

# 2022

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# **NORDIC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **Executive Board Cross Country Vegard Ulvang, Chairman**

The last two winters have reminded us that our sport is influenced by happenings in the world around us. In Spring 2020 we were shocked when the World Cup Finals were cancelled and society had to close down. Throughout the season 2021, thousands of competitions were cancelled due to government restrictions, but luckily, we were able to organize an almost complete Cross-Country World Cup seasons well as very successful Nordic World Ski Championships in Oberstdorf in 2021 and Olympic Winter Games in Beijing in 2022.

On the positive side, we have learned new ways of digital working with less travelling. New working groups have involved much more people in our decision-making process.

On the negative side, all the Covid-19 testing for the events has been very expensive for the teams. On social terms, we must not forget that sport is about meeting people face to face, shoulder to shoulder, building friendships in the process and finding solutions together.

In Spring 2022, international friendship is again put on a demanding test due to the terrible ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Some people say that sport and politics shouldn't be mixed, and that sport should be the glue that maintain relations between friends, even more so when their leaders are choosing war.

On the other hand, can we be indifferent to terrible human suffering when two members of the FIS family are shooting at each other?

Media comments have shown us that we are all in different ways connected to the politics of our nations. We can just hope that peaceful solutions are found and that Cross-Country competitions can bring the community together again so that friendships and understanding across borders and cultures are restored.

In the committees and working groups, the main focus of the last two years has been on improving our competition calendars connected to cost reduction for the teams and race formats discussions related to gender equality. On the table for this FIS Springs Meeting is a historic proposal for equal distances for women and men. A first step can be a principal agreement this year followed by the distances next year.

Nine different nations stepped on the podium in Beijing - one more than in PyeongChang and two more than at the WSC in Oberstdorf last year. I hope this is a positive trend. Many nations fighting for medals is the best sign for the popularity of our sport.

Another important positive trend is the increase in top level performances among women, where Germany showed the way with its two Olympic medals in Team events.

But the biggest asset for our sport is our great numbers of athletes. More than 120'000 in popular races and more than 12'000 in our Continental Cups. Together with all the great performances in our Junior- and U-23 Championships I am positive about the future.

Thanks again to the whole FIS team for their passionate work. Thanks to organizers, volunteers and athletes all over the world.

## **Sub-Committee Cross Country Youth and Children's questions**

### **Satu Kalajainen, Chair**

What a peculiar and contradicting two-year period it has been for the whole world. Two consecutive great snowy winters in many places (at least in Northern hemisphere) – on the other hand ongoing Covid-19 pandemic limiting our activities, to finish off with the current very sad crisis in Europe. Do we have any idea how our 'clientele' copes with all this? We have some idea yes – however, duty of care calls us all adults remain available as a shoulder and support where and when need be. To give hope of the better tomorrow, to stick with the routines creates that safety we all need now. The common ground, consolation and language is sport.

The number of our members remains the same, 23 nations. Meetings have naturally been online past two years, except skipping spring 2020 meeting altogether. The focus has remained on sharing the best practices, discussing the changes in race formats and executing the youth questionnaire vol2 following vol1 in spring 2020.

Winter 2020-21 was disastrous as almost every nation was forbidden to carry out national competition (even training) activity due Covid-19. Keeping children on skis was luckily aided by nature through abundance of snow and many nations declared outdoor sport actually increasing its popularity. Future will show to what extent we manage to exploit this opportunity. Winter 2021-22 seemed already much more normal again with great snow in many parts.

A wealth of discussion has gone on around the race formats. A working group was formed to brainstorm XCX integration into sprint following IOC's plans to axe XCX event off the YOG. It was (and still is) clearly stated that XCX nature of agility demanding technical skills should be reflected in some form or the other especially in youngsters' races. Spring 2022 sees the decisions made about debated equal distances for both genders and mixed relays in YOG/JWSC. It has been agreed that the race format path should be consistent once stepping into the YOG/JWSC arena and proceeding all the way up to World Cup and senior level. These types of questions were also included in the youth questionnaire sent out spring 2022.

Youth questionnaire was sent out April22 having 22 nations responding. Some 1500 youth between 13-20 years around the world gave their view and thanked FIS for asking and being interested in their opinion. Overall, big trends remained similar compared with the two-year earlier survey. New questions reflected also Covid-19. Big hope is to get this survey owned and further enhanced by FIS as snow business is like any business; worth listening to your customers and have their say.

Lots of transnational activities are done also outside the meeting times to bring and maintain children and youth to/on the snow and skis. Sincere thanks for all the active and previous members and nations. Thank you, FIS and ever supporting energetic staff. Thank you also to other committees for cross committee interaction.

## **Sub-Committee Women's Cross Country** **Virginia de Martin Topranin, Chair**

The meaningfulness of the Sub-Committee for Women's Nordic Disciplines (herein referred as SC) is more actual than ever, considering that gender equity is a FIS' priority. The Sub-Committee has encountered some challenges in the past two years, both because of the pandemic, which resulted in only one meeting per year, and because of the change in leadership. Nevertheless, the participation to the SC has not decreased and neither have the commitment and determination of its members.

The purpose of the SC aligns with FIS goals in terms of gender equity and inclusion and follows the recommendation of the development working group "Diversity and Gender balance", i.e., implementation of gender balance with maximum 60% of one gender by 2024. This goal will be pursued differently between Nordic disciplines, given the different environments and related challenges. However, cooperation, mutual exchange of knowledge and expertise, as well as support between Nordic disciplines will be ensured.

Despite the differences between NSAs and disciplines, there are some common denominators regarding challenges and barriers that women face in elite sport. Those challenges are the lack of knowledge about career paths in elite sport, the difficulty in accessing them and the attractiveness of a career in elite sport. Tackling these challenges is the aim of the SC.

The SC intends to increase knowledge, support, and opportunities for women in elite sport (especially as elite coaches and technicians) by showing and promoting virtuous role models, by creating a women network across NSAs, which will help sharing useful information, personal experiences, and empowerment. Moreover, the SC is working on the development of a mentoring program for women in elite sport. The aim is to present a proposal for approval during the FIS autumn meeting 2022 and start implementing the program in 2023.

Creating opportunities for women is a priority of the SC and indeed it supports the U.S. Ski & Snowboard's proposal of adding two women-dedicated CC World Cup Course bibs made available for each nation. This is a first step and further measures are needed to significantly improve the inclusion of women in elite sport. In that regard, it is paramount to acknowledge that the attractiveness of the elite sport environment for women is a crucial determinant for reaching the goals of diversity and gender equity. FIS all must work toward a more woman-friendly environment, that could accommodate the needs of women and allow them to provide their valuable contribution.

## **Sub-Committee Cross Country Rules and Control** **Uros Ponikvar, Chairman**

For the last two years, all Sub-Committee meetings have been carried out online.

There have been clear signals from Athletes and Teams that we should re-consider our rules on obstruction, so a big working group has been established to work on the subject. The group consisted of recent and former top athletes, coaches, ICR experts and a law expert. An ICR update proposal has been prepared and approved by Cross-Country Committee in Fall 2021 and the new rule has been successfully used for one season. The updated rules introduced shared responsibility between athletes that ski next to each other as opposed to the old rule which has given all the responsibility on the athlete that was overtaking.

Because of the Covid-19 situation, the calculation period for FIS points has been fixed from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. This decision has been valid for the last two seasons.

As to TD matters, the focus has been on the education of our TDs. All seminars have been carried out online. To keep activities under budget the decision has been that in every region the on-site TD seminar can take place every second year. The TD appointments have successfully been done in all seasons. For practical reasons we tried to limit the need to travel for appointed TDs to neighboring countries where that had been possible.

Homologation work has continued despite the pandemic. The overall number of homologated courses has overcome number 2000.

The preparation work for the Sub-Committee has been done by three main working groups: ICR working group, Homologation group and TD matters working group. This has been very efficient, but also concentrated work on relatively small number of people. At last sub-Committee meeting it has been decided to give focused tasks to persons on specific tasks. The main tasks for the upcoming Spring meeting are related to improved online education, improvement of FIS points system, Clarification of Appeals procedure, and inclusion of regularly used long distance courses for FIS competitions into homologation system.

The work of Sub-Committee has been coordinated with other Cross Country Committees.

The Sub-Committee chairman Karl-Heinz Lickert (GER) stepped down from his position after 15 years of excellent and devoted service. He has been nominated as Honorary member of Cross-Country Committee.

## **Sub-Committee Cross Country World and Continental Cup**

### **Chris Grover, Chairman**

The Sub-committee for World and Continental Cups has been very industrious over the past two years as we work to evolve Cross Country ski racing to match the ever-changing demands of our stakeholders and our fans. Under the leadership of Vegard Ulvang, and the guidance of our professional FIS Cross Country staff, we have created and participated in a myriad of working groups comprised of representatives from national teams, the industry, the race organizers, officials and leaders in the sport, with the task of evolving Cross Country racing.

One of the key areas of vision and collaboration has been the creation of a long-term World Cup calendar framework that encourages better athlete participation by clustering events and providing more periods for athlete recovery and preparation while it lessens the environmental impact of the World Cup by trying to move within geographical regions more frequently. This calendar also allows World Cup organizers to focus on long-term planning due to a predictable rotation of events, encourages non-European nations to host World Cup (Asia, North America, etc.), and often increases the number of races at each venue, providing more value for athletes, teams, and sponsors. The goal of this calendar planning has been to increase participation by marquee athletes and more total nations, while providing our fans with a reliable and recognizable product where our sport heroes can shine each weekend.

The Sub-committee continues to discuss the issue of the escalating costs associated with ski service, especially at the World Cup level, and has strategized on creative ways to keep the sport accessible and the playing field level for all nations. We have gradually increased the amount of World Cup prize money to ensure that World Cup remains the most coveted level of competition within in the sport. The Sub-committee has also attempted to meet the concerns of our valued race organizer partners as they attempt to control their costs by solidifying timelines for nations and the industry to make accommodation entries and wax cabin reservations for World Cup, thereby creating less financial risk for organizers.

We have also continued our discussion of new race formats and methods to evolve our sport to keep pace of our athletes and our fans. In 2022 the introduction of the World Cup Mixed Relay and the World Cup Mixed Team Sprint, both held in Falun, Sweden, were met with great enthusiasm from the athletes and teams that participated. The Sub-committee has also been engaged in discussions concerning race distances, including more equal distance racing for women and men. We are excited to continue to work on solutions which simultaneously preserve the long history and tradition of Cross Country but also keep the sport accessible, inspirational, and vibrant in an ever-changing world.



## **Sub-Committee Popular Cross Country Skiing**

### **Tommy Hogland, Chairman**

The skiers and LOCs have suffered from pandemic restrictions with many cancelled competitions. Monetary refund of entry fees to entered skiers has caused a very bad financial situation for organizers. Some organizers have started different versions of home edition as a way of surviving the pandemic years.

Visma Ski Classics pro tour have been able to organize almost all their events even in this pandemic period. The races that have been canceled due to lack of snow or due to pandemic restrictions have been replaced. The Visma Ski Classic pro tour has in this period developed with more teams, more female skiers and with more media coverage.

Worldloppet have coordinated charity competitions for Ukraine. These events have collected 13 000 Euro that has been given the Red Cross in Ukraine.

Due to the pandemic the number of skiers taking part in popular cross-country competitions have decreased a lot.

All reports from Worldloppet and ski classics have been presented and approved.

The age categories and classifications have been revised and is now in all popular races around the world unified according ICR rule 341.1.

The jury have now the possibility in popular competitions to use the rule Ranked as Last (RAL) for minor rule violations. This rule is mainly used when skiers without FIS-Code will be sanctioned.

Worldloppet have in this period started to public a global calendar including all popular races that would like to be in the calendar.

Worldloppet have established a global ranking system that is now in function.

Visma Ski classics have in this period beside its professional tour also created a challenger calendar. There is now limitation of number of races in the challenger calendar.

The working group for competitions in cold weather have presented a proposal to keep the existing rules in ICR 388. With the addition that electric heated equipment as sock, gloves, etc. will be allowed in all types of weather end temperature.

## **Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Y&C Questions** **Harald Haim, Chairman**

The last three meetings of the Sub-Committee for Youth and Children in Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined were held online. Although it is not the same, we all feel grateful to at least meet and have the possibility to talk and work on answering questions in our field of bringing young athletes to our sport and then develop them to athletes on the highest level.

Our biggest events are the Nordic Junior World Championships which are organized together with Cross Country. We were very lucky to have the opportunity to compete in two of our most traditional Nordic venues in the last two years with Lahti (FIN) and Zakopane (POL). The tradition of high-level sports and perfect organisation was going on and the participation of the nations was despite of the challenges in the pandemic very good. A notable fact is that the program in Nordic Combined was changed in favour of the women's races.

The FIS Children and Youth competitions were cancelled in the summer of 2020 but it was possible to organise them in 2021 which is an important step back to some kind of normality.

The biggest activity in the last two years is the work on creating the basics for organising competitions for children and youth (up to U15) in countries which were struggling a bit in the previous period of time. The label could be "New Star Trophy" and it is planned to create easy rules for participation, organisation and building or renovating jumping hills of small size to match international standards, most importantly in all safety areas. It is important to make clear that these initiatives will help both, Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined.

A working group was built and we try to connect all existing initiatives for supporting "Developing Nations" like education, training and competitions.

There is still a lot of work to do and it has to be clear that FIS can only provide ideas and some help but that the main part of the necessary work has to be made by highly motivated people in the countries who want to play a bigger role in our game.

Finally, I want to thank everybody who is contributing his work and knowledge to the development of our sport. Everybody counts and only together we can get stronger.

## **Ski Jumping Executive Committee**

### **Mika Kojonkoski, Chairman**

We have been living special times the last two years. After daily battles to hold international events, we feel happy, humble, and pleased. We have been able to run events in all levels and both genders on a good level; extremely good in men's World Cup. Athletes and teams have had their platform to compete, and Ski Jumping has been visible and popular in TV.

As the chairman of the Jumping Committee, I am very proud about the work done to make the season possible. Race directors Sandro Pertile and Chika Yoshida have done enormous efforts together with the National Ski Associations and LOCs. I want to use this opportunity to congratulate and praise everyone.

The Sub Committee work has been very active. My feeling is that members in different sub-committees are well prepared, and discussions are more productive. At the same time, the world is getting more complicated and some of the issues are very challenging.

Proposals have been well written and NSAs have been active. Through this process subjects have been well prepared and presented before Jumping committee. The decision-making process is running well and proposals to the FIS Council have been well argued.

Technology development during last two years has been strong. We have seen new innovations in skis, bindings, shoes, wedges, and suits. Strong teams are very active and innovative in this area. The industry behind ski jumping is naturally small, but in these circumstances innovation energy has been surprisingly big. All that energy is positive for Ski Jumping, but makes also challenges for our material control. In FIS we want to offer fair and clear roles and controls for athletes and teams to compete.

Development in women's ski Jumping has been one of the main topics for the committee the last two seasons. Generally, the level of jumping has improved. Personally, I need to say that I am surprised and impressed about fantastic jumps and high-level women's events.

The committee is eager to find the right way to speed up development of product. One of the main things has been to increase the number of the events especially, in lower levels. We have been able to find good LOCs for all levels and make complete calendars. At the World Cup level, it means also better opportunities for women.

The popularity of Ski Jumping has been rising in both genders over the last decades. TV has been able to show modern arenas, exciting events and developed TV graphics and competition modus. TV numbers and media values have been showing promising development and spirit among of different partners in the show have been high.

Last season was step backward in TV numbers. We need to follow and analyse this, but at the same time be strong to develop our sport to be bigger in more countries. More nations means higher value in international sport and less sensitiveness on single countries. That would be beneficial for all countries. Not for next year, but for the next decades.

## **Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Hills**

### **Hans Martin Renn, Chairman**

The work of the last two years has also changed and shaped the processes of the Sub-committee. It would be easy to whine at this point, but that's not in my nature.

Corona has influenced our work. In the first Corona year, we were able to carry out all the necessary homologations despite all the restrictions and issue the necessary certificates. A valid certificate was available to the organizers of international ski jumping events without interruption. Temporary certificates were finally issued on this basis. Contrary to the usual procedure, this approach helped us not to have to suspend any certification.

The spring meeting online worked thanks to today's technology, but the many important discussions in Zurich that were spread over two days were completely missing. If our only annual spring meeting is missing, our most important level of communication is missing. communication is everything.

This situation gave rise to the idea of organizing our own online meetings between the spring meeting cycle. We organized three additional meetings, and the number of participants was high right from the start. The acceptance within the sub-committee was also quickly high. It quickly became clear that this was the only way to drill down the "thick boards", such as revising the "Regulations for the construction of mat-covered jumping hills" or the complete reconsideration and restructuring of our own work and working methods.

Only through the additional meetings were we able to start the third online spring meeting well prepared. The result of the topics mentioned above underlines the chosen path. There were no misleading online discussions and the voting results were unanimous! At this point I would like to thank my colleagues from the sub-committee for ski jumping hills for their trust in this new form of communication. New organizational structure

The new form of communication finally made it possible for us to reorganize ourselves. This means that in the future the sub-committee will no longer be a one-man show, but that the numerous demanding tasks will be divided between six working groups. The working groups also organize themselves within the spring meeting cycle in three online meetings each.

There is a saying from my country that says "everything bad has its good side". If Corona had not existed, the sub-committee for ski jumping hills might have continued to work as before Corona. I expect the new path we have taken to improve the quality of our work in the future.

I am looking forward to the new way of working, more intensive cooperation and already today to the spring meeting 2023 with six future reports from the new working groups. Personal. At this point I would like to thank all my colleagues from the sub-committee for ski jumping hills for their reliable and constructive cooperation, as well as the chairmen of the neighboring sub-committees and the members of the ski jumping committee for their support in my work

## **Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Calendar Planning**

### **Mario Stecher, Chairman**

I would first like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to succeed Paul Ganzenhuber as head of the Calendar Committee. I would also like to express my great appreciation to Sandro Pertile, Chika Yoshida and the entire FIS Ski Jumping team for the good cooperation.

The Calendar Conference was again held online. Although the committee was again not able to be there in person, the meeting was interesting and very successful. The focus was on the past season with the calendar planning, venues and competitions. I think we can look back on a very exciting season with extraordinary performances of the athletes. I would like to note the low number of serious injuries as very pleasing.

For women's ski jumping, the possibility of organizing ski jumping competitions for the first time at the end of the next season was a big step for the future. The most positive aspect was the fact that this proposal was supported by the entire committee without any dissenting votes. Very important for the further development is also the clear commitment of the German Ski Federation regarding the organization of a women's "Four Hills Tournament".

The Austrian Ski Federation is still considering in which form and, above all, with which hills to participate and will evaluate this very soon. For the World Cup opener in Wisla (POL) it was possible to agree on a World Cup jumping event as early as the beginning of November due to the problem of overlapping with the Soccer World Cup. Here, for the first time, jumping will take place on ice track and plastic. Another very positive development is the organization of a World Cup in Iron Mountain (USA) for the first time in a long time.

I want to close by wishing everyone a good and especially accident-free season.

## **Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Equipment and Development** **Bertil Palsrud, Chairman**

The Equipment and development Committee meetings has followed the normal meeting frequency with a meeting in April before the Spring meeting for the Jumping Committee and the Congress/Calendar-conference and one meeting in October just after the Summer Grand prix season. In 2022 we decided to have two meetings in the spring session due to the fact that we needed more time to cover the different actual topics.

Focus areas in 2021: We have the precedent to not make significant changes before an Olympic season and therefore the result of the meetings in 2021 was only small adjustments.

Focus areas in 2022: In the spring session in 2022 the committee focused on adjusting and specifying some key elements for competition equipment and also introduced a new body measurement method. To be able to make the best decisions in the rules regarding skis and shoes the committee established two working groups; one for skis and one for shoes. The participants on the working group were members of the equipment committee, the FIS staff and the producers. The outcome of the work done in these working group was very positive and was the basis for the proposals for changes for the upcoming season.

I will use the opportunity to thank the producers for very good cooperation with our committee. I will also thank the equipment controllers for the quality and engagement they show every day at work, and finally a I will thank the members of the committee for the engagement they have to fine the best solutions in the different tasks we are facing.

## **Nordic Combined Committee**

### **Horst Huettel, Chairman**

In the last two years, all those responsible, trainers, supervisors and athletes have been faced with extremely great challenges.

Many of us didn't want to believe that our society in the 21st century could face such great tasks and problems with a virus called "Corona".

Nevertheless, all those responsible in Nordic Combined managed to guarantee the basis of our sport, namely the organization of the competitions, almost in full. In this context, I would like to begin my remarks by thanking race director Lasse Ottesen and his entire team, as well as all NSAs and organizing committees.

In the 2020/2021 season, the Nordic World Championships in Oberstdorf were the focus of the events. After 1987 and 2005, the Nordic World Ski Championships were held in Allgäu for the third time. Around 40 million euros were invested in the run-up for the new sports facilities in the Schattenberg ski stadium and in the cross-country stadium in Ried.

From a sporting point of view, there were two highlights for me in these two weeks.

On the one hand, of course, the premiere of the women as part of the Nordic World Ski Championships. This premiere with a triple victory for our athletes from Norway and a total of 12 nations can definitely be described as very successful. The media and many observers were very impressed by the performance of our "young discipline".

The second highlight for me was the performance and appearance of the young Johannes Lamparter (AUT). His "sporting star" rose in these two weeks and he became world champion in the individual and in the team sprint.

The past 2021/22 season was of course dominated by the Olympic Games in China. Unfortunately, many of our top athletes were hit by the coronavirus this season and during the Games. Riiber, Ilves, Frenzel, Weber and many other athletes had to be in quarantine before, during or after the Olympic Games, which of course had a very challenging impact.

Nevertheless, we were able to experience a lot of exciting and high-class competitions over the entire season. Even if the conditions in China were difficult in many respects, we were still able to experience three dramatic competitions, which were great advertising for our sport.

Finally, I would like to thank Silke Tegethof for her many years of great work as media coordinator. Silke was the "good soul" of our discipline for many years and tried to develop the sport far beyond her tasks. Sophie Hargesheimer took over this function in April 2021 and was already able to set great and new accents in her first year. Welcome to our NC family.

## **Sub-Committee for Nordic Combined Officials, Rules and Controls** **Günter Csar, Chairman**

Looking back, the efforts and measures taken to further develop the women's Nordic Combined have had a positive effect. The newly introduced Mixed-Team competition supports the dynamic development of the sport and will be a fixed component of the World Championships programme at the next World Championships. All efforts are also being made to ensure that the women's Nordic Combined will be part of the programme of the Olympic Winter Games in the future, in which the men have been a fixed component since 1924.

In the men's event, the Seefeld Triple, which has developed into a World Cup highlight over the years, has undergone a significant rule change for the first time. In order to make the TRIPLE as a product even more popular, more attractive to the public and exciting until the last day, but without losing anything of its basic sporting tendency, the course lengths have been adjusted and a bonus point system has been created instead of the actual daily gaps. This is to ensure that the DNA of the Nordic Combined, namely the combination of the two disciplines, Ski Jumping and Cross-Country skiing, is preserved in its perfection.

Ski flying for Nordic Combined has been a present topic for some time. Now the prerequisites have also been created in terms of rules to be able to implement this plan in practice in the future. While it is reserved for the best 30 athletes to show their skills on the ski jumping hills and the subsequent 10 km cross-country race, all athletes will be eligible to start in the World Cup in future according to the quota.

Despite all the challenges brought about by the pandemic, the regular TD seminar for the training and further education of the technical delegates were held in Oberstdorf in September 2021. With the high number of participants, the lively interest was documented and also the proportion of women at the TD seminars is increasing slightly but steadily, which is also noticeable in the jury nominations. It is impressive to see how committed the many colleagues are to their nominations, even when changes occur at very short notice.

The cooperation with the FIS Committee and the colleagues from Ski Jumping works very well. Together we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that Nordic Combined remains an important part of the sporting world.



# **ALPINE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **Alpine Executive Board Bernhard Russi, Chairman**

A World Cup, the Olympic Games and a pandemic have been the main themes of the past two seasons.

The most important thing I would like to say is that our sport has taken place despite all the difficulties. Alpine skiing was highly present both winters, offering attractive sports and great entertainment. It has been shown that the attractiveness and thus also the success of our sport is achieved primarily by great performances of the athletes, but then also by the great commitment of the tireless organizers and by a large fan community and only secondarily by additional show elements, and more or less filled stadiums.

The World Cups were adapted to the respective situations. The processes were successfully anticipated by our race managers and postponed or merged due to the respective restrictions.

Of course, it hurts especially when an entire continent, such as the USA and Canada in the 20/21 season, cannot hold World Cup races, and it is no less frustrating when the Continental Cups have just taken place in Europe.

But the big goal in the 20/21 season was to get as many people as possible to the world championship in Cortina. With a few exceptions, this has also been achieved. Cortina 20/21 was a great success in terms of sport, organisation and communication.

The same can certainly be said of the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing. Under the most difficult conditions (pandemic restrictions and no meaningful test races in advance), the organizing committee in Beijing has carried out the races at the highest sporting level. Of course, also with the help of many helpers, of numerous consultants and specialists from near and far and above all through the professional and competent race directors.

Our sport lives through our figureheads. But it can only exist and perhaps only grow if the basis is right. A look at the number of licensed athletes in the last 6 years shows that we have steadily increased. The 15,414 licensed in the 21/22 season (9,244 men, 6170 women) represent an increase of 13.5% compared to 2016/17.

The FIS and especially Alpine ski racing must, can and wants to grow. The next generation is facing major challenges.

However, these can only be successful if everyone pulls together, puts the sport and the cause in the foreground, are willing to accept losses and put personal and occasionally also association-internal interests behind.

Alpine ski racing is unique thanks to its surroundings, the element of snow, the mountains, the scenery and also because of the unpredictable external influences. It has a great tradition and is anchored with strong roots. Roots that you can and must build on.

**Sub-Committee for Alpine Classification**  
**Jeff Weinmann, Chairman**

Like all of FIS, the Subcommittee for the Classification of Alpine Competitors had to adjust due to COVID-19 over the past few seasons. We saw calendars upended, and athletes who were unsure if they should register not knowing if they would be able to compete.

We made accommodations due to Covid-19. The largest was that the Base List for season 2022 used results from the previous two seasons rather than just one season as is the norm. This was done because season 2020 was cut short, and season 2021 still had some nations that were not able to compete. The change allowed athletes to keep their points even when they were not able to compete.

FIS racing and National Championships continue even when other nations were not allowed into the host country due to travel restrictions. Continental Cups required all of the nations in the Cup to be able to participate for those series to be contested.

For nations who had to cancel their National Championships in season 2020 due to COVID-19, we allowed those championships to be held in season 2021 as long as they were completed by 31 December 2020. We did this again in season 2022 for championships canceled in season 2021 as long as they were held by 31 December 2021.

We also changed the process for the approval of special quotas; typically, requests for the southern hemisphere are due and approved at the Spring meeting, and requests for the northern hemisphere are due and approved at the Autumn meeting. Due to the uncertainty around calendars with Covid-19, approval could be given 10 days before the start of a series. This placed an additional burden on FIS staff but allowed flexibility with changing calendars.

When looking at our athlete registrations, races valid for FIS points, and the number of athletes who have started in races, we see very encouraging signs.

The number of alpine athletes registered for the FIS list has rebounded and there are now more total athletes registered as well as more first-year athletes registered than there were in season 2019 before the pandemic.

Number of Athletes Registered				Number of 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Athletes Registered			
Season	Women	Men	Total	Season	Women	Men	Total
2019	4,775	7,537	12,312	2019 (YOB 2002)	1,231	1,584	2,815
2020	4,820	7,598	12,418	2020 (YOB 2003)	1,218	1,557	2,775
2021	4,817	7,377	12,194	2021 (YOB 2004)	1,208	1,479	2,687
2022	5,083	7,723	12,806	2022 (YOB 2005)	1,301	1,589	2,890

The number of races valid for FIS points has also rebounded with more in season 2022 than there were in 2019 after a steep decline in 2020 when the last quarter of the season was lost. Impressively, the 2022 number was higher than in 2019 even while some regions continued to be impacted by COVID-19. There continues to be concern regarding the limited number of downhill race opportunities available to athletes, even with the number of races growing.

Races Valid for FIS Points													
	Women						Men						Total
	DH	SG	GS	SL	AC	Total	DH	SG	GS	SL	AC	Total	
2019	77	140	551	665	27	1,460	77	153	577	703	36	1,546	3,006
2020	50	113	355	473	24	1,015	49	112	374	495	23	1,053	2,068
2021	56	116	457	564	30	1,223	59	126	471	580	35	1,271	2,494
2022	89	141	548	716	30	1,524	94	150	573	738	33	1,588	3,112

The number of athlete starts in the alpine races that were valid for FIS points has also outpaced season 2019.

Number of FIS Alpine Starts	
Season	Starts
2019	188,979
2020	134,666
2021	158,999
2022	193,557

All of the above shows the resilience of alpine ski racing. Families are excited to get back outside. They see alpine ski racing as a low-risk healthy activity.

It is exciting to see our sport grow, and I am optimistic as we continue to return to normal, alpine ski racing will continue its growth.

## **Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses**

### **Elena Gaja, Chair**

At the online FIS Congress in 2020, the Sub Committee for Alpine Courses counted 14 members, 64 inspectors and 6 honorary members; nevertheless, during the reporting period the number of inspectors decreased to 55, coming from 32 countries, even if the number of Homologation Certificates issued was higher if compared to the previous period.

Indeed, during last 2 seasons, 933 Homologation Certificates were issued, sent and published, 109 more than the previous ones, approving competition courses in 37 countries, 328 ski resorts and appointing 60 inspectors.

The number of DH homologations is stable, although we had a small increase in SG representing together 23% of the total amount, but the huge increase concerned again technical events, that scored a +16%. We had a very little increase regarding the Parallel.

The Sub Committee met online 4 times, twice per year, although online meetings for our activity are not productive as the in-person meetings. The inability to organize the bi-annual on-venue gathering, gave us a stop in the education & training process that I hope we'll have the opportunity to resume as soon as possible.

#### **On-Line Homologations System - Inspection Report Form**

The Homologation online system is reliable, working very well and allowing us to take immediate action whenever necessary. Of course, it can be improved, notably implementing what we partly already started in order to have it completely 'on line' and be able to record all data so that they can be fully processable and editable.

The Inspection Report form, core document of the Homologation Booklet, has been slightly amended in order to contain both specific details about the safety meanings in the Finish Area (new point 6.1) and then the eventual exceptions that seldom we have to deal with asking to the Council to grant (new point 4b): exceptions may concern the minimum or maximum of the Vertical Drop for a given Event, or most of the times, the minimum or maximum number of the Direction Changes to be set on competition courses with sections very steep or very flat, resulting in having to decide that the rules of gate distance are prevailing rather than the rules of percentage vs vertical drop (following art. 801.2.4.1 *"Exception for cases where the number of direction changes cannot be fulfilled due to unusual terrain, the Homologation certificate will show that an exemption has been granted"*).

#### **FIS TDs Additional Reports**

The excellent cooperation with the TDs continues as we are receiving additional reports during the seasons: they basically concern issues on the slopes like changed conditions of the terrain, building of new lifts and/or not good maintenance of the competition courses like the lack of the basic cleaning and brushing or not recovering the nets during the summer time with bad consequences on their efficiency and above all the reduced safety for our athletes.

#### **Inspections - Exceptions**

Despite the difficult conditions caused by the Pandemic, the group of Inspectors could accomplish rather all the necessary missions in order to ensure both new or re-homologations: during the 2020 summer we had to grant few 1-year-validity extensions, due to the inability to travel or to cross national borders (11 in total, 2 in Canada, 6 in Spain, 1 in Italy and 2 in

Romania) but the following summer it was possible to inspect these courses restoring the normal activity; then, the same happened during the fall 2021 (4 in Iran and 1 in Korea), situation that will be fixed this coming summer.

### **SC Alpine Courses Constitution**

At the online meeting in spring 2021 it has been approved a proposal concerning the SC constitution defined in the *FIS Rules and Terms of Reference for the FIS Committees*, according to which to be nominated member of the SC it's mandatory to be qualified as FIS homologation inspector; therefore the article 33.2 now states: *"Given the particularly technical nature and safety implications of the topics discussed, proposed and/or decided, the nominated members must be previously qualified as "FIS Homologation Inspectors"*

### **Gender Balance**

Gender Diversity guidelines have been communicated to the members, promoting educational pathways in each country: it's nevertheless clear that such a technical activity involves skills and a kind of experience that very hardly can be reached in a so short period of time, therefore it would be very risky in terms of safety to speed up the process too much; once this said, it has been highly recommended to each NSAs to start as soon as possible the promotion and education, as the earliest they begin, the earliest results will be visible.

### **FIS Office – Inspectors**

A warm thank you goes to all the people that make this activity possible, starting from the FIS staff in Oberhofen, Josephine, Janez, Daniel, Race Directors and Continental Cups Coordinators, going through the great and enthusiastic group of SC Members and Inspectors always ready to run worldwide, ending with the hundreds of courses' owners asking for our advice and organizing our competitions even if with great difficulties and economic problems.

## **Sub-Committee for Women's Alpine** **Karen Korfanta, Chair**

The last two winter seasons were a test to not only Alpine ski racing but the entire world.

Covid affected every aspect the Alpine ski racing, every nation saw limited participation at all levels and in some cases in 2021 no participation at all, Czech Republic and Slovakia had no lower level or cross border events and in Canada, most racing and training was put on hold.

Thankfully, by 2022 most NSAs were able to host events, provide training for athletes at all levels and bring to all the joy of participation.

In 2021, at the women's World Cup level all stakeholders took on the enormous task of hosting women's World Cup events. Sites had limited participants, no spectators, no public events, strict Covid protocols and mother nature (extreme, earthquake).

There was a calendar of 34 races with only three cancelations. Flexibility amongst all stakeholders provided for successful events. The season required everyone to take on the challenge including. The athletes were excited to be ski racing!

Communication to and from all parties became even more critical, social media was vital, but how, when and what to say created new challenges. Finish areas incorporated the successful bubble concept to be used in 2021-22 and subsequent years.

The women's sub-committee posed new questions to the Race Directors concerning protocols for medical/injuries at World Cup sites and rapidly changing covid protocols kept NSAs scrambling to meet different countries restrictions.

Everything learned during 2021 needed to be incorporated into the winter of 2022, Covid protocols were still in place in many locations, but in others spectators were allowed, resorts were open to the public and this created new challenges. Having spectators was great but keeping everyone healthy presented its own challenges.

2021-2022 calendar had most men's/women's and tech/speed races separated and no combined or parallel. Women's World Cup did return to the United States and Canada, with Killington and Lake Louise.

The 2022 World Cup season was great with mostly good weather, excellent course preparation and outstanding athletic performances. Challenging weather showed up in Beijing, but with strong leadership of the Race Directors all events were contested. In Beijing the Race Directors were able to take the experiences, learned from the men's races, and adapt the women's races using the same track and almost the same course.

Speed event participation continues to be a challenge at all levels. The Europa Cup successfully hosted training prior to speed events. The Race Directors encourage NSAs to take on the responsibility to host camps, develop sound, safe protocols for encouraging and developing women speed athletes. The Copper Speed Project was well received.

A revived FIS initiative, Diversity and Gender Balance, is again moving aggressively to engage not only the FIS organization but all the NSFs. The women's sub-committee is fully committed to the support of Diversity and Gender Balance initiatives. Many committee members currently

represent their NSAs on other committees and several members are acting technical delegates at World Cup and FIS level events. FIS Women's Seminars have been supported by the women's committee since 2008 and in the past year submitted topics on gender parity, anatomical differences and progression of female coaches from entry level to World Cup level.

The entire FIS organization is quickly moving forward with new initiatives and the alpine women's sub-committee is eager to contribute to further enhance women's Alpine ski racing.

A special thank you to Peter Gerdol, Markus Mayr, Jean-Philippe Vulliet, Andres Kronner, Jordi Pujol and Giulia Candiago, Stefanie Gerber and the FIS staff. The past two seasons had enormous challenges, but Peter and his team took on the challenge, executed and produced successful women's alpine ski races. At the NSA level ski racing returned due to the dedicated efforts of professional and volunteer staffs, congratulations to all.

Jean Philippe is departing, but his contribution on women's ski racing is evident, so thank you Jean-Philippe and welcome Alberto Senigagliaesi.



## **Sub-Committee for Alpine Rules**

### **Michael Huber, Chairman**

The past two years proved, that the personal contact is the main source of coordination, productivity and creativity, especially for our type and structure of FIS organization. All FIS alpine rules meetings only took place “online”, this main power source was missing.

#### Spring 2020 Meeting

- As a special feature for the first online meeting, the agenda was accompanied by a questionnaire to get opinions before the meeting and to facilitate the workflow to assist the organization of an online meeting. About 50 % of the members answered, which then was circulated again with a written “Report of the Chairman”.
- ICR art. 1001.1.4. Unanimously supported was the proposal to reduce the Vertical Drop of the Super-G for the level of Entry League Races (ENL) from 350 (old) to 300 (new) meters.
- ICR. 1212.f. Unanimously supported was the proposal to rename the ATE Alpine Team Event to TP Mixed team Parallel.
- The update of the ICR rules about the “Parallel” (art. 1220.ff), expected since the major change of 2019, was postponed for the fall meeting. A special group to deal with this item with members out of the subcommittee was introduced.
- The intended update by the chairman of the ICR rules in regard to the “KO System” (art. 1240ff) and the “Alpine Combined start order 2<sup>nd</sup> run” (art. 1100.f) was postponed
- Manfred Kattengell, serving voluntarily for the SC Alpine Rules and other Sub-Committees for about 30 years, was proposed to be assigned as Honorary Member of this SC.

#### Spring 2020 Meeting

- No online meeting took place, as no urgent matters arose.
- ICR art. 604.3. The Alpine Committee unanimously supported the proposal from the FIS Corona Task Force, to permit Team Captain’s Meetings also on-line
- A proposal to introduce the possibility of a Super-G in 2 Runs with a limited Vertical Drop of 250 – 350 m was discussed and postponed until the next meeting.

#### Spring 2021 Meeting

- ICR art. 621.11.3. Unanimously supported was the proposal to precise about the starting order 2<sup>nd</sup> Run at FIS Races, valid for all levels, (Jury decision one hour before 1<sup>st</sup> Run about reversed 15 only as an exception, instead of reversed 30 as the usual rule).
- ICR art. 604.3. Unanimously supported was the proposal to precise, that Team Captain’s Meetings can be held on-line as a general possibility.

#### Fall 2021 Meeting

- No online meeting took place, as no urgent matters arose.
- At the Alpine Committee meeting, the Chairman Alpine Rules reported that in principle, it is the task of the Sub-Committee Alpine Rules to watch the wording within the ICR section Alpine, but does not has responsibility about the basic philosophy of Alpine Ski Racing.

Finally, the Alpine Appeals Commission did not have a case during the reported two periods.

## **Sub-Committee for Alpine TDs**

### **Marco Malsiner, Chairman**

The Covid-19 pandemic has dominated our lives since it hit the world stage at the beginning of March 2020. Since then, our activities have been firmly entrenched in addressing the implications of the pandemic. Despite this peculiar situation, the alpine technical delegates worked extremely successful to ensure fair and safe competitions worldwide, conducting more than 4. 300 competitions every year. We had at least two successful winter seasons. Although very strict regulations had to be observed also this year, it was still possible to carry out the racing season without bigger problems.

It is with satisfaction that we can look back to the last season and see that we didn't have more cancellations of the competitions or postponements as in the past years, even if it became more and more difficult to find TD's who were available to change or postpone their scheduled days of the assignments.

The very good collaboration among colleagues made it possible to ensure the presence of the TD's even with changes on short notice, affecting 20 to 25 percent of all competitions.

In 2019 the FIS Council took a decision regarding the gender equity within all the aspects of our sport. This is an important topic and we have to consider this to reach also a better gender balance for the TDs in future. Of course, it will be a challenge for all of us, since the majority of the national technical delegates who want to pursue the career of the FIS TD are male.

This year a new fact rocked our world and to ensure the safety and security of all athletes at FIS competitions, the FIS Council decided unanimously on March 1st 2022, in line with the IOC recommendation, that with immediate effect, no Russian or Belorussian athlete can participate in any FIS competition at any level through the end of the 2021-2022 season.

A big thank you goes to all the Alpine Technical Delegates for their excellent work, to our 16 commissioners for their outstanding management, to the Alpine Coordinator Janez Flere, who solved more or less all our problems and was available 24/7, the IT manager Daniel Defago, to Tatjana Luessy and to Steffi Gerber. A particular thank you goes also to our previous chairman Walter Vogel, who conducted this Sub-Committee for many years.

## **Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup**

### **Walter Vogel, Chairman**

Most of the reports will begin by saying that the past two years have been dominated by the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is even more true for the Alpine World Cup.

But at the end of two difficult, challenging and gruelling seasons, we are happy and proud to have done all the races and to be able to say: We delivered – and saw great athletes, exciting competitions and hard fights to win the World Cup globes. And: we proved to be a trustworthy partner for our partners, who thankfully continued to support our athletes in a proven manner.

Unfortunately, in 2020/21 the races took place without spectators and without events in North America, last winter the spectators came back to the stadiums and with them the atmosphere.

Our special thanks is given to the organizers and NSAs. In very difficult times they showed a huge commitment to our sports, giving us the opportunity to race during the pandemic, solving many new challenges as hygienic concepts or missing revenue.

The calendars were adapted to the conditions of the pandemic with a strict separation of technical and speed events. In addition, the balance between the two event groups could be optimized, especially in the 2021/22 season. This will also be an important goal for the future, as will the focus on the four core events Downhill, Super-G, Giant Slalom and Slalom with a maximum of a total of 40 competitions.

The calendar management as well as the future of the Alpine Combined and Parallel races will continue to be much discussed. New working groups such as the Future Alpine Vision Group bring additional contributions and input. The desire for expansion and growth is great, understandable and desirable. However, we must not disregard the athletes and their resilience. Paying attention to these issues, integrating new ideas and putting them into practice remains a task for the near future.

Finally, I would like to thank both race directors, their teams and staff for the great job they have done in the past two years and their support. I would also like to thank the members of the sub-committee for their trustful cooperation as well as for their commitment and enthusiasm for the Alpine World Cup.

## **Sub-Committee for Alpine Intercontinental Cups** **Stefano Pirola, Chairman**

The Corona pandemic had a huge impact in all the Continental Cups in the last two years with the cancellation of all the races in the ANC, SAC in the last two seasons and in the NAC in the season 2020/2021. The EC has been a quite normal season with some cancellations and in the FEC some races had been in Juzno-Sakhalinsk (RUS). Thanks for the tremendous efforts must give to FIS and organizers to have strict protocols and controls to avoid Covid 19 cases.

On the season 2020/2021 a total of 63 races were held:

EUROPA CUP	47
NOR AM CUP	0
FAR EAST CUP	16
SUTH AMERICAN CUP	0
AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND CUP	0

During the season 2021/2022 again all the Southern Hemisphere Cups ANZ and SAC, could not organize any Continental Cup race due to the travel restrictions in place.

In the Europa Cup due to less travel restrictions between Central European countries they could organize a normal calendar with only the cancellation of the entire Scandinavian early season races but they could be replaced later in the season. At the end it was a big job for our race directors and organizers to complete a challenging season.

Also, the NorAm Cup organized races again with a successful season. They continue to strive to elevate the level of the NAC to ensure it is the highest-level competition in North America. The EC and NAC are in a very good situation comparing to the other COC that they must cancel all the races or not organize any CoC races in the last two seasons.

The Far East Cup cancelled all the races in Japan and Korea due to travel restrictions in place and all the races in RUS were cancelled according to the resolution of the FIS Council.

So, regarding the season 2021/2022 a total of 114 races were held:

EUROPA CUP	63
NOR AM CUP	51
FAR EAST CUP	0
SUTH AMERICAN CUP	0
AUSTRALIAN NEW ZEALAND CUP	0

During the last two seasons the COC faces great challenges due to the Covid-19 Pandemic but thanks to the big efforts of all the stakeholders, some of Cups could run a normal calendar and hopefully the other Cups like ANZ, FEC and SAC will run their calendars again on the season 2022/2023. Big thanks goes to Jordi Pujol and Wim Rossel for the outstanding job done during the last two years.

I would like to thank the FIS Council to allow me to lead this Sub Committee, to the all the Chairman's of the different Cups and to the staff at the FIS Office for their constant support.

## **Sub-Committee for Australia New Zealand Cups**

### **Fiona Stevens, Chair**

The Covid19 pandemic has dominated the last two years and had a huge impact on the FIS and Continental Cup levels in our sport.

Australia and New Zealand borders were closed for two winters in a row, forcing ANC cancellations in 2020 and 2021.

Many of our developing athletes in their first 2-3 years of FIS and ANC racing rely on those competitions to establish their careers, lower FIS points and to travel to the Northern Hemisphere to train, compete and gain experience. Similarly, we have not had the benefit of international teams visiting. For example: Alice Robinson's preparation and training was severely disrupted by our lockdowns and border closure. Her team could not enter New Zealand to coach her. She had to leave and stay away for six plus months for two years in a row. Our athletes, coaches and support could not come and go freely.

The wider implications beyond the likely drop off in numbers, includes performance, costs, resources, athlete welfare and engagement, may not be seen immediately.

Encouragingly, there are green shoots at the grassroots and junior level. With borders closed people returned to ski holidays in big numbers. Children's snow sports programmes and competitions were buoyant.

The ANC focussed on supporting the athletes still competing with proposals to FIS to protect their status and start positions in the Northern Hemisphere.

We would like to thank FIS and the member countries for supporting our proposals in these times that helped our athletes continue competing in the Northern Hemisphere and mitigating the impacts of no competition in the Southern Hemisphere.

Finally, our two countries are now open to the world and the ANC's will be held this winter. We look forward to welcoming International teams back to our slopes in 2022 and reconnecting with the FIS family.

## **Sub-Committee for Australia New Zealand Cups** **Michihiko Nakamura, Chairman**

For the season 2021-22, FEC competitions were planned by three nations, KOR, JPN, and RUS. Unfortunately, all planned races were cancelled due to Covid-19 situation and other unfortunate causes. The Covid-19 situations were different by nations, especially for FEC region, teams had to travel by airplanes and not easy to cross the border.

for season 2021-22, we started without China races again, China needed to confocus on Beijing Olympic 2022. We are all of course supported China and are happy that they staged a successful OWG.

All races in Korea were also cancelled, however meantime, FEC committee negotiated with the Russian Ski Association to reschedule Russia National championships to fit in a few races which were lost in Korea. Many thanks to RSA they provide the fast visa issuing service and some travel support.

After Beijing 2022, it was a huge disappointment that we had to cancel Japanese series due to Omicron virus and other trouble for series in Russia. Then FEC had close the season without any competition.

FEC committee strongly feel the importance of making a new step foreword. Beijing 2022 provided high interest in snow sports not only for the host nation, among Asian nations inflated interests. FEC committee, the gathering of 13 nation in Far Eastern Asia will be a leading group to promote Alpine ski seen.

For the 2022-23 season, we would like to be back to before Covid-19 pandemic environments. There are still a few countries which are not totally open yet. However, many nations are trying to live with C-19. Hoping we will be able reform even better. The legacy of Beijing 2022 must be inheritance, and continuation of excitement in our heart should lead us to higher steps.

These challenges should be with education of competition operations that will create more experienced personals for safe and high-quality competition at all level.

Ski friends are all good people and our relation will bring safety and peace!!

# **SNOWBOARD, FREESTYLE, FREEKI COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **Committee for Snowboard, Freestyle Freeski Dean Gosper, Chairman**

The unification of Snowboard, Freestyle and now Freeski, is underpinned by a shared vision of expanding global snowsports into the future. Our Mission is simple: collaborate to build sustainable events that athletes want to compete in, and audiences want to follow.

The pinnacle of the past two years was certainly the Olympic Winter Games of Beijing 2022 where the exciting events of Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski, continue to demonstrate their unique and complementary value to the FIS family, given their global footprint, connection with youth and a 40% share of the FIS Olympic pathway. Given the well know global challenges at the time, Beijing 2022 can only be described as a highly successful. The success of the Chinese athletes across our disciplines provides a unique platform for the growth of our sport and the industry in that country.

The invasive impact of the pandemic on our sport and our industry are well appreciated. On behalf of our Disciplines, I extend heartfelt appreciation for the efforts of all involved in securing the ongoing safety of our athletes but on a basis that enabled them to continue to execute their amazing talents in recent seasons.

Since the Moscow Olympic boycotts of 1980, Sport has held firmly to the principle of separating itself from politics. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia, however, has united sport in its response by way of the peaceful but disruptive actions at its disposal. These decisions were not taken lightly. Their impact is on athletes and officials who are our friends and have had nothing to do with the invasion. I speak for all, as we hope for an end to hostilities and a peaceful outcome.

It was with regret that in 2021, the Freestyle Snowboard World Championships was relocated away from China due to the Pandemic. At the same time, this blue-ribbon event went ahead under the skilled hosting by four National partners. First was Idre Fjäll (SWE) as host of the Cross events. This was followed by the hosting of the Snowboard Alpine events in Rogla (SLO). The Freestyle events of Aerials and Moguls were hosted by Almaty (KAZ). Finally, the Snowboard and Freeski events in Park & Pipe were hosted by Aspen (USA). Aspen also took the opportunity to host much welcomed, additional World Cups.

Live media exposure remains the single biggest challenge for our events. This was reaffirmed by the Council appointed SB-FS-FK Future Working Group. Its recommendations together with the vision of centralised rights management provide a pathway to resolve this issue.

In concluding, I take the opportunity to thank all volunteers and staff involved in the organisation and delivery of our global collection of events.



## **Sub-Committee for Snowboard, Freestyle Freeski Y&C Questions** **Denis Giger, Chairman**

The Sub-Committee now comprises 32 members from the sports Freestyle (FS), Snowboard (SB) and Freeski (FK). The topics are the FIS Freestyle Events (Aerials and Moguls), the FIS Cross Events (Ski and Snowboard Cross), the FIS Park and Pipe Events in Ski and Snowboard (Halfpipe, Slopestyle, Big Air) as well as the FIS Snowboard Alpine Events (Parallel Slalom and Parallel Giant Slalom). The Sub-Committee meets twice a year, during the FIS Technical Meetings, in autumn and early summer.

Since the restructuring of the SBFSFK Committee and its strategic orientation, I have been working on the definition of clear goals, the positioning and the role of the Youth and Children Sub-Committee within the FIS. It is very important to me that the experience and knowledge from the various committees and groups as well as from the national associations can be passed on to the grassroots (NSA) in a structured form.

### The FTEM Athlete Pathway

In order to encourage children to take up snow sports, to inspire young people to take up competitive sports, and to motivate the youth to aim higher and train hard, clear strategies, tactics, measures, perspectives, goals and objectives must be defined. In coordination with the SBFSFK Committee, we consulted the FTEM framework concept to highlight key components such as age groups, competition forms, competition pipelines and their levels. With this framework concept, the sport development of athletes should be comprehensible, controllable and optimized - both in grassroots and elite sports. The concept also helps to identify potential and work on weaknesses. The framework concept is intended to achieve the following three main goals:

1. Improve the coordination and systematics of sports promotion
2. raise the level of competitive sports
3. keep people in sports for a lifetime

I am sure that based on this FTEM (Foundations, Talent, Elite and Mastery) framework, development paths and transitions between grassroots and elite sports can be better identified and more effectively and efficiently addressed by FIS.

I am pleased that our Sub-Committee can contribute to the further development of snowboard and freestyle sports.

## **Sub-Committee Park & Pipe**

### **Jeremy Foster, Chairman**

Like every sport, the Park & Pipe Sub-Committee was focused on the impact and navigating the challenges of Covid-19 over the last two years. Significant acknowledgement should be given to the FIS Park & Pipe staff who led this effort along with all of FIS, Nations, Organizers, and all other stakeholders in support of the athletes and the sports. Particularly, the impact to the 2021 World Championships and World Cup schedules that challenged the ability to conduct events and a competition calendar globally. In addition to the significant work done to adjust the sports various ranking lists due to the impacts of Covid. Including the incredible efforts done at a JWC, CoC and other events returning to normal and fulfilling the scope of setting the pathway from development events to the Olympic games.

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games provided an amazing opportunity for the Park & Pipe events to be viewed globally. High quality venues allowed for some exceptional moments from athletes representing a broad range of nations globally. The inclusion of Big Air Skiing into the 2022 Olympic Winter Games was a notable moment for the sport.

After several Covid related delays the FIS/WSF partnerships was confirmed with the focus on cooperation towards global snowboard alignment. This includes the support and management of the World Snowboard Points List (WSPL) which is broadly recognized as the most representative ranking list within the Park & Pipe events. As part of that partnership, the Park & Pipe Classification Advisory Group expanded its membership to include 5 WSF representatives who will provide broad perspective within the group. Their knowledge and expertise will bring additional value to the Classification Advisory Group and its future work. Would again like to acknowledge and thank Snowboard-Freestyle-Freeski Committee Chairman, Dean Gosper (AUS) for his continued leadership and support through this process.

The Park & Pipe Sub-Committee also revised the FIS Points List structure in Park & Pipe events only. This was part of the on-going harmonization efforts to better align ranking lists between snowboard and freeski events. Would like to recognize former Chairman Chris Witwiki (CAN) who provided critical leadership of the Classification Group during its initial two years. Welcome to Julie Stegall (CAN) who will assume Chair responsibilities and Lesley McKenna (GBR) who will become Vice Chair.

The Judges Working Groups, led by Ola Sundquist (SWE) in collaboration with David Ortlieb (SUI), accelerated online judges education platforms as a way to continue education that was impacted by Covid restrictions. Park & Pipe will need to continue to emphasize judges education and support going forward to ensure the high level implementation of our competitions on a consistent basis. The acknowledgment of the importance of this group and the need to find appropriate and innovative solutions in order to continue the health and growth of the sports.

## **Sub-Committee Ski Cross**

### **Tommy Eliasson, Chairman**

One year has passed since the decision was made to move our committee from Freestyle to Alpine. Our first official meeting was held online in October 2021 but was preceded by several meetings where two working days in Oberhofen served as a basis for creating a clear direction for the committee's future work.

Our work is characterized to a large extent by the culture that has developed within the Skicross family where we own our own opportunity and take responsibility for the outcome of our choices and efforts. This is a nice part of our sport and something to cherish as we now enter a time of change.

During the year, we worked on primarily five projects that are important for the future:

- A new ski cross ICR
- New FIS Point system based on performance rather than rank
- FIS Licensing alignment with Alpine
- Expanded World Cup calendar
- Vision Statement 2028

These projects are led by committee members but are handled in close collaboration with the ski cross advisory group, the athlete representatives and the FIS staff.

#### The Olympic and World Cup Season 2021/2022

It was with great uncertainty we entered the last season. Race Director Klaus Waldner together with Assistant Race Director Christian Cretier worked hard to ensure that the season's World Cup could be organized with a test event in Zjiangjiakou which we can now say was important to give the Olympic organizers the opportunity to gain experience. The Olympic Games was, given the conditions, a great success for our sport.

The season's World Cup included 15 planned competitions, of which 13 were held. Unfortunately, Russia's invasion of Ukraine caused an impossible situation for the execution of competitions in Sunny Valley, which led to their cancellation.

The season was a great success from a sporting, commercial and organizational perspective as it has repeatedly been challenged by the pandemic and its various natural consequences due to the fact that we competed on three continents and in 8 different countries.

The future is bright but not without problems. Coming into the next season, we will be without a joint title sponsor for the World Cup, but the ski cross family wants to view this as an opportunity. We have 20 planned competitions on the most comprehensive World Cup calendar ever seen in our discipline and a strong community willing to put in the work so let's together make sure to create a common force to not only increase the value of the World Cup as a brand, but also generate improved opportunities for our athletes and NSAs to create a greater exposure.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the FIS staff for a fantastic job with the execution of the season, my committee colleagues for your patience and progressive way of working, our athletes for their commitment and behavior and all the NSAs for a well-conducted season.

## **Sub-Committee Snowboard Cross**

### **Peter Krogoll, Chairman**

The work of the Snowboard Cross Sub- Committee in the last two years was focused on two totally opposite activities. On one side the completion of the harmonization process with Ski Cross to get combined rules for Cross events and on the other side establishing a new independent Committee after the decision of the Council to split the Cross Sub Committee in a stand alone Ski Cross Committee and our Snowboard Cross Sub Committee. Anyhow the cooperation between these two Committees should continue for upcoming major events.

The Olympic Winter Games in Beijing have been our highlight in the last two years. The Snowboard Cross events generated fantastic, entertaining TV images of competitions rich in action and sufficiently safe at the same time. The premiere of the Snowboard Cross Mixed Team event was received as a great success. Goal must be to come back to a faster relay competition where the second athlete starts directly after the first ones have crossed the finish line. New timing technologies have to be developed.

After all the restrictions and regulations in the season 2020/2021 due to the pandemic situation our competition calendar was coming back to normality last season. For the upcoming season 9 tour stops are scheduled for the Worldcup.

The bases of the World Cup, actually of all our tours/cups, naturally are organizers and federations organizing competitions. As long as not at least the “big nations”, big in terms of their sport program, number of competitors and top rankings in major competitions, not at least those, can afford and manage to host World Cups on a consistent base, the Snowboard Cross keeps lacking its fundamental base. Keeping our standards for course building and safety as high, financing competitions will be more difficult. The main task for us and the FIS, its members and stakeholders will remain to find ways to bring more money into the game.

The feedback of TV producers and, even more important, our viewership, leaves us convinced that the product we are generating, based on the fantastic performance of the athletes, improved a lot over the past years and provides high quality content already. Small details might be adjusted, but there must be a future-oriented way to define and plan how to promote, market and finally sell our sport. An Advisory Group has been established to find a new strategy for the next steps.

But finally, all our sportive success makes us optimistic that Snowboard Cross will remain as an indispensable part of our colorful world of snow sports and possibly even emerge stronger in the next years.

## **Sub-Committee Moguls & Aerials**

### **Walter Hiltner, Chairman**

We welcome Andrea Rinaldi as the new Race Director replacing the retiring Joe Fitzgerald. Joe, for 40yrs, dedicated his life to the building of FIS events and leaves Andrea with a strong calendar and effective systems for the continued promotion and growth of Freestyle.

In looking back the past few years the challenges thrown up by COVID loomed large, affecting competitions around the world at all levels. Freestyle was more fortunate than many of the Events and Disciplines as the work of the FIS Office and Race Directors, mitigated many of the issues, with only few competitions at the higher levels affected.

One positive note - COVID necessitated the use of remote judging and further IT development for online and web-based systems for communication and officials' education.

Once again Freestyle events featured highly at the Olympics in Beijing. Looking toward the 2026 Olympics considerable effort has been made for the inclusion of Dual Moguls. Popularity of the Freestyle events gives great confidence of its addition to the Olympic program.

New events of Team Aerials and Team Moguls are exciting additions to the competition calendars providing another stage for athletes to exhibit their skills and expose our events to a wider audience.

I will be stepping down as Chairman of the Freestyle Sub-committee this year making way for a new Chair to inject fresh new ideas and direction as Freestyle continues to grow and develop in the decades to come.

## Sub-Committee Alpine Snowboard Cesare Pisone, Chairman

Despite the pandemic, Alpine Snowboarding has proven to be the most sustainable discipline into our Freestyle Snowboard and Freeski family: The quantity of our competition around the world has shown how Alpine Snowboarding is really exciting to watch for all spectators.

Our Sub-Committee activities during the last 2 years were focused to increase:

- Quality of competitions into World Cup and we can be happy about it

All of the LOCs did a great job with slope, snow preparation, and TV pictures.

We still need to increase:

- Consideration of Alpine Snowboarding into FIS

The only discipline into Snowboard Family where on our rules there is a real Gender Equity because into the finals, we have the same amounts of men and women

We need:

- Addition of a second Alpine Snowboard event in the Olympic Program
- Addition of an Alpine Snowboard event in the next Winter YOG

Through our Subcommittee we have induced 10 NSA to submit this proposal

*The addition of Snowboard Mixed-Team Parallel Slalom as an Additional Snowboard Event in the Olympic Winter Games, starting from OWG 2026 in Milano-Cortina*

Snowboard Alpine was the first Snowboard Olympic discipline at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, along with Halfpipe. As such, Snowboard Alpine is one of the most traditional Snowboarding Olympic disciplines and has been successful for many years, changing and developing as single GS and SL, parallel GS and SL, and Mixed-Team Parallel Event.

These changes and developments, especially the Mixed-Team Parallel Event, is fully in line with the requirements of our sport and in accordance with the IOC recommendations (as Olympic Agenda 2020), which can be seen in the success of this discipline in recent years, including urban events, with many young and experienced athletes playing and gaining a lot of support on TV broadcasts.

Sustainable

Gender Equality

Exciting

Easy to organize

Resources gently

Media and TV relevant

Parallel Format allows a rapid process without delays

Following this item, it is currently inexplicable why Alpine Snowboarding is not in the programme of the Winter YOG. We would like to have an Alpine Snowboard event in the next YOG; our sport is the base to learn all other disciplines in the Snowboard Family and is fundamental to the growth of every little snowboarder.

# **NON-OLYMPIC DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **Committee Speed Skiing Per Kjellstrom, Chairman**

The disappointing season 2019/20, where most of the Speed ski competitions had to be cancelled due to the covid-19 pandemic, left us with the hope that in season 2020/21 it would be possible to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, the situation was even worse. The World Championships, which were planned to take place in Vars (France), the race in Salla (Finland), the World Cup Final in Grandvalira (Andorra), and the Speed ski race of the newcomer Formigal (Spain) had to be cancelled, as ski resorts in those countries had to stay closed. The only races that could occur in the Season 2020/21 were in Idrefjäll (Sweden), which hosted 3 World Cup races in March that allowed a valid World Cup competition in 2020/21.

Despite the budget challenges resulting from the lost ski season in 2020/21, the ski resorts still bet on continuing to host World Cup Speed ski races in season 2021/22. A highlight of the Season 2021/22 were the successful World Championships in January 2022, which were postponed from 2021 in Vars (FRA). During the FIS Speed ski World Championship, speeds over 200 km/h were measured, showing that Speed ski is the Formula 1 of Skiing. Further, in the Season 21/22, the first Speed ski World Cup night race with artificial light was successfully hosted in Salla (Finland). Overall in 2021/22 we could organise a season that slowly came back to almost pre-pandemic conditions.

On the other hand, the Committee introduced rule changes that now allow the race organisers to react with more flexibility to the challenges of difficult weather conditions. As a result of those rule adaptations, despite several weather challenges, it was possible to host 90% of all scheduled World Cup races in 2021/22.

Furthermore, the Committee can report that the investment to support race organisers with media work is reflected in a regular presence on TV and social media. All races were streamed live through the internet. Overall, the dynamics, activities and cooperation inside the Committee are excellent. Its members accumulate many years of experience in racing and race organisation, which is visible in the support and trust of racers and race organisers.

I served the sport for over 20 years, but it's now time to step down from my position as Chair by this season. It's been an honour to work with such dedicated athletes with their friendship between them and the nations. I want to thank you all for the great collaboration over the years, and I wish my successor all the best and the same support and cooperation I received from the Committee and FIS Council.



## **Committee Telemark Skiing**

### **Andrew Clarke, Chairman**

The FIS Telemark Committee continues to work diligently to increase numbers in our sport and to improve the overall delivery of the discipline.

In terms of participation, we have worked on initiatives to increase both nations and racers. Committee members have invested much time in sowing the seeds to re-establish youth participation within their own nations to reinvigorate grass-roots development, and although our wider international outreach has been constrained there is hope that, this coming season, we will see more countries added to the list of regular participants. With the pandemic hopefully in our rear-view mirror we can divert our attention from firefighting to concentrating effort on the future and the development of our sport.

Proposals have been submitted to increase participation at the junior and children's levels and will be reviewed by the committee at the spring meetings. The aim is to facilitate entry-level racing and increase the availability of races in which youth and children can compete. Hand in hand with this is the proposed improvement to our calendar and a more structured approach to the World Cup schedule and the race-director has been extremely busy with her work to bring more organisers to the portfolio. In 2022 we saw several new venues emerge with desires to remain part of world cup schedule going forward. This is an important development as we 'lost' some of our regular and staple venues during the pandemic.

The rules working group continues to refine rules specific to the conduct and coordination of FIS Telemark races and remain dynamic in their efforts to improve the sport. Last season saw an extensive trial of a video judging initiative which, if adopted, could improve the quality and consistency of penalty judging and potentially reduce organiser costs. The results will be reviewed at the spring meetings and if the feedback is positive video judging may be implemented for FIS Telemark World Cup racing in 22/23.

While the committee, a formidable team of gifted volunteers, continues to work hard to deliver a World Cup and World Championships telemark programme, we realise that we could not do much of this without the support of a very dedicated and supportive network. As Chairman I cannot express enough thanks for all that you do. We are and will be continually grateful to all of you.

We wish the FIS Family a wonderful 2022/23 season.

## **Committee Grass Skiing Cerentin Fausto, Chairman**

The FIS Grass Skiing Committee's primary objective has always been to increase the number of athletes and, consequently, the number of nations interested in and participating in our sport. We are proud to report that despite the difficult season, we archived excellent results in this regard.

Nevertheless, we faced significant challenges in the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We were forced to cancel the whole season of 2020 without organising any event and could only partly resume the activities in the upcoming season of 2021. The ongoing pandemic pushed the Committee to modify the race calendar and cancel several events outside of Europe because of travel restrictions. At this point, we would like to thank the organisers of the FIS World Championships 2022 for the outstanding work and the implementation of the FIS Junior World Championship into the program so that these major events could take place for the athletes.

Furthermore, the work with the youth continues and is very promising. The Children Camps held in recent years always had over 70 participants. With the constant exchange of skills between the various participating nations, we continuously turnover athletes into the upper categories with an excellent technical level every year. To further engage, the Committee decided to focus on organising a Junior camp similar to the existing Children's Camps to engage the youth further and hopefully guide them to World Cup races with more preparation.

With the youth section on the right way, the Committee determined to increase the investments to promote the sport through live streaming of the most important events. So far, the approach has provided good feedback and appears to be an excellent way to increase practitioners and our business support.

Finishing this report, I want to thank all the people who have worked hard in these challenging years to keep the teams healthy and safe. Furthermore, I would like to thank all organisers who were ready and available to support the shortcomings due to displacements and the cancellation of races. Last but not least, I would thank all Members of the Committee, TD's and the FIS Staff for their continuous support for the growth of our sport.

# **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## Sub-Committee for Youth and Children's Questions

### Ken Read, Chairman

Despite the challenges of the past two seasons, our youth sub-committees have remained active and engaged with the NSA's. We have shared best practices and information for Youth programs across the disciplines of FIS, through our four member subcommittees.

Due to the pandemic, the annual FIS Youth Seminar focused on assisting NSA's in managing Covid protocols, rather than development issues. We anticipate the return of this important project under the leadership of Dimitrije Lazarovski, to re-establish the very important work of sharing best practices and for NSA youth leaders to hear from world-leading experts.

We would like to recognize and thank our friend and colleague, Josef Zenhausern in leading the FIS Youth Seminars for many years. His enthusiasm, ideas and leadership provided a platform for the development of the youth and children's pathway in all the FIS disciplines and the strong and growing participation of NSA's was evidence of the value of the Seminars.

Previous summaries and presentations from all FIS Youth Seminars are available on the FIS web site under "Seminars". Link: <https://www.fis-ski.com/en/inside-fis/development/seminars>

The FIS Snow Safe Policy remains an important focus, with the importance of communicating good information through workshops and effective leadership. Full understanding of the scope of 'snow safe' is a core responsibility, ensuring we remain diligent and accountable.

FIS World Snow Day and the FIS Snow Kidz remain in good hands. The past two years saw a reduced number of events. Looking forward, we have a tremendous opportunity with the enormous increase of interest in wintersport activities and the outdoor environment. Let's ensure our sport builds on this energy and passion to build snowsports, to motivate children around the world to be active in winter and choose a snow sport activity.

The Coordination Group started from scratch, to re-organize the Youth sector after the previous Youth Committee was dissolved by FIS Council in 2007. We met, shook hands and rolled up our sleeves to take on this very important task for our sport. Since that time, we have made excellent progress. We have helped our member NSA's to provide a solid foundation for youth and children engagement and the pathway to excellence. As we always say, "children are the future of our sport".

Sharing of information across the FIS disciplines is a key objective of the Coordination Group. Some disciplines are very focused to competition, others to grass roots programs and activities. A snapshot of best practices gives each discipline insight into the experience and innovation that shines through. Each sub-committee is highly engaged with Youth issues: from building events to attract youth, methods of good coaching, environmental issues, rule changes and how they may impact on youth and oversight of major youth competitions. This cross-pollination of information and best practices lifts every discipline of the FIS.

The passion and commitment of my colleagues of the Coordination Group runs deep and I thank them for leadership of their respective discipline subcommittees. And on behalf of our Group, our thanks to Dimitrije, Andrew, Stefanie all FIS staff who work so hard for snowsport youth around the world.

## **Legal and Safety Committee**

### **Chris Moore, Chairman**

The Legal and Safety Committee has continued to meet on a regular basis. Our meetings since 2020 have been held online. Although we all understand that it would be best if we could meet in person, one advantage to the video conference meetings has been significantly increased attendance. For the future, we will consider hybrid meetings. At these meetings the following important topics have been discussed and reviewed:

#### FIS TRANSGENDER POLICY

In conjunction with the Medical Committee our committee continues to urge Council to adopt a transgender policy as it is inevitable that this issue will need to be considered in the future.

#### STATUTE AMENDMENTS

Our Committee had been urging Council for many years to review and modernize the FIS statutes. Our committee was pleased with the initiative to completely rewrite and modernize the FIS statutes. While a vast improvement over the previous statutes, the present statutes are not perfect by any means and we remain willing to take on any assignment Council may delegate to us to review the new statutes. At our upcoming meeting we will be addressing concerns with the cross referencing of statute provisions in the various discipline ICRs as those references are likely to be the old statutes. Updating the ICRs to reference the new statutes will be an important exercise.

#### FIS GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

We continue to recommend that a member of our committee be added to this working group. It would have been especially helpful when drafting the new statutes.

#### FLOURINATED SKI WAX PROHIBITION

We have been consulted continuous basis with respect to this initiative. As we understand that the ban will be implemented in the upcoming season, we hope that the testing device will be completely reliable and that disqualification will only apply to the clearest of cases.

#### INJURY SURVEILLANCE PREVENTION PROGRAM (ISPP)

We continue to endorse and follow the progress of the ISPP. This program requires detailed information to be submitted to apply for injury status for FIS points. This is a very important method by which accurate and complete injury information can be collected and analyzed.

#### REVIEW OF APPEALS

We are prepared to review any and all discipline-specific appeal hearings that have taken place over the previous season in order to monitor how the appeal process is functioning and to identify any weaknesses in that process.

#### ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

Over the past two years the following specific requests and initiatives have been made of and by the Legal and Safety Committee;

- Ski Jumping asked to review a rule with respect to body measurements as well as standards for mat hills. A small group of the committee was tasked with responding to this request. I want to thank Robert Wallner for assisting with this matter.

- Concerns were raised by the committee prior to the Congress held last spring with respect to the definitions contained in the statutes as it relates to simple versus absolute majority. Although there was some discussion about implementing a statute amendment in advance in order to clarify this matter, Stephan Netzle and Philippe Gueisbuheler were able to satisfy the committee that this issue would be specifically addressed by way of election instructions that would be given at the commencement of the Congress. Our committee notes that those instructions as delivered by Mr. Netzle were well communicated and as a result, the elections did proceed on a proper basis
- Our committee received inquiries from several sources with respect to manipulation of competition results and in particular certain races that took place in the alpine discipline in the month of January 2022. These races were suspect with respect to the results of certain participants that allowed them to qualify to participate at the Olympics. A letter was forwarded to FIS Council expressing the committee's concerns with respect to these issues. Our expectation is that proper disciplinary steps will be taken to deal with this breach of the rules and that steps are taken to develop a strategy that prevents these types of situations to occur in the future.
- Members of the committee were consulted by the appeal panel that was commissioned as a result of the jury decision in the final run of the Women's Ski Cross event at the 2022 Olympic games in order to assist with the procedural aspects of that appeal. It was noted that the appeal procedure as set out in the Statutes worked well however, there still remains disconnect with respect to the cross referencing of the discipline specific ICRs to the new statutes.
- The committee was consulted by the Secretary General with further to a request from Austria to address a concern with respect to the Race Director being part of the jury. The committee responded by indicating that this appears to be a discipline specific issue and should likely be addressed through the respective discipline's ICRs

The committee once again would like to thank Stephan Netzle for his continued advice and counsel and to Sarah Fussek for her valuable assistance. The committee would also like to welcome the new FIS Legal counsel, Sven Schaeffner, and look forward to working with Sven in the future.

## **Medical Committee**

### **Hubert Hörterer, Chairman**

The Medical Committee currently comprises 33 members drawn from a variety of nations. The committee convenes once a year, and the project group (PG) meets two or three times a year. This small group of about 5 members is tasked with improving productivity and efficiency.

Since the last FIS online meeting in October 2020 until at the end of the 2021/2022 season, two main tasks were in the foreground.

1. The Covid-19 problem
2. Preparation for the OWG 2022 in Beijing.

In addition, the focus was on the following points:

- Submitting clear statements on medical issues for other committees and subcommittees and providing them with support and advice
- Acting as Medical Supervisor and supporting organizing committees
- Updating the Medical Guide and recommendations on an ongoing basis
- Elaboration of guidelines and development of a pocket guide in relation to concussion - Health promotion with special attention to safeguarding
- Further development of the ISPP (ISPP).

One very particular and time-consuming task in 2020-2022 has been the support and the advice to the OWG 2022 in China. Thanks to early cooperation and appropriate pre-inspections, there was a good outcome. Finding foreign medical specialists for the FOP teams was an enormous challenge.

Key decisions had to be made regarding Covid-19. The FIS Covid-19 medical support group and the FIS staff (Sarah Fussek and Dimitrije Lazarovski) had an enormous workload. The following documents were delivered and constantly revised and updated.

- FIS World Cup Covid-19 Protocol-FIS Covid-19 Media Guidelines
- FIS Covid-19 Communication Guidelines
- FIS Covid-19 Ceremony Guidelines.

NSAs and LOCs have been invited into several on-line sessions.

The extremely low infection rates and the high vaccination rate (95%) clearly show the effectiveness. The bubble system and the FIS passport tool have played a crucial role.

### OUTLOOK

In addition to its involvement in competitive sport the Medical Committee will also continue to work at amateur and children/junior levels.

Particular attention should be paid to maintaining productive relationships with the IOC, scientific organizations and taking an active part in relevant conferences. Communication and collaboration with the other committees and the race directors is at a good level.

The last few years have shown that a reorganization of the FIS medical system is urgently needed. Only through more effective work with a clear division of tasks and responsibilities can the challenges in the medical field be mastered in the coming years. A special thanks this time goes to Vice-Chairwoman Jenny Shute, the FIS Covid-19 Medical Support Group - especially Prof. Percy Knolle - and also Sarah Fussek and Dimitrije Lazarovski.

## **Committee for Advertising Matters**

### **Klaus Leistner, Chairman**

Due to the pandemic, no in-person meetings were possible. However, the committee held its meetings online in September 2020, May 2021, September 2021 and now May 2022. Between these meetings a smaller working group was in online contact to discuss issues of committee interest and prepare proposals.

On the proposal of the committee the FIS Council decided in June 2021 for an update of some articles in the Advertising Rules such as allowing identification of websites, hashtags or marketing slogans. Also, a wording for the leader chair was introduced and a winner presentation banner, which is already in use Alpine, was proposed on a trial basis for the other disciplines. New wordings referring to legwarmers and masks/mouth-nose-covers were introduced. Experience with these amendments was quite positive.

Since summer 2021 the discussion about introduction of LED starting walls became a big issue. The committee set first frames for a test period covering the 2021/22 season, during which different systems were used. It will be a challenge to find the right way for financing and use of these attractive tools on the World Cup levels. During the last season there were some discussions about hidden advertising for betting and a lack of discipline concerning advertising on headgear was noticed as well as attempts to sneak around the effective manufacturer's definition. Respective admonishing was issued by FIS.

The present catalogue of Advertising Rules and harmonised Marketing Guides seem to serve the needs well. This is also due to the continuous work of the Advertising Committee and the good relations within the FIS structure and with other stakeholders.

Although steady work in progress the World Cup rights inventory allocation overview for all disciplines has proved to be helpful as an information tool and will be amended as necessary.

I thank all members of the committee for their input and the active discussions, especially the members of the working group, who helped to prepare for the meetings.

A special "thank you" to Sibylle Bührer, who handles effectively the working groups and committee's administration, and to Jürg Capol for their active and loyal support, which really helped the committee and its chairman to fulfil the tasks. The committee's work was a solid back-up for the FIS disciplines. To further successfully improve the advertising frame conditions will be quite a challenge in these bumpy times. A big "thank you" to all of you.



## **Committee for Public Relations and Mass Media**

### **Chris Robinson, Chairman**

The PR and Mass Media Committee took a different approach to its spring meeting, striving to better adapt to the online meeting format since the beginning of Covid two years ago. The goal was to bring more substance to the meeting and hear from committee members directly about their experiences and challenges, focusing on key areas of media and communications that impact all NSA's:

1. COVID 19 Experiences and learnings
2. Athletes and Social Media
3. Media Training for Athletes
4. Broader cultural issues and social themes and how they impact our sport
5. Social Media Engagement

The format was designed to engage committee members in more direct dialogue as opposed to the traditional presentations, case studies and FIS Communications reporting that has been our focus over recent years. The result was an engaging session that has led to further exploration of how the PR and Mass Media Committee can continue to evolve.

Following up on last year's online gathering, the spring 2022 meeting was arranged as a Working Group session of selected committee members invited by the Chairman. The focus was to address the following question for the future of the committee:

“How should we structure our committee and scope of work going forward to provide more meaningful output in support of broader FIS goals and objectives”.

The agenda for the meeting included a review of the FIS Rules and Terms of Reference for Committees, focusing on how we can restructure the committee to better align with the TOR and achieve our stated goals and objectives. The working group members each offered specific points for consideration that will be captured in a summary document to guide the group for more detailed discussion with a follow up meeting(s) during the summer ahead. This will lead to a plan for presentation to the FIS leadership that can support strategic planning and organizational change that may ensue.

In summary, the Committee envisions playing a key role among the FIS standing committees in the future. We believe the vision outlined by the President to improve the prospects for commercialization of the FIS events, growth in audiences and development of the worldwide fan base requires all FIS member nations to be engaged.

The process of building the FIS brand, delivering innovative content across multiple platforms and supporting snow sports media can be supported on many levels. Setting standards, delivering education, promoting innovation and gathering data towards driving success are all within the competence and scope of our committee. With a focus on sustainability and by embracing our history we seek to support the FIS family to achieve its future vision.

## **Committee for Competition Equipment** **Aki Murasato, Chairman**

During the Covid-19 pandemic that started in the early 2020, FIS has successfully organized FIS World Championships and World Cups for the last two years in all disciplines. It was not easy to organize safe and fair competitions under these circumstances and conditions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the athletes, teams, and officials, stakeholders for their tremendous efforts to make it happen. I would also like to thank each organizing committees and technical committees for their efforts, and in particular, I would like to express my sincere respect to the people in medical field.

This season, Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games was held under the spotlight of the world. I would like to express my sincere respect to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games and the technical expert of FIS for holding the 55 out of 104 medal events operated by them without big issue. At the same time, I was aware that there raised some challenges to operate our competitions in a safe and fair manner as the technical committee meetings in all discipline were forced to be held through online due to COVID-19. I believe that FIS is responsible for the further development and promote our sport for the future.

Competition Equipment Committee is consisted of technical experts, medical experts, and safety and legal experts from each discipline, and there has been very active discussion with manufacturers recent years. While the risk of injury has increased as the skills of athletes have risen, analyzing and ensuring safety has also become an important factor in attracting general snow sport fans. It is very important to pursue innovations that can bring out the fun and superiority of each discipline, taking into account the unique characteristics of each discipline, and further promote the modernization and potential of FIS snow sport.

Our committee will also deepen our collaboration with the FIS Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program (ISPP) to discuss the future of snow sport while maintaining a healthy environment and taking athletes' safety into consideration. Looking forward to the continued growth of FIS snow sport.

## **Sub-Committee for Alpine Citizen Racers** **Urs-Peter Dietrich, Chairman**

In common with the activity of the sport of skiing in general FIS-CIT events also suffered during the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 season. Restrictions on travel and strict hygiene rules caused many scheduled events to be postponed or to be cancelled altogether. So how much more gratifying that so many events could be carried out.

As in the past there were entrants from over 45 nations at FIS-CIT races. During the 2021/2022 season the entry numbers reached close to 14 thousand. This indicates that Alpine FIS-CIT races present a very good alternative to FIS and NJR races.

An analysis of the entrants shows that in many cases 60% of the athletes were from the U18 category and for many young athletes this is a very good step into the FIS world. A reason could be FIS restriction on entries, but it is of great importance that young skiers can gain their first FIS points without the pressure of performance.

The fact that the FIS-CIT Arnold Lunn World Cup was not classified in the last season was owing to the Covid situation. At regional FIS-CIT ALWC events the international entry was unfortunately not numerous, and an official classification would distort the results. For this reason, the final races of the Arnold Lunn World Cup were cancelled both in 2021 and 2022.

In addition to the established race organising nations (AUT, CZE, ESP, FRA, GER, ITA, SUI) the FIS-CIT domain could add races from ARG, IRI, RSA and TUR. However, as it is difficult to organise international participation in these countries and on the whole most FIS-CIT races were held in the Alps.

The highlight of the 2021 / 2022 FIS-CIT season was the Criterium Mondial in Italy. Participants from 20 nations took part in all alpine disciplines. The organisers from Passo San Pellerino were superbly prepared and pulled off a successful event.

It is here in place to thank, warmly and sincerely, FIS for its support and especially Janez Flere, members of the FIS-CIT Committee and all organisers of FIS-CIT races. Without them the FIS-CIT domain would not be the efficient organisation it is.

In the coming season the FIS-CIT Committee will dedicate time to explore new ideas and different formats – especially for the U18 – to make FIS-CIT a mainstay of Alpine ski racing.

We look forward to a new season without limits and to meetings without absentees.

## **Sub-Committee Master's Racing Stefano Arnhold, Chairman**

### Growth despite the COVID 19 Pandemic

Masters Racing was badly hit by the Pandemic and all races in the Southern Hemisphere had to be cancelled on both Seasons 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

The first of those seasons was harder hit as we had only 27 races out of 79 planned in the approved Calendar and so we had only 2807 starts.

In the Season 2021/2022 this number jumped to 8108 starts as we could organise 64 races of the 87 approved in our MAS Calendar. Even having lost 23 races in the last Season, the 8103 starts is an absolute record that confirms the growth trend. In the past it would take us 2 Seasons to reach the mark of 8000 starts.

### Bright Future

For the 2022/2023 Season, the NSAs are proposing a Calendar with more than 90 races that could bring the number of starts for the first time over the 10.000 mark which could mean over 20.000 starts in two seasons. This would represent a growth of more than 40% if compared with pre-Pandemic Seasons.

Also new organisers, new resorts and new/returning NSAs are joining the MAS Calendar making it every time more challenging to accommodate all desired races in a fixed number of weekends.

### Innovation

Innovation is a key factor of success and much of the above-described growth came with the adoption of new business models that made Masters Racing more attractive both for the competitors as well as for the organisers.

The Sub-Committee for Masters Racing will now discuss new competition formats in order for further innovate and promote both growth for the Sport and satisfaction to the Masters, the ultimate goal for its existence.

### Fitness, Friendships and Competition

Masters Racing has proved to be an excellent motivation to keep our skiers fit and to train hard and adopt a healthy way of life. It is also an excellent blend of camaraderie and competition that nurtures a very special environment reducing the distances worldwide and making inseparable long lasting friendships.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the FIS Council for letting me serve the Masters and my fellow Sub-Committee Members for helping me in this task with the great support from the FIS Office and the FIS IT Department. The work of Organisers and their tireless crews combined with the dedication of our TDs play a very special role in the quality and safety of our events. To the Masters Racers my very special thanks: you must be very proud of your unique achievements.

## **Sub-Committee Para Sports**

### **Stephen Podborski, Chairman**

During the last two years the ParaSnowsports sub-Committee was active in liaising with the International Paralympic Committee and facilitating the exchange of information and expertise between the International Ski Federation and the International Paralympic Committee.

As usual, considerable attention was paid to the support required for Technical Delegate efforts at the various ParaSnowsport events (Alpine, Nordic, Snowboard) which did require nimbleness with the ever-changing landscape enforced by Covid 19 restrictions.

The Sub Committee for ParaSnowsports played an important role in the past seasons as a hub where the presentation of the current and future Para World Ski Championships and Paralympic Winter Games were delivered to the FIS stakeholders. This was well used in coordination with FIS and provided for greater success leading up to the major Games.

Certainly, the International Ski Federation calendaring functions were tested with continuous updates to events.

Finally, the staff of the IPC and FIS remained dedicated to the ongoing success of events, the care and stewardship of the sponsors and most importantly the health, well-being, and care for all the competitors of this most important of sporting events.

## **Athletes' Commission**

### **Hannah Kearney, Chairman**

During the last two years the Athletes' Commission has remained very active despite the limitations as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to our annual 'full' meeting, we have aimed to have a smaller online catch-up session once every 2-3 months. We have found this regular contact is much more beneficial than trying to stuff everything into just one longer annual meeting.

We have also found that the athlete community is increasingly becoming more aware of the Athletes' Commission and reaching out to us individually for help and advice. This is in large part thanks to the increased role that the International Olympic Committee has played in amplifying the athletes' voice.

At the upcoming Congress we have one proposal that will be voted on. We are asking that the term limit of the Athletes' Commission be increased to from two years to four years. We feel this is a positive step for the overall impact and engagement of the athletes' voice within FIS. It is often overwhelming when a person first start on the commission to become fully educated on the many aspects of FIS. It seems just when members are 'getting the hang' of their duties, then the term is already finished and they need to stand for re-election.

Thanks to the pandemic, we were able to see the benefits of this proposal first-hand as our terms were extended by two years due to the inability to hold a fully and fair election at the three World Championships. When the nominations were due, it was uncertain that the World Championships would be able to be staged and therefore the decision to extend this current group's term was made.

I can say thanks to the extension, we have one of the most-engaged Commissions that I can recall. Attendance rates and contribution on our calls is very high.

I would also like to thank FIS fo allowing us to add two representatives from the non-Olympic disciplines, who have brought an enlightening viewpoint to our meetings. Additionally, we also feel the athletes have a clear voice thanks to having two voting members on the Council.

I would like to close by thanking all 14 members of the Athletes' Commission for their efforts and dedication being the voice of the athlete within FIS while juggling their busy lives.