

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

For information to:

- Johan Eliasch, FIS President
- Michel Vion, FIS Secretary General
- Massimo Rinaldi, Chairman Alpine Committee
- Stefano Pirola, Chairman Intercontinental Cups
- Christian Salomon, Chief Commercial Director
- Sandra Spitz, FIS Event Director
- Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Technical and Administrative Coordinator

Oberhofen **27.05.2024**

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup Wednesday, 08.05.2024**

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 08.05.2024.

We kindly ask that you to send any remarks to the FIS Alpine Office in Oberhofen by the **24<sup>th</sup> May 2024** (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**  
**Wednesday, 08.05.2024**

**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 June 2024**

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

Walter Vogel (GER) opened the meeting by greeting and welcomed all present and members.

**2. Roll-call**

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

**3. Approval of the agenda**

Walter Vogel (GER) informed that the questions which Michael Huber (AUT) sent by email regarding development of speed events and injuries will be covered under point 9. Miscellaneous.

**4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held in Zürich on 29.09.2023**

The minutes were unanimously approved.

**5. Reports**

**a) from the Chairman Walter Vogel**

Walter Vogel (GER) congratulating Switzerland for the impressive performances they delivered during the last season. He thanks also the stakeholders, the World Cup teams, the National Federations and the Organising Committees. The winter has been challenging but everyone did a great job in order to face all the challenges. He mentions also the great duel between Cyprien Sarrazin (FRA) and Marco Odermatt (SUI).

The subject of the various challenges and the difficulties due to weather conditions, cancellations and injuries throughout the winter were raised. Fluctuating temperatures forced the cancellation of several races and entire weekends, as in the case of Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER) and Kranjska Gora (SLO) due to lack of snow.

A huge amount of work went into preparing the slopes as well as possible, but despite these efforts, a number of major cancellations still took place. The questions are how to replace the competitions in a better way and what is the value of a replacement race?

Replacing races on Thursday or Friday is a challenge for TV, LOC and marketing. Most of the time, replacements don't make economic sense.

Athletes were very critical of the race replacement topic during the season.

The number of injuries, particularly the top athletes, has caught everyone's attention this winter, but the causes of these injuries should not be summed up by putting everyone in the same boat. However, adaptations must be made to avoid a large number of injuries and this protects our sport.

Walter Vogel (GER) highlighted the future of the calendar and the positive adjustments that have been made; a good season opening in November; the addition of fixed dates for possible replacement races in the speed events, and a better balance to allow for better recovery between events; another big advantage of the changed planning is that it allows the usual speed preparation in North America. On the negative side, Lake Louise (CAN) cannot take place again.

Walter Vogel (GER) concluded his report by thanking all the FIS staff on site for their hard work, and Tatjana Lüssy (FIS) and Janez Fleré (FIS), for their coordination and liaison with the Organising Committees.

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

Markus Waldner (FIS) opened his report by mentioning that every year we say it's not an easy winter, but this year it really wasn't!

The calendar was overloaded, with 45 races planned and badly distributed, but he admitted that no one had imagined losing so many races.

All in all, there were 13 cancellations, 3 replacements and 35 races delivered (8 DH, 7 SG, 10 GS, 10 SL).

Soelden (AUT) - Strong wind and no chance of continuing after bib 48.

Zermatt-Cervinia (SUI/ITA) - Strong wind, no chance. After the cancellation, the first question was when and where the races would be replaced.

Beaver Creek (USA) - The weather was insane. Three days of heavy snow brought us to the end of November with 5 speeds events cancelled.

Val d'Isère (FRA) - Wet snow on Saturday and no chance of racing on Sunday on a track in poor condition. Lots of criticism from athletes about the situation.

Note that the December-January block was incredible, with some great races!!

Chamonix (FRA) - Early cancellation of speed events due to lack of snow.

Bansko (BUL) - Unable to finish the slalom race due to extreme rain conditions. Again, much criticism from athletes and teams.

Palisades Tahoe (USA), Aspen (USA) - Great discussion before the trip about the proposed financial compensation. The money was finally distributed at the beginning of May. Note that the races there were a great success.

Kranjska Gora (SLO) - Snow control was confirmed but then heavy rain destroyed the slope. Initially, the Giant-Slalom was cancelled and the Slalom held, before the Slalom was also cancelled. Lack of time and resources made it impossible to replace the Slalom elsewhere.

Saalbach (AUT) - The season ended as it began, with one cancellation. Apart from the Downhill, the two weeks were successful thanks to the hard work put in by the course crew two months before the event.

The cancellation of the races created a lot of pressure throughout the winter. The lack of snow really needs to be considered in the future and efforts must be made with existing measures to avoid having to cancel for this reason as much as possible. The cancellations were for different reasons throughout the winter, wind, snow, rain, lack of snow, but despite the difficulties, the organisers did their best to maximize the chances and Markus Waldner (FIS) would like to thank each and every one of them.

15 athletes were injured during a race this winter, many of them top athletes, creating quite a controversy.

Of note were 3 severe falls which could have been very severe, but thanks to a well-organised medical plan and assistance, these athletes were rescued and treated professionally.

Note also the exciting comeback of Lucas Braathen and Marcel Hirscher.

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

The start to the season was easier than on the men's side, but the season still saw 3 difficult weekends with cancelled races and a few challenges.

Zermatt-Cervinia (ITA/SUI) cancelled due to wind.

Tremblant (CAN) was very challenging because of the wind, but the race was maintained.

One Super-G in St-Moritz (SUI) cancelled, but replaced at Zauchensee (AUT).

Heavy rain in Kranjska Gora (SLO).

Not easy in Soldeu (AND) with warm temperatures.

The speed weekend in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER) cancelled due to lack of snow.

The speed weekend in Val di Fassa (ITA) cancelled due to too much snow.

In Kvitfjell (NOR) there were many difficulties due to fog, but thanks to the flexibility granted it was possible to replace the Downhill with the Super-G and thus have a full weekend of racing in Norway.

A total of 39 races were completed.

On the injury side, 18 athletes were injured, 15 of them during a race and 3 came back before the end of the season. All the injuries were different; explanations were sought in collaboration with coaches and athletes, but it was difficult to reach any real conclusion. Two possibilities emerged:

- The fact that there are no big events in February means that athletes don't slow down to rest and prepare for the World Championships or Olympic Games.
- Perhaps the lack of speed training opportunities at the start of the season may also be a reason.

On the sports side, there was a great fight for the globes right up to the end of the season. Many thanks to the stakeholders, NSA, Organisers committee, volunteers, staff crews, athletes, teams and FIS team.

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

The main topics covered by Christian Salomon (FIS) were TV numbers, digital and broadcast.

Nielson TV report shows good news with figures showing that this season has been the best since the 2020/21 season. Average live audiences increased by 8% and media impact by 5%. Broadcast time increased by 24%.

TV data and coverage increased, thanks in particular to better Eurosport coverage. Figures are stable across the different events, with women's figures coming ever closer to men.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) asked if they had analyzed the media impact of the 2nd American tour?

For the moment Christian Salomon (FIS) couldn't give an answer as he's still waiting for the numbers.

Digital part:

At the Zürich meeting in autumn 2023, the concept of a centralized digital platform was presented, but so far it has not been used as desired. It will be implemented in the near future.

The new website and app were launched over the winter. In addition, a better video service was set up on the Dark market, the Junior World Championships and some Continental Cups were broadcasted live streaming, and social networks were managed with a better strategy.

To close this part, the improved figures were presented, as well as the various comparisons between the different platforms and disciplines.

Srečko Medven (Club5) asked if FIS marketing really thought it was holding a good product in its hands?

Christian Salomon (FIS) answered that there is room for improvement in television for some events and competitions, for example in Slalom, with the first run in the morning, the second in the afternoon and 3 hours in between. A lot of viewers get lost and we should consider something more compact.

Report of Emmanuel Couder (FIS)

Speaking of content, access and quality, it's important to connect this to the various departments connected to the products. (Technical side, sports side, security side and broadcaster side).

Drones are increasingly present on the World Cup circuit, offering new angles and perspectives. Drones are good, but we must not forget the risks involved if we rush into things. Quality control must always be respected. A precise policy is in place, and work must continue to constantly improve the product.

Several things were tested over the winter, including an on-board camera in ski cross, live and near live audio in alpine as well as new TV graphics.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asked how we could take better care of the spectators on the competition site, notably with the use of giant screens and content between the two runs and before the competition.

**Srečko Medven (Club5) proposed to establish a working group which would see into the improvements of the todays Alpine World Cup product and asked to be minutes.**

Emmanuel Couder (FIS) replied that Fans TV was already in place at the competition sites, and that content had been passed on to the organisers for use, but for sure we can think of new ideas.

**e) from Athletes' Commission**

Leif Kristian Haugen (Athletes Representatives) mentioned double events and putting more night events on the calendar.

The athletes are also in favor of more behind-the-scenes content and presentations

about them and are pleased with the evolution of TV pictures. They want this to continue and would like to see more.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) mentioned that athletes should think about promoting themselves better by doing innovative things to attract more interest.

## **6. Rules season 2024/25**

### **6.1 SUI Proposal, Art. 4 and ff**

Walter Vogel (GER) and Thomas Stauffer (SUI) explain the proposal in its three different aspects. Thomas Stauffer (SUI) underlines that this proposal has been written and checked together with Club5.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) explains why the second amendment has been necessary. The programme changes made it necessary to have flexibility on the part of the organisers' accommodation department and therefore to accept programme changes up to 2 days before the official arrival day.

Srečko Medven (Club5) supports the first and the second amendments and says that a good compromise was found.

Walter Vogel (GER), talking about the second amendment, explained that the entry system is not affected.

Walter Vogel (GER) explains the third amendment by emphasising that the fact that women and men cannot share rooms must be respected, even though he realises that this could cause problems. The question is then who pays for the extra single rooms. He therefore asks for flexibility on the part of the hotels.

Srečko Medven (Club5) says that this last amendment could cause problems and that has to be communicated in advance.

Walter Vogel (GER) stresses that this amendment must be respected because it will become more and more of a requirement.

Michael Huber (AUT) asks if this number is calculated according to the quota or final entries of the teams.

Walter Vogel (GER) suggests specifying that it's calculated from the final entries and he suggests to add it in the amendment.

Proposal has been approved.

### **6.2 SUI Proposal, Art. 9.4**

Mike Kertesz (FIS) explained the proposal by emphasising the efforts of the Organisers in organising the Evening Programmes and that it was therefore considered important to have stricter rules regarding Show-up time and participation.

The last sentence of the proposal should be removed because it is repetitive, so Mike Kertesz proposed to remove it.

Michael Huber (AUT) on behalf of the Austrian team asked that the 15 minutes be reduced and that there be more control over the duration of the engagement.

Leif Haugen (Athletes Representatives) calls for the evening commitments of athletes to be limited.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) says that it has been taken into account what the athletes require and therefore during the summer inspections it will be made clear to the Organisers.

Proposal has been approved.

### **6.3 FIS Proposal, Art. 4.1.3**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) explains the proposal.

Patrick Riml (USA) asks for specifications regarding travel money, because it has never been changed since 1994.

Walter Vogel (GER) agreed, but it was seen as a priority to send a strong signal to the Organisers and support them.

Michel Vion (FIS) explains that it was discussed in Zurich and that every decision should be extended to all disciplines but is not always accepted by everyone. He would like to mention and thank the sponsorship for the trip to America from USSA's main sponsor, which helped the teams extensively.

Walter Vogel (GER) emphasises that tourist taxes are included in the price increase.

Proposal has been approved.

Walter Vogel (GER) asks Michel Vion (FIS) if there has been an official communication regarding FIS's contribution to 20 % of the price money.

Michel Vion (FIS) confirms that FIS will continue to contribute 24.000,00-- CHF per race to the Organisers (from a total of 144.000,00—CHF).

### **6.4 Athletes' Commission Proposal, Highest bib**

The Athletes Commission decided to withdraw the proposal because it was not yet properly formulated.

## **7. Calendars 2024/25 (Guidelines and Replacement of competitions)**

Markus Waldner (FIS) presents the calendar 2024/25, emphasising that the main objective is to react to the criticism received last season and therefore to follow clear guidelines:

- Fewer races
- Balanced calendar
- No double events
- No more 3 speed events in one weekend with two exceptions: Val Gardena/Gröden (ITA) and Kvitfjell (NOR) will be the only two locations that will

recover speed races. Therefore, speed races cancelled before Val Gardena/Gröden (ITA) will be made up in Val Gardena/Gröden (ITA) and the same applies to Kvitfjell (NOR). Everything will always be agreed with the teams.

- There will be no replacements on tech side.
- Soelden (AUT) will take place again at the end of October.
- Levi (FIN) is back on the calendar. After Covid had not been considered in order to avoid unnecessary transfers to the teams, but it was considered that given the current weather situation it was deemed appropriate to return to the north at that time to compete.
- Gurgl (AUT) have done a great job and there is a good chance of racing at that time of the year.

The reason there are no races at the end of November in the USA is because the federation cannot support two weekends at the same time.

- Beaver Creek (USA) returns to the original programme with Super G / Downhill / Giant Slalom.
- Madonna di Campiglio (ITA) was moved to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 instead of before Christmas.
- Schladming (AUT) Giant Slalom was deemed a success so it was decided to keep it on the calendar.
- Garmisch-Partenkirchen (GER) has an adapted programme with a single downhill so as not to increase the risk of injury and overload for the athletes.
- Saalbach (AUT) World Championships, the slopes were tested during the World Cup Finals and the Team Combined will be held for the first time.
- Crans Montana (SUI) will be the test event for the future World Championships in 2027. There will also be other FIS races to test the 'Nationale' slope where the men's downhill will be run.
- Kranjska Gora (SLO) has been brought forward.
- Based on past experience it was found that there was an urgent need to race in the north at the end of the season, so Kvitfjell (NOR) and Hafjell (NOR) are planned to be blocked. So, the weekend that was planned in Soldeu (AND) has been cancelled mostly because of logistical reasons.
- Sun Valley (USA) World Cup finals. After past experience, it was decided to return to the original schedule of the Finals in one week instead of two. The Downhill will be very challenging. It is a location with a higher altitude and therefore appropriate for the end of March.

Markus Waldner (FIS) emphasised that he was very satisfied with the presented calendar.

Rudi Huber (SRS) asked about the starting times in Levi (FIN). He considered it would be interesting to postpone the starting times in the afternoon.

Markus Waldner (FIS) explains that the starting times will be confirmed in Zurich, but that they will consider the request.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) takes the floor and describes the women's calendar taking into account the guidelines mentioned by Markus Waldner (FIS).

- Gurgl (AUT) will be new in the women's field on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November.
- Killington (USA) is moved slightly ahead but still on the Thanks Giving weekend.



- Mt. Tremblant (CAN) presents the first exception because there will be two Giant-Slalom races as the slope is not suitable for Slalom races.
- Beaver Creek (USA) replaces the lack of Lake Louise (CAN) as the women's speed race at the beginning of the season. As it is a demanding Downhill race at the beginning of the speed season, there will be three Downhill trainings.
- Back in Europe we continue with speed, but it is impossible to schedule Downhill in St. Moritz (SUI) due to lack of material return time, so two Super G races are planned.
- Semmering (AUT) is still TBC because work will be done on the slope and the summer inspection will confirm whether or not Semmering (AUT) will be on the calendar. The starting time is still to be determined.
- January is traditional.
- Courchevel (FRA) is at the end of January with a night race package in combination with Schladming (AUT) in the men's event.
- The weekend before Saalbach (AUT) will be free to give the opportunity to prepare properly for the World Championships.
- Sestriere (ITA) and La Thuile (ITA) return to the calendar respectively before and after the Scandinavian package with Kvitfjell (NOR) and Are (SWE).
- For the Women's World Cup, La Thuile (ITA) is also scheduled as the replacement location.

Peter Gerdol is also very satisfied with the presented calendar.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) points out that there has been much talk of an overloaded calendar, but January is still very busy. He also asks for specifics regarding the Team Combined during the World Cup. He also asks about the bid procedure for the World Cup Finals and if a compensation for the Finals is planned due to the move overseas.

Markus Waldner (FIS) in response to the question about the Finals bid confirmed that an application had been submitted by Norway for the Finals in Lillehammer (NOR) as a result of the fact that Crans Montana (SUI) cannot support World Cup Finals at the end of March.

Michel Vion (FIS) explained that next season's finals were to be held in Aspen (USA), but that in the end Sun Valley (USA) was found to be the best place to host this event.

Patrick Riml (USA) specifies that there has been a lot of controversy about going back to the USA twice but that it is still for training at Copper Mountain (USA) and there is no compensation there, so he does not think it is appropriate for the Finals.

Peter Gerdol (FIS) responded to the question about the Team Combined by specifying where the Slalom will be held. He also added that the coaches' working group will discuss possible cargo solutions from La Thuile (ITA) to the United States for the equipment.

Micheal Huber (AUT) advises that the starting time meeting should be done before these meetings so that adjustments can be made in time if discrepancies are found.

Michel Vion (FIS) confirmed that it would be better, but that in order to confirm the starting times, the other disciplines would also have to be ready and given the timing of these meetings this is very difficult.

Michael Huber (AUT) asked for confirmation that, in the face of the centralization discussions, the Austrian races would keep to the schedule.

Michel Vion (FIS) confirms that the existing contracts will continue as agreed.

Sun Valley (USA) takes the word to present the venue.

## 8. Mid-term planning

### Men's 2025/26 calendar

Markus Waldner (FIS) naturally emphasized that the highlight of the season will be the Olympic Winter Games in Milano-Cortina 2026. Despite the fact that the men's events will be held in Bormio (ITA), the traditional World Cup stop in Bormio after Christmas will remain on the calendar.

A lot of work remains to be done, but things are now moving in the right direction with the destruction of the house in the finish area.

Copper Mountain (USA) is on the calendar for the end of November, with one SG and one GS.

Crans-Montana (SUI) will be back on the calendar for a final test before the 2027 World Championships.

A weekend at the beginning of March is still open, and France has priority. The idea is to have a Downhill race on the Eclipse slope in Courchevel (FRA). The second priority is Soldeu, in Andorra, where the World Cup could make a stop.

Thomas Stauffer (SUI) asked why Zermatt-Cervinia (SUI/ITA) was not included in the calendar, even though it had been announced that it would be removed for one year and then reconsidered.

Answer from Markus Waldner (FIS) and Walter Vogel (GER): past experience with all the cancellations shows that having this project on this date is not feasible. What's more, the project was not supported by all the athletes.

There will be discussions at political level, and Michel Vion (FIS) has announced that discussions will be held with Zermatt-Cervinia, Swiss Ski and FIS. For the moment, the calendar is a draft and need to be accepted.

Walter Vogel (GER) also underlined the clear position of the sport side, which is not in favor of this project, and hopes that this will be brought up in the political discussions.

Complaints from Thomas Stauffer (SUI): the calendar has just been shown as it is, but there have been no pre-discussions or information. It's important to have discussions before the draft comes out because there are a lot of new ideas that can't be heard.

Michael Huber (AUT): OSV asked that Hinterstoder (AUT) also be considered in the calendar.

Markus Waldner (FIS) replied that many races in Austria are already on the calendar and that it is important to maintain a balance between the different nations. Before a new race in Austria is considered, there are other priority nations.

Patrick Lang (AIJS) asked why the Finals were held over two weeks in Saalbach (AUT), why they will be held over 10 days in Sun Valley (USA) in 2025, and why the plan is to have them again over one week in Lillehammer (NOR) in 2026?

Michel Vion (FIS) replied that in Saalbach (AUT) they tried this new format over two

weekends to increase the TV audience, but unfortunately it didn't have as strong an impact as hoped. The idea is to return to a more compact program.

**Women's 2025/26 calendar:**

Peter Gerdol (FIS) presented the draft calendar for the 2025/26 season, highlighting the Milano-Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games. For the moment, the calendar still contains one free weekend in Austria at the end of December, mid of January and one in March. Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA), an annual stop on the women's tour, will not be on the calendar for this season, but the free weekend in January will still be an Italian weekend.

For the first time, Crans-Montana (SUI) will host a weekend of races for both men and women at the same time.

Zagreb (CRO) is not on the calendar at the moment, as the chairlift has been destroyed by the wind and it is currently uncertain whether it can be replaced in time.

Rudi Huber (SRS) has had a request concerning the opening in Soelden (AUT), which remains on the same dates, whereas this opening weekend has already been the source of much discussion and complaining. Would it not be possible to postpone it by one or two weeks?

Peter Gerdol (FIS) replied that, in terms of weather, it was way more risky to lose races if we postponed the weekend, than if we kept it on those dates. Indeed, Soelden (AUT) has never been cancelled due to a lack of snow, but each time due to rather wintry weather conditions (snow, wind). By postponing it, we increase the risk of having to deal with difficult weather conditions.

Srecko Medven (Club5) warns that long-term calendars of four or five years are needed for the planning and necessary investments by the organisers, as in the past.

**9. Miscellaneous**

Peter Gerdol (FIS), in response to Michael Huber's (AUT) request on the speed achieved during the events, presented the data collected by the 'Digital Gates Measurements' project in World Cup, European Cup and FIS races in the last 2 years.

The trend is that the average speed on women side is slightly lower in Super G and Giant- Slalom and slightly higher in Slalom.

The project has been running for 2 years, so it is difficult to draw conclusions but the aim is to develop broader conclusions by continuing to collect data.

Markus Waldner (FIS) explains there is another active project on measuring and executing the parabola of jumps to make them safer. Slope preparation is another point on which there is a lot of attention and cooperation together with the coaches.

To stay on the subject of safety, the strong recommendation of the use of cut-resistant suits was implemented in the coming season and then made compulsory from the 2025/26 season. It is not possible to make it mandatory from this season because the companies are still finalising the technology.

Markus Waldner (FIS) recalled that from next season the use of airbags in speed events at World Cup level is mandatory.

Micheal Huber (AUT) recommended speeding up the approval process when it comes to rules on athlete safety and trying to centralise the existing working groups.

**10. Next meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Zurich (SUI)**

**11. Closing of the meeting**