

To the  
- Members of the FIS Council

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**  
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Oberhofen, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### **Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Dear Council Members,

In accordance with article 11.4.1.4. of the FIS Statutes we have the pleasure in sending you the Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting which took place on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Please send any remarks or observations to the FIS Office the latest by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Thank you for your valuable collaboration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vion', is written over a thin horizontal line.

Michel Vion  
Secretary General

## **Agenda**

- 1) Opening of the Meeting
- 2) Members present
- 3) Approval of the agenda
- 4) Approval of the Minutes from the last meeting 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- 5) President's Report
- 6) Legal Matters
  - 6.1 International Competition Rules – Update
  - 6.2 Adjustments to FIS Statutes
  - 6.3 FIS Court
  - 6.4 Update on OWG 2022 Women's Ski Cross Event
  - 6.5 Centralisation and Concorde Agreement
- 7) Update & Reports of the FIS Working Groups
- 8) FIS World Cup Calendars
- 9) International Ski Congress
  - 9.1 Information, programme and reports FIS Congress 2022
  - 9.2 Going-through the Congress Proposals
    - a) For Council Decision
    - b) For Congress Decision
- 10) Other Business
- 11) Next meeting of the FIS Council
- 12) Closing of the Meeting

## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

Johan Eliasch welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked them for taking the time to join for today's discussions.

## **2. Members present**

The following Members were present at the online meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022:

President: Johan Eliasch

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

Members: Mats Arjes, Dean Gosper, Martti Jylhä, Hannah Kearney, 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

Observers:

Legal Counsel: Stephan Netzle

FIS Legal Counsel: Sven Schaeffner

## **3. Approval of the Agenda**

The Council approved today's agenda.

## **4. Approval of the Minutes from the last Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The Council approved the minutes of the last Council Meeting without comment.

## **5. President's Report**

Johan Eliasch reported that he was pleased how FIS got through the past season in difficult circumstances with successful World Cup seasons and Olympic Winter Games. He underlined the importance of the FIS disciplines to the Olympic movement. He also complimented Michel Vion for ensuring the smooth season.

The focus now moves to what needs to be done for the future, with the key points being the calendars and the centralization of rights and the Concorde Agreement. Given the short amount of time that all parties had to fully study the Concorde Agreement, the full discussion on that topic will be postponed until a later date. He reminded everyone that the Council documentation is confidential and meant for Council members only and could not be distributed to third parties.

## 6. Legal Matters

### 6.1 International Competition Rules (ICR)

It was explained by Stephan Netzle that the Statutes and ICR are not aligned. As the Statutes are the overriding governing document of FIS, the Statutes take precedence over the ICR. The goal is to ensure that the ICR is aligned with the Statutes.

All provisions addressed towards an Organiser of a World Cup event have been covered in one encompassing section, rather than how it was presented in the previous document where the information was in several different areas.

From a governance standpoint FIS should not have two ruling documents that are not aligned, therefore should the Council opt not to align the ICR with the Statutes, the matter must be referred to the Congress to make the necessary changes.

After much discussion, the FIS Council felt more time was needed before deciding on the proposed changes to the ICR.

The Council agreed to postpone the decision to change the current ICR.

### 6.2 Adjustments to FIS Statutes

Some housekeeping changes to the Statutes were circulated to the Council members prior to the meeting.

The Council agreed to table the changes to the FIS Statutes for the next Council meeting.

### 6.3 FIS Court

As the FIS Court adds an unnecessary level of appeals, it was proposed to eliminate this extra element as it is largely redundant in the appeals process.

The Council agreed to terminate the FIS Court.

### 6.4 Update on the outcome of the Women's Ski Cross Event at OWG 2022

During the final competition of women's Ski Cross at the Olympic Winter Games, for sport reasons, the Jury on-site made a decision to move the third-place finisher, from Switzerland into fourth place, meaning the original fourth-place athlete from Germany moved into third place. The Swiss athlete appealed the decision to the FIS SB/FS/FK Appeals Board, which sided in favour of the Swiss athlete.

A double third-place solution was in place that would allow both athletes to finish in third place, however the Swiss athlete has yet to sign any document that assesses her with a time penalty, which she feels she did not incur. Without this signed document, it is unlikely that the IOC will agree to award a second bronze medal.

Urs Lehmann said that in the spirit of good sportsmanship it is important that both athletes can be awarded the bronze medal. The Swiss athlete prefers clearer wording should the decision move to CAS. But he noted he is hopeful that a solution can be found that is positive for both involved athletes.

Franz Steinle agreed with the comments of Urs Lehmann and believes that all parties can find a good solution.

The Council agreed to allow the parties directly involved to find the best solution and the best wording for any document to be sent to the IOC. They asked that the final document be approved by the Council.

#### 6.5 Centralisation and Concorde Agreement

As referenced in the President's Report, the Council agreed to postpone the discussion about the Concorde Agreement to another date.

### **7. Working Group Report and Updates**

The Council received written reports from each of the 12 FIS Working Groups.

The reports received from the Working Group included: Alpine, Nordic, Snowboard/Freestyle/Freeski, Recreation & Tourism, Women in FIS, Education, Associate & New Members, Youth, China, Asia, SRS/Sponsors, Camps/Training Facilities

The next steps will be to inform the FIS Technical Committees about the outcome of the Working Groups. The Technical Committees will provide their comments on the various Working Group proposals.

The Council acknowledged the reports of the Working Groups and thanked the members for their participation.

### **8. FIS World Cup Calendars**

The framework for the calendars for the 2022-2023 FIS World Cup season for the six Olympic disciplines were presented to the Council for discussion. Following today's initial approval of the calendar framework, they will be referred to the Technical Committees for fine tuning. The final calendars will then be approved by the Council at its meeting directly before the Congress.

Any notes in regards to the various discipline calendars are listed below.

#### 8.1 Nordic Disciplines

The Council approved the framework of the calendars for Cross Country, Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined.

## 8.2 Snowboard, Freestyle, Freeski

The Council approved the framework of the calendars for the FIS Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski disciplines

## 8.3 Alpine

There was discussion about finding the right balance between quality, number of races and promoting races in smaller and developing FIS nations. It was also highlighted that the next season have many TV scheduling challenges with the FIFA World Cup.

It was acknowledged that changes to the Alpine calendar are necessary, as this has long been asked by many stakeholders. The aim of the new Alpine calendar is to include iconic sites and major markets and to keep interest in the World Cup at its peak through the entire season and after the World Championships are concluded.

It was acknowledged that the selection of venues for FIS Calendars must be in the best interest of FIS as a whole and not just for a chosen few.

The Council agreed that FIS should give more time to find the possibility to include more venues on the Alpine calendars, including the possibility of extending the season by one week.

A final proposal will be circulated for approval.

## 9. International Ski Congress

### 9.1 Information, program and reports FIS Congress 2022

The 53rd International Ski Congress will take place in Central Europe, most likely in Milan. The Council was informed about who will attend in person and who will attend virtually. In addition, the two-day programme was circulated prior to the meeting.

The eight Candidates who are not currently in the Council have traditionally had the opportunity to give a three-minute presentation, while Council members running for re-election have not given the three-minute presentations.

The Council agreed that only the new Candidates will give the three-minute presentations, while existing Council members will not give presentations.

9.2a The Council decided on the following proposals:

Note: These are summaries of the proposals, the full wording of each was circulated to the Council before the meeting as part of the working document,

#### Costs Transfer

The national associations and organisers are responsible for proceeding of competitions and respecting the series regulations. Other interests of FIS should be financially covered by FIS, whereby NF and organiser should offer logistic assistance at their best.

At all events, which belong to FIS series, the costs, which organisers have to take over for FIS officials should be limited to those who are necessary for the competition proceeding. The current requirements accordingly shall be reconsidered if necessary and appropriate and wherever possible be reduced.

The Council agreed to refer this to the Finance Commission

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#### Revision Injury Status Ski Alpine

Almost every year there are discussions and problems when applying the injury status. Athletes who are injured early in the season are well protected by the current version. This means they still have a good starting position when the injury is healed and athletes with severe injuries have enough time (mostly 10 to 11 months) for rehabilitation. However, athletes who are injured in the middle or end of the season cannot submit the application for injury status and therefore also have little time for rehabilitation before the start of the following season.

The Council agreed to refer this to the Alpine Committee

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#### Composition of Jury

Decisions of these FIS officials influence competition and organisation and therefore should also be discussed within the jury. At all events, which belong to FIS, the race director or if existing a FIS nominated coordinator shall be member of the jury

The Council agreed to refer this to the Congress.

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#### Amendment of article 206.7 of the ICR

The Bulgarian Ski Federation, after a careful and thorough analysis of the provisions of the ICR, proposes an amendment to Article 206.7 thereof, essentially proposing that the prohibition for commercial betting companies to be sponsors of athletes be removed.

The Council postponed making a decision on the proposal.

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### Increase surface area for commercial marking on clothing

The Russian Ski Federation proposes to increase the surface area for commercial marking on clothing. Such a decision and subsequent update of all the relevant FIS documents will increase the attractiveness of sponsorship in all FIS disciplines. The Covid-19 pandemic has negatively impacted sports sponsorship, hence, the ability to offer additional commercial markings placements on clothing will increase the chances of attracting new sponsors or retaining existing ones.

The Council postponed making a decision on the proposal.

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### Advertising Matters Snowboard Cross

It has to be a priority to find a main sponsor for the snowboardcross World Cup. The SBX needs stability in the calendar as well as external support to be able to consolidate constructions at the level of the spectacle that athletes can offer, to be a stable discipline in the media and to achieve the connection and following of the general public. We must evolve in terms of the professionalization of the tour in different aspects and that entails more investment, since it currently depends on the investment of the WC hosting nations and the participating teams, even having to reduce the prize money of the athletes to be able to ensure holding competitions or even raising the price of the fee in some cases.

The Council agreed the proposal is covered by the recommendations of the SB/FS/FK Working Group.

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### Grass Skiing Committee

The FIS Grass Skiing Committee submitted several housekeeping proposals for approval by the FIS Council.

The Council agreed to the Grass Skiing proposals.

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## 9.2b Proposals for FIS Congress

The proposals that will be submitted to the Congress were presented for the Council' information.

The Council acknowledged the proposals for the Congress

## 10. Other Business

### Alpine World Cup Speed & Tech Combined

There was a proposal for the FIS Alpine World Cup to implement a test season where four technical and four speed combined events would make up additional WC points. For example, athletes would receive points for their efforts in both a downhill and super-G at one venue, four times during the season. The same would be true for technical races during the season.

The Council agreed to the pilot programme proposal of a technical and speed mini-ranking.

### Fluor Wax Ban Update

Roman Kumpost provided an update the Fluor Wax ban and the progress of a measuring device.

It was reported that after testing, FIS is prepared to fully enforce the fluorinated wax ban at the start of the 2022-2023 winter season. Working with Bruker, a leading manufacturer of high-performance scientific instruments and maintaining a close collaboration with the International Biathlon Union (IBU) through a joint working group, an effective testing method using the Alpha II device was developed.

The device provides reliable testing to ensure fluor-free competitions, which will help guarantee fair competitions and a level playing field. The rules regarding the fluor wax ban will be defined at the upcoming FIS Congress, which will then be implemented at the start of the winter 2022-23 season.

The Council acknowledged the good news that the implementation of the Fluor Wax ban will begin at the start of the 2022-23 season.

### Committee Structure & Membership

It was proposed that the Committee structure, membership and terms of reference will not be discussed at the upcoming Congress, since there is a very full agenda. These will be discussed and communicated in June or July.

The Council agreed to postpone the discussion about the Committee structure, membership and terms of reference.

## 11. Next meetings of the FIS Council

To be decided.

## 12. Closing of the Meeting