SUI), there is an open spot that is expected to be filled with a race weekend in France.

Similarly, for the weekend in Norway, the aim is to prepare for the 2029 World Ski Championships in Narvik (NOR) and therefore to already be racing there.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asked why Zermatt (SUI) is being reconsidered. Thomas Stauffer (SUI) explained that the project with Switzerland and Italy might have been too ambitious initially, but they are pursuing a new project due to a long-term commitment and significant investment. He also mentioned Switzerland's interest in filling an open spot in the 2026/27 season.

**~~The presented 2026/27 calendar will be defined and adapted regarding the centralization project.~~**

## **10. Prize Money**

Concerns were raised about rumors that FIS may not provide the promised 20% increase. For the 2024/25 season, it was agreed to maintain the contribution at last year's level, filling the gap from CHF 120,000.-- to CHF 144,000.--. However, no discussions have taken place regarding future contributions.

There is uncertainty about whether the Organising Committee will receive the same support in the 2025/26 season or if they will need to revert to CHF 120,000. A clear official decision is needed to ensure continued support.

## **11. Presentations**

### **11.1 Sun Valley, World Cup Finals 2025**

Sun Valley (USA) LOC has provided details regarding the venue, including access points, slope areas, team hospitality, service rooms, facilities, accommodations, transport options, weekly schedules, and side events. For further information, please refer to the attached presentation along with the meeting minutes.

## **12. Miscellaneous**

Nothing was added.

## **13. Next meeting, 05.-09.05.2025 in Vilamoura (POR)**

## **14. Closing of the meeting**