

# SPEED SKIING COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

**AUTUMN MEETING 2024** 

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION



To the following National Ski Associations:

- Members of the Speed Skiing Committee

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

Oberhofen, 23 October 2024

### Minutes meeting of the Committee for Speed Skiing Zurich, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2024

Dear Speed Skiing Friends,

We are pleased to send you today the minutes of the Committee for Speed Skiing meeting, held on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, during the FIS Technical Autumn Meetings.

You are kindly requested to submit any feedback to the FIS Speed Skiing Office in Oberhofen by November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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: <u>www.fis-ski.com</u>.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.

#### INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION

Kindest regards,

Ricardo Adarraga Chairman Speed Skiing Committee



#### 1. Members present

Mambara

Members		
Adarraga Ricardo (RA), Chairman	ESP	present
Andreassen Blake (BA)	CAN	present
Billy Philippe (PB)	FRA AND	present
Crespo Toni (TC) Grimm Allan (AGR)	SWE	present present
May Philippe (PM)	SUI	excused
Monticone Alberto (AM)	ITA	present
Prüller Christoph (CP)	AUT	present
Reid Millar (MR)	GBR	excused
Athlete's representative		
Vandendries Joost (JV)	BEL	present
TDs coordinator Cristina Luc (LC)	SUI	excused
	301	excused
Development Coordinator Speed Ski		
Blum Alexandra (AB)	FIS	present
Honorary members		
Taplin Dick	GBR	not present
Kjellström Per	SWE	not present
Antor Nadal	AND	not present
Guests		
Sarah Fussek (SF) FIS	FIS Integrity Director FIS Sport & Event Director IT Director Ethics Consultant FIS Operational Fluor Testing Coordinator FIS Communications and Digital Coordinator	
Sandra Spitz (SS) FIS		
Daniel Defago (DD) FIS		
Eddie Marshbaum (EM) FIS Augusto Gillio (AG) FIS		
Augusto Gillio (AG) FIS Lukas Brawand (LB) FIS		
Marco Cozzi (MC) ITA TD Speedski		
Carlo Fernandez (CF)	Liski Sport Eq	uipment
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8 of 10 Committee members (including athletes' representative) are present. According to §11, "FIS RULES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES" Quorum is given. The Committee is empowered to submit decisions for approval to FIS Council.

#### 2. Approvals Agenda and Minutes of last meeting

The agenda and Minutes of the last meeting were approved by acclamation.

#### 3. Update of chairman on ongoing activities in regards to FIS and Speed Ski

RA welcomes everybody and gives a short update on the latest highlights. He shows a video of the FIS100 ceremony in Portoroz with great visibility of speedski in form of wall



projections of speedski posters and video scenes played on the big FIS100 stage background screen.

RA also refers to the significant presence of the Speed Ski Events 2024 in the recently published FIS Bulletin 2024.

#### 4. Speed Ski media-, brand-strategy aligned with new FIS M&M strategy

LB reports Speed Ski on FIS social media. A recent post of a POV video on TikTok broke all records. While the best posts have a view share of more than 50,000, this TikTok post reached more than 4 million views. According to JV research, Speed Ski has a view share of more than 60% on all FIS TikTok posts.

LB announced that he wanted to continue the successful cooperation. With the new centralization of rights, he also wants to implement for Speed Ski the policies that are planned for other FIS disciplines, e.g. distribution of personal videos to each athlete. The streaming experience on YouTube was good, but YouTube needs improvement. In this sense, further cooperation is planned.

#### 5. FIS Ethics Commission Update

#### 5.1. Results of assessment in Simone Origone's case

RA reports that the FIS assessment and investigation team on the Simone Origone case concluded. RA invited FIS Integrity Director Sarah Fussek (SF), FIS Sport & Event Director Sandra Spitz (SS) and FIS Independent Ethics & Compliance Officer Eddie Marshbaum to the meeting. Though it is usual policy that the chairman announces the investigation results, Eddie Marshbaum (EM) accepted RA's request to personally report the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment team.

EM reports:

After RA presented the case to SF and EM on April 5th, 2024, a decision was made to conduct a disciplinary investigation.

#### 2 charges were investigated:

- 1. Whether there were any violations of the FIS Speed Ski rules in addition to the two events where Mr. Origone had received warnings in 2017 and 2024, and therefore an infringement of the FIS Rules on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions.
- 2. Whether comments made in an interview which was reported in Aosta News amounted to a breach of the FIS Universal Code of Ethics.

In this interview, Simone Origone is quoted with several accusations on jury and FIS: The jury of the FIS WSC in Vars was unfair.

There were several jury members with a conflict of interest

The race chief intentionally sought a reason to disqualify him

He had been using the forbidden equipment in the past with no sanctions

After having analysed all provided documentation and having interviewed Simone Origone and several witnesses, the investigation team came to the following conclusions:

- In relation to the first charge, no evidence was found or provided that would prove that Simone Origone engaged in any equipment violations other than the two for which he was sanctioned in 2017 and 2024.
- In relation to the second charge, a week after the publication of the article in Aosta news Simone Origone in another interview for Aosta News declared that he was misquoted. He distanced himself from all the statements and he apologized for any misbehaviour during the competition and afterwards. He does not question the

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impartiality of the race direction or FIS. As such, no violation of the FIS Universal Code of Ethics was found.

With no evidence of manipulation and the second public statement, the investigation team decided that there was no breach of any FIS Rules sanction and, therefore, no need to refer the case to the FIS Ethics Commission for sanctioning.

In addition to the conclusions, EM gives a set of recommendations to the FIS Speed Skiing Committee to avoid similar situations in the future, which include:

- Change the rules to make the check of more than 2 competitors mandatory
- Avoid conflicts of interest in jury. When the race jury is formed every member should self-declare potential conflicts of interest. The jury should then decide if the existent conflict of interest may impede the integrity of the jury or the perception of the jury's impartiality and a replacement should be sought by the chair.

#### 5.2. Question on DSQ before start

As a follow-up to modifying rule §1234, which introduces random equipment checks before the start (see 8), RA consulted SF about whether a disqualification is allowed before the start of a run if a check identifies unallowed equipment at the start. SF invited SS to the committee meeting to address the question.

SS explains that 3 options are possible:

- DSQ before the run
- Not allow to start
- Warning before the run and check right after the run. DSQ if unallowed equipment is identified

SS says the first two options are allowed but involve a high risk if the racer makes a valid protest. She recommends giving a warning before the run and checking right after a run. PB remarks that in Speed Ski, in the case of world record races, this may be a problem because the speed is visible after the run. He suggests in case of a warning hold the speed until the check is done. The committee members generally agree with PB's suggestion.

#### 6. Update Fluor ban and detection (AG)

AG attended the committee to discuss plans for 2024/25 and reported that the fluor checking staff has been extended.

As requested by the committee during the spring meeting, AG communicates that in 2025, there will be fluor checks every day of every race. He thanks RA for facilitating the preliminary race calendar for the optimal planning.

#### 7. Speed Ski Race Calendar 2024/2025

RA presents the final FIS Speed Ski calendar for season 2024/25.



#### FIS SPEED SKI CALENDAR 2024/2025 as of 26/09/2024 Nation WSC WSC S2J WC (S1) FIS S1 FIS S2 FIS S2J Race Remarks ars WC1 WC1 cut top-30 men top-6 women after run 1 or 2 pos race day semifinal + final - no cuts planned (but po x WC2 WC2 ut top-30 men top-6 women after run 1 or 2 po reserve day x FIS rest and track review day race day quali race day semifinal + final FIS x x ×× WC WC ×× Sweden Cup (open) non-FIS race day quali nding - extended deadline until October, 28th 2024 WC1 WC2 race day semifinal + final race day semifinal + final Cuts possible after 1st or 2nd run Probable cuts top-15 for semifinal top-10 for fina race day quali race day semifinal + final race day semifinal + final ××× ××× ×× WC1 WC2

RA gave Idrefjäll (SWE) an extended deadline until the end of October 2024 to exhaust all options to host a race in 2025. Currently, the OC is in negotiations with the ski resort. PB asks if it is possible to reallocate the media budget to Idrefjäll if it helps to overcome financial constraints. RA confirms he will extend the offer to Idrefjäll's OC.

RA reminds all race organisers that they must send the race emergency plan to FIS Speed Ski Development Coordinator AB and to the assigned TD for review before the start of the season. Without a valid race emergency plan in place, the race will be cancelled.

#### 8. Rule proposals

The committee agrees to the following modifications of the current FIS Speed Skiing International Competition Rules (ICR\_SS), which will be submitted for approval to the FIS Council: Additions in red; deletions in strikethrough red.

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- 1231.2.1 A competitor cannot be member of the Jury. The referee and assistant referee must not be from the same nation and must not be from the same nation as the host nation of the event.
- 1232.2.2 The timing zone The last <del>25 or</del> 100 meters of the competition track will be used as the basis for measuring the speed of each competitor. The timing zone for World Cup and World Championships tracks must be 100 meters. The length has to be measured very precisely, and frequently controlled to ensure that speed measurements remain valid. The OC is responsible for certifying the accuracy of the measurement to the TD.
- 1232.5.2 Timing zone: red pennons every meter 10 meters. In addition, the end of the zone must be extended by red marking on both side and marked



across its entire width by a red coloured line on the snow. This line must be at least 50 cm broad, and clearly visible from the competition track.

1232.5.3 Run-out area: green border markings for the first 100m, the end of which will be marked across its entire width by a green or blue coloured line or red coloured line in the snow. This line must also be at least <del>30</del> 50 cm broad and clearly visible from the track; if no line is available, blue or green pennons on the side of the run-out must be set. Competitors are not permitted to brake or turn before this line. Further markings may then be used to indicate the run-out line, but spaced at <del>3m</del> 15 m intervals.

#### 1232.6 Duration of the Competition

< 180 kph		180 - 200 kph	
Day 0	Voluntary Training Day	Day 0	Voluntary Training Day
Day 1	Mandatory Training	Day 1	Mandatory Training
	Run # 1		Run # 1
	Run # 2		Run # 2
Day 2	Run # 3	Day 2	Run # 3
_	Semi Final	_	Run # 4
	Final		Run # 5
Day 3		Day 3	Semi Final
			Final

The competition program has to be proposed to the Speed Skiing technical committee for approval.

If a competition is to be cancelled, organisers should endeavour to give maximum notice and, preferably, at least 10 days warning. If the race is deferred, an alternative date must be given at the time of deferment.

#### 1232.6.2 Void Mandatory Training Run

In exceptional cases where the weather and track conditions foresee only one run during the race, the jury may decide to skip the mandatory training run and declare the first run of the race a qualification run. Following conditions for applying this rule must be met:

- weather and track conditions may allow only one run during the race
- track and weather must comply to required safety conditions
- Start position of run must be as defined in §1233.4.3
- The jury has to announce in time to all Team Captains that the first run will be a qualification run
- If the weather conditions of day 2 allow to host more runs these must be done
- If it is possible to do more runs on day 2 after the first run there must not be a cut

## 1233.1.2 In case the wind is regular and blowing parallel to the track from the top to the bottom, the maximum allowed wind speed is 20kph.



- 1233.3.3 The entirety of all photo-electric installations must be placed a minimum of  $\frac{1m}{10}$  m <u>outside</u> the timing zone (i.e. it may be within the safety margin area). The whole of the photoelectric cells (and any support) must be protected by a graded 'embankment' of packed snow to protect any skiers who may hit the installation. The overall height of the timing including such protection should be as low as possible, and must not exceed 50 80 cm in height and must be a minimum of 2 3 metres long. As an added safety measure, all supports should be weakened at snow level in order to break away in the event of a collision from a competitor.
- 1233.3.4 Timing equipment must be fully operational and used during training as well as competitive runs. A qualified person, such as an official timer from a national association, timing company or the FIS, should operate it.
- 1233.3.5 In case of a world record attempt:

Photo-electric cell stakes have to be installed by a certified geometer

Under control of the Technical Delegate, photo-electric cell stakes have to be checked by the same expert just after the world record run

The expert geometer will write a report, this report will be included as attachment of the FIS Technical Delegate race report

1233.4.3 For the first training run and the first race run, the starting positions must not facilitate a speed of more than 180kph for S1 competitors, and 150kph for S2 and S2J competitors. For mixed category events, each run must start at the lowest position required by the categories present.

In S1 World Championships the first race run will have no speed limit.

- 1233.4.4 The last starting position on any day will normally can be used as the first one for the next day. The Jury can decide to set lower or higher start points according to weather and track conditions.
- 1233.4.6 The final start position for S2J and S2 competitors must be set such that their maximum speed does not exceed <del>180kph</del> 190 kph (Note also the provisions of Rule 1233.5.2 with regard to S2 and S2J category starting positions).
- 1233.5.1 Competitions will run under FIS Point regulations. The starting order of competitors for their training runs is determined according to their current FIS points, At the beginning of the season race numbers will be allocated to each competitor following the order of the speed ranking of the previous season (see §1233.10.4). These numbers will be retained for all races of the season. The starting order of competitors for the first run of a race is determined according to their position in the speed ranking of the previous season with the best 15 competitors present being drawn. Racers without speed ranking will be allocated a number ranked after the racers with speed ranking by FIS points order.



- 1233.5.3 Race numbers will be allocated to each competitor at the start of the competition, and these numbers will be retained for the duration of the competition. All training runs will be run in race number order, as will the first race run. Thereafter After the first run (see §1233.5.1) the starting order for each group (by style and gender) will be determined by the speed reached by each competitor in that group during the previous run of the race (i.e. excluding training runs), with competitors starting in increasing order of speed.
- 1233.6.1 Forerunners are to be provided by the organiser. They must fully comply with the FIS rules for Speed Skiing. In cases where this is not possible, for training and the first official run, the Jury will draw two (male) competitors from the last 10 ranked competitors to act as forerunners. The speeds of these forerunners are retained as their official results for that run.
- 1233.6.2 For the second and subsequent runs, all competitors will run in their categories (S1, S2 etc.) in jury decided full BIBO order of the speeds of the last run. their last times (ie the slowest first, followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> slowest, with the fastest competitor last). Start order (BIBO order) for runs has to be announced the day before in the captains meeting. The first two male competitors, and the first female competitor to start in each run will also undertake forerunner duties, and are required to report to the Jury on the completion of their run; as competitors, their times will be recorded in the results. In addition, organizers may invite additional, non-competing forerunners who have demonstrated their ability to participate safely.
- 1233.8.1 A competitor may only start at the start position currently in use. However, all competitors must remain above the start line until the Starter has announced "Go", at which time the competitor should descend to the start position and start the run within the following 60 seconds. If a competitor is not starting in the 60 seconds following the "GO" he will not be allowed to start.
- 1233.9.1 The speeds and times achieved by each competitor are announced and printed on a board at the bottom of the race piste as competitors complete their runs. At the end of each day, a Female and a Male ranking are drawn up, based on the best speeds achieved to date. Speeds realised during training runs or foreruns are excluded from the official results, with the special exception of forerun times by snow seed forerunners on the first day (see Art 1233.6.1 above).
- 1233.9.1.1 During the final run of each competition day If decided by the jury, during every run which could be the final of each competition day the leading <del>3</del> 5 competitors <del>of each category</del> are required to stay in the enclosed area at the finish area until the competition for that <del>day</del> run has finished and equipment checks have taken place.



1233.10.4 At the end of the season, the FIS will publish the following list, separated into male and female categories:

- The final SSWC ranking list for S1 competitors. In case of equality of points results, for competitors who have the same points ranking will be done by best speed of the season (see below).

- The classification according to best speed achieved during the year.

- The classification according to FIS point order, calculated in accordance with Art 1236 below. In addition, FIS will publish a national ranking, based on the system defined as in Rule 1233.10.2.1

#### 1234 Competition Equipment

Equipment rules are most important, both for ensuring fairness in events, and for competitor safety. Consequently, equipment of 2 all competitors drawn by the Jury is checked after each run at the bottom of the braking area. The jury may also decide to check the equipment of a racer in the starting area before the run. Any person refusing a control will be excluded from the competition and from the official results, as will any competitors or forerunners found to have non-conforming equipment. Any competitor may claim that another competitor's equipment does not conform to these rules, by lodging a claim with the Chief of Race accompanied by a deposit of CHF 100,00. Should the claim be correct, this deposit will be returned; otherwise the deposit will be held by the FIS for Speed Skiing development (e.g. TD courses).

1234.3.2 In use, the competitor may not extend their arm or arms when exiting the timing zone in any manner which may result in a time advantage. In case a competitor is extending his/her arms he/she will be disqualified.

#### 1234.6 Helmet

For S1 competitors, a crash helmet (the inner helmet), fully covering the athlete's head is obligatory and must be fitted with a face protector. It must be fastened solidly with a chinstrap and safety-buckle (double metallic rings are forbidden). The crash helmet and the head must be separated with foam no less than 0.5 cm thick (under natural pressure). Additional neck and face protection may be added (the outer helmet), but must not have any dangerous protuberances, and must separate from the basic protective helmet in the event of a fall. This will normally be effected by use of 2 or more frangible plastic screws or with points of glue to hold the 2 parts together. It may not exceed 40 cm in any dimension (the 'circle test'), including padding and flexible seals. It must not weigh more than 2kg in toto (both inner and outer). Competitors may use inner helmets conforming to CE 1077 standards and fitted with an approved outer-helmet fixation system accompanied by a maker's certificate. In the case of such helmets, the "circle test" is increased to 48 cm in diameter.

1234.6.2 In case additional onboard data equipment and/or cameras (both inner and outer) are used in or on helmet (see § 1234.11) the weight limit for S1 helmets will be 2.5 kg for all competitors.

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1234.7.1 In case additional onboard data equipment and/or cameras (both inner and outer) are used in or on fairings (see § 1234.11) the weight limit for fairings will be 1.5 kg for all competitors.

#### 1234.9 Back Protection Protectors

A back protector is obligatory to protect against both frictional burning and mechanical injury, and must conform to FIS Competition Specifications, and be available from general commercial sources. The back protector must comply to CE Norm EN1621-2:2014-Level 1, EN1621-2:2014-Level 2 or later. The size and shape of the protector must correspond to the indications of the manufacturer for the body size of the racer. The dorsal protection must not incorporate additional aerodynamic elements or any metal or sharp components nor any elements, that are not accessories of the original manufacturer. The dorsal protection cannot be less than 0.3 cm thick (under natural pressure).

1234.9.1 A Ski AirBag Protector can be used instead of a back protector. The ski air bag protector model must be certified and released by the manufacturer for use in speed ski racing.

#### 1234.11 Electronic Devices

Electronics on-board electronic photo, video and data-tracking systems are allowed (cameras, GPS, accelerometer, Bluetooth system, etc...). Onboard electronic data system and cameras may be placed:

- On skis;
- In helmet;
- In fairings

The use of electronic devices in a run has to be announced the day before in the captains meeting to allow all racers to adjust weight of helmets and fairings according to §1234.6.2 and §1234.7.1.

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Regarding rule §1234.9 (Protectors), the committee decided to allow protectors compliant with CE Norm EN1621-2:2014-Level 1 and CE Norm EN1621-2:2014-Level 2 in season 2024/25. Starting season 2025/26, only protectors with homologation CE Norm EN1621-2:2014-Level 2 will be allowed.

#### 9. Update Safety Workgroup

Carlo Fernandez (CF), the consultant from the company Liski Equipment, attends the committee meeting for a Q&A session. He was present at the World Cup race in Vars in January 2024 to get an impression of the safety needs of high-speed ski races. After having studied the special conditions of the race, he came to the conclusion that the best safety



setup of a Speed Ski track is avoiding, where possible, B-nets or any other obstacles near the track and creating large "crash spaces". Where this is not possible, he recommends a combination of mattresses and B-nets to avoid hard collisions with the poles of the B-nets. CF's explanation leads to an argument between PB and MC. PB remarks that most of the track homologation certificates require B-nets too near to the track where ample space at the sides is available. RA shows the example of the B-netting in the homologation report for Andermatt. PB points out that in the shown example the B-nets are unnecessarily near the track. Where there is no space, he agrees protection needs to be built, but where there is enough space, this is an unnecessary risk. PB requests to review the current track homologations and the track homologation process.

#### 10. Update new tracks/races

- 9.1 Zinal (SUI): RA reports that since the on-site visit in April 2024, he received no more news from Zinal or their efforts to host a Speed Ski race in 2025.
- 9.2 Les Arcs (FRA): PB reports about Les Arcs. No race in the near term appears feasible.
- 9.3 USA: Winter Park, Colorado (USA). RA had a phone conversation with David Traylor. The track has a large vertical drop and could deliver high speeds. However, according to David Traylor, the timing area is uneven and will need some work. RA and David Traylor agree to continue the conversations.
- 9.4 San Domenico (ITA): AM shows the planned Speed Ski track of San Domenico in Italy. The plan is to organize a race in 2026. The track seems to be ready but the access to the start still needs to be built and there is currently no lift to the top of the hill.
- 9.5 Akureyri (ISL). Red Bull organised the recent ski flying world record on Akureyri's homologated Speed Ski track. The project required a big investment. RA is in contact with the Icelandic NSA. RA presents some pictures from the event to illustrate the profile and potential of the track. So far, there are no plans. CP comments that a ski jumping event might be hosted in 2025. RA remarks that the idea would be to leverage the work done for a ski jumping event. However, a strong sponsor is a condition for organising the ski jumping event.

#### 11. Finances/Funding 2023/2024

FIS Council approved RA's request for a budget/funding. The budget includes funding for media work, social media, and Chrono services.

PB asks RA to request more FIS budget to help OCs with financial constraints and assure the FIS Speed Ski World Cup tour. RA takes the action item and will explore inside FIS what is possible.

#### 12. Report from TDs coordinator

LC could not attend the meeting. BA reports about the outcome of TD meetings. Main topics:

- 1. Safety Improvements at all levels
  - Emergency plan signature
  - Sufficient number of bents rows + public fences!!!
    - Respect the homolog. plans...
- 2. Ethics



- No conflicts of interest in Jury and or organisation
- Checking equipment at the end at all runs (could be the final run)
- Checking at the top only when it's obvious (broken helmet, no gloves, no back protector, etc)
- 3. New technologies
  - Use test runs (not race runs) to check new equipment and compare with official ones (to be validated before for safety reasons)
  - The plan is to bring more variety in the equipment; colours, shape, fairings, etc.)
  - if the Olympic games are confirmed
    - more spectacular,
    - more personality in research and race equipment.

RA remarks that equipment checkers have to be educated on-site for checks by TDs. RA suggests that TDs create a Best Practices Guide for speed ski equipment checks.

#### 13. Olympic Speed Ski in 2030

RA reports about ongoing FIS activities around preparing Speed Ski's candidacy for the Olympics in 2030. On July 24th, 2024, "French Alpes 2030" was elected to organise the Winter Olympics in 2030. With this, the chances for Speed Ski to become Olympic increased. RA will send an official request to the FIS Council.

The next step is for the FIS Secretary-General to meet with the IOC in Lausanne to agree on what needs to be done to achieve the status of Olympic discipline. The final IOC decision is expected in the summer of 2025.

PB informs about activities in Vars and in the region. Conversations are on-going. The region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and its president are strong supporters of Olympic Speed Ski in Vars in 2030. If Speed Ski becomes Olympic this would result in an important financial support from the region.

#### 14. Next meeting

FIS Technical Committee Spring Meetings 2025 in Vilamoura (POR) May 5 - 9, 2025 or online meeting 1 or 2 weeks before.