

# 2023 BOOK OF REPORTS



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## OLYMPIC DISCIPINE COMMITTEE REPORTS



### Executive Board Cross Country Uros Ponikvar, Chairman

The Spring 2022 historic decision on equal distances for both genders has been brought to life in the past season. In every single World Cup and in majority of Continental Cup competitions, the distances for both Women and Men competitors have been set the same.

Majority of the programs have been sprint, 10 and 20 km at a single venue. Holmenkollen, Norway had organized the very first 50 km WC competition for Women. As the event has taken place a week after the 50 km competitions at WSC 2023 in Planica, SLO, the participation has been rather low.

We have also had first ever FIS Para World Cup which follows FIS decision to include Para Sport under FIS umbrella.

The Planica World Ski Championships has brought almost 500 competitors from 64 countries together in an amazing festival of Nordic skiing. The Championships podiums haven't been very colorful, but there were 5 to 6 nations in top 10 at every individual event. At the World Cup level, the podiums seem to be reserved for just a few (9) nations, but winners of U23 overall WC classification went to Latvia and USA!

This spring our committee will have to decide future WSC Championships program that will reflect our decision on equal distances, which will make Planica last World ski Championships where women and men used to ski different distances. We shall also address the question of JSWC distances. To make this right, a survey has been organized for all JWSC/U23 WSC participants to get and consider their opinions when this decision will be made.

Several working groups appointed by Cross-Country Committee have been active for almost 2 years now; they address calendar planning, competition formats and distances and costs. An important experiment has been held in Tallinn, EST where waxing has been organized as common service where the waxes has been chosen by one provider and applied by limited number of Team waxers. The event has been a great success with much positive feedbacks. The respective working groups have all prepared inputs for the technical committees to review and prepare the final decisions. Among the challenges we will have to face includes rules and procedures related to the Fluor ban and current unproportional nation distributions among the Continental cups.

The strength of our sport is also in great numbers. Almost 1800 races have been organized at various levels in 40 countries across the Globe with participation of almost 11.000 competitors in total. If we add popular competitions with 90.000 participants in WorldLoppet races, then we can say our sport is great.

I would like to thank all the professionals and volunteers in our skiing community which help all these great events happen.



#### Ski Jumping Executive Committee Mika Kojonkoski, Chairman

It is an extremely good feeling to write this report after a successful Ski Jumping season. Especially after the pandemic years, it has been very good to come back to 'normal routines', to get fans and spectators back to the venues to create a real atmosphere again.

On the World Cup level, we were able to complete all the events and had over 400,000 spectators. The atmosphere around the events was fantastic. Competitions were mainly running smoothly, battles at the hills were exciting and athletes gave their ultimate best. And all these feelings were transmitted through TV.

On the women's side the pandemic time was even more difficult because of several canceled events. This season was a big leap forward and, in my opinion, the best season ever for women's Ski Jumping. The entire calendar was completed, and new highlights were made. Absolute climax of the season was the FIS Raw Air Ski Flying event in Vikersund; the first ever Ski Flying for female athletes. It was an exciting step and a huge success.

On the men's side we also completed the first ever Hybrid World Cup event in Wisla, Poland in the beginning of November. That meant gliding on the ice track and landing on the plastic. The reason for the extraordinary World Cup opening time was to avoid the collapse (TV) with the football World Championship. The event in Wisla was a success. It was good to test the hybrid competitions and with this experience we can say that it is a realistic option also in the future. That way we are privileged in Ski Jumping.

However, we also have dark clouds in our sky. The efforts to make Ski Jumping more popular in more countries have not been successful enough and the IOC report from Beijing was not optimal. Our operational staff together with the committee members and especially the coordination board have been working on the subject. Many small and big things are constantly done for wider development.

One of the biggest steps was to compete on the World Cup level in the USA again. Since 2009 there have not been any World Cup events in North America. It was a desire to bring the highest level Ski Jumping product back to the continent. Old Olympic Hills in Lake Placid were renovated and the surroundings were strong enough to hold WC there. Finally, the experiences were very good and we are curious and looking forward to making that happen again.

Material control is one of the topics that we are constantly discussing on committees' level. Ski Jumping is a very sensitive sport because it is mainly done with high speed in the air. The aerodynamic details play an important role. In FIS we want to offer fair, clear and safe surroundings for the athletes and teams. A lot has been done, but we can see that the gap between strong nations (with high development investments) and weak ones is not getting smaller. That is contradictory with our targets in FIS.

In the coming summer, we will test a new body scanning system to offer more



transparent and fair basic measurement for athletes. We believe that this will help teams and athletes to start the new season from a more equal starting point. The real superiority should be decided at the hills between athletes, not too much on material development.

The Jumping Committee (JC) and our sub committees (SC, 5) have been working on these topics together with our professional staff. Traditionally we have had spring and autumn meetings, but this year the JC also had a meeting in WSC Planica. During the season the Coordination Board (RD, Chair of JC and chairs of SC) has had several meetings to discuss our processes and challenges.

Here I want to use this opportunity to present my commendation to the Ski Jumping people in different roles. This is teamwork to make our extreme and fantastic sport even better.



#### Nordic Combined Committee Horst Huettel, Chairman

After the great performance of the Men's during the Beijing Olympic Games, and the very high development of the women during the 21-22 season, the Nordic Combined family was shocked by the IOC decision to NOT include Nordic Combined Women in the 2026 Olympic program.

This led to an extraordinary Committee meeting in the fall, with very intense discussions on how to handle and how to react to this decision. Clear point from IOC was participation and audience on the Men's side and continued development on the women's side until 2026 Olympic Games.

The Committee decided to make some smaller changes in the rule system to enhance the clear message from the IOC, but also agreed on using the season 22-23 to analyze the development and to have a good and structured discussion in the spring of 2023.

The season 22-23 was another historical one for Nordic Combined. The biggest season ever with 73 international competition for women and men. We introduced the Mixed Team event for the first time in the World Championship program in Planica. 3 nations on the podium in the Women's individual event compared to 1 nation in 2021. 8 nations on the podium during the season compared to 5 in 2021-22.

We lost one World Cup event in Chaux-Neuve, FRA, but the rest of the season was completed with record number of spectators in Seefeld and Obersdorf.

We are looking forward to the coming seasons, but we also are aware of the fact that we are watched by the IOC, and the FIS and the Nordic Combined family will have to make investments in the future of this fantastic sport, the ultimate winter athletes, and the foundation of Nordic Sport back to early 19', and part of the Olympic Games since the start in 1924.

I would like to thank the FIS staff lead by Race Director Lasse Ottesen for great work during and engagement during the difficult last seasons.

Finally, I would like to thank Sophie Hargesheimer for her very hard work on the media side the past two seasons. Especially around the IOC decision we saw great enthusiasm for Nordic Combined around all social media thanks to Sophie's great effort and hard work.



#### Alpine Executive Board Massimo Rinaldi, Chairman

The biggest challenge of the past winter Alpine season was definitely climate change and the high cost of the energy. These two factors put our sport on the ropes, and all organisers had to work very hard to deliver their events under the demands they faced.

After a hot summer and the difficulties for all nations to organize the summer training for their teams, the winter began under pressure for everyone to ensure safe and fair races.

The start of the 2022-2023 season was certainly not favorable, with cancelled races, due to rain or warm temperatures that didn't allow resorts to produce snow.

Fortunately, the New Year was slowly better in time for the classic races.

The highlight of the Alpine season, the FIS World championships in Courchevel-Meribel, was fantastic in aspect, sunny days and high performance from all of the athletes.

The new starting order for the speed disciplines was appreciated gave the top 10 racers fairer race conditions

The new format of the Team Alpine Combined, held in St.Ankton during the FIS Junior World Championships, gave all of us the opportunity to test this new format for the first time and gave us more data and feedback for discussion of the potential implementation of the new event at all levels.

The work done by all of the sub-committees was much appreciated, as revised and new proposals, implementation or updating of the rules was a primary focus. Our disciplines need to be updated, as the sport is continuing to evolve, the rules must follow.

During the past season, close to 3000 races were organized around the World. It is a number we can all be proud of given the challenges that we faced.

The positive takeaway is that Alpine is growing at every level, with high numbers of participation, giving FIS a bright future. It is our duty to keep a very high standard and keep the interest highest as possible.

I would like to thank the members of the Alpine Executive Board, the members of the sub-committees and the race directors for their work and commitment.



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

The unification of Snowboard, Freestyle and 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 Sub-Committee structure of the Snowboard Freestyle Freeski family is divided into four Event Groups, each of which share combinations of culture and terrain. This allows for a high-level of independence regarding the event design and organisation but with all these *New World* events uniting to form the third pillar of FIS.

The highlight of the past year was our Disciplines' World Championships in Bakuriani (GEO) where the exciting events of Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski, demonstrated 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.

In the most challenging of circumstances, our Georgian friends hosted an amazing event. World-class courses and facilities combined with gracious hospitality to make for a memorable 16 days of competition. We extend our appreciation to the Federation, the LOC, the Georgian Government and the passionate sponsors. Most importantly, the event demonstrated the expansion potential of our sport when we at FIS embrace and work closely with a new organiser.

The event calendar outlook remains solid notwithstanding the gaps caused by the Ukraine Russian war. We share everyone's hopes for an end to hostilities and a return to peaceful sporting pursuits.

Our Committee and Sub-Committees continue to look at ways to balance enhanced result integrity with efficiencies. The best example is the increasing use of technology in the areas of judging and training. These advances challenge some of the traditions of our sport and therefore must be introduced with sensitivity and in close collaboration with our athletes and their nations. Other areas of focus have been the transition of the *World Snowboard Points List* to full custodianship of FIS.

Live media exposure remains the single biggest challenge for our events. This has been reaffirmed in the recently published FIS Strategic Plan. The Plan's 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.



## NON-OLYMPIC DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE REPORTS



#### Committee Speed Skiing Riacrdo Adarraga, Chairman

The Speed ski season 2022/23 is an important milestone in the history of the sport and FIS. For the first time since Speed ski was a demonstration sport at the Olympics 1992 in Albertville (France), the World Record was established during the FIS World Championships hosted in Vars (France) on March 22nd 2023 with a new impressive speed record of 255.50 km/h.

For too long, the past 30 years, Speed ski races were separated into 2 race series: the FIS races with a 200 km/h limit and the Pro Series where World Records were achieved. Acknowledging the increased safety standards of the discipline during the last 10 years the committee accepted exceptions to the 200 km/h limit for specific races and finally in September 2022 decided to drop the anachronic limitation. With that, the committee followed the desire of FIS to bring back high-speed races and make the FIS Speed ski races the world's fastest ski races. The excellent snow conditions in Vars this season allowed us to host several amazing races. Therefore, in almost all World Cup races and World Championships races athletes' achieved runs passed the 200 km/h, or even 230 km/h. Furthermore, one of the most successful athletes, Simone Origone from Italy won his 14th World Cup Season, increasing his impressive record of crystal globes in a single FIS discipline.

Nevertheless, the absolute highlight of the season was Simon Billy from France, who established the fastest speed ever achieved by a skier with 255.50 km/h.

With those achievements, my first year as chairman of the committee had an excellent start. I have the privilege to lead a team with the worldwide best experts in speedski. Together we sum more than 200 years of experience in high-speed racing and organizing speed competitions. The committee set 4 main goals for FIS speedski: incentive high-speed competitions with more than 180 km/h, ideally more than 200 km/h, increase already high safety standards, increase presence in media leveraging the paradigm shift in the way sports content is being consumed in a strong digitalized media world and develop the discipline.

The cooperation with the FIS marketing experts could not have started better: Speed ski is now in the media and started to leverage the new strategy of FIS in social media achieving the most views of a single video on the FIS TikTok account. This shows the big impact of the discipline on the new generations. We take a good start in 2023 of the new digital eras in sports media consumption as the basis for intensifying the excellent cooperation with FIS Marketing and Media.

As in Formula 1, the Speed ski teams are already working on improving their race material for next season, always searching for that little detail in the aerodynamic equipment that will give an extra km/h.

Let's chase the next World Record in 2024.

Ski fast and safely!



#### Committee Telemark Skiing Andrew Clarke, Chairman

What an exciting season that saw new nations join the World Cup (WC) and several others, after a period of absence, return. The World Championships saw a full line up for the parallel sprint, with 32 women and 32 men competing and on the WC, we saw a new wave of winners, even in the face of a formidable 'old-guard'. The future for telemark is bright and we remain focused on making it more accessible and attractive and always pursuant to the values and principles of the FIS.

This year we introduced telemark to a 'TeleKidz' programme. While many nations run their own child programmes, this was an opportunity to formalise the approach and align efforts with FIS Snowkidz and firmly embed Telemark in the bosom of the FIS. Several events were run, and hundreds of children participated. The biggest impediment - the availability of equipment – was overcome and we are most grateful for the assistance of our world cup hosts for helping to deliver the programme. Next season we aim to increase participation, with an equipment trailer so that more venues can organise events.

Grass roots development is reliant on introductory programmes like 'TeleKidz'. In alignment, and thanks to FIS support, we ramped-up our online presence with improved socials and regular updates on the FIS news page. This is a significant departure from the status-quo and has been most influential - with a significant increase in organic followers, our content is being seen far and wide. A comprehensive development pathway is planned for 23/24 and we should not fail to improve numbers of participants and nations. The search for a headline sponsor remains paramount.

The rules committee continues to improve the rules for a consistent and reliable delivery of competition. This invariably falls to judging and timing, and each of these areas has received recent upgrades. The race director is working closely with organisers to maintain qualified gate judges and to improve consistency across the WC. To assist judges, we have now fully implemented video judging at the jump and use recording equipment in the 360 and skate sections for the parallel sprint. This has greatly improved the decision-making process and aided dispute resolution. We realise that timing is an area that needs some improvement, and so we aim to implement a standardised timing system for 2023/24 season which will provide great comfort to our race organisers and instil more confidence in the athletes.

In closing, it would be remiss not to mention that some iconic names (coaches and athletes) will retire this year. Among them is the formidable Amélie Wenger-Reymond who, with 216 WC podiums, 64 WC wins, 47 Globes and 17 World Championship titles, is the most decorated skier ever. She will be missed, and we wish her, and her family, all the best.

Our sights are clearly set for 23/24 and I, as Chair, am most grateful for the continued support of the FIS family and my committee, without whom none of this would be possible.



## SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION



#### Legal and Safety Committee Chris Moore, Chairman

Since the previous report to Congress in 2022, the Legal and Safety Committee has continued to meet on a regular basis. Our meeting in September of 2022 in Zurich was the first in person meeting since the beginning of the pandemic although arrangements were made for committee members to be able to attend the meeting by zoom.

#### FIS TRANSGENDER POLICY

In conjunction with the Medical Committee, we continue to urge Council to adopt a transgender policy. We are somewhat dismayed at the fact that the recommendations of these two committees have been largely ignored.

#### THE NEW STATUTES

The Committee is concerned that although FIS has now adopted a new set of statutes, it appears that the provisions contained in those statutes are not being followed. At the last Congress, amendments were attempted to be made to the statutes without following the proper process. Of particular concern was the attempt to amend the statutes by eliminating reference to the Legal and Safety Committee and Medical Committee as standing committees. This was not done properly. It is hoped and expected that at the 2023 Congress this error will be rectified.

The Committee continues to be concerned about the fact that the new statues were formulated without consulting with the Legal and Safety Committee. We understand that there are further statute amendments that will be proposed at the upcoming Congress, and we hope that our Committee will have the opportunity to provide some input with respect to these proposed amendments in advance of the Congress. The Committee continues to recommend that steps be taken to ensure that the statues and the ICRs are properly cross-referenced.

#### FIS GOVERNENCE WORKING GROUP

To the extent that this working group still exists, the Legal and Safety Committee continues to recommend that a member of our committee be added to this working group.

#### FLOURINATED SKI WAX PROHIBITION

We understand that these rules will now be fully implemented for the 2023/2024 season. The Legal and Safety Committee continues to be concerned about the reliability of the testing equipment and any issues that may arise due to disqualifications that may be applied because of this prohibition.

#### INJURY SURVEILLANCE PREVENTION PROGRAM (ISPP)

It appears that the Injury Surveillance Prevention Program is presently on hold and there is no further progress with respect to implementing the injury status application process to other disciplines.

#### REVIEW OF APPEALS

The Legal and Safety Committee continues to be prepared to review all discipline specific appeal hearings that have taken place over the previous season to monitor how the appeal process is functioning and to identify any weaknesses in that process.



#### COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Committee has noted that the council election that took place at the 2022 congress may not have followed the statutory requirements with respect to the composition of the ballots. We understand that this likely arose out of the capabilities of the electronic ballot system. The Committee would strongly suggest that for future elections, the electronic voting system properly follows the procedure set out in the statutes.

#### TEN RULES OF SKIING

The Legal and Safety Committee has for over 50 years been the caretaker of the 10 Rules. The rules have been referred to in numerous ski accident-related decisions in various countries. There have been some recent inquiries as to whether the popularity of ski touring (uphill skiing) requires the rules to be reviewed.

#### FIS MEDICAL SERVICES MANUAL

The Legal and Safety Committee has been consulted by the Medical Committee to assist in finalizing the updated FIS medical services manual.

#### OVERALL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND FIS

Since the last Congress, the Legal and Safety Committee has attempted to reach out and communicate with FIS Council as well as senior FIS staff as it relates to areas of concern of the Committee. The Committee has received no response whatsoever with respect to these initiatives and has not even received an acknowledgement of receipt of the various requests that have been made. Our Committee therefore has some concerns with respect to this situation. In the past, the Legal and Safety Committee has always had a very respectful relationship with Council and FIS staff have been of tremendous assistance to the organization. We understand that there may well be an initiative in place to reduce and eliminate the existence of certain committees, one of which may be the Legal and Safety Committee which may explain the lack of engagement. The Committee fully respects the ability of Congress and Council to determine that the nature of and existence of committees and subcommittees, however our principal concern is that in doing so it is hoped and expected that proper processes are followed and the FIS Statutes are adhered to.

The committee once again would like to thank Stephan Netzle and Sven Schaeffner for their continued advice and counsel. In addition, Sarah Fussek has provided the Committee with tremendous assistance. We look forward to continue working with these valuable individuals.



#### Medical Committee Hubert Hörterer, Chairman

The Medical Committee currently comprises 33 members drawn from a variety of nations. The committee convenes once or twice a year. The core and expanded project group(PG) meets two or three times year. The PG is tasked with improving productivity and efficiency.

Since the last FIS Medical Committee Meetings in May and September and the PG Meetings in November and December 2022 until the end of the 2022/2023 season the focus was on the following points:

- . Acting as Medical Supervisors and supporting LOC's
- . Elaboration of guidelines and development of a pocket guide in relation to concussion
- . Submitting clear statements on medical issues for other committees and subcommittees and Providing them with support and proposals
- . Health promotion/Safe Sport/Transgender Policy
- Cooperation with Para Snow Sports
- . Cooperation with AH and ISPP

One very particular and time-consuming task has been and is the reorganization of the Medical Committee and the project group(PG)

The FIS Covid-19 medical support group around Prof.Percy Knolle has developed three scenarios for the 2022/23 season. The group is still available as a task force.

A very important task was and is still the revision of the Medical Guide.

#### OUTLOOK

Through the reorganization of the FIS medical systems and the expansion the project group the work will also become much more effective through a clear division of tasks and responsibilities. This is the only way to master the challenges in the medical field in the coming years.

This includes in particular constant revision of the medical guide, close cooperation with the FIS management and other committees. Particular attention is also paid to collaboration with the medical sector of the IOC, as well as other medical societies and institutions.



### Committee for Advertising Matters Terje Lund, Chairman

This season has been hectic and a really highlight season as a World Championships season in addition with a long attractive World Cup season. Finally, we could all meet face to face again and the autumn meetings in Zurich market that the covid seasons with all its adjustments where finally over and fruitful conditions could finally been done face to face.

The meeting in Zurich on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 was constructive and with a lot of important areas to be discussed. Based on discussions in the working group and after consulting with the FIS office we will restructure the yearly plan for the Committee in order to try to involved all members on a more detail level than earlier. The plan is in principle to do all changes in rules and decisions in the spring meeting to find a good timeline for all stakeholders to implement any changes. The working group will also make sure that all received proposals are send out to the Committee in due time before the meetings. The autumn meeting will then focus on guidelines and small adjustments but in principle does not deal with proposals for the upcoming season.

Based on these guidelines no major changes were done before the 2022/2023 season but some elements test would be carried out the upcoming season especially in connection with the LED start gate in Alpine.

The working Group and FIS office could during the season observe and register some violations in connections with the advertising rules and also in connection with specifications for commercial markings on equipment during the season. These violations have been followed up by the FIS office and based on the major task for the FIS Media and Marketing to concentrate on sales activities this work was followed up by FIS Deputy Secretary General Niklas Carlsson.



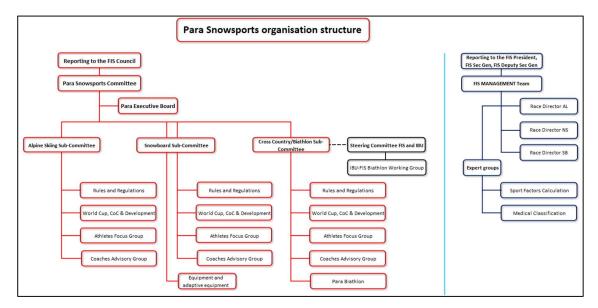
### Committee for Para Snowsports Dexter Paine, Chairman

After decades of good and proactive relationships between FIS and IPC (Para Snowsports) the inspirations of the Para Snowsports community came through. The Para Snowsports were successfully transferred from the IPC to the FIS community. The transfer included three Para Sports, Para Alpine skiing, Para Snowboard, and Para Cross Country. The Para Biathlon governance was transferred to the International Biathlon Union and based on the FIS – IBU Agreement management of the Para Biathlon will be delivered by FIS.

Alongside the governance transfer of the Para Snow sports to the FIS, four dedicated staff were employed by FIS to manage the day by day Para Snow sports agenda. Alongside of the four dedicated FIS Management Staff members, three Race Directors were employed to manage event delivery on-site.

The inclusion of the sport will continue until will be finally settled under the patronage of each of the Olympic disciplines respectively. Currently, under the FIS, Para Snow sports are set as a separate unit where all four sports are grouped and managed by FIS Para Snow sports Director.

Furthermore, as a newly established unit, Para Snow Sports had the unique opportunity to set an example for the future. A governance structure was set that complies 100% with the current structure. The FIS Management team is a key support in the management of the highly developed and branched structure (see **Diagram 1**).



#### Diagram 1

As presented in Diagram 1, relationships between FIS and IBU are set with the Agreement, where the FIS – IBU Steering committee provides the strategic view on the future of the Para Biathlon and is managed by dedicated Working Group members combined between FIS and IBU staff members.

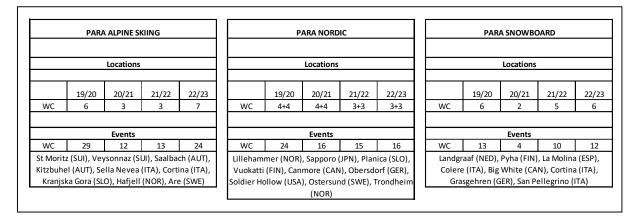
All presented WG has been activated in lead up to the Dubrovnik meetings and has connected (online) on a regular basis. Like that, we have increased productivity of the outcomes at the FIS Meetings in Dubrovnik.



The competition season 2022/2023 has been successfully delivered despite the parallel onboarding process of the Para Snow sports at the FIS structure. The number of respective events in

respective disciplines is presented in Table 1.

#### Table 1.



The Para Snow sports World Ski Championships were successfully delivered in three locations. Live-streaming with other broadcasting services was available. We are looking forward to receiving the final media reports from the takers. The participation comparison from the previous WSC in 2022 is presented in **Table 2**.

#### Table 2.

	Athletes			Nations		
WSC	PAL	PNS	PSB	PAL	PNS	PSB
Lillehammer 2021 (2022)	151	195	74	36	25	21
Espot/Ostersund/La Molina 2023	107	125	56	26	19	18
2025: Advance dialog						
2027: Advance dialog						
2029: Bid process open together with all other FIS Disciplines						

The numbers of participants are a bit lower due to the retirements of the athletes and having two countries not able to participate (RUS and BLR), where the numbers in Para Alpine skiing and Para Nordic disciplines were heavily affected.

The Milano/Cortina Paralympic Winter Games preparations are on the way and the centralized approach over the FIS Event department is respected. The pre-test events in Cortina were delivered in Para Alpine skiing and Para Snowboard disciplines.