

To the following National Ski Associations:  
- Members of the Telemark Committee

**INTERNATIONAL SKI AND  
SNOWBOARD FEDERATION**  
Blochstrasse 2  
3653 Oberhofen/Thunersee  
Switzerland  
Tel +41 33 244 61 61

Oberhofen, 24 June 2024

**Minutes Committee Meeting for Telemark Skiing  
Grand Hotel Bernardin – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Dear Telemark Friends,

We are pleased to send you the minutes of the Telemark Committee meeting held on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Portorož.

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

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

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.

Kindest regards,



Andrew Clarke  
Chairman Telemark Committee

## Minutes

Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 13:30 – 17:30

### 1. Welcome/Apologies

The chair Andrew Clarke thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He acknowledged the challenges of the past year, including the World Cup and numerous cancellations.

#### TeleKidz Programme

The chair expressed his appreciation for the efforts behind the TeleKidz programme. He highlighted the program's importance as a touchpoint for children and parents seeking alternatives to alpine skiing and snowboarding, specifically for those interested in getting started with Telemark skiing.

### 2. Roll Call/ Apologies

#### Present:

CLARKE Andrew (GBR)	Chair
BIRCHLER Hans-Peter (SUI)	Member
DIXON Neil (FRA)	Member
GOBERG Birger (NOR)	Member
HORVATICEK Franc (SLO)	Member
TAYLOR Jasmine (GBR)	Athletes' Commission
LEICHT Christian (GER)	Member

#### Excused

LARSEN Troels Tore (DEN)	Member
PERREAULT Stephane (CAN)	Member

#### Not Present/no Apologies:

ALLIOD Edoardo (ITA)	Member
PRIBYLOVA Anezka (CZE)	Member
PULIDO Nazaret (ESP)	Member
HIROSE Kohei (JPN)	Member

#### Observers/Guests:

ERIKSEN Gøril Strøm (NOR)	Athletes Working Group
JOVAN Andreja (SLO)	WC Race Director
KOPECKY Matej (CZE)	
MAFFEI Sabrina (ITA)	WC Organiser (Pinzolo)
PIRA Alessandro (ITA)	WC Organiser (Pinzolo)
DÉFAGO Daniel (SUI)	FIS
BLUM Alexandra Blum	FIS

Neil Dixon proposed the inclusion of a representative from Italy on the Committee.

### 3. Report of the Season 2023/2024 (Andreja Jovan)

**Season:** A challenging season was discussed, with four WC races cancelled and two replaced. The committee noted the replacement of WJC in Pra Loup. There was an average of 40-61 racers participating per race. To address the participation number, there will be a focus on including more Children and FIS races for developing racers.

**Timing/Data:** A critical discussion was held regarding the current state of timing and data, which is not at the desired level. The committee emphasised the importance of National Ski Associations (NSAs) taking responsibility for improvement. The need for a World Cup Calendar to be finalised in the spring and distributed to NSAs was also highlighted.

**Media:** The Media Coordinator's work was acknowledged and appreciated a lot by the committee and the Telemark community as a whole.

**Judging Education:** Inconsistent judging across races was identified as a concern. The committee acknowledged the inherent judging bias and stressed the need for comprehensive judging education. A proposal was made to invite Head Judges to Zurich for education sessions. Additionally, Neil Dixon added that it would be beneficial to develop a set of short and simple judging guidelines. The committee discussed the possibility of including an educational video and a slope-side reference PDF.

**Financial Aid:** The committee is responsible for making decisions regarding financial support for World Cup and Junior World Championship events but was also cognizant of setting a precedent of supporting OCs in the future. There are sometimes extenuating circumstances beyond the control of OCs which will be considered by the committee on a case-by-case basis. Financial support is not to be considered a default for OCs that fail to plan properly.

**Calendar Drafts:** The importance of NSAs submitting calendar drafts beforehand was underlined. The committee acknowledged the occasional difficulty in obtaining information directly from Telemark entities outside of the NSA structure. The new race director will be tasked with formalising the application process and establishing strong connections with NSAs and organisers.

#### Financial Report 23/24

- HP Birchler reported the financial status of the Telemark Fund. While it appears to be a healthy fund there is very little by way of annual income. The fund is reliant on financial support from FIS with some revenues generated from organiser and athlete fees. The search for a headline sponsor is extant. Please see the attached financial report for more details on the financial position.

[FIS-FinancialReport\(23-24\) April2024.pdf](#)

- Collect outstanding organiser fees from Pinzolo, Livigno.

#### **Future Strategies:**

FIS President Johan Eliasch met with the Telemark Committee to discuss future Telemark strategies.

#### **Discussed Points:**

- FIS TV. The President stated that Telemark would be part of the FIS TV schedule. The committee later debated on how that would work, and the Chairman also spoke with Nick Fellows who reinforced the desire for Telemark to be included in the live feed. This could also be recorded segments of Telemark WC/WSC events as fillers to improve exposure and reach.
- Telemark Forerunners at the Alpine World Cup. Another topic introduced by the President. This would offer a great opportunity for Telemark to be showcased at top alpine events and increase reach and exposure.
- Telemark and Olympics. The President confirmed the Federation's desire for Telemark to be included in the OWG. We would continue to be pushed for inclusion to the IOC along with two other FIS disciplines

#### **4. Rule changes/proposals 2024/2025**

Rule changes were discussed by the RWG and the findings presented to the committee. Rule changes to take effect for the 2024/25 season were agreed by unanimous vote.

#### **5. Athletes' Representative Report**

Please find the presentation at the following link: [Presentation for FIS Telemark Committee MAY 24 V2.pdf](#)

**Thank you.** The Athletes' Representative wished to thank the following on behalf of the athletes:

- GO Telemark: Junior Prize money support
- Sam Decout: Contributions during the season
- World Cup Organizers, in particular Pra Loup
- Special thanks to Andreja Jovan for her many years of dedicated work as WC Race Director in Telemark.

**Competition Schedule.** The following points were discussed by the committee and agreed to be taken into account in the future. In particular the concerns around athlete fatigue and short race transfers would be avoided in the coming seasons.

- **Issue:** Too many races in a short time frame, causing athlete fatigue.
- **Quality before Quantity** Reduce the number of races per day and increase rest days during the season to relieve pressure on the organiser.
- **Suggestion:** Consider Pra Loup: Classic, Sprint, rest day and then Parallel race format.
- **Note:** Athletes would accept additional costs associated with extending the competition to allow for rest days.

**Athlete Health and Safety.** There was a particular debate around concerns that the jump could be better planned and executed. There was some interest shown by the injury surveillance team and Jasmin Taylor was asked to invite the team to review the jump set up and offer their opinion.

- **Issue:** Jumps lack a precise formula, leading to safety concerns
- **Action Item:** AHU (Athletes' Commission) to collaborate with WC Race Director on developing a safer jump and loom formula.

### **Race Management**

- **Action Item:** Stricter enforcement of existing telemark racing rules.
- **Action Item:** No bib draw if it is athlete only, worthwhile if there is a public event

### **Event Growth**

- **Promotion:** Increase Giant Slalom (GS) events at FIS races to encourage athlete transition from Alpine to Telemark.

### **Judging**

- **Transparency:** Explore options for increased transparency in judging processes, allowing athletes to understand penalties.
- **Consistency:** Ensure consistent penalty application across all races to avoid frustration. (Example: Bardonecchia FIS Event discrepancies)

### **TeleKidz Programme**

- **Action Item:** Organize TeleKidz activities at FIS races rather than World Cup events and have TeleKidz over a full day instead of on a race day.
- **Suggestion:** Allow children from TeleKidz to attend races as spectators and meet the athletes.

### **Media and Marketing**

- **Action Item:** Continue collaboration with Sam Decout for media coverage.
- **Suggestion:** The athletes, could collaborate on posts with FIS Telemark to promote more followers for the FIS Telemark account (to be managed by media coordinator)

### **Additional Points**

- **Live Timing:** Implement live timing at all races.
- **Overall Globe:** FIS Office will ensure they obtain the large globe for the Overall World Cup Winners.
- **Sponsorships:** Explore the possibility of securing sponsors for individual components, such as athlete prize money, and outline the potential benefits of this sponsorship (sponsorship packages).

The Chairman thanked the Athletes' Representative for the thoughtful and engaging presentation and undertook to ensure that the concerns of the athletes would be considered in the upcoming season and beyond.

**6. WC Calendar 2024/25**

The calendar is currently still being developed.

[Draft Calendar 2024-25.pdf](#)

**7. JWSC/WSC Outlook**

There was discussion about the candidates for the 2029 WSC and beyond. It was agreed that there would be a more concerted effort to secure WSC candidates at least 5 years in advance. The vote for Åal to host the WSC in 2027 was taken and agreed unanimously.

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from 08:00 – 12:00

## 8. Media and Communications Report

- TeleKidz & Social Media  
[TELEKIDZ 2024.pdf](#)  
[Social Media FIS TELEMAR 2024.pdf](#)

## 9. Working Group Reports

- OC Meetings. Christian Leicht presented on the findings of the organiser meetings that were held periodically during the season. The meetings had been met very positively and were considered a vital part of the World Cup organisation. Helpful hints and guidance were advantageous and served as a good reminder of the requirements that organisers are bound by.

## 10. Telemark Race Director

- Two candidates applied for the Race Director role. Each candidate was invited to interview. Candidates were interviewed by a panel from the committee that explored several areas pertinent to the roles and responsibilities of the Race Director. Each candidate brought different skills and competencies to the table but it was clear to the panel that one particular candidate had a more comprehensive grasp and understanding of the requisite skills to perform the role. The other candidate is being considered for another role.

## 11. Judging Bias

- The findings of an independent study conducted by the University of Innsbruck were presented to the committee in October 2023. They found that there was an inherent judging bias. The effect of the bias was considered marginal but is being taken seriously by the committee. The Chair met with Sarah Fussek and Sandra Spitz to explore how initiatives to alleviate judging bias identified in other FIS sports could be adopted by Telemark. The committee are considering mechanisms, such as better judge training and having a dedicated set of travelling judges to address this concern. The prohibitive factor is funding.

## 12. Any other business

- GBR Coach, Sebastien Mansart presented a proposal to formalise a coaches' working group. The purpose of such was to ensure good education and training for coaches to include course setting and general coaching techniques. Mansart proposed a formal certification for course setting to validate a coach's ability to set a World Cup course. The proposal was accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.

## 13. Closing Remarks

- The Chair brought the meeting to a close and thanked the committee for their continued selfless commitment to the improvement of Telemark. He also presented the FIS Telemark Committee Medal to Birger Goberg and thanked him

for his four consecutive terms on the committee. The Chair presented the FIS Telemark Committee Medal to Andreja Jovan who has tirelessly dedicated 20 years to the Race Director role. Andreja has been a constant in the delivery of superlative FIS Telemark events, and she will be missed in all regards. The Chair presented Andreja with a photo book of memories spanning the years of her involvement with FIS Telemark.

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