

To the
- Members of the FIS Council
- National Ski Associations
- Committee Chairs

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION
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Oberhofen, 31st August 2021

Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting 31st August 2021

Dear Council Members,
Dear Presidents,
Dear Members and Friends,

In accordance with article 32.2 of the FIS Statutes we have the pleasure in sending you the Summary and Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting which took place on 31st August 2021, 12:00 CET.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Approval of the last meeting Minutes
3. FIS Extraordinary Congress
4. Revisions to FIS Statutes
5. FIS Name change proposals
6. NSA Financial Support
7. Fluorinated Wax Ban Update
8. Other business
9. Closing of the meeting

1. **Welcome and Roll Call**

The following elected Council Members are present at the online meeting on Tuesday 31st August 2021:

President: Johan Eliasch

Vice Presidents: Roman Kumpost, Aki Murasato, Dexter Paine, Peter Schröcksnadel,

Council Members: Mats Arjes, Dean Gosper, Hannah Kearney, Martti Jylha, Urs Lehmann, Tzeko Minev, Flavio Roda, Erik Roeste, Enzo Smrekar, Franz Steinle, Martti Uusitalo, Elena Vyalbe, Moses Liang-Cheng Zheng

Secretary General: Michel Vion

Director: Philippe Gueisbuhler

Observer: Stephan Netzle, FIS Legal Counsel

The FIS President welcomed all of the Council members to the meeting and expressed his thanks for the contribution in the proposed draft of the statutes.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the last Council Meeting**

The Council approved the minutes from the Council meeting on June 22, 2021 and notes that they had been redacted for details due to the confidential nature of some of the discussions.

3. **FIS Extraordinary Congress**

The President proposed that the Extraordinary FIS Congress shall be held online on 8th October 2021. The service providers will be the same as for the recent FIS Congress with Sceno Tech providing the technical platform, while Lumi will provide the online voting system.

Some items may be added to the agenda in the upcoming days, which will be communicated shortly.

The Council unanimously approved holding a Virtual Extraordinary Congress on 8th October 2021.

4. **Revisions to FIS Statutes**

A copy of the proposed revised statutes was distributed to the FIS Council prior to the Council meeting. Council members had sent in proposals for changes and the most recent version reflects the proposed changes.

The Statutes were drafted by Franz Steinle, Rory Tapner, Stephan Netzle and the President with the aim to be practical and to find a way to move forward in a way expected by the Stakeholders.

The floor was opened for discussion about the substance of the changes and also on another point the possible future centralized commercialisation of marketing and media rights.

The opinion of the Council members was that the Statutes were a positive step for FIS.

The FIS Council unanimously approved the proposed draft Statutes as amended.

Dexter Paine expressed his thanks to the entire Working Group for the hard work on the Statutes.

5. FIS Name Change proposals

In order to reflect all of the disciplines currently under the FIS umbrella, the President proposed to consider to change the name of FIS. The branding and logo would in any event remain the same.

Two proposals to make the name more inclusive were suggested, listed below in English, which would be translated into the official FIS languages.

- International Snowsports Federation
- International Ski and Snowboard Federation

A third option would be to keep the name as it is, namely International Ski Federation.

The Council discussed the two options and brainstormed if there were any proposed name changes that should also be brought forward. At the end of the discussion, the two above name changes were decided upon.

The Council unanimously agreed to put the decision to rename FIS on the agenda for the Extraordinary Congress for a vote on whether the name shall be changed, and if so, what the new name should be. Any change would need to be approved by a majority of 2/3 of all votes cast at the Congress.

6. National Ski Association Financial Support

There are three proposed financial distributions, which were outlined by the President..

The first is the ordinary distribution of 5 million CHF to the eligible NSAs. It was clarified that the number of races entering into this calculation would be taken from the previous season (2019-2020) as the last season has been heavily impacted by the Covid pandemic. For the other criteria the data from season 2020-2021 are applicable.

The second is a special Covid-19 distribution. The proposal is that the National Ski Associations equally split 5 million CHF to all eligible members.

The third distribution would be a continuation of the 20% prize money support which was paid to the local organizers to help offset the losses from holding races during the pandemic. This totalled to approximately 4.3 million CHF last season.

Mats Arjes supported these distributions and the amounts proposed. Future recommendations will be reviewed by the Finance Commission. He also noted that the above payments would result in a loss of 2 million CHF from the current FIS reserves of 7 million CHF.

The timing of the payments was also clarified: it shall be paid out as usual for the ordinary distribution, of the special Covid distribution 50% shall be paid out immediately and the remaining 50 % at the end of the season. The prize money support will be processed the same as last season.

The Council unanimously approved the financial distributions as outlined above.

7. Fluorinated Wax Ban Update

Roman Kumpost provides a comprehensive update on the Fluorinated Wax Ban update. A Declaration of Compliance has been prepared for the NSAs to sign, which ensures they have been informed that controls can take place by the responsible state authorities. FIS will not carry out any inspections itself, they will be made only by state authorities. The document informs the teams of this possibility and that FIS can open disciplinary proceedings should there be any incident reported.

Additionally, a Declaration of Conformity has been prepared for the Suppliers that will be sent to them at the same time as the corresponding declaration form of the International Biathlon Union. Also the suppliers will be informed about the possibility of searches by the national authorities at the locations of competitions.

The documents are included in the annex of these minutes.

Additionally, the Fluor Tracking device continues to be improved and continues to be tested with good results. More testing in sub-zero conditions is needed and testing repeatable samples. The field validation can start as planned.

Martti Uusitalo abstains from voting due to his conflict of interest with his professional business.

The Council approved the two prepared declarations as presented.

8. General Update and Other Business

The President informs the Council that the FIS Staff in Oberhofen has been working very hard to prepare for the upcoming season, which will be challenging. There is constant contact with the IOC, and preparations for Beijing 2022 are well underway.

He further reported that a letter of intent has been signed to have a Speed opening in Zermatt-Cervina starting in the winter of 2022.

FIS is measuring its Carbon Footprint with the company Planet Mark, and is looking to be carbon neutral by the end of the calendar year making FIS the first International Federation to be carbon neutral.

Furthermore, a platform has been set up by SRS to allow all nations, especially smaller ones, to purchase high-level equipment at discounted rates.

The President also provided an update on FIS Marketing. As previously mentioned, the FIS sponsorship revenues have gone down steadily by 20% since 2009, the income from new sponsors represent a tiny 3.4% and that there have been no sponsors for Freestyle and Snowboard for several years. The performance is way below expectations, in breach of material terms of the FISMAG Agency and Shareholder Agreement and FIS will take steps to address FIS Marketing in the near future.

The Secretary General added that the focus is on the upcoming Olympics. The technical teams have an inspection coming up, which will be very important after the Test Events had to be cancelled. The Covid-19 protocols are expected to be the same for the upcoming season as the pandemic is not showing signs of improvement. Additionally, important meetings are coming up with the IOC to discuss quotas and new proposed disciplines.

The FIS Director also mentioned the new staff members who have started in Oberhofen and confirms that the preparations for the 8th October Online Congress are underway.

Athletes Representative Martti Jylhä reported on a question he received from a group of small nation athletes in Cross Country questioning the fairness to the Beijing 2022 qualification procedure and quota spots allocated by the IOC. A summary can be found in the annex to these minutes. Essentially the group was asking for an increase in the quota positions for Beijing 2022 and wants additional qualification races added to this season's schedule.

He noted that the proposal of the group had not been reviewed by the Cross-Country Committee nor the Athletes' Commission, but he felt it was his duty as the Athletes' Commission representative to bring this to the attention of the Council.

The Secretary General noted that it will be difficult to get any additional quota spots and that the qualification process also covered the period that did not involve the pandemic. FIS is open to receive the request and to explore the matter with the IOC.

The Council agreed to speak with the IOC about the quota, but should they say it is not possible, then the qualification and quota system in place needs to be respected by all athletes.

Roman Kumpost informed that the Nordic Junior World Championship will only host the Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined events and not Cross Country. A substitute host for the Cross-Country events is underway.

9. Next Meeting with the FIS Council

The Council was asked to reserve 7th October 2021 as the date for a Council Meeting in preparation of the Congress on 8th October 2021, if deemed necessary.

A proposed schedule will be sent in the next few days.

The next in-person possibility for a meeting is planned to be in Soelden (AUT) by occasion of the the Alpine World Cup opening races.

10. Closing of the Meeting
15:00

FOR THE MINUTES

Jenny Wiedeke
FIS Communications Director