



# 2024

# BOOK OF REPORTS

# Table of Contents

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC DISCIPLINES REPORTS .....	4
A. Cross-Country .....	4
a. Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Rules and Control.....	4
b. Sub-Committee for Roller Skiing.....	6
c. Sub-Committee for Cross-Country World and Continental Cups .....	7
d. Sub-Committee for Popular Cross-Country .....	8
e. Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Development .....	9
f. Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Youth & Children's Questions .....	11
B. Ski Jumping.....	13
a. Committee Ski Jumping .....	13
b. Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Hills .....	15
c. Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Calendar Planning .....	17
d. Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Officials, Rules and Control .....	18
e. Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Equipment and Development .....	19
f. Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Youth & Children's Questions .....	20
C. Nordic Combined.....	21
a. Executive Board Nordic Combined .....	21
b. Sub-Committee for Nordic Combined Officials, Rules and Control .....	22
D. Nordic Disciplines .....	24
a. Sub-Committee for Women's Nordic Disciplines .....	24
E. Alpine Skiing.....	25
a. Executive Board Alpine Skiing .....	25
b. Sub-Committee for Classification of Alpine Competitions .....	26
c. Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses .....	28
d. Sub-Committee for Alpine Rules.....	31
e. Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup.....	34
f. Sub-Committee for Alpine North American Cup .....	36
g. Sub-Committee for Alpine Australia/New Zealand Cup.....	38
h. Sub-Committee for University Racers.....	39
i. Sub-Committee for Masters Racing.....	40
j. Sub-Committee for Alpine Technical Delegates .....	41
k. Sub-Committee for Alpine Youth & Children's Questions .....	42
F. Snowboard, Freestyle, Freeski.....	43
a. Committee Snowboard, Freestyle, Freeski.....	43
b. Sub-Committee for Snowboard, Freestyle, Freeski Youth & Children's Questions .....	45
c. Sub-Committee for Park & Pipe.....	47
d. Sub-Committee for Snowboard Cross .....	48
e. Sub-Committee for Freestyle.....	49

f.	Sub-Committee for Snowboard Alpine .....	51
G.	Para Snow Sports .....	52
a.	Committee Para Snow Sports.....	52
b.	Sub-Committee for Para Nordic.....	54
c.	Sub-Committee for Para Snowboard .....	55
d.	Sub-Committee for Para Alpine .....	56
	<b>NON-OLYMPIC DISCIPLINES REPORTS .....</b>	<b>58</b>
H.	Speed Skiing .....	58
a.	Committee Speed Skiing .....	58
I.	Telemark.....	60
a.	Committee Telemark.....	60
J.	Grass Skiing .....	62
a.	Committee Grass Skiing .....	62
	<b>SPECIAL COMMITTEES' REPORTS .....</b>	<b>63</b>
K.	Medical Committee.....	63
L.	Legal and Safety Committee .....	64
M.	Committee for Advertising Matters .....	66
N.	Committee for Public Relations and Mass Media .....	68
O.	Coordination Group for General Youth & Children's Questions.....	70
P.	Committee for Competition Equipment .....	72

# OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC DISCIPLINES REPORTS

## A. Cross-Country

### a. Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Rules and Control

*Report by Anna Rosa, Chair*

The Sub-Committee for Cross Country Rules and Control has been working a lot in the past 2 years, also due to big changes introduced and new scenarios launched, such as the fluor ban implementation and the Para Nordic integration. Not only, but the evolution of the discipline also brought forward new challenges to face, while the new climate consequences on our competitions' organization and management are getting more and more visible, together with the need to rule new formats and solutions, to make the events more exciting.

The whole FIS Technical Official matter has been also reviewed, including the Para Nordic family: the education, the examination, the license and the nomination of the Technical Delegates and the Homologation Inspectors have been defined in detail in a new single booklet. All the FIS Technical Officials are now also listed on the FIS website, together with the validity of their license, connected to their participation to the official seminars. Besides the TD and HI Seminars organized on competitions' sites following a defined schedule, a system of online updates, specific for argument and region has been put in place and the Para Nordic's topics have been implemented into the education system. A new online TD report has been developed as well as a new online management system for the TD Candidates and their Assessments.

How to request the homologation of courses, also for Para Nordic events, has been described in details in a short document dedicated to the National Ski Associations, where they can find procedures and clear costs, while all the best practices and the suggestions needed to build up a new venue and design new courses have been kept together in the guidelines, a living document that the Chief of HI Coordinators keeps updated with the contributes of different stakeholders, included athletes representatives, which have also become important stakeholders in various fields of work.

Currently we have around 1900 homologated courses, in more than 70 venues, hosted in 20 different countries. More than 1900 cross-country skiing and roller skiing races were organized last season in 40 different hosting countries, where more than 160 TDs were appointed by FIS and more than 800 sanctions were given. In the last 2 years 4 appeals per season were submitted to the FIS Appeal Commission.

On the rules side, the maximum altitude where a WC event can be organized has been raised up to 2000 m, after the positive feedback received from the Medical Committee and it is also now possible to homologate safe courses for WC events outside the norms. These two new changes increase the options available in times of global warming and follow the direction given to have various fighting fields in different scenarios and to increase the possible venues. For a more sustainable system, it is also now possible to appoint HI from the same country also for the WC venues.

Team Sprint format has been changed, at all levels it is now carried out with the interval start qualification, and the ICR has also accommodated the Fluor ban implementation: WC juries' composition, with the introduction of the role of the Fluor Equipment Controller, procedures, and sanctions. The Sub-Committee had established a group of people among its member entitled to react and give feedback in case of doubts on Fluor related rules, but the first season went relatively smooth. Controls were performed at every WC stage and in general in more than 500 competitions at every level, with only 1 major case that was brought to the attention of the FIS Appeal Commission. For the next season the Sub-Committee has brought forward some proposals for improvement to the FIS Fluor Testing Coordination group.

Another big work carried out and concluded was the implementation of the timing norms into the ICR: the prescriptions defined by the Timing Booklet have been integrated and have become official rules.

The new FIS point system developed in 2022 has been enforced in the season 2023/2024. It brought to an increase of the FIS points, which determined changes in the qualification criteria for the WSC and the OWG. Some other small adjustments have been approved, such as the setting of specific maximum penalties for the WSC Qualification race and for all the other competitions. FIS Points rules, as well as ICR, have also been adapted to the equal distances' standard.

In this 2 years different working groups have been established to focus on different topics and the last 2 currently ongoing are now facing 2 new different challenges. On one side the too many verbal warnings given in the last season, with the need to develop new directions for Juries. On the other side the big issue of the activism actions meant to stop top event's competitions which goes live on TV.

From the gender balance prospective, the Sub-Committee for Cross Country Rules and Control is still widely participated by man, but both the chair and the vice-chair are women. Moreover, in these 2 years, 3 new Regional HI Coordinators have been appointed, 1 of them being the first woman in that role, while a woman is already in charge of a regional TD coordination since 2020. A similar situation can be seen in the FIS TD family, where in total numbers aren't even, but on top level, in the last WC calendar, among 13 events' Juries, 8 are planned to be led by woman.

The cooperation with the FIS Team, the FIS Nordic Office and FIS It was very good and productive, as well as the coordination with the Cross-Country Committee, the Sub-Committees for World Cup, for Roller Skiing and for Popular cross-country.

## **b. Sub-Committee for Roller Skiing**

*Report by Niklass Martins, Chair*

Climate change is increasingly impacting cross-country skiing, with more than half of the 133 FIS member states lacking sufficient natural snow during winter to hold ski competitions. Roller skiing has emerged as a cost-effective solution to extend the cross-country skiing training and competition season. The FIS Sub-Committee for Roller Skiing is actively promoting roller skiing as a summer training and competition alternative.

Over the past two years, the committee has been updating rules and guidelines, supporting competition organizers globally, participating in technical delegate education, and maintaining active communication with Roller skiing World Cup organizers.

In the 2023 World Cup Roller skiing overall standings for women, Linn Sömskar (SWE) won the crystal globe for the fourth time in her career. Her teammate, Jackline Lockner (SWE), secured second place, while Anna Melnik (KAZ) earned the bronze for the first time in her career. For senior men, Tommaso Dellagiacomma (ITA) delivered an outstanding performance, winning the crystal globe for the first time. The other two podium spots were also claimed by his teammates—Matteo Tanel (ITA) and Emanuele Becchis (ITA).

The 2023 FIS Roller skiing World Cup saw participation from 19 nations, with a total of 350 athletes. Team Kazakhstan won the crystal globe in the Nation Cup overall ranking for the first time in the history of the FIS Roller skiing World Cup.

Each summer, there are over 50 roller skiing competitions listed on the FIS calendar. Regional development trends are evident, with Asia, particularly Thailand, emerging as a rapidly growing region for the discipline.

I extend my gratitude to all FIS Roller Skiing event organizers, participating teams, and athletes for their tremendous efforts. The Sub-Committee for Roller Skiing is committed to continuously improving the organizational level of FIS Roller skiing competitions and will persist in exploring all opportunities that our discipline offers to sustain cross-country skiing.

### **c. Sub-Committee for Cross-Country World and Continental Cups**

*Report by Chris Grover, Chair*

The Subcommittee for World and Continental Cups has been busier than ever over the past two seasons, thoughtfully navigating its way through important changes in our sport, including equal distance racing, competition format changes, and the adoption of fluor-free waxing.

In the 2022-23 season, the subcommittee, along with the Cross-Country Committee, made a bold step into the future, creating a World Cup calendar with only equal-distance competitions for women and men. This decision to mirror the progressive evolution of athletics across all sports helps bring Cross Country ski racing into the future. Although there were sizeable pockets of resistance to the change, and decades of tradition to contend with, the new formats have been widely lauded by athletes, coaches, fans and our greater communities. The agreed-upon new formats for women and men include the 10 km individual start, the 20 km mass start or individual start, the 20 km skiathlon, the 50 km mass start, and the 4 x 7.5 km relay. As of 2024, we've employed these formats for 2 complete seasons of World Cup and now are poised for their introduction at the 2025 Trondheim, Norway Nordic World Championships and the 2026 Milano-Cortina, Italy Winter Olympic Games.

Also starting in the 2022-23 season, the subcommittee embarked on an effort to improve gender balance in the fields of World Cup coaching and ski service, two areas where women are dramatically underrepresented. In this season we introduced a women's only course bib system with two bibs allocated to each nation who brought women technicians and coaches to World Cup to fill the bibs. The concept was to incentivize improving gender balance by providing access to a coveted resource – course access for ski testing. This effort has been largely successful, and we are beginning to see more women in coaching and technician roles at the World Cup each season. Having women visible in these elite-level coaching and tech positions is important for creating role models for female athletes and young coaches who may consider these coveted roles in their future.

Other key subcommittee decisions during this timeframe include the modification of Team Sprint qualification to mirror qualification in individual sprint competitions, a change that has made the event more sprinter-friendly, the modification of World Cup points scoring to ensure tighter, more hard-fought battles for the different cross country World Cup globes each season and experimenting with communal waxing in the Tallinn 2023 World Cup as a means of bringing cost savings to the nations and to the host organizing committee. As we look forward, the Subcommittee for World and Continental Cups sets its sights on keeping Cross Country ski racing vibrant and exciting for our athletes, our fans, and greater skiing community, by focusing on strengthening the participation of nations with limited budgets and competitor numbers, by continuing to find ways to reduce the costs of World Cup participation, and to chart a course for our marquee World Cup event of the season – the Tour de Ski.

#### **d. Sub-Committee for Popular Cross-Country**

*Report by Tommy Höglund, Chair*

One of the main topics for long distance ski races during the last winters has been the lack of snow or other weather-related challenges. Due to warm weather and rapid weather changes many races, especially in middle Europe, have been canceled due to lack of snow.

The committee have worked on different plans according to this problem.

Not many organizers have an artificial snow making system. Some races must be shortened, some others have to be moved to another date, and some have to be canceled. According to ICR the minimum length of a race must be 30 km. To reach that distance some organizers use lapping like in the World Cup.

The committee have started a plan to get more women taking part in popular racing. There is at this date only 25% women taking part.

One working group is working on updating the FIS guidelines for organizing popular Cross-Country competitions. That work will be presented at the Autumn meeting in September 2024. The document will be shorter and updated with existing ICR rules.

The Worldloppet organization and Ski Classics were present at the meetings to give their reports. Ski Classics have had a good development during the last seasons. The pro tour teams have been growing but the big focus is on Norway and Sweden.

The last season was the first with the total fluor-ban. The skiers in popular skiing from Scandinavia seem to have good knowledge. The feeling is that they have understood how to clean their equipment. It seems those skiers from middle Europe have not fully understood that this rule includes also amateurs and is valid also in popular competitions.

Fluor testing at competitions has been organized only in a few races except in Ski Classics series where testing has been organized in all competitions. The result has been positive with only very few suspensions.

The Committee has raised the topic of transgender athletes. We will wait and see how FIS in general will handle that question.

TD nominations in long distance races: every second year the TD will come from the host nation and every second year the TD will come from one neighboring nation. This is to reduce costs and there is a sustainability point in this solution.



## **e. Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Development**

*Report by Özkan Koyuncu, Chair*

Cross-Country Skiing is the only FIS discipline which has its own separate Development Sub-Committee. As Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Development this gives us a responsibility and also opportunity to completely focus and spend all our efforts to think and work on the development projects and ideas for our sport and support FIS Development Department with those ideas and technical matters.

In the past two years, the Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Development tried to progress on two main lines.

- To create attractive and applicable projects for skiing developing nations and find and encourage new nations to start cross country skiing with our technical guidance and expertise.
- Produce short- and long-term projects for the development of CC skiing for skiing developed nations, especially for coaching education and low-level clubs and regions.

With this aim and on the given task by Cross-Country Committee, our subcommittee established a joint working group together with CC Youth & Children's Questions Subcommittee and Women's Nordics Subcommittee which is called "Cross Country Collaboration Working Group". Working Group members discussed the promotion and development of CC skiing from their perspectives and outcome shared with the CC community.

Statistics show us that cross country skiing is traditionally a sport practiced predominantly in Europa (75% of total). We have been actively working for many years to promote and make our sport available in other parts of the world as well. During the last couple of years, despite post pandemic negative effects, CC skiing activities increased significantly in South America and Southeast Asia. Especially roller skiing activities give us a chance in countries where there is no snow. In these countries CC activities start with roller skiing and then continue with winter cross country skiing at the same time. Brazil and Thailand are good examples for this type of countries. Lebanon, Pakistan and Chinese Taipei are other active countries in Asia while Argentina and Chile are in South America in recent years.

Cross-country skiing is a sport that requires patience for a long period of time, and it is therefore important to have a long-term development plan. From this point of view, our subcommittee prepared a new cross country skiing development project "**Train Together**".

This project is basically a project of regional training camps at the end of which FIS CC competitions are held. It is planned to be 4 different regional training camps in 4 different parts of the world (South America, Balkan/Europa, Central Asia and East Asia). The aim is to arrange training camps in the developing regions of CC skiing to create a kind of neighbor countries packages and reduce the travelling time and cost and provide them with similar living conditions to their own. Organizing official FIS CC competitions at the end of the training camps gives a chance to the athletes to compete at the international organization, get the experience and feel the international competition's atmosphere. This also helps regional NSAs increase communication and race circulation among themselves.

With this Project, we also aim to give chance to the coaches from the developed nations to participate this training camps beside the FIS expert coach and local coaches to share their knowledge and experience and also work in an international atmosphere, learn and earn some different experiences at the same time.

This project will contribute to the general spirit of FIS by increasing cooperation and solidarity between developed and developing member countries in this respect.

I thank Cross Country Committee for approving this Project and let us think and work on the details to realize it with the cooperation of FIS Development Department. I believe the FIS Council also will accept this Project proposal and the FIS Development Department put it in practice with FIS and IOC financial funds.

We are very hopeful about the future development of Cross-Country Skiing all over the World. More countries, more organizations and more participants will taste this amazing sport, feel freedom and join us. We believe this!

## **f. Sub-Committee for Cross-Country Youth & Children's Questions**

*Report by Satu Kalajainen, Chair*

Great passion, 28 nations, dedicated expert people with different background and experience, long 3-4,5 h meetings maximizing the joint time: welcome to the world of Cross-Country Youth and Children Sub-Committee which has celebrated its 15 years jubilee by now!

How to cater for a diverse group of nations from Morocco to Norway (not meant in alphabetical range)? How to handle the wide scope of activities from a grassroot ski club activity level to Junior World Champs? The key is in sharing and discussing, exchanging views and asking our clientele what they think.

Huge change in our field in the past period was caused by the decisions deriving senior level; distance equalisation - in our case in Junior World Championship and YOG events. Predictably, the change did not go down without chewing; coaches alike the main actors themselves opposed some of the innovations greatly. FIS carried out survey in 2023 JWSC in Whistler/CAN, afresh on the year change taking place and over 159 athletes and coaches from over 30 participating nations had their say having biggest objections on U20 men 20 kms (instead of 30 kms) and mixed relays. The future will show what long-term consequences the decisions will carry. Changes always shake at first. Elsewhere the big youth questionnaire (-22; 1500 respondents 13-20 years in 22 nations) supported mixed relays 'sometimes', hoped to get skiathlon and nailed down (93%) that both classic and skating are to be kept. Survey was not repeated 2024. Careful evaluation of the questions and the benefit must be done; alternative forms of listening to our clientele – webinars perhaps, starring some hot idols?

Meetings have always involved athlete representatives where feasible, giving valuable insight into our work. Para ski has become part of our meetings since its merger to FIS. Presentations on FIS strategy and Athlete Health Unit were useful to get. Fluor ban experiences were shared and on-goes. Snowkidz and World Snow Day updates have formed a routine part for some 15 years. Hopefully these brands and the headline 'youth and children' carry on one way or the other also in a future not to miss the point.

Self-evaluation took place once again. Important to understand what we are expected to deliver - asked both external and internal stakeholders; more structure, goals, strategy was on a list. Great strategic and developmental work was done in collaboration with a few other Cross-Country Sub-Committees including Para ski, mandated by Cross-Country main Committee. The aim was to provide a starting point for development levels approach and thereby create a system to engage nations at all levels in development and point out some quick initiatives that may help the Development Programmes of FIS in the near future. Almost ten people used their expertise in this, and it is truly hoped, it won't remain just a tabletop exercise. Thanks to everyone involved! Overall, we lean greatly on FIS Development Department and Education. Co-operation is key and to utilise the in-house (FIS family) know-how in different projects and mentoring programmes bring surely the best result in developing our sport even further, in ever increasing competitive environment where the merchandise is people's free time.

Thanks go to all involved, everyone who contributes to the success of Cross-Country Skiing, especially on the children and youth level – our future.

## **B. Ski Jumping**

### **a. Committee Ski Jumping**

*Report by Mika Kojonkoski, Chair*

It is already summer/autumn, and everybody is looking forward for the next season. But let's still have a look backward for last season.

It is good feeling to write this report after a successful Ski Jumping season, again. Especially after the pandemic years, it has been very good to come back to 'normal routines'; get audience back into the stadiums and feel the celebration for the sport. Enjoy athletes' extraordinary performances, feel the tension, and sense the responses of the fans. To create unforgettable moments, this is what sport is about.

In men's WC and WSC we were able to accomplish all the planned 40 events with only one replacement. In modern climate conditions this is huge result. It is possible because of decade long development in the arenas, athletes' equipment and competition modus. Many important and good decisions have been done.

My privilege here also is to thank ski jumping people, in many different roles, for successful effort for our sport.

Men's ski jumping WC were not only accomplished, but products were extremely good. We also were happy to get 18 nations to win WC points and 18 different athletes to the podium. Success seems not to be so centralized only for strong nations, which is sign of wider development. This direction would be good for sport and for everybody involved.

Last year's ladies ski jumping has brought a different dimension. Level of jumping, excitement of competitions and popularity of female jumping has pumped to a new level. This is a big advance for ski jumping and makes the discipline stronger. First ladies ski flying WC in Vikersund with new World record for Silje Opseth (230,5 m) is a good example of that.

There are still many steps to be taken in ladies ski jumping, but the direction is very good. Step by step building strong basic is good philosophy also here. In the future both genders will be shown more in same arenas same times. This will create some challenges, but will also make product stronger, which is beneficial for sport.

Many operations have been done to build sport more globally. We are happy to be back in the US with men's WC, and next season ladies will be with. On top of that ladies will have first WC ever in China, which is new and exciting step for future. These are important operation to be more global. Also here small operations are building a stronger future.

There has been a lot of tension and focus over material rules in the last decades. It is a fact that ski jumping is very sensitive sport and material solutions will always have remarkable influence for the athletes' performance.

Last year we started with a new 3D body scanning system to measure athletes' basic body dimensions. This is an important step to get out of manual measurement, which is always subjective and can create rumors.

We are happy about first year experience and are constantly working to take next steps. Targets behind are clear; be transparent, fear and clear. Create the surroundings for the athletes and teams, where they can focus and fight with athletic performance.

After a successful season we can also be very happy about media numbers. Especially social media, where we have not been strong, remarkable steps have been taken. We are grateful for athletes, teams, national ski federations and LOCs for their afford in this fields. I also want to thank FIS office and media department for their fantastic work in this field. We need to create new attention, especially with young generation.

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

*Report by Hans-Martin Renn, Chair*

### Review of the Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Hills on our work over the last two years

I'll pick up where my report ended in 2022. The use of online meetings during the Corona pandemic led to a completely new way of working in the sub-committee for ski jumping hills. Additional meetings during the working year have become established and are now an ideal prerequisite for us to start the spring meeting well prepared.

Most recently, three working groups, inspections, infrastructure and norms & regulations, prepared the topics for the spring meeting very well with additional meetings.

At this point, special thanks go to the heads of the working groups, inspections Hubert Mathis, infrastructure Miran Tepes and norms & regulations Richard Kaiser. With their expertise and commitment in the working groups, my colleagues were able to a) relieve me of a lot of work and b) improve the quality of the work. All in all, I see the path taken in the sub-committee for ski jumping hills as the right one. I am sure that the current organizing structure will lead to permanently stable work.

The following was decided in the two previous spring meetings:

- Regulations for plastic covered landing hills
- Categorization of ski jumping hills with the new size giant hill
- Guidelines and letters of recommendation:
  - Windnet
  - Ice track
  - Snow retention systems

All of these regulations and guidelines are available on the FIS website: <https://www.fis-ski.com/ski-jumping/documents>

The following topics are currently being worked on and discussed:

The norms & regulations working group is currently revising the standard for ski jump construction, the jump software and the size of ski flying hills. It is planned that the revised standard for ski jump construction will be fully developed and can be adopted by the spring meeting in 2025.

In the expanded work area norms regulations "skiflying hills", the discussion on increasing the parameters for ski flying hills has flared up. The Slovenian Ski Association has requested that the parameters zU and outrun- angle be increased. The proposal was submitted too late for a decision to be made at the spring meeting in Prague in 2024. There was not enough time for solid and serious preparation for a decision. For this reason, the proposal was postponed for discussion until the current working year. The proposal can be voted on at the upcoming spring meeting in 2025.

I personally have a very differentiated view of the further development of ski flying hills within the framework of the norms & regulations working group. On the one hand, I feel increasing pressure from various sides to enlarge the ski flying hills, but on the other hand, I see little potential for attractive competitions.

We have excellent facilities at fixed locations that have offered excellent sport for decades. These facilities were built with the appropriate knowledge and safety requirements and, in addition to safe sport, also offer excellent events for all spectators.

Our job is to set the standards for sport as a whole. In addition to the sports facilities, this also includes the other infrastructure for the safe arrival and departure of participants and spectators. Single events, such as Kobayashi's recent world record flight, should remain single and sponsored events, as they are not made for the general public and are not suitable for all athletes.

In addition, the expansion options for the existing facilities have probably reached their limits. If we want to preserve the existing facilities, we should definitely keep these events, which have been running for years, as absolute highlights of ski jumping, for both participants and spectators.

We are happy to have four ski jumping hill operators who can safely host competitions under these conditions. We are discussing expansion in times of climate change, sustainability and a world that is very vulnerable and changing for winter sports. Is our response to this a good sign by succumbing to gigantism and megalomania and driving it forward?

There are certainly more important and sustainable projects at the moment that will make our beloved ski jumping future-proof and preserve it!



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

*Report by Mario Stecher, Chair*

First of all, I would like to thank my colleagues within the FIS around the two Race Directors Chika Yoshida and Sandro Pertile for their good cooperation.

A very interesting and exciting season lies behind us. Once again, however, it was also a very challenging season due to a wide variety of weather conditions. Nevertheless, almost all of the competitions in the top league could be held - 39 competitions for the men and 29 for the women. The first highlight of the season was undoubtedly the 4 Hills Tournament with incredibly high-quality competitions and excitement right up to the last jump in Bischofshofen. On the women's side, the 2 Nights Tour was also held for the first time. At the Ski Flying World Championships held in Bad Mitterndorf/Kulm, local hero Stefan Kraft was crowned World Champion. Special thanks go to the outstanding jury who made it possible to hold the final round in the most difficult wind conditions in front of over 20 thousand enthusiastic fans. We also look back on a great ski flying weekend in Vikersund. The highlight there was an outstanding Silje Opseth who set the women's world record at 230.5 meters. As has been customary for decades, the end of the season was once again held in Planica. Stefan Kraft and Nica Prevc were crowned the deserved overall World Cup winners there.

To summarize, we can say with a clear conscience that ski jumping is going very well without complaining about weak calendars.

Special thanks again to my colleagues at the Fis who made this possible.

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

#### **d. Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Officials, Rules and Control**

*Report by Ivo Greger, Chair*

The Sub-Committee for Officials, Rules and Control Ski Jumping is continuously working on improving the quality of work in Ski Jumping sport. We focus on education of all officials working at the hills.

New project built in last 3 years is education and licencing of chiefs of competition in all FIS Ski Jumping events. Development of new technologies and IT possibilities helps us to build comfortable system with online education finished by online theoretical test and practical test held as a practical workshop during selected world cup Ski Jumping competition. Successful candidates gain a License valid for four years.

In 2023 were held four theoretical online tests for 57 candidates and five practical workshops for 53 candidates. Currently we have 107 chiefs of competition from 21 countries with valid License.

This step significantly increased the level of work of many organizing committees and made chiefs of competition equivalent partner for other Jury members.

Beside this project FIS seminar for TDs, jumping judges and OC members was held in Eau Claire /USA/ in October. 29 colleagues from the USA and CAN created a good working atmosphere during this interactive seminar.

New Video Distance Measurement System and Calculation System from Norway K-Jump was approved and certified for lower-level FIS competitions. This K-Jump system can help organizers to be more financially stable and hopefully will help us to offer more FIS Cups and lower-level competition mainly for young athletes.

For two years, the working group for judges' analysis is working hard on a new tool based more on personalized analysis of each judge performance. This new system has huge potential for education, improvement, selection of judges for big events, etc. The working group will continue to create user-friendly and easy to read system also in the future.

At the end I would like to thanks to all TDs, judges, chiefs of competition, all OCs and all teams and athletes for good respectful cooperation and good job leading to further development of our nice sport...

Special thanks to all FIS SJ professionals for their work and excellent cooperation and support to our officials. Many thanks to FIS office for continuous support, help and cooperation.

## **e. Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping Equipment and Development**

*Report by Bertil Pålstrud, Chair*

The Equipment Committee has two scheduled meetings every year, one in the spring just after the season and one in the autumn. In addition, we have, in the last years, introduced a meeting with the suppliers and the committee in connection with the World Cup final in Planica. The purpose of this meeting is to get information from the suppliers about planned developments and innovation regarding the different parts of the equipment.

Since we have been stable in the equipment rules through the Olympic season in 2022 and Nordic Championship season in 2023 with no major changes, we made necessary changes in different parts of the equipment before the season 2023-2024. The purpose of the rule changes was to reduce the aerodynamic effect for the athletes and by that safeguard better competitions and create better control of the competitions for the jury and Competition Management. With the positive effect of these rule changes and the fact that we are entering into a Nordic Championship season in 2024-2025 we decided to not make any major changes in the equipment rules for the upcoming season.

To secure a more accurate body measurement the 3D Body Scan was introduced as the body measurement method valid from the season 2023-2024. This introduction was a significant improvement, and it opens up opportunities for further utilisation of this technology in the upcoming seasons.

The committee has a clear ambition to reduce the number of suits used in a season and in competitions. This will reduce the cost in material, waste of material and it will even out the opportunity to compete on the highest level for all participating nations. Therefore we have decided to test out a program including marking of the suits and the number of suits allowed to use in a competition during the summer Grand Prix in 2024. The result of the test will be discussed in the autumn meeting and further decisions will be taken there.

Finally, I announced in 2023 that I will not be a candidate for the position as Chairman of this committee after the Congress in 2024. After 25 years as Chairman I think it is good with a change in this position. I will use the opportunity to thank all members in the Committee for fruitful discussions and the engagement you have shown for bringing this sport to an even higher level. I will also thank the suppliers for the open discussion we have had regarding the equipment used in our sport. At last but not least I will thank the equipment controllers for the good and serious work they have done in all these years. Good luck in the upcoming seasons.

## **f. Sub-Committee for Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined Youth & Children's Questions**

*Report by Harald Haim, Chair*

After three years in which we could only hold online sessions due to the Corona pandemic, we met again in April 2023 in Zurich and in April 2024 in Prague. Our experience was that discussions and exchanges of opinions were significantly better and easier in person.

Participation in the sessions is good and stable, although some nations or their delegates should participate more in the decisions and discussions.

Our two disciplines must live with the decisions of the IOC, which brought a positive outcome for women's ski jumping (an additional event on the large hill) but also negative results through the reduction of the starting fields for male ski jumpers and Nordic combined athletes, which no longer offer a future for our traditional team competitions. The worst situation is for our women in Nordic combined, who will not be able to participate in the next Olympic Games. We will all have to strive together to present our disciplines and athletes as a whole on the Olympic stage.

This certainly includes the quality of our Junior World Championships, which have been very well organized in the past two years in Whistler/CAN and Planica/SLO, and the sporting level was outstanding. As always overseas, the number of participants in Canada was slightly lower but was brought back to a very good level last winter in Slovenia.

Our events for the younger generation are developing very differently. Unfortunately, the Youth Cup for ski jumpers no longer has any organizers, while the Nordic Combined Youth Cup is running very well, and the number of participants is very high. What is particularly important is the increase in the number of participating girls. The New Star Trophy competitions are increasingly being used as an entry into international competition. However, much more should be done to improve the exchange between nations in this age group.

A very positive development is the new structure in the FIS development area. Dimitrije Lazarovski's team is working very hard to support the national ski associations and FIS disciplines. Berni Schödler is a very important contact person for Ski jumping and Nordic Combined, who also takes care of children's and youth sports issues. It is important to know that all relevant information is available in the FIS Development Hub and this part of the FIS website will be the first point of contact.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who works for the benefit of our young athletes and ask you to continue to focus on cooperation. Only together can we achieve our goals and make our disciplines bigger and better.

## **C. Nordic Combined**

### **a. Executive Board Nordic Combined**

*Report by Jacqueline Start, Chair*

Following the IOC's decision not to include the women's Nordic combined in the Olympic programme, another intense season awaited us. With this year's "Individual Compact Race", Nordic Combined set new standards for the sport and proved to be an exciting competition. At the WC in Oberstdorf, 15 athletes battled it out for 3rd place, which was a competition in a class of its own for the spectators at home as well as for all the athletes. As the finale of the "Compact Race" series, the best athletes crowned themselves with another globe, which was awarded at the final in Trondheim. The implementation of an additional globe is an absolute upgrade of the discipline. The committee has taken further measures to make Nordic Combined even more attractive in the coming season. Another exciting winter awaits us with the implementation of a further mass start globe through to jumping with the NC women on the large hill.

Nordic Combined not only sends a clear signal of change, but also demonstrates the courage and strength to give everything to maintain the tradition of the sport and to promote the women accordingly. Together with the help and close cooperation of all nations and the strong support of the FIS management, we have succeeded in financially supporting projects such as "nation help nation" or various other activities of the nations and promoting their work accordingly. The Nordic Combined is moving even closer together as the Nordic family and is demonstrating true perseverance in such challenging times.

After the resignation of Horst Hüttel from the Nordic Combined Committee, the discipline not only showed courage for change in the sport. With the installation of my person, the NC committee set a historic milestone by confirming the first woman in FIS history as Chair of a technical committee. This trust and sign is a big and important step for "FIS Gender Equality". In general, sport is one of the most powerful platforms for promoting gender equality and therefore Nordic Combined can be very proud to lead by example.

I would like to thank the entire team around FIS, especially Race Director Lasse Ottesen, who is working tirelessly to promote the development of Nordic Combined and make it something special. Without their passion and commitment many things would not be possible. A big thank you also goes to my predecessor Horst Hüttel. Horst has made a very important contribution to Nordic Combined for many years and I definitely want to build on that. Finally, I would like to thank all the nations, federations and organisers for their commitment and support. Without your willingness to give everything it would not be possible for us all to offer our athletes the best conditions.

Let us not forget to show the world how extraordinary and varied the sport of Nordic Combined is and how important the next steps are for us to offer the very young discipline of Nordic Combined women the opportunity to develop further and fulfil all Nordic Combined athletes the dream of participating in the Olympic Winter Games.

## **b. Sub-Committee for Nordic Combined Officials, Rules and Control**

*Report by Günter Csar, Chair*

In recent months, there have been significant changes in Nordic Combined, marking a period of exciting developments and groundbreaking decisions.

At the beginning it should be mentioned that the last two Sub-Committee meetings were held in person, which was warmly welcomed by all participants. The opportunity for face-to-face interaction facilitated a more intensive exchange of ideas and fostered creativity in discussions, which was especially valuable during this current phase.

A highlight was the successful TD Seminar 2024 held in Planica, which saw the participation of 60 attendees from 14 nations. Particularly gratifying was the achievement of six TD candidates, including two women, who passed the theoretical test on-site. Such training programs are essential for maintaining and enhancing the quality and professionalism in the sport, ensuring that Nordic Combined continues to evolve and remain at a high standard.

A surprising turn of events came with the decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to reduce quotas for the men's competitions and to postpone the participation of women in the Olympic Games to a later date. This announcement took everyone by surprise and led to a brief period of introspection. However, the focus quickly shifted forward.

The International Ski Federation (FIS) responded by establishing a working group called "Future Nordic Combined," which include, among others five FIS board members, the race director and the chairwoman of the Nordic Combined Committee. The group's mission is to support the NC committees by providing valuable input to address new challenges and shape the future of the sport.

One of the innovative ideas developed in this context is the new "Compact Sprint" format, which is set to be tested at the COC level in the coming winter. In this format, the winner is determined after a jumping competition, followed by four heats on short loops of 650 to 750 meters. This concept promises a high level of excitement and allows organizers to create thrilling competitions within the ski jumping area with reduced energy consumption. The "Super Sprint" format had already been successfully tested previously, and the "Compact Race" format has been integrated into the World Cup program.

Another significant step is the equal treatment of both genders at the Junior World Championships, where both now compete in the same number of events. The introduction of Mixed-Team competitions, which have already been successfully held at the World Championships, has added a new layer of excitement.

Looking ahead, a major milestone is set for the next season: For the first time, NC World Cup women's competitions will take place on the large hill. This is an important step in promoting gender equality in the sport and enhancing the appeal of Nordic Combined.

Despite the challenges ahead, we remain optimistic about the future. Recent events have demonstrated that all stakeholders are coming together more closely and contributing their energy positively. With combined efforts, we will continue to work on making Nordic Combined exciting and attractive. We look forward to an exciting future and are confident that together, we can elevate Nordic Combined to a new level.

## **D. Nordic Disciplines**

### **a. Sub-Committee for Women's Nordic Disciplines**

*Report by Virginia de Martin Topranin, Chair*

The Sub-Committee (SC) Women's Nordic Disciplines has developed considerably in the last two years and undertaken important initiatives to target several women-specific needs in Nordic disciplines and beyond. The strengthened collaboration with Nordic disciplines Committees, Sub-Committees, the FIS Development department, our stakeholders as well as the support from the FIS Office have been invaluable for the development of the SC. Although important steps ahead have been made, there are still several challenges that need to be addressed.

The main goal of the SC Women's Nordic Disciplines concerns the FIS gender equity, diversity and inclusion strategy. The SC has repeatedly asked FIS to take a stronger approach in terms of gender balance and implement a FIS overall gender, diversity and inclusion operational plan. We believe there is currently an untapped potential for both female athletes and generally women in FIS. Designing a concrete plan will support and provide structure to the initiatives of the Committees and ultimately strengthen their impact. Moreover, improving gender equity, diversity and inclusion will strengthen the credibility of the organization and increase FIS attractiveness for sponsors and partners.

The SC Women's Nordic Disciplines acknowledges that there is a gender disparity in Nordic disciplines both among athletes and other sport roles (e.g., coach, support staff, representation). We have identified specific problems and how to possibly tackle them. Initiatives meant to empower and educate women (i.e., mentoring program) are needed. However, they may fall short in achieving gender balance goals if isolated. Rather, we should strive to create a welcoming and appealing environment for women to thrive. We see large potential in a cultural change in the FIS system brought by education regarding inclusion and diversity. Moreover, the temporary implementation of quotas may help the process.

The SC has identified important knowledge gaps in terms of female athlete-specific challenges among coaches and support staff. Therefore, several initiatives have been undertaken. In 2024, the SC has organized a monthly webinar series "Training the female athlete", featuring internationally recognised experts as keynote speakers. More than 900 persons have registered for the webinars and the series has received positive feedback. A continuation of the webinar series has been planned for 2025. Moreover, the SC organized a female athlete-specific workshop during the FIS DP CC Education Camp held in Val di Fiemme in May 2024. Finally, the SC has initiated a collaboration with the FIS Development department to include female athlete topic in the FIS Education plan.

Ensuring female athletes' health is a crucial challenge for the SC. The SC has initiated a collaboration with the FIS Athlete Health Unit to address these challenges. Among others, the SC has focused its efforts on Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport and has discussed the implementation of the athlete's health declaration. Moreover, the SC set the goal of ensuring menstrual health for female athletes and support staff at competition venues. A proposal has been sent to Cross Country Committee and will be further discussed with all Nordic disciplines.



## **E. Alpine Skiing**

### **a. Executive Board Alpine Skiing**

*Report by Massimo Rinaldi, Chair*

If we remember from where we came from, what prognoses and difficulties we faced, we can say that we had a hard season, probably worse than the Pandemic Season. The changes of the climate were more evident than expected with all the consequences we have experienced. A reserve day was in most cases the usual business, there is nothing new and nothing wrong with this. Pressures came from the weather, from travel concerns or internal problems, and this requires a programmed change to find the best solution.

Last winter, this arose more often than normal, cases that were not easy to handle, and sometimes borderline decisions had to be made. There were pressures from different stakeholders, and it was at times difficult to identify a common solution between the sport, media, spectators, and the athletes. Looking back, the responsible persons, and particularly the race directors, did a wonderful job. Thank you again to you and your team.

Great competitions were held on different days and on different time schedules than planned. It will be our task now to act in the best interest of our sport and the athletes. The fascinating part of our sport is the movements on snow and the control of speed, the course setting and natural terrain are unfortunately also accompanied by bad crashes. I'd like to wish all injured athletes the best and fast recovery, in a way to come back stronger than before.

We must keep in mind that a certain risk always remains in our sport. And that despite ongoing safety measures, we must daily improve and develop our sport with the support of the Athletes Health Unit.

During the past season there weren't major events like World Championships or Olympic Winter Games, but we cannot forget the great protagonists as we all know, the different Continental Cups, as well as all 2800 FIS competitions which took place all over the world.

At the end of my report, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the numerous volunteers around the world, as well as the trainers, coaches, and all the organizers of races that may not have received attention on the main stage.

## b. Sub-Committee for Classification of Alpine Competitions

*Report by Jeff Weinman, Chair*

Since my last report in 2022, the Subcommittee for Classification of Alpine Competitors has continued its focus on the integrity of the alpine points list to give competitors an accurate reflection of their performance.

Our last major change to the list was approved during the 2018 FIS Congress in Costa Navarino (GRE) and implemented in the 2019 season.

Recently we have been discussing the minimum penalties that were approved and if any of them warrant further change to ensure that the correct values are being used at the different levels of competition. We will continue these discussions, as well as other proposals, going forward to continue to refine and improve the alpine FIS points system.

We can see positive signs for our sport with the numbers of athletes registered for FIS, the number of races valid for FIS points, and the number of athletes who have started in races.

We saw a small decrease in total athlete registrations in season 2024 compared to 2023, but the number remains higher than pre-Covid registrations.

Number of Athletes Registered				Number of 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Athletes Registered			
Season	Women	Men	Total	Season	Women	Men	Total
2016	4,550	7,453	12,003	2016 (YOB 1999)	1,179	1,599	2,778
2017	4,518	7,455	11,973	2017 (YOB 2000)	1,090	1,510	2,600
2018	4,645	7,577	12,222	2018 (YOB 2001)	1,217	1,528	2,745
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	7,722	12,805	2022 (YOB 2005)	1,301	1,589	2,890
2023	5,177	7,712	12,889	2023 (YOB 2006)	1,265	1,545	2,810
2024	5,106	7,740	12,846	2024 (YOB 2007)	1,202	1,510	2,712

The number of races valid for FIS points was up slightly in 2024 but has fallen from a post-Covid high in 2022. Environmental issues have impacted our organizers tremendously and are expected to continue to challenge our sports going forward.

Races Valid for FIS Points													
	Women						Men						Total
	D H	SG	GS	SL	A C	Total	D H	SG	GS	SL	A C	Total	
2016	79	144	438	548	38	1,247	81	147	455	578	37	1,298	2,545
2017	74	156	488	626	47	1,391	80	169	517	653	58	1,477	2,868
2018	71	153	526	645	39	1,434	84	159	560	693	52	1,548	2,982
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
2023	68	133	494	679	14	1,388	68	131	519	689	15	1,422	2,810
2024	69	133	498	692	11	1,403	67	124	522	694	12	1,419	2,822

Interestingly, while our number of races valid for points decreased from 2023 to 2024, our total athlete starts increased significantly showing the strong desire of our athletes to compete when there is opportunity. The average field size in our competitions reflects this increase in total starts.

Number of Athlete Starts in Valid Races							
	Women						Total
	DH	SG	GS	SL	AC	Total	
2016	2,921	6,149	25,746	28,800	1,745	65,361	
2017	2,681	6,985	27,215	30,255	2,116	69,252	
2018	2,608	6,988	29,553	31,054	1,702	71,905	
2019	2,726	5,915	30,797	31,745	1,104	72,287	
2020	1,875	4,837	21,009	24,601	1,132	53,454	
2021	1,986	5,402	25,951	27,530	1,336	62,205	
2022	3,170	6,339	30,009	34,525	1,064	75,107	
2023	2,965	6,060	28,875	33,820	353	72,073	
2024	3,806	6,852	33,542	40,480	352	85,032	

  

	Men						Total
	DH	SG	GS	SL	AC	Total	
2016	5,345	11,680	41,844	47,679	2,867	109,415	174,776
2017	5,380	12,684	44,474	52,015	4,193	118,746	187,998
2018	5,538	12,176	47,802	53,005	3,648	122,169	194,074
2019	4,471	10,394	47,616	51,970	2,242	116,693	188,980
2020	2,941	7,513	31,815	37,492	1,482	81,243	134,697
2021	3,444	9,126	38,454	43,219	2,559	96,802	159,007
2022	5,466	10,646	46,865	53,450	2,024	118,451	193,558
2023	4,501	9,738	45,097	53,339	783	113,458	185,531
2024	6,384	10,538	51,864	65,489	705	134,980	220,012

The trends continue to give me optimism for alpine sport in the face of environmental challenges. On behalf of the members of the subcommittee, I want to express my thanks to the alpine and IT staff at FIS who work to ensure that our athletes receive credit for their performance in a timely and accurate manner. Thank you as well to all the organizers, officials, and volunteers who make alpine sport safe, fun, and fair.

### c. Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses

*Report by Elena Gaja des Ambrois, Chair*

At the online FIS Congress in spring 2022, the Sub Committee for Alpine Courses counted 16 members, 55 inspectors and 6 honorary members; during the reporting period the total number of inspectors (including members) slightly increased to 73 from 32 countries.

The number of Homologation Certificates issued was slightly lower if compared to the previous period: during the last 2 seasons **880 Homologation Certificates** were issued, sent and published, 53 less than the previous ones, approving competition courses in **39 countries**, visiting **317 ski resorts** and appointing **59 inspectors**.

There is a certain turnover in the 'inspectors' pool', as against some retirements there are nevertheless some new entries from different countries.

Looking at the summary table, we can observe that the number of DH homologations decreased a little bit (-1%) even if together with the stable number of SGs the speed events are still representing the 23% of the total amount; a slight drop in numbers for technical events made them scoring a – 6% but they are still representing the 77% of the total. Finally, the little increase experienced by the Parallel in the previous 2 periods (2018 – 2022) turned down again to usual numbers of the period 2016-2018, at around the 1% of the total number.

Summary of Homologation Certificates by Country and Events - period 2022-2024								comparison with previous periods		
NSA	DH	SG	GS	SL	P	Total	Venues	2020-22	2018-20	2016-18
AND	1	2	4	5		12	4	1	5	7
ARG	1	2	4	5		12	3	4	10	3
AUT	7	17	31	41	1	97	37	106	98	67
AZE		1	1	1		3	1	-	-	-
BIH	1	2	4	5		12	3	6	8	1
BUL		2	7	7		16	4	14	8	20
CAN	2	4	10	18	1	35	19	33	27	36
CHI	3	6	4	5		18	5			
CHN	2	5	9	10		26	3	11	14	4
CYP				1		1	1			
CZE		3	2	3		8	7	9	17	14
ESP	2	9	11	11		33	11	16	23	15
FIN				1		1	1	14	6	5
FRA	6	10	27	30	4	77	27	125	111	97
GBR			3	10		13	4	3	-	-
GER		1	1	2		4	3	17	12	10
GRE			5	5		10	3	17	7	7
IRI	1	6	6	6		19	6			
ISL			7	11		18	7	1	-	7
ITA	12	27	49	59	1	148	48	185	144	129
JPN		2	5	8		15	9	15	13	6
KAZ			1	1	1	3	1	2	3	5
KGZ			1	2		3	1	-	-	-
KOR		1	2	5		8	3	2	-	22
LBN			4	6		10	1	4	4	8
LTU				1		1	1	-	-	-
MNE			1			1	1	5	1	-
NOR	3	1	4	5		13	8	49	14	14

Summary of Homologation Certificates by Country and Events - period 2022-2024								comparison with previous periods		
<b>NZL</b>			1	2		3	2	1	7	-
<b>POL</b>		1	3	7		11	6	18	13	4
<b>ROU</b>		1	12	17		30	8	3	-	-
<b>RUS</b>	3	4	4	4	1	16	4	25	45	25
<b>SLO</b>		1	1	6	1	9	4	18	16	7
<b>SRB</b>		2	1	2		5	1	16	4	2
<b>SUI</b>	7	9	12	18		46	17	56	40	48
<b>SVK</b>			3	3		6	3	7	2	5
<b>SWE</b>			8	9		17	8	14	9	33
<b>TUR</b>		2	2	2	1	7	1	21	9	9
<b>USA</b>	8	20	31	54		113	41	100	107	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>735</b>
<b>%</b>	7	16	32	44	1	100				

The Sub Committee meets (online and in presence) 4 times, twice per year: online meetings are solving some 'urgent matters' and are 'easy to handle', although our activity still need also traditional in presence meetings.

For sure the temporary stop to the organization of the bi-annual on-venue gathering, before not possible because of the pandemic and then become very difficult due to financial matters, gave us a break in the institutional education and training process that I hope we'll have the opportunity to resume as soon as possible: in the meantime training processes are left 100% as usual to each individual national association, also considering the great diversity in terms of territory, procedures and sustainability of each country. Of course, the FIS Office and I were always willing to listen and cooperate with those who asked for.

### On-Line Homologations System – Homologation Certificates

The On-Line System remains reliable, allowing us to take immediate action whenever necessary: in the coming months there is the intention to complete the digitization process started some time ago.

About the Homologation Certificates, there were some changes:

- a new graphic layout has been set, to fix a standard across all FIS disciplines
- the new certificates are no longer printed on paper and sent via traditional mail as in the past, but are only available in the FIS Database, which will show the latest valid official version, allowing quick and sustainable changes whenever required.

### FIS TDs Additional Reports - Exceptions

The excellent cooperation with the TDs gives us constantly updated info during the racing season concerning issues on the slopes after earth movements or growth of vegetation, allowing prompt and precise actions to maintain or even increase our athletes' safety. In some cases, following the development and changes in technique, it's necessary to adapt with the course setting and grant exceptions, which is possible when needed with the current easy and fast procedure.

### FIS Office - Inspectors

The good work is always the result of healthy and useful cooperation between all the actors such the FIS Office, especially the IT department, the Race Directors, the Continental Cup

Coordinators, all Members and Inspectors: I thank them all personally for their great commitment.

Our goal is to help prevent injuries and I thank all the people helping us to do so.

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

*Report by Michael Huber, Chair*

Back to work. This might be the summary of the past period of Alpine Rules. As another summary, the quote of former Vice-Chair from Canada, Dave Pym, could be the headline as well: "The objective must remain - Rules have to be fair and safe" ! I want to thank all the members of Rules for their contribution and support, to find the right balance between modernization but keeping the traditional values high of our favorite sport: Alpine Ski Racing !

### **Spring 2022 Meeting**

- For the last time, due to the pandemic, the meeting was held online only.
- Intensive discussions about the Super-G in 2 runs. Presentation about the history of alpine events in two runs. Generally in favor, but too many open questions, so more studies are needed.
- Discussion about the change of the penalty time at Parallel events. The Sub-Committee members were generally in favor, but the FIS Council rejected the proposal for further studies as well.
- ICR 611.3.2.2 Adoption of a proposal from the data and timing working group to make photo finish mandatory for level 0 races. A request to make the homologation of starting clocks was rejected by the Sub-Committee rules members.
- Information was given, that Ski Cross is to be intended to become part of Alpine with the request from the FIS Office to coordinate about the respective rulebooks ICR (create different series of numbers of articles)

### **Fall 2022 Meeting**

- The first meeting in person in a long time was used to discuss several items with the request to create rules proposals for 2023 spring meeting. As a first experience with Ski Cross, the common opinion raised, that in the long run, it should become an independent discipline.
- After his retirement in spring, with big applause and standing ovations, long term Vice-Chair and member Dave Pym from Canada was thanked for his ever valuable contribution to this Sub-Committee (30 years !). Unanimously he was proposed to become an honorary member of this Sub-Committee.

### **Spring 2023 Meeting**

- With the new FIS structures, the technical meeting took place at the earliest time of the year for 11 years and now is split to the Congress meeting with about 4 weeks difference.
- It was clear that without a rules workshop by the end of the northern hemisphere racing season the agenda and related proposals couldn't have been possible. Thanks to all involved.
- The discussion about a Super-G in 2 runs was ended by the decision of the Alpine Executive, not wanting such a type of event, not mirroring the DNA of our discipline.
- The request for an updated proposal about the penalty time in parallel couldn't be answered successfully. No alternative proposal was found.
- ICR 611.3.2.1. A decision was made to precise the wording from "time" to "time of day".

- ICR 614.2.3, 661,4.1 and 804.3. It was decided with majority, to delete the last exception of stepping back in Slalom after a complete stop without a gate fault. So, from now on, at all alpine events, stepping back is prohibited after a complete stop in general.
- ICR 617.2.3. To update modern types of communication, the “notice board” can be done with any technical communication channel, if announced at the first Team Captains Meeting.
- ICR 618.1. The expression “level” to be defined within the ICR was supported unanimously, the different levels brought into the FIS points rule book for easier recognition.
- ICR 621.12. In demarcation to the overall rule in the art. 200, the “double entry” for Alpine Competitions was precised.
- ICR 623.2.6. The requested rule adoption about a more detailed precision about reasons for a re-run was not adopted.
- ICR 801.2.3. A precision was adopted unanimously about the technical description of the delayed gate combination in Slalom.
- ICR 1001.3.2. Another precision was adopted about exceptional color of a gate panel in Super-G for safety reasons.
- ICR 1211.f. Unanimously decided was a major change of the former Combined Team Event to replace it with the newly established **TEAM COMBINED**. This gives the chance to adopt this event instead of the former individual Alpine Combined for major events (Olympic Winter Games, World Ski Championships).
- ICR 1232.4. and 1232.5. Only for easier reading an adjustment was made about Parallel Rules.

### **Fall 2023 Meeting**

- The FIS Council nominated Jana Palovicova (SVK) as Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee.
- As it is the tradition, the fall meeting was used to discuss rules items to be prepared and proposed for next spring meeting.

### **Spring 2024 Meeting**

- There was no time to run a workshop before the meeting for a detailed agenda and proposals. As a possible outlook for the future, the need might be that rules proposals will be presented and decided at the Fall meeting but becoming valid the following early Spring.
- As every spring meeting, the Chairman presented the statistical data of alpine FIS competitions the past season 2023/24. In total 2.822 races took place. 136 (5%) Downhill, 257 (9%) Super-G, 1.020 (36%) Giant Slalom, 1.384 (49%) Slalom, 23 (0,8%) Alpine Combined, 5 (0,2 %) Parallel. These numbers cover a good average. As an additional interesting data, the “ranking” of the NSA was presented. ITA held 17,2% of all FIS recognized races, USA 13,3%, CAN 6,3%. These countries are followed by AUT, SWE, NOR, SUI, FRA, JPN and FIN to be in the Top 10 of this ranking.
- ICR 601.4.1.4 and 601.4.2.3. To be in line with the new FIS statutes, the gender rule for Jury compositions was adjusted accordingly.
- ICR 601.4.5.6. Also decided unanimously was the adaption of the FIS statutes, that minutes of Alpine Jurys must be written in English language.
- ICR 611.2.2. A technical adoption was made about the hand timing devices.
- No decisions but fruitful discussions took place about the Nationality of the Chief of Race, as well possible updates of rules for racers inspection. A new thought was brought up and supported to introduce the so called “slip crews” for course maintenance into future ICR.



Also general support was given about precisions to the number of gate judges based on the level.

- Extensive discussion took place about several thoughts for more rules about the video controller. More studies are needed about this subject.
- The Sub-Committee Youth & Children decided upon a start limitation for U18 athletes. Supported by Alpine Rules, wording details will be forwarded to FIS Council for approval.

Finally, the Alpine Appeals Commission did not have a case during the reported two years period. This proves the success of the ICR as well. Again, a big “thank you” to all members and staff of FIS involved.

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

*Report by Walter Vogel, Chair*

The review of the 2023/2024 season is characterised by many challenges, difficult conditions, cancellations - but also great performances. We would like to congratulate Switzerland's Lara Gut and Marco Odermatt on winning the overall World Cup.

However, we will also remember the numerous cancellations of World Cup events. Particularly at the beginning of the season, but also during the season and right up to the end at the final in Saalbach, a wide variety of reasons led to races having to be cancelled or aborted. A lack of snow, storms often coupled with heavy snow or rainfall accompanied us throughout the winter and sometimes ruined a ready racetrack within a few days, twice even after the official positive snow inspection. In the end, almost 20% of all originally planned events were affected, a few of which could be rescheduled.

However, the rescheduled races also led to controversial discussions. On the one hand, because the value of an event made up on a weekday is too low for TV, marketers and often also for the organisers. But especially because we lost too many athletes in the 23/24 season due to long-term injuries. It was unusual that so many top athletes were affected, which some attribute to the strain on the athletes due to calendar planning. In the end, the causes of the injuries are manifold. Nevertheless, we must have a discussion without taboos about planning, breaks, health requirements for a start in the World Cup and also the material. Because the stars belong on the slope and not in a sickbed.

Spreading the World Cup finals over two weekends (technical and speed weekends) has not proved its worth because it has neither led to an increase in attractiveness nor generated enthusiasm for the teams. In future, the Finals will once again be held in a single package, with the days and events being organised according to optimised TV times depending on the venue.

Despite the difficult conditions, the TV figures are one of the positive aspects of the past season. We were able to increase live audience and media impact in many markets. The constantly improving quality of TV productions and on-screen graphics also contributed to this. The digital key figures are constantly increasing anyway, and there are still many viral synergies to be realised here.

Incidentally, the Team Alpine Combined did not find a place in the calendar. The team competition consisting of one downhill racer and one slalom racer per nation was designed for major events and is not suitable for the World Cup. The originally planned test event in Kitzbühel was removed from the calendar just in time for the start of the season after fierce protests from the athletes due to mixed teams from different nations and the awarding of points for the discipline World Cup.

The experiences from last season have prompted the race directors to draw the necessary conclusions:

- Fewer races will be planned (up to 40), which will mainly take place at the beginning and end of the winter in locations where we are most likely to have good snow conditions.

- The aim is to have a balanced calendar between speed and tech competitions.
- Two identical events in one location should be avoided.
- Three speed events at one location will not be planned.
- An exception will be made at venues that have already been determined before the season for potential replacement races. In the 2024/2025 season, these are Val Gardena for a cancelled speed race in the first third of the season and Kvitfjell for one in the rest of the season.
- Slalom and Giant Slalom races will not be made up in the event of a cancellation.

We therefore expect to successfully organise more races in the coming season and at the same time reduce the discussions about overloading.

To conclude my report, I would like to thank all the organisers and their volunteers who contribute to the success of the Alpine World Cup through their tireless efforts. After the season, the Sub-Committee for the Alpine World Cup increased the maximum price for accommodation and full board from 120 to 140 sFr. We want this to be seen as a strong signal of appreciation to all organisers.

My special thanks go to the teams led by Peter Gerdol and Markus Waldner for their huge commitment and for many smart decisions before and during the competitions, as well as Tatjana, Janez and Daniel in the office.

Looking forward to 2024/2025.

## **f. Sub-Committee for Alpine North American Cup**

*Report by Chip Knight, Chair*

The NorAm Cup had a successful season in 2023-24 with 44 races contested across four events: 6 DH, 8 SG, 15 GS, and 15 SL. Unfortunately, eight calendared events had to be canceled due to weather: two DH, four SG, one GS, and one SL. The speed races scheduled for April were particularly challenging, where we lost 30% of the scheduled DH and SG events for the season.

This year the NorAm Subcommittee continued its effort to grow speed participation by starting the calendar with DH and SG races at Copper in December. We also held a joint USA/CAN DH training camp at Copper for four days beforehand to allow athletes training time before the event. Men's participation was up year-over-year, but women's participation was down due to some scheduling conflicts: the St. Moritz World Cup races at the same time and Mont Tremblant NorAm races in the east the following week.

Continuing our effort from previous years, we held NorAm technical races on World Cup venues, returning to Beaver Creek with the men and adding Mont Tremblant to the calendar for the women. These were great races that pushed our young athletes to perform on world class hills. That effort will surely yield results in the years to come as athletes strive to compete on the World Cup circuit.

Average NorAm penalties were down for our women's races in every event except DH. The events at Mont Tremblant after the World Cup helped contribute to this improvement. For the men, average penalties were up slightly. For that reason, we are aiming to host the first NorAm events in November next year when higher level athletes will be able to attend.

Still, ongoing challenges remain for the NorAm Cup. 14% of our scheduled races were lost due to the increasing effects of climate change and the fickle nature of our current weather patterns. Extremely high winds, "atmospheric river" snowstorms, winter thunderstorms, and rapid temperature shifts from warm rain to deep freezes are the new normal and it is very difficult to plan ski races in such conditions.

Additionally, hill preparation continues to be an enormous undertaking for individual race organizers and the host NSAs. U.S. Ski & Snowboard and Alpine Canada both commit a large amount of financial and human resources to create elite-level venues with very little outside support. More broadly, rising costs are a consistent issue for our sport. NSA hosting expenses and athlete travel costs are rising at a rate higher than inflation. Combined with the difficulty of finding and maintaining appropriate speed venues, these issues present a massive developmental concern for our sport. Of course, we feel this problem acutely in the U.S. and Canada due to our geographic size, our physical separation from the heart of the sport in Europe, and the economic model of our North American ski resorts. Still, these core challenges are also shared around the world. We urge FIS to investigate these issues more closely to keep our sport healthy at the Continental Cup and younger levels.

Looking ahead, we are actively planning the calendar for the 2024-25 season. There are 26 events per gender on the current draft. The calendar starts in November with the first block of races in Colorado. In the middle of the season, we will shift to Canada for two blocks of racing before the World Junior Championships. The Finals are scheduled in the eastern U.S. just before and during the planned World Cup Finals in Sun Valley.

## **g. Sub-Committee for Alpine Australia/New Zealand Cup**

*Report by Jono Howson, Chair*

Preparations for the 2024 ANCs are well underway in New Zealand and we are glad to report that AUS are making a return to the ANCs after a two-year absence. The calendar dates for Tech only are fixed with the NZL leg running from August 28th until September 1st, 2024, and at Thredbo from September 3rd to September 7th for the AUS leg.

The LOC for the NZL leg will continue to be Winter Games NZ, a multi-sport event organized by the Winter Games New Zealand Trust with support from the Government of New Zealand, Sport and Recreation New Zealand and the New Zealand Olympic Committee. The host resort will continue to be NZSki at Coronet Peak, the home of Alpine ski racing in New Zealand.

## **h. Sub-Committee for University Racers**

*Report by Urs Schüpbach, Chair*

Alpine ski racing has become more professionalized in recent decades. Athletically, in terms of equipment and on the racecourses. The environment for students has also changed fundamentally again since Covid (2020/21), especially in the university environment.

Forty years ago, the Sub Committee for University Racers was founded as a special committee for students in order to recognize the international student races that have been held regularly since the 1930s for FIS points. This gave rise to today's FIS-UNI races. In the eighties and nineties, studying and top-class sport were still hardly compatible. Today we have possibilities to do both: Ski racing and successful graduated students. The best example of this is the United States Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association (USCSA), which is the association for college team competitions in North America. It unites over 213 universities in 38 states with almost 5,000 athletes. It's great to see how the team spirit in over 600 teams has boosted participation and increased the enjoyment of ski racing. The benefits for the future are not just in the athletes for NorAm Cups or even World Cup level. It is also important to attract a larger pool of coaches and officials to the sport of skiing. This is a real lifecycle model for our sport. Many thanks to all members of the USCSA, but also in Europe, thanks to the adjustments at many universities, it has become possible to coach the time-intensive sport of ski racing (alpine and Nordic) during a full-time study program. In the post-Covid period, distance learning programs have been offered throughout Europe, which are very convenient for our athletes. Never before has the standard at the FISU World University Games Winter 2023 in Lake Placid (USA) been so high, with several participants at World Cup level competing. But there are also more and more students in the men's and women's World Cup who are finishing in the top ten or even on the podium. Arnaud Boisset (24/SUI), a real student, achieved this in the Super-G at the World Cup final in Saalbach (AUT).

Our society is enabling more and more young people to study - let's also give young people the opportunity to successfully practise ski racing alongside their academic education. In this way, we can win over future ambassadors for our sport and give them the chance to experience something unique in life. Competition and team spirit, victories and defeats, injuries and comebacks - everything that will be important in later life. Our future leaders in business, politics, sport or culture will be grateful!

With our Sub Committee for University Racers, we want to make a small contribution to this. With simple and clear rules that make a dual career possible for students. Not an advantage over all other athletes, but a support in the sometimes-difficult double burden of top-class sport and academic education.

We are proud that since the founding of our committee in 1983, the number of FIS-UNI races has always remained at a level of 100 competitions in Japan, USA/CAN and Europe. More and more academics can successfully make the leap to the World Cup through Continental Cups and FISU World University Games and give ski racing a new dimension of education and culture. We see alpine student racing stronger and more successful than ever and are looking forward to the 32nd FISU World University Games Winter 2025 in Torino (ITA).

## **i. Sub-Committee for Masters Racing**

*Report by Stefano Arnhold, Chair*

### **Impressive Growth**

Masters Alpine Racing has been in steady growth for the last decade. In the two Seasons 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 we had a combined numbers of 16.300 starts, an 83% growth over the combined numbers of Season 2011/12 plus 2012/13. And a large growth can also be seen in the numbers of races, number of different OCs, number of participants and organizing NSAs.

### **Worldwide Reach**

In Season 2023/24, 69 races were concluded in 20 different venues from 15 Nations of 3 continents and 18 different NSAs have organised Masters Alpine Races.

Central Europe has a big concentration of Masters Racers, but the largest number of FIS licensed Masters is in Japan. Growing numbers are seen in Scandinavia and North America.

### **Gender Equity**

New Rules were approved and now the Masters are divided in two male and two female categories, with a perfect gender balance of categories.

Also, the oldest racer is a lady from Japan, Kaoru Homma, born in 1930.

### **Innovation**

Innovation has been key for the success and steady growth in Masters Racing and for the Season 2024/2025 a FIS Masters Indoor Grand Prix will be introduced with the goal of boosting the Indoor Slalom competitions that every year make the European opening of the FIS Masters Cup, in November, with races in Germany, France and Norway.

### **Future**

A bright future can be foreseen for the Masters as the Calendar for the Season 2024/25 has 86 races, with 76 World Cups, starting in September with the Argentine and Brazilian competitions in the beautiful resort of Catedral in Bariloche (ARG) and finishing with the World Cup Finals in Pila (ITA), a very traditional organizer, in April. The World Championships will take place in Val Thorens (FRA) after being hosted in Kimberley (CAN) and Goestling-Hochkar (AUT) in the last two seasons.

### **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 organizers and their tireless crews combined with the dedication of our TDs plays 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 those unique achievements.



## **j. Sub-Committee for Alpine Technical Delegates**

*Report by Markus Malsiner, Chair*

The last competition season ended with the races in Scandinavia and in Japan and Canada, which were held just a few days ago.

In general, it was a good season, with few cancellations in the lower categories at the end of February and beginning March, as the temperatures have risen above average.

It was a bit different for the world cup calendar with the cancellation of 12 competitions in total, 9 for the men and 3 for women, which is a lot. Only 9 DH and 6 SG were held for the men. The rapid climate change of the last few years is facing the world cup organizers with increasingly great problems. Too much or too little snow often made it impossible to hold the races. It is becoming apparent that the world cup season can no longer be held after February in the Alps and maybe they have to move to Scandinavia or other countries like Asia or North America. The alpine Ski world cup was facing another big problem during the last season. Over 29 top athletes competing in the world cup were more or less seriously injured. There are countless accidents every year in all categories, but never before have so many world cup athletes been affected.

Overall, the winter went without any major problems regarding the TD assignments, thanks to the good collaboration between the commissioners and I would like to thank you very much for that.

We currently have 509 effective TD's including some candidates, 17% are women and 73% men. This means that we have to increase the percentage of female TD's, as already requested years ago. Since last year 15 clinics and updates took place all over the world with 26 candidates.

A big thank you goes to Daniel Défago, our IT manager, and to Janez Fleré, who is always solving our problems and helping us in all our matters, seven days a week during the whole year.

Finally, a big thank you to you commissioners for your dedication, for your passion, for your work during the whole season and please extend it also to all our 500 colleagues.

## **k. Sub-Committee for Alpine Youth & Children's Questions**

*Report by Stefan J. Havnelid, Chair*

### **Meeting on Monday 06.05.2024**

The meeting was scheduled 13:30-15:30hrs in Portoroz (SLO). It was a meeting with good discussions for the future of alpine skiing. SRS is keen to gain expert knowledge in prevention of injuries in young athletes, and is working with the FIS Athlete Health Unit, led by Geri Mitterbauer. Rudi Huber requesting that a small WG should be set up to look at this, maybe 3-5 people; reports/feedback will pass between the Subcommittee and the AHU, and all will get updates and be able to give feedback. The Chair agreed to set up a working group.

Short summary from the Race Organizers Committee with Janez Dekleva (SLO); It had been a difficult winter for many OCs, with cancellations and changed competition disciplines. The success of many events depended on having a good relationship with the ski centers. Calendars for 2024/2025 season are not yet finalized; will be circulated in Zurich.

### **Start limitation U18 (USA)**

The new Proposal with limitation of starts in technical events for U18 athletes. The goals with the proposal:

- Reduce over-racing and the chasing of FIS point opportunities by young athletes;
- Increase speed event participation to broaden skill development in young athletes;
- Increase opportunity for training days while athletes are still in development years;
- Reduce risk of injury for young athletes due to racing fatigue throughout the season.

Responses from the committee were recorded. Votes 12 yes; 9 no.

The Junior World Championship will be held in Tarvisio 2025 (ITA) – compact area for all events (additional speed training area 30 mins away). [www.tarvisio2025.it](http://www.tarvisio2025.it) The events will be run end February / beginning March 2025. 6.3. For 2026 – Candidates maybe USA? Open.

### **FIS Youth Development: (Dimitrije Lazarovski, FIS / Jelena Dojcinovic, FIS)**

Update on FIS Development activities and plans – 3-vote countries are now included, as all may need development in some areas, great opportunity to be present at WJC in Val Gardena; good participation program, and aligning with Apex 2100 to offer scholarships.

FIS Development and Membership HUB – each NSA has one log-in only.

- Education;
- Seminars;
- Coaches Education;
- Mentoring programs.
- Building the capacities of the NSAs

The development program is running two new programs - FIS Start (aimed at affiliate members of FIS), and FIS Plus. Best practice outcomes will be shared next May.

WSD / Bring Children to the Snow programs have been closed temporarily.

## **F. Snowboard, Freestyle, Freeski**

### **a. Committee Snowboard, Freestyle, Freeski**

*Report by Dean Gosper, Chair*

The unification of Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski, is underpinned by a shared Vision of expanding global snow sports 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 Event Groups, each of which share combinations of culture and terrain. This allows for an independence regarding the event design and organisation but with all these New World events uniting to form the third pillar of FIS. The exciting events of Snowboard, Freestyle, Freeski, and now Freeride provide 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 preparation for Congress approval, work continued on the integration of Freeride into the FIS Family. The ongoing focus is on the introduction and involvement of our NSAs.

In the absence of World Championships and Olympic Winter Games, our World Cup Tours took centre stage in the 2023/24 season. No sport is so intimately connected with an industry, and we do not take this contribution for granted given the obvious competing commercial agendas. I also thank and congratulate all our member nations for the performances of their athletes and programmes and the stories that you have helped to create and share.

Discussion occasionally occurs regarding the size and cost of hosting FIS largest World Championships, that of Freestyle and Snowboard. While the challenges are real, it is comforting to see the host legacy with new World Cup events in Georgia following its highly successful hosting of 2023 and the host runway comprising highly experienced organisers of St Moritz / Engadine 2025, Montafon 2027 and now China's Zhangjiakou for 2029.

Our Committee and Sub-Committees continue to look at ways to balance result integrity with efficiencies. The best example is the use of technology in the areas of judging and training. These advances challenge some of the traditions of our sport and must be introduced with sensitivity and in collaboration with our athletes and their nations. Live media exposure remains the biggest challenge for our events. This has been reaffirmed in the recently published FIS Strategic Plan. The Plan's recommendations together with the centralised or pooling of rights management provide a pathway to resolve this issue.

The SBFSFK Committee has approved a re-organisation of its ICR's to give greater independence to the Event Groups and simplify their RCP workflows. The reorganisation includes establishing SX as a standalone Event Group. The SBFSFK ICR's are structured with a set of overarching Common Rules, the 2000 Series, and separate Event Group ICRs, numbered as #000 for each Event Group. With the growing maturity and independence of the Event Groups, a process began to insert many of the Common Rules directly into the Event

Group ICR's and condense the Common Rules. The SX and SBX Sub-Committees maintain a Cross Coordination Group to review all RCP to harmonize where practical.

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

## **b. Sub-Committee for Snowboard, Freestyle, Freeski Youth & Children's Questions**

*Report by Denis Giger, Chair*

### **Subcommittee Overview**

The subcommittee, consisting of 31 SB/FS/FK representatives, focuses on FIS events, athlete development, and NSA collaboration, aiming to boost youth participation and global growth in freestyle sports.

### **The variety and diversity of snow sports**

Representing a variety of culturally diverse snow sports, especially in the emerging sports of SB/FS/FK, FIS recognizes the unique needs and challenges of each event. The development landscape shows clear heterogeneity, and not all NSAs have the resources to support each event equally. A comprehensive strategic roadmap from the FIS, from talent identification to peak performance, would greatly assist sports organizations, their coaches and athletes. This roadmap would be supported by appropriate training, educational resources, and competitive opportunities. It would address the capacity and knowledge gaps, making it easier to promote all necessary areas effectively.

### **Cooperation with the FIS development department**

It is encouraging that the FIS development department has improved cooperation with the coordination group for Youth and Children's Questions and has taken an active role in the discussion and implementation of the above issues. The recognition of our subcommittee as a source of expertise and development feedback is an important step forward. I believe the planned collaboration between development managers and experts from our subcommittee to gather knowledge and incorporate it into future projects is an exemplary and very effective strategy. It is important to understand that support is needed not only for countries with 1 and 2 votes, but also for those with 3 votes, but in a different way.

### **World Junior Championships**

The majority of nations regard the World Junior Championships (WJC) as an important annual event. It offers young athletes a rare opportunity to assess their global standing. Despite this, the NSAs tend not to bid to host the event. For some time now, WJCs have been announced at short notice year after year, postponed or not held at all. Changes need to be made, with commitments from both FIS and the nations, to create a long-term calendar of strong events. I welcome the fact that various options are currently being examined in order to find solutions for the future. The WJC should be part of the pathway for young athletes that nations can look forward to.

### **Judges training at the national level**

NSAs can now be offered an online platform for training new judges. Through online courses, the NSA can receive training for the grassroots level whereby it is possible to acquire the C-Judge License. Additionally, the platform offers basic courses that are tailored specifically for parents and coaches, and other interested people. These courses have been developed and are supervised by NSA park and pipe judges from both the FIS and WSF federations. Nations

are encouraged to enroll their judges in courses to enhance event development, judging quality, and contribute to the future of park and pipe sports.

### **Knowledge exchange**

The knowledge exchange has been an annual platform within our meetings since 2011, fostering the sharing of insights across a spectrum of topics, including: National Y&C Programs, about Youth and Children within the NSAs. Freestyle Events, from the national level to continental competitions. Education, cooperation between instructors and coaches. Athlete pathway, the different stages of athlete development. Kids Program, youth development structures and support within the NSAs. Show us your Gold Nugget, best practice examples from various subject areas. School and Sport, how athletes combine school and sport. Competition structure, an overview of the classification and level of events. Grassroots, how the NSA motivates children to compete. Technical essentials, concepts from the various events and disciplines. Woman and Girls, how to support female athletes in optimizing their performance. Running low level events, how NSAs conduct low level events.

### **Identification of fields of action**

Measures aligned with the FIS strategic plan should be collaboratively developed with NSAs to enhance programs and projects, benefiting all member associations and addressing urgent needs in sports events. Seminars & Education: Conduct specialized seminars, camps, and clinics dedicated to the professional development of coaches and the training of entry-level judges. Mentoring & Capacity Building: Implement mentoring programs designed to enhance the operational and administrative skills of NSAs. NSA Support & Athlete Development: Offer robust support to NSAs, encompassing both practical and theoretical guidance, to establish a clear and structured athlete development pathway. Event Pipeline & Junior Competitions: Develop a systematic event pipeline that includes the organization of junior cup systems and the maintenance of comprehensive overall rankings for performance tracking. Grassroots Initiatives: Drive grassroots efforts by creating engaging sports animations, fostering motivation among participants, and actively recruiting new talent.

### **c. Sub-Committee for Park & Pipe**

*Report by Christoph Perreten, Chair*

The Park & Pipe community continues to make significant contributions to major events, linking FIS with action sports and a youthful refreshing environment. Over the past two seasons, thanks to both returning and new competition organizers, we have witnessed excellent performances in freeski and snowboard freestyle at the highest level. The 2023 World Championships in Georgia exemplified what passion, and dedication can achieve under challenging circumstances.

Roby Moresi and Ritchie Date, our World Cup contest directors such as Martijn Oostdijk, Continental Cup and development coordinator, along with their trusted FIS colleagues, have provided professional and passionate leadership. Their understanding, sensitivity, and respect have united the FIS Park & Pipe community, forming a strong foundation to address common challenges and seize current opportunities.

In 2023, the Park & Pipe Sub-Committee supported "Rail" as new event within the FIS landscape, with the first events taking place in the 2023/24 season. Rail events offer an accessible introduction to Park & Pipe, particularly in urban areas and countries without large snowparks. Further development strategies for Rail events are being planned.

There is a need to focus on women's participation, which has seen a slight decline. The performance gap between high-ranked and low-ranked female athletes has increased, making it crucial to reduce barriers to entry and design courses that accommodate a wide range of skill levels safely.

Halfpipe events have seen a slight increase in participation, possibly due to the proximity of the Olympic Games, but the number of World Cup Tour organizers remains low. As one of the most media-heavy events in the Olympic program, it is also important to better utilize the global distribution of halfpipe nations and promote them through the World Cup Tour.

After years of discussions, a tiered pay scale for judges was implemented, based on their experience and role, which was well received. Although not all outcomes were agreed upon, overall, the judging results were satisfactory. The Freeski community continues to debate the Section by Section (SBS) judging system versus Overall Impression, highlighting the need for ongoing dialogue to improve judging practices.

With the autumn meetings of 2023, Jeremy Forster stepped down as our long-time chairman. His tenure included significant contributions to the unification of Snowboard Freestyle and Freeski, cooperation with the World Snowboard Federation, and support for the continued existence of the World Snowboard Points list. His commitment and leadership are deeply appreciated by our community.

#### **d. Sub-Committee for Snowboard Cross**

*Report by Stefan Knirsch, Chair*

2024 was an intensive but very good season - with a total of 8 World Cup venues, 12 individual races - including a great test event in St. Moritz - and two team events. No cancellations had to be made – also because the decisions that were taken in terms of format and schedule within the weather conditions during the events were very good! The number and quality of events makes the community very satisfied from a sports perspective.

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, has improved a lot over the past years and provides high quality content already.

We still have great development opportunities in the provision of data for spectators, which can make sport even more interesting and provide additional information. This can also open up opportunities for further marketing approaches.

The cooperation with Ski Cross works well. We must continue to work together to leverage even more synergies between our cross disciplines. Synergies in course construction, in the organization and in the joint placement of events in the World Cup calendar, the TV-Market and marketing.

We are already progressing well in joint courses together with Ski Cross. This path must be intensively further followed. Also, there were good experiences over the last season to use courses jointly during ECs together with Para. This could also be an opportunity for everybody in the future, racing on cross courses.



## **e. Sub-Committee for Freestyle**

*Report by Michael Kennedy, Chair*

In looking back over the past seasons, it is hard to go past the record-breaking performances of Moguls skiers Jakara Anthony (AUS) and Michael Kingsbury (CAN). This is truly a historic time in our sport. Jakara broke all kinds of historical records this season recording 14 victories and the hat-trick of Single Moguls, Dual Moguls and overall moguls' globes. On the men's side Michael completed his 90th World Cup victory and achieved 10 wins in a season for the first time. He now has 26 crystal globes in a record that will likely stand for all time.

The Freestyle World Cup calendar for moguls remains healthy with 10+ stops across 9 Nations in 2023/24 and organisers vying to host events in the future. This of course would not be possible without the dedicated organisers and host Nations for without their support and efforts there would be no opportunity for our athletes to showcase their talents. Calendar challenges remain for Aerials with certain traditional host nations unable to run events at this time.

It was great to see Dual Moguls at the Youth Olympic Winter Games Programme in Gangwon (KOR). The individual and teams Dual Moguls events provided another great exhibition of our sport on a global stage. Whilst the next host of the YOG Winter Games remains unknown at this stage it was important for Freestyle via Dual Moguls to be represented among the FIS disciplines at these games and we will push again for its inclusion once the events future becomes clearer. The inclusion of Dual Moguls for the Milan Cortina 2026 games is a watershed moment for our sport and will be a showcase event. Our mogul skiers join the aerial athletes and much of the FIS family with multi medal opportunities.

Our committee is beginning a process to define a future vision. "Where do we see Freestyle in 10 years?" is a question we often ask ourselves and we will begin the strategic review process in the coming year. It's a hard one to answer as our events and disciplines have always seemed to have a natural evolution as the athletes' skills improve and with an ever-increasing professionalism of our teams and programs. Perhaps the focus needs to be on a vision of how our events look from World Cup through to FIS competitions. How we develop and optimise event calendars and schedules. How we find the balance between the needs of the organisers and the needs of the teams. How we develop sustainable pathways for judges and ensuring integrity and accuracy remain at the absolute forefront of our decision making in this regard. How we embrace technology to support this goal and how we do all of this whilst retaining the essence and spirit of Freestyle. How do we grow and engage our audience? These are big questions, and we look forward to exploring some of these topics at future meetings.

The Advisory Groups and the FIS staff are the engine room behind the scenes who do so much work to deliver our sport along with the National Associations. The renewed Freestyle governance structure seems to be providing a clear and efficient workflow which contributes to an effective and organized approach to the development of our sport.

Finally, I wish to extend my condolences and sympathies to the families of Andy Wise (USA), Moreten Skarpaas (NOR) and Maxim Gustik (BLR). Each of these men contributed to our sport

in differing ways whether as TD, Judge and Athlete/Coach. The Freestyle world is richer for their contribution, and they will be sorely missed. Vale Andy, Moreten and Maxim.

Thank you for your time.

## **f. Sub-Committee for Snowboard Alpine**

*Report by Daniel Weis, Chair*

### **Executive Board**

As also in other disciplines already known, we installed an Executive Board (EB) at the SB Alpine SC. The Executive Board had two online meetings before. The minutes have been sent out to all Sub-Committee members. Thanks to the great help and distribution of all the members of the EB.

To be more efficient, there will be a new workflow in place from this season on:

1. RCPs will have to be sent to the RAG representative of SB Alpine, Peter Krogoll. They will "pre-sort" (SB Alpine-relevant and overall) and, if needed, clarify what the intention of a particular RCP is.
2. All RCPs will then be viewed and discussed within the RAG.
3. The RCPs will be discussed in the EB.
4. The RCPs will be sent to the SC including comments from the prior discussions. This workflow is a draft yet and will be harmonized with the inputs from the RAG and underlined with dates.

### **Development Projects**

One topic I want to point out is a Development camp which has been held in Bansko (BUL). There were 8 nations over 5 days training together on- and off-snow under the eyes of Bulgarian National Coach of Snowboard Alpine, Georgi Atanasov. The Chair of the Y&C SC, Denis Giger, also presented a short report of a Development Project in Central Europe – the so-called FIS Jun Cup which was mainly built up from Austria with the help of Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. We also got approval from FIS Race Director Uwe Baier and Peter Krogoll to support this project.

### **Calendar**

We have a good and consistent calendar in the World Cup with some traditional stops and also new ones. What I want to point out is that we are back in Asia with 4 World Cup races which is very good for our sport as the Asian market is provably upcoming for SB Alpine.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the FIS team of race directors (Uwe Beier, Peter Krogoll, Roland Horn), and specifically Kathrin Hostettler in the back office, for their tireless work on Snowboard Alpine.

## **G. Para Snow Sports**

### **a. Committee Para Snow Sports**

*Report by Dexter Paine, Chair*

In the past season 2023/2024, Para Snow Sports has settled under the governance of the FIS. The Committee and all Sub-Committees have been very active and have fulfilled their required obligations as per Term and References. Beside those, the special committees that are unique for Para Snow Sports, Sport specific Athletes Focus Group and Coaches Advisory Group have supported the committees with their expertise and inside sport information. Finally, Classification Expert group has continually supported the sport classification and together with the Management team opened a new era of classification implementing in shadow new VI Classification that will be in full scope implemented in the coming season.

The Management team together with the Race Directors supported different LOCs across four sport disciplines. IBU introduced in late September Sport Coordinator that have been right arm of FIS Race Director for Para Nordic Skiing.

The challenging competition season with several postponement of the competitions was successfully concluded with implementation for the first time event Para Biathlon World Ski Championships. The LOC made a great event with support from both FIS and IBU.

Unfortunately, the competition season has ended with the suspension of the FIS – IBU agreement, regulating management of the Para Biathlon and Para Cross Country by the FIS. IBU pull out the management of the Para Biathlon, that will lead FIS to manage all other Para Snow Sports (Para Alpine skiing, Para Snowboard and Para Cross-Country). The communication with IBU will remain over the three points, as the following:

- FIS to coordinate Classification agenda for Para Biathlon athletes,
- Coordination of the joint calendar and avoid any overlapping of competitions,
- Managing Anti-Doping programme, two options: jointly, FIS overseeing management of both sports or done as per each IFs respectively

A new agreement is about to be set between FIS and IBU in the coming months that will touch the above indicated points.

This spring the Para Snow Sports were aligned with the FIS required timelines and have presented the competition schedule for the coming season in early June. As per understanding that Para Snow Sports can only approve the competition schedule only once the FIS able bodied calendar is approved, this season the indicated timeline was followed.

The next season will bring to the FIS new excitement as the Nordic Skiing World Ski Championships in Trondheim (NOR) will include for the first time ever one Para Cross-Country event in their respective schedule. The Para Cross-Country sprint will be included in the official program of the World Ski Championships and like that set a new standard for the future. We are all excited about it and looking forward to it.

At the sport development and education part, Para Snow Sports have been greatly included in all different activities and programs as standalone activity or as part of the able-bodied program. The synergy and joint engagement at the joint sessions showed great success and this type of engagement will continue in the next season.

There are a lot of activities in front of us in the next two seasons and we need to continue to be on top of it and ensure the prosper future of Para Snow Sports under the governance of the FIS.

## **b. Sub-Committee for Para Nordic**

*Report by Eileen Carey, Chair*

2023-24 was a year of many changes in Para Nordic sport. The adoption of Para Nordic under FIS and IBU structures, and under FIS management presented many changes in sport operations and governance.

The May 2024 split between FIS and IBU is sure to produce yet another year of transition for the sports of Para Cross-Country and biathlon. To be successful in this transition, we must acknowledge that success in either sport depends on cooperation and communication with the other. FIS must elevate athletes and sport growth to the forefront in this transition. While there are many challenges in coordinating with another IF, success will depend on this being a functional relationship.

### **c. Sub-Committee for Para Snowboard**

*Report by Wopke De Vegt, Chair*

Para Snowboard has been a Paralympic discipline since Sochi 2014. Since 2014, significant efforts have been made to develop structures and strategies. The overall quality has improved thanks to excellent collaboration among various countries, ultimately resulting in a strong technical and strategic team. Without immense dedication and commitment, we wouldn't be where we are today.

However, this season, we once again had to raise a critical point regarding the number of participants. Despite the high quality of our athletes, we are not seeing growth in numbers. Since 2014, we have consistently initiated inspiring development programs for potential athletes and coaches/trainers. Several studies have been conducted to gain better insight into recruitment and scouting. One clear conclusion is that the elite level improves, and the gap between new talent and the top widens each year.

In the 2023/2024 season, we were able to enjoy a quality-focused competition calendar. The new reality of changing weather and climate will structurally impact our future calendars. Therefore, we must accept, adapt, and continue. Greater resilience is being asked and expected from everyone.

There are several questions we need to tackle as a team:

- What are the “needs”?
- How do we inspire more athletes to take part in the competition?
- How can we enhance the sport's appeal and make it a showcase event?
- What strategies are necessary to secure the future of this beautiful discipline?
- What strategies should we choose to achieve more success, visibility, and attractiveness?
- What roadmap will bring more athletes into contact with our sport?

## **d. Sub-Committee for Para Alpine**

*Report by Jana Palovicova, Chair*

### **Start of the 2023-2024 Para Alpine Skiing Season: Overcoming Climate Challenges**

The start of the 2023-2024 Para Alpine Skiing season, especially December, was significantly impacted by climate change. This critical factor forced all organizers to work hard to deliver their races and face the challenges related to snowmaking and event organization as such.

### **Ensuring Safe and Fair Races**

The winter season began under immense pressure for everyone involved to ensure safe and fair races. Despite the challenges from the beginning of season, after what kicked off was, blessed with a fortunate amount of snow. After the New Year, only one organizer had to cancel their event due to unfavorable conditions. However, the end of the season proved to be particularly challenging as warm weather conditions appeared and started to make harder organizations for LOCs again.

### **Media Coverage: Enhancing Visibility for PARA Alpine Sport**

This season, we collaborated with FIS media representative to enhance the visibility of Para Alpine sport. Attendance of several races, engaging in numerous discussions with racers and coaches to strategize future communications was an important step to improve media coverage and visibility of Para sport. A notable highlight was the Finals in Sella Nevea with great success.

### **Live Streaming Success**

The live streaming of the Para Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals in Sella Nevea (ITA) achieved a total of 9,104 views, reflecting the growing interest and engagement in the sport. First Live TV coverage in Italian history when it comes Para sport was planned for last day for AC and SG, but unfortunately races were canceled due difficult conditions on course.

### **Rules and Documentation Updates**

In May 2023, during the meeting in Dubrovnik, around 40 RSPS (Rules and Standards of Practice) were reviewed, and approximately 14 were supported. Similarly, in Zurich 2023, 14 RSPS were received, with 10 gaining support. At the Spring Meeting 2024 in Portoroz, 30 RCPs (Rules and Classification Proposals) were received, with 12 being supported. With full integration of Para Alpine Skiing into FIS constantly updating rules and documents are necessary to develop the sport in the right direction.

### **Factor Calculations Project: A New Approach**

Over the past two years, significant efforts have been dedicated to the Factor Calculations Project. The newly proposed system represents a completely new approach, developed by an independent organization. It is crucial to prepare for shadow calculations during the upcoming season, with full implementation expected post-Olympics 2026.



### **IPC Classification Code and VI Classification Implementation**

An important update is the introduction of Article 1.1 of the new Draft IPC Classification Code. Regarding VI (Visual Impairment) Classification implementation, all nations with tested athletes have received letters requesting their consent.

I extend heartfelt thanks to the FIS Para Snow Sports staff for their hard work, which has enabled Para Snow Sports to be included in the FISU Winter Games alongside able-bodied athletes, featuring events like the Giant Slalom (GS) and Super-G (SG). This inclusion marks a historic premiere in the Winter Universiade program. Appearance of Para Alpine Skiing at Winter Universiade, one of the major sport events worldwide, will for sure help to increase visibility of Para Alpine Skiing.

### **Upcoming Major Event: Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games**

Looking ahead, the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games is a significant event for Para Snow Sports. It is vital to conduct a test event to ensure the timing software functions correctly. However, scheduling this test event for the next season is currently not possible.

### **Supporting National Sports Associations (NSAs)**

Our team in SC Para Alpine sport has worked tirelessly to assist in the integration of NSAs into FIS. Some Independent Paralympic Sports (IPS) in various countries are still not under NSAs and fall directly under FIS. It is crucial for FIS staff to continuously work on full integration Paralympic Sports Organizations into NSAs, members of FIS, as well as it is crucial to continue promoting and supporting our sport to ensure its growth and success.

## **NON-OLYMPIC DISCIPLINES REPORTS**

### **H. Speed Skiing**

#### **a. Committee Speed Skiing**

*Report by Ricardo Adarraga, Chair*

When I became FIS Speed Skiing Chairman in 2022, I set 4 objectives for the growth of the discipline: 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 work on the development and growth of the discipline. In 2023/24 the FIS Speed Skiing committee continued working successfully on these 4 objectives.

The FIS Speed Skiing Committee decided in 2023, with the approval of the FIS Council, to host a World Championships or at least a big FIS event (like FIS Games) every season. To achieve a world record, weather and snow conditions have to be optimal. Often, these conditions are given, but no FIS World Championship is scheduled. It is important to have a chance every season to achieve a World record. In 2024, during the World Championships in Vars (France), the track and snow conditions were optimal, but unfortunately, on the final day, the weather conditions did not allow high speeds. Nevertheless, the World Champion in 2024 reached a final speed of 231.43 km/h, which was impressive but still short of the current World record of 255.55 km/h. This demonstrates that the committee's strategy is effective.

In 2023/24 the successful cooperation with FIS Marketing and Media was intensified. Meanwhile at the Speed Ski races we have a FIS team on-site generating media content for FIS social media. For the first time the Speed Ski World Championships were transmitted live on the official FIS Alpine YouTube channel achieving a high audience. Media content generated on-site was regularly posted on FIS social media. With 7.7 million views on TikTok an amazing POV video of a speed skier skiing at 223 km/h achieved a new overall record of views on FIS TikTok. It shows that Speed Ski is an eyecatcher and one of the most attractive FIS disciplines for the younger generations.

On the safety side, conversations with the official FIS provider of safety systems were initiated. With crashes at speeds similar to MotoGP (200 km/h and more) safety systems designed for ski crashes that do not pass speeds over 140 km/h are sometimes not sufficient to avoid severe injuries in Speed Ski. The big safety challenge at speeds over 200 km/h are still crashes into B-nets. An engineer from the safety systems provider was invited to the Speed Ski World Cup races. Joining the OC, he interacted with FIS technical delegates and race direction getting a clear picture of the nature and special characteristics of Speed Ski races. He started evaluating improvements for safety systems targeting very high-speed crashes. The company's experience in other high-speed sports, like MotoGP, will be reflected in their proposed concepts for Speed Ski. The cooperation between the safety systems provider company and the FIS Speed Skiing committee will continue.

Another important aspect of the committee was the work on the development and future growth of the discipline. Several meetings and on-site visits were conducted to explore potential new

high-speed tracks. The Swiss ski resort and important training center of Swiss-Ski, Zinal, not only showed high interest and motivation to host a FIS World Cup Speed Ski race. Two committee members were invited to view and analyze on site 3 excellent proposed tracks with a potential maximum speed of 230 km/h. After hosting excellent Speed Ski World Cup and World Championship races in Verbier between 2003 and 2013, the committee cannot wait to see Speed Ski coming back to Switzerland, where it all began. Switzerland is the place of birth of Speed Ski. In 1932, the first official Speed Ski race was hosted in St. Moritz.

Besides Zinal, regular meetings were held with FFS and Les Arcs (France) to bring back Speed Ski to the Olympic track of 1992, a track with world record potential.

With great joy, the committee saw the achievement of a new ski flying record on the FIS homologated Speed Ski track of Akureyri in Iceland. The event perfectly demonstrated the potential of the track to achieve speeds over 200 km/h. With a strong sponsor backing, a FIS speed ski race in Iceland could fulfill the dream of many members of the Speed Ski community. We are all keeping our fingers crossed.

With the season 2023/24 accomplished, the FIS Speed Skiing committee moves into the next season, 2024/25, fully aware that the exciting new FIS journey has just begun. With the strong support for the discipline from FIS President Johan Eliasch and the FIS staff, the Speed Ski community is pleased to be an important contributor to FIS' strategy for the future of Snowsports.

Let's chase the next World record in 2025!

Ski fast and safe!

## **I. Telemark**

### **a. Committee Telemark**

*Report by Andrew Clarke, Chair*

FIS Telemark continues to rise above. This last year has seen athletes consolidate their performances, the World Cup flourish with new venues joining the calendar, new faces with our introduction to Telemark program, and a renewed invigoration to improve our events. We also said farewell to our race director.

The future is looking brighter than ever. With the promise of inclusion in the FIS Games and clear indication from the establishment that we are a strong contender for inclusion at the Olympic Games the committee is more energised than ever before.

Last season saw a continuation of the “TeleKidz” program with athletes spending time, in the margins of World Cup events, with children to introduce them to telemark skiing. This program has been well subscribed with over 300% increase in participation and several more organisers stepping up to host. This season we will adapt this program to ensure that the momentum is not lost, and we continue to develop the grass roots of the sport.

The FIS Telemark Children’s races are taking shape and bridge the gap between club competition and the World Cup. We are looking to improve the transitional void between the competitive levels and hope to reintroduce Continental Cup competition so that there is a clear development pathway that supports participation. There is also a desire to introduce a Masters category at the World Championships that will retain interest of those retiring from World Cup competition and also assist in the growth of telemark.

We are keen to set the stage for the FIS Telemark brand and have begun the search for someone to coordinate that aspect of our race program. The incumbent will be responsible for event delivery ensuring brand compliance, and also lead the search for a head sponsor.

Allied to this campaign is Telemark’s inclusion on FIS TV broadcast - a positive step and clearly supporting our mission to showcase the art of the telemark discipline and moreover the technical skill required to complete a telemark race. Viewers will not be disappointed. Last season the socials have been ‘buzzing’ with telemark chat and there has been an exponential year on year rise in followers on our channels. It is clear that the FIS Telemark offer is trending, and we are in our ascendant years which are preparing the ground well for wider participation. A headline sponsor would certainly afford us more opportunity and allow us to attack and gain greater market traction.

The committee were excited to receive the FIS President for a state of the union and Q&A in Portoroz in May and the team found much pleasure in the President’s sentiment about Telemark and his assertion that Telemark was being pushed for FIS inclusion.

There is much to celebrate and look forward to as we enter the 24/25 season with a new race director and a clear vision for the future.

Finally, and as Chairman I speak on behalf of the whole FIS telemark community, we extend our upmost thanks and gratitude to Andreja Jovan, who has stood as our race director for almost 20 years. Andreja is a dedicated consummate professional and has been instrumental in the development of telemark over the years. We owe her a debt of gratitude. She will be missed by all. Adrian Pery, our new race director has a big set of 'telemark' boots to fill.

## **J. Grass Skiing**

### **a. Committee Grass Skiing**

*Report by Fausto Cerentin, Chair*

The highlight of the Grass Skiing 2023 season was the World Championships held in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. This event replaced the originally planned location in Dizin, Iran, where it could not be held due to political reasons. The championships saw participation from 10 nations, including Iran, Japan, and Taiwan. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) did an outstanding job, facilitating excellent performances on the slopes. Notably, athletes from Japan, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Italy achieved remarkable results.

The Grass Skiing World Cup 2023 featured four stages in Europe, hosted by the Czech Republic, Italy, and culminating with the Finals in Switzerland. Each LOC delivered high-quality events, with athletes engaging in intense competitions to secure victories. The Czech Republic dominated, clinching all the final rankings in the men's, women's, and Nations categories.

Throughout the season, several races included dedicated rankings for the Junior category. Along with the Junior World Championships, these races contributed to the final standings of the Junior Cup. Austria hosted the Junior World Championships in Rettenbach and, drawing on their extensive experience, provided an exceptional competition track. Local athletes performed impressively against favorites from Italy and the Czech Republic. The Junior Cup races witnessed continuous competition among young athletes, with Austria achieving a hat-trick in the final women's rankings and securing the top two positions among the men.

In recent years, efforts to increase the visibility of grass skiing have included live streaming of major events. A dedicated YouTube channel archives these events, allowing for review and increasing accessibility. The number of views has been promising, often exceeding a thousand live viewers, suggesting this approach could attract more interest and resources for the sport's growth.

Additionally, the work with young athletes remains promising. The annual Children Camps, hosted in different countries each year, consistently attract over 70 participants. This initiative ensures a steady influx of talent into the upper categories.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed to the success of these events, particularly the nations committed to nurturing young talent, which is vital for the continuity of top-level teams. It is also gratifying to see new nations embracing grass skiing and recognizing the sport's potential for growth and development.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES' REPORTS**

### **K. Medical Committee**

*Report by Hubert Hörterer, Chair*

The Medical Committee currently comprises 32 members drawn from a variety of nations. The committee meets once or twice a year. The core and expended project group (PG) meets two or three times a year. Since the last FIS Medical Committee meetings in May and September 2023 and May 2024 the focus was on the following points:

- Submitting clear statements on medical issues for other committees/sub-committees and providing them with support and proposals
- Elaboration of guidelines in relation to concussion in the FIS disciplines
- Health promotion/safe sport/transgender policy
- Cooperation with Para Snow Sports
- Cooperation with AHU and ISPP
- Acting as FIS Medical Supervisors and supporting LOCs at Winter Olympics and World Championships
- A very important task was the revision of the FIS Medical Guide

One very particular and time-consuming task has been the proposal for the reorganisation of the Medical Committee and the Project Group (PG)

Under the FIS Statute 15.3.3. the new Medical Expert Group will be asked to advice on specific matters of a medical nature by the Council and will cooperate closely with technical committees. The Expert Group should include approximately 9 members including the chair.

### **OUTLOOK**

Through the reorganization of the FIS medical systems 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.

Particular attention is also paid to collaboration with the medical sector of the IOC as well as other medical societies and institutions.

## **L. Legal and Safety Committee**

*Report by Christopher Moore, Chair*

Since the previous report to Congress in 2023, the Legal and Safety Committee has continued to meet on a regular basis. An informal meeting took place on Zoom in September of 2023 as a formal meeting was not scheduled to be held in Zurich. This meeting allowed the committee members to get updated on matters to date and matters that arose from Congress.

The committee had an excellent meeting in Portoroz in May of 2024 that was held on a hybrid basis with many members attending in person and other members being allowed to participate via Zoom. Once again, we had the benefit of having Mr. Eliasch and Mr. Vion attend our meeting and update the committee on several important matters.

### **FIS TRANSGENDER POLICY**

Although it was agreed at the committee's meeting in May of 2023 that two of our members would be on the working group to assist FIS in establishing a transgender policy, neither of the committee's members were contacted over the past year to assist with respect to this important issue. Newly appointed FIS counsel Aoife Keen recognized the importance of this initiative and has made a commitment to look into the matter further in order to make sure that the initiative continues to move forward.

### **FIS STATUTES**

Subsequent to the committee's meeting in May of 2023, I as committee chair had the opportunity to communicate the committee's concerns with Mr. Eliasch directly. These discussions and exchanges of information turned out to be very beneficial and the committee now feels that its comments and concerns were understood and recognized. In fact, some of those comments and concerns were recognized and adopted as part of the statute amendment process that took place at the 2023 Congress.

It also appears the minor statute amendments proposed for the 2024 Congress were merely intended to be for the purposes of cleaning up the relatively new set of FIS statutes.

The Legal and Safety Committee continues to be available as a resource to the Council for the purposes of reviewing the FIS statutes either generally or specifically as needed.

### **ATHLETE HEALTH UNIT (AHU)**

The Legal and Safety Committee continues to monitor the progress of the Athlete Health Unit and fully supports its very important initiative.

### **FLOURINATED SKI WAX PROHIBITION**

The committee understands that while there were a couple of minor issues related to the enforcement of the new fluorinated ski wax prohibition, the rollout of this initiative appeared to be well managed, and it is hoped that it will continue on that same path.



## **REVIEW OF APPEALS**

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

## **COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The Committee is pleased to see that the electronic voting process at the 2024 Congress did take into account the ballot requirements. It was however noted that there were some delays with respect to the process which may have been based on technical issues and such delays need to be avoided in the future.

## **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. In the past year, the 10 rules of Cross-Country Skiing have also been implemented and can be found in the FIS website. The 10 rules of Cross-Country Skiing may require some revision.

## **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, however it does not appear that any further progress has taken place with respect to this important initiative.

## **CONTINUED FUNCTION OF THE LEGAL AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to the amendments to the FIS statutes passed at the 2023 Congress the Legal and Safety Committee is considered one of three expert committees. It appears that the intention of the Council is to have a more direct role in the appointment of members to the expert committees and to limit their size. This is an initiative that is fully recognized by the members of the Legal and Safety Committee and we await further direction from Council as to their precise intentions with respect to how the members of the committee will be appointed in the future. The committee also recognizes that the intention is for us to be advisory in nature however it is felt that it is still important for the committee to review and comment on matters of rules, statutes, governance and safety within FIS on a proactive basis and we will continue to do so.

## **M. Committee for Advertising Matters**

*Report by Terje Lund, Chair*

Season 2023/2024 was another hectic and challenging season, and part of the season was deeply influenced on the different cancellations especially within the Alpine discipline. Difficult and different weather challenges influenced on the Calendar Worldwide. Within the Advertising Committee the year was first based on difficult discussions regarding specification on Commercial Marking on Equipment and discussions regarding visual commercial and finally discussions about enforcement of Advertising rules in general.

Based on the fact the rules for specification on Commercial Marking on Equipment in practice had been followed up differently from discipline to discipline the task for the Committee was to find a common solution for all discipline to respect the different elements of each discipline but also to find a common and respected rule for all. During the season the Working Group had several meetings to find solutions and finally during the spring meetings in Portoroz in May a conclusion could be find that was supported by the hole Committee and later finally approved by FIS Council. The new rules give all more flexibility and open more opportunities for the different NSA and the Athletes. The final wording and an updated visual guideline were sent out July 2024. We must expect some challenges with the implementing during the upcoming season and on behalf of the Advertising Committee I am sorry that we due to a tight time limit and long discussions in many meetings was not able to include all stake holders in the process the way we should have done, but still hope everyone will respect the final conclusions.

During the season it has also been numerous discussions within the Committee regarding virtual Commercial first of all on our future World Cup competitions. The Committee is in principle supporting the fact that this we be a step in the right direction and could develop out commercial product and in additional have a lot of possible environmental steps in the right direction. Currently the different rules for Virtual commercial on TV in the different countries hold back a common approach to the new possibilities but the Committee will work close with the TV stations and other stake holders to find solution in the future. During the season the FIS administration has also been working intensive with new and different elements for TV graphics and other "online" elements in the TV productions - and some of these will be introduced during the upcoming World Championships season.

Finally, also this season there has been discussions regarding the enforcement of the different rules. The overall view is that the rules are respected and fulfilled both when it comes to athletes, NSA and world Cup organizers. But still, we see from time to time that we are challenges by different stakeholders not always following the rules and still we lack a good system to enforce and follow up our rules. We must find a better solution for this in the future based on a system that this is follow up per discipline and on a detailed administrative level with a staff that follow the Sport closely.

During the last two years we have tried to find solutions where in principle all major discussions regarding rules change are taken in the Spring meeting based on input from the different NSA. I am happy to see that this system in now functions well and thank all the different NSA for the different proposals and inputs before the Spring Meeting in Portoroz. I would also like to thank

the Working Group for all the contributions and the FIS staff for a good cooperation during the last year. The ongoing discussion regarding centralization is still ongoing without a final conclusion and are more and more affected the daily work for all within the different Advertising questions, and a solution must be found as soon as possible.

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

*Report by Chris Robinson, Chair*

In Portoroz the FIS Public Relations and Mass Media Committee focused on presentations by the discipline Media Coordinators and the Directors of FIS Digital & FIS TV.

We learned how the broader areas of media and marketing within FIS can no longer be viewed as independent silos. There is an increasing interdependence across departments to achieve FIS goals. Things might be summed up this way: Marketing / sponsorship success depends on measurable statistics from communications channels which requires compelling content to engage and grow audiences.

While traditional TV broadcasters, print media and news outlets still play an important role in the communications landscape for skiing and snowboarding, the growth in digital platforms has seen a huge shift in focus. Long format coverage of FIS events still has its dedicated audiences. However, the distribution of 'modern content' across multiple channels is at the core of what is described as a 'Centralized Digital Platform Strategy'. Digital objectives are:

1. Retain and satisfy existing audiences.
2. Reach and grow new audiences (incl. Gen Z & Alpha)
3. Monetize content, experiences and data assets.
4. Enable D2C and platform models.
5. Enable actionable data insights and analytics.

All of this is delivering measurable results. At the same time, it contributes to growing a younger fan base and delivering value to FIS stakeholders, particularly as rights structures evolve. The rapid expansion of FIS's digital initiatives and assets is well positioned for evolution in technologies and growth in fan / consumer engagement with events, athletes, and partners.

The front lines of FIS media and marketing are the FIS Media Coordinators. The 2024 season was particularly challenging due to extreme weather, event cancellations and high-profile injuries. All of this tested these FIS professionals to manage the messaging with quickly evolving stories where crisis communication came into focus. In the end, their skills led to memorable stories of the great athletic moments, outshining the difficult realities of staging World Cup events around the globe week in and week out.

The Media Coordinators are the 'glue', or what can be described as the meeting point between the FIS, the athletes, the federations, the organizers, the media and rights holders. Ultimately, the MCs work to make all stakeholders collaborate and work together.

A key future objective of the PR and Mass Media Committee is to play a more active and meaningful role in supporting the FIS media and marketing system. The National Associations can be impactful in creating new fans. Every committed NSA member can be an ambassador and influencer in their country, spreading awareness and contributing to audience growth worldwide.

Going forward, the goal of our committee and our NSA members (many being experts in communications) is to become a resource for FIS media and marketing. We seek to work with the FIS staff and strengthen the 'glue' that bonds the increasing global footprint of FIS.

## O. Coordination Group for General Youth & Children's Questions

*Report by Ken Read, Chair*

The Coordination Group and our respective discipline subcommittees which lead youth and children's activities within the FIS continue to be active and engaged. The past two years, we have increased the number of meetings to maintain a high level of communication with the FIS Development Department. Our meetings provide the basis of active interaction amongst our NSA representatives and across the FIS disciplines, with robust information sharing. The Coordination Group members work with our youngest competitors in all FIS disciplines and are pleased to report the future looks bright. Participation in snow sports and outdoor recreation opportunities continues to surge on a worldwide basis.

Our respective subcommittees see a very high level of engagement from member NSA's, with active interest in development strategies, youth competitive programs, coaching development and the athlete development pathway up to the Junior World Ski Championship level.

**Best Practices:** Making good use of the FIS Committee structure, we have encouraged "information sharing" as our most useful tool to encourage active engagement of our members. Within each meeting, sharing useful programming or practical information.

The diversity of our disciplines is seen as a tremendous asset. Where some are highly focused on competition, others are tightly engaged with grassroots activities. This cross-pollination of ideas and priorities helps lift our sport.

**FIS Development:** Our role with FIS Development shifted over the past two years. Building on the higher priority of Development within the FIS Strategic Plan, we have worked closely to collaborate and support the existing projects, while developing a closer communication across all disciplines with the Department to provide advice and share information.

FIS Development is building the plan over the next two years, with the goal of extending existing programs and identifying new projects of use to NSAs that align with the FIS Strategic Plan. This partnership will be the foundation of the four-year plan (2026-2030). Topics are:

- Education,
- Seminars,
- Coaches Education,
- Mentoring programmes.
- Building the capacities of the NSAs

**FIS Snow Safe Policy /Safeguarding** remains a core feature of sport management and must continue to be a focus. We all have a responsibility to be accountable to our competitors, with a focus of using our events to ensure responsible conduct and protection of every athlete is firmly established throughout our sport.

**FIS Junior World Ski Championships:** Across all FIS disciplines, the high level of organization and quality of venues has been a highlight of the past two seasons. Tremendous competitions have taken place with streaming services, world-class venues and large crowds and audiences.

Providing such a high level of competition for our junior athletes is the best preparation possible to encourage their progress to the World Cup and to the FIS World Ski Championships and Olympic Winter Games. Our thanks go to all organisers, their dedicated volunteers and the host communities and venues for this enormous investment in our youth.

We are deeply appreciative of the hard work and dedication of the FIS Development Department who work so hard for snow sport youth around the world and to provide opportunity for competitors, coaches and growth of our sport with all member NSAs of the FIS.

To my colleagues of the Coordination Group, thank you for your passion, experience and commitment each of you bring, which has continued to lift our sport over the past two years, reflecting the new directions and energy for Youth and Children within the FIS.

## **P. Committee for Competition Equipment**

*Report by Aki Murasato, Chair*

Skiing and snowboarding are very attractive and challenging sport. Safety and fairness are always the foundation of the sport. However, while athletes' performance and the performance of materials have improved dramatically in recent years. In all fair rules have been established to ensure safety in all FIS events. On the other it is a fact that there are many injuries in skiing and snowboarding competitions.

In addition, there has been a quest for innovation in ski and snowboarding equipment, and many ski companies have focused their efforts on research and development. The development of alpine skis and jump skis, as well as ski boots, Ski binding has been driven by the development of smooth-release bindings to ensure safety.

Back protectors, which are now recommended and worn by athletes, have also been developed with safety and functionality as important factors. We need to observe the supply of this equipment to on a wide the market.

The materials and performance of cut-resistance garments worn under competition wear are also an urgent issue.

FIS competition sports have a strong attractiveness, and there is a strong demand for consideration of safety and functionality.

The airbag is also a matter of debate, not only from the perspective of safety, but also from the perspective of functionality and proper activation, as well as for the markets that supply them. There is no doubt that ski sports, like Formula 1 and MotoGP, are very important from a scientific, economic, and market point of view.

We must all be more interested and inquisitive about snow sports to expect further development of the Competition Equipment and support for athletes to ensure that it is a sport that attracts the attention of the global sporting world.

With this report, I am stepping down from my position as chairperson of the Competition Equipment Committee, a position I have held for 24 years.

I would like to heart fully thanks everyone involved for their advice and cooperation over the years.