

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

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**  
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Oberhofen, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Summary / Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

Dear Council Members,  
Dear President,  
Dear FIS Family Ski and Snowboard Friends,

In accordance with article 32.2 of the FIS Statutes we have pleasure in sending you the Summary and Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

### **Agenda**

- 1) Opening of the Meeting / President's Report
- 1.1) Minutes Council Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- 2) Members present
- 3) Current status of competitions in different nations (report by Council Members)
- 4) 2021 FIS World Championships
- 4.1) FIS Freestyle, Snowboard and Freeski World Championships at various locations
- 4.2) FIS Alpine World Ski Championships Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA)
- 4.3) FIS Nordic World Ski Championships Oberstdorf (GER)
- 4.4) Protocol for Russian Team at FIS World Championships
- 5) 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon (KOR)
- 6) ISPP Proposal
- 7) 52<sup>nd</sup> International Ski Congress in Portoroz (SLO)
- 8) Request for change of licence
- 9) Any Other Business
- 9.1) FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2021 Lahti (FIN)
- 9.2) FIS Snowboard World Cup 2021 Laax (SUI)
- 10) Next Meeting

## **1. Opening of the Meeting / President's Report**

Gian Franco Kasper opened the Council Meeting welcoming the Council Members and thanking those attending. He said that the FIS Office is quite lonely these days due to the current home office mandate in Switzerland, but he said nevertheless the entire staff has been working extremely hard and thanked them for their work during this exceptional time. So far only four FIS staff have tested positive for Covid-19, with all thankfully recovering fully.

He highlighted the agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the last meeting.

### **1.1 Minutes Council Conference Call Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

The Council approved today's agenda and the minutes of last Council Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

## **2. Members present**

The following elected Council Members were present at the online meeting on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021:

President: Gian Franco Kasper

Vice-Presidents: Mats Årjes, Aki Murasato, Roman Kumpost

Members: Steve Dong Yang, Dean Gosper, Alfons Hörmann, Hannah Kearney, Dexter Paine, Flavio Roda, Erik Roeste, Konstantin Schad, Peter Schröcksnadel, Martti Uusitalo, Eduardo Valenzuela, Michel Vion

Non-voting: representatives: Enzo Smrekar (SLO), Ken Read (CAN) representing Patrick Smith, Elena Vaelbe (RUS) representing Andrey Bokarev

Director: Philippe Gueisbuhler

## **3. Current status of competitions in different nations (report by Council Members)**

The Council Members provided update on the situation in their respective nations.

## **4. FIS World Championships 2021**

### **4.1 FIS Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski World Championships**

Gian Franco Kasper reminded the Council Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> March deadline to submit applications to host the 2024 Ski Flying World Championships as well as the 2025 edition of the Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski World Championships as Russia is no longer eligible to host that edition.

Dean Gosper reported that after the cancellation of the Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski World Championships 2021 in China, three of four locations have been confirmed. He thanked Canada for its efforts to be the host for park and pipe, but

due to Covid-19 restrictions it wasn't possible. There are currently proposals from USA and Switzerland to host the park and pipe World Championship events.

United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) has submitted a request for additional funding, that FIS provides this planned funding up front, and it becomes non-refundable should the event(s) have to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Chairman of the Finance Commission Mats Årjes stated that he feels the same financial conditions should apply to all four organizers and to give one organizer exceptional treatment would not be fair to the others. The initial principles should be maintained for all.

Dexter Paine said that he understands that the proposal of the USSA may not work financially for FIS, but he underlined that the financial risk is too much for USSA to take the full risk of cancellation.

The Council denied the USSA request for additional upfront payment.

#### **4.2 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships Cortina d'Ampezzo (ITA)**

Flavio Roda provided an update on the preparations in Cortina and the latest update regarding the Pandemic situation.

Gian Franco Kasper reported that due to the restrictions in place he needed immediate information of who will attend the World Championships and which bubble anyone who attends plans on being accredited in.

Flavio Roda, Mats Årjes, Roman Kumpost, Eric Roeste and Michel Vion all confirmed they will attend. Peter Schröcksnadel will give his answer shortly. The bubble those attending will be accredited for will be decided once everyone can completely read through the Covid-19 protocol.

#### **4.3 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships Oberstdorf (GER)**

Alfons Hörmann reported that everything is prepared from the sport side and unfortunately, there will be no spectators allowed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Once again, the Council Members were asked to confirm their attendance and bubble for the Nordic World Ski Championships. Mats Årjes, Alfons Hörmann, Roman Kumpost, Dexter Paine, Erik Roeste, Konstantin Schad, Peter Schröcksnadel, Michel Vion and Elena Vaelbe confirmed they will attend and will inform about the bubble accordingly.

FIS received a request from the German Ski Federation for Oberstdorf for financial support to help cover the additional costs for Covid-19 measures. The total costs are € 1.3 Mio.

This is the situation that nearly every organiser is facing this season.

The Council rejected the proposal for financial support from the German Ski Federation.

#### **4.4 Protocol for Russian Team at FIS World Championships**

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) published the decision in the arbitration WADA v. RUSADA which has an impact on the athletes of the Russian Ski Federation at FIS World Championships. Below is a summary of the proposed measure in accordance with the decision, which will be given to the individual Local Organising Committees (LOCs) to be carried out.

At the FIS World Championships, the below protocol is proposed:

- Acronym > RSF (Russian Ski Federation) must be used in all abbreviations, never spelled out.
- Anthem > not yet agreed by IOC/RUS, if no decision is made before the WSC, the FIS anthem will be used instead.
- Flag > Only the NOC symbol on a white background. No Russian flag is allowed to be used in the venue and all areas which are connected to the event.
- Clothing/Logos > no Russian flag may be used on any clothing, including state symbols or the words Russia/Russian spelled out. The layouts of the uniforms must be submitted the FIS for approval.

The Council approved the above measures for the Russian delegation at all upcoming FIS World Ski Championships.

#### **5. 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Gangwon (KOR)**

The venues for Gangwon 2024 are still being reviewed with the IOC, who wishes for the Alpine, Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski competitions to take place at Yong Pyong and/or Alpensia. Gangwon 2024 wishes to include High 1 Resort for Alpine.

- Cross Country, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined: Alpensia Nordic Park
- Alpine Skiing: Yong Pyong (preferred by IOC) or High1 Resort
- Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski: Yong Pyong and/or Alpensia (both under review)

##### Programme

IOC and Gangwon 2024 have requested a proposal of the FIS disciplines for the YOG 2024 programme. The following is the proposed programme:

Combined discipline events: Nordic event and Cross event removed (-2)  
Nordic disciplines: Nordic Combined Mixed Team Event (+1), as is currently in place for the Ski Jumping event to replace the Nordic Team Event (mixed disciplines).

Cross-Country Cross (-2) replaced with Mixed Relay (+1).

Alpine Skiing: same programme as Lausanne 2020 (SL, GS, AC, TP)

Snowboard: Parallel and Mixed Team Parallel (+3) replacing halfpipe SB (-2) at the request of Gangwon 2024. No Cross Mixed Team event.

Freestyle: Dual and Mixed Team Moguls (+3) replacing halfpipe Ski (-2) at the request of Gangwon 2024. No Cross Mixed Team event.

This proposal respects the specification of the IOC not to extend the number of events and also Gangwon 2024 to include the strongest snow sports in Korea.

Michel Vion commented that perhaps it is too soon to be thinking about the YOG Gangwon 2024 and it is difficult to make such decisions so far in advance.

Dean Gosper expressed his disappointment of the removal of the halfpipe events.

Konstantin Schad supported his two fellow Council Members.

The Council approved, in principle, the event programme and the sites, upon further evaluation once technical experts can travel to Korea.

## **6. FIS Injury and Prevention Program (ISPP) Proposal**

The Council received a proposal regarding a new structure and financial support for the FIS Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program (ISPP) with the objective to have the safest possible high-performance sport, with a significant reduction of severe injuries for all disciplines and levels.

The new ISPP structure would consist of NSA working groups, science to practice partners and the FIS staff for management. A clear and defined working process and injury prevention countermeasures is based on scientific studies.

Long term funding of the ISPP management will be necessary, funding details must be explored and finalized in cooperation with the FIS Finance Commission.

Peter Schröcksnadel said the principle of the ISPP project was good, but the set-up was quite complicated and there was not a lot of content behind the proposal. And that the areas with the most injuries need to be addressed most urgently.

Mats Årjes stated that he feels it is important to find a simple structure and to wait until the season ends to discuss the structure and the level of financial support.

The Council agreed, in principle, to continue with the project but needs further information before discussing the financial implications of the project.

## **7. 52<sup>nd</sup> International Ski Congress in Portoroz (SLO)**

Gian Franco Kasper asked the Council to fix a date to determine if the FIS Congress "2020" will be held 'in person' or online. He proposed a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021, which would meet the cancellation date for the hotel and allow the National Ski Associations to make their plans.

If the Congress is virtual, some changes may need to be made to simplify the process. It may be necessary to ask National Ski Associations and Council

proposals to be postponed until the 2022 Congress to simplify the proceedings, if the decision is made to hold the Congress online.

Enzo Smrekar stated that Slovenia will try to get the information shortly if Congress delegates would be given exceptions to any Covid-19 regulations that might be in place at the time of the Congress to enter Slovenia.

The Council agreed to make the final decision about holding the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Ski Congress in person or online by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## **8. Request for change of licence**

In accordance with the International Competition Rules (ICR) change of licences will only be addressed in spring each year. As an exception the Council approved the following changes of licences, valid from season 2021/22:

### Cross-Country

- **Frederik Fodstad**, born 2001 from Norway to Columbia
- **Anastasija Vojinovic**, born 2000 from Serbia to Bosnia Herzegovina

## **9. Other Business**

### **9.1 FIS Cross-Country World Cup 2021 Lahti (FIN)**

Mats Årjes, Erik Roeste and Martti Uusitalo added the item in regards to the actions of individuals during an altercation involving Russian and Finnish athletes at the recently concluded FIS Cross-Country World Cup races in Lahti (FIN). Neither national team submitted an appeal to the decision of the jury 48 hours after the offense.

Considering there was no appeal made, the procedure is now that the FIS Council can appoint an Ethics Commission that would hear the appeal. If the FIS Ethics Commission agrees with the appeal, then it would be sent onto the FIS Court or to the FIS Council for a decision.

Martti Uusitalo said the group was not looking for specific sanctions against any individual, but to send a message that such conduct will not be tolerated.

Erik Roeste said that he believes what is most important is that FIS determines how to deal with such cases in the future so they can be dealt with quickly and efficiently with a clear procedure.

Elena Vaelbe clarified the perception of the actions of the Russian athlete and apologized for those actions, but asked that everyone move forward.

Hannah Kearney said on behalf of the athletes, she would support convening an Ethics Commission to send a message that such conduct will not be tolerated.

The Council agreed to convene a FIS Ethics Commissioner to investigate the matter. The Commissioner will be determined shortly.

## **9.2 FIS Snowboard World Cup 2021 Laax (SUI)**

Four Canadian athletes were placed in quarantine at a Snowboard World Cup event in Laax (SUI). It was discovered that three of those athletes did not respect the quarantine. Ken Read (CAN) stated that a full report of the situation has been sent to the Canadian Ski Association for review and they will take the necessary sanctions. He sincerely apologized for the team member's actions in the matter.

The FIS Council holds that any violation of the FIS Covid-19 Testing Protocol, the respective guidelines, amendments, directions and orders of the FIS Covid-19 Task Force and the Event Task Force is considered a violation of Rules and Regulations of the FIS and may lead to disciplinary sanctions.

The FIS Council delegates its competence and power to impose such sanctions to the FIS Covid-19 Task Force with immediate effect.

Sanctions imposed by the FIS Covid-19 Task Force can be appealed within 24 hours to the FIS Council. Such appeal has no suspensive effect.

The Council approved having the FIS Covid-19 Task Force propose any sanctions for the involved Canadian athletes.

## **10. Next Meeting**

President Gian Franco Kasper proposed a next Council Meeting for the end of March to make a decision about the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Ski Congress. The exact date and time will be announced later.

### **FOR THE MINUTES**

Jenny Wiedeke  
FIS Communications Director