Ceremony Guidelines for the FIS World Championships

- Opening Ceremony
- Closing Ceremony
- Winners' Presentation
- Medal Ceremony

INTERNATIONAL
SKI AND SNOWBOARD
FEDERATION

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Introduction and General Information

This document intends to provide guidance for the organisation of the ceremonies at the Championships, including: opening ceremony, closing ceremony, winners' presentation and medal ceremony.

All ceremonies must be planned based on the guidelines outlined within this document. However, considering the specific requirements and infrastructure of different FIS disciplines, the procedures and setup outlined in this document may be altered. Any such alteration, as well as the overall ceremonies' organization (including, but not limited to, venue, infrastructure, details of all scenarios, schedules and programmes etc.) must be discussed with and approved by FIS at the latest at the last Coordination Group Meeting.

Contact: Feel free to reach out to us in case you have any questions at events@fis-ski.com

Useful links:

- FIS fanfare:
  - FIS fanfare (long version)
  - FIS fanfare (short version)

- Opening Ceremony:
  - Lahti 2017 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships
  - Cortina 2021 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships

- Closing Ceremony:
  - Seefeld 2019 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships
  - Lahti 2017 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships

- Additional Ceremonies Footage:
  - Opening, Closing and Medal Ceremonies: Courchevel-Meribel 2023 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships
  - Opening, Closing and Medal Ceremonies: Planica 2023 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships
  - Medal Ceremony: Bakuriani 2023 FIS Snowboard, Freestyle and Freeski World Championships

1. Opening Ceremony

The table below outlines the required elements of the official programme of the Championships opening ceremony. The ceremony should also include further entertainment, including elements of the host nation's culture (e.g. music, dance or other cultural aspects), history of the sport or any other creative programme that aligns with the event.

The run time indication below is only an example. In general, the duration of the ceremony should not be overly extended, and the focus should be put on excitement and entertainment.

Activity	Run Time (in min)
Introduction and presentation of participating nations.	4-5
National anthem Presentation and hoisting of the national flag of the host country.	2
Hoisting of the FIS flag as the FIS fanfare (long version) is played.	1
Welcome speech by representatives of the organising nation (in the national language and in English)	5
Opening speech by the FIS President or another FIS representative, with the declaration that the Championships are open.	3

2. Winners' Presentation

Each Championships event shall be concluded by an official winners' presentation (unless otherwise agreed between FIS and the LOC), except for the final event which should be concluded by the medal ceremony in the finish area and followed by the closing ceremony.

Considering the TV coverage, the presentation should take place immediately after the official confirmation of the competition results by the jury. Set-up of the podium infrastructure should begin as soon as the last athlete crosses the finish line.

2.1 Technical Requirements:

- **Podium and backdrop**: An attractively designed podium with steps down from the first to the third place (possibly also a carpet). Backdrop with branding elements.
- **The design of the infrastructure** shall be developed in conjunction with FIS and the marketing rights holder.
- The LOC/NSA should assign honorary guests to hand over the prizes. The following people can be appointed as **presenters**:
    - Representatives of the LOC, NSA and FIS
    - Representatives of the site, region, nation
    - Personalities such as former World Champions or World Cup winners
- Sufficient presentation space, direct access for the athletes, space for photographers and broadcasters and for unilateral interviews in the area surrounding the podium shall be provided.

2.2 Winners' Presentation Rundown

After the results are confirmed and the signal is given by FIS, the top 3 athletes (with their equipment in accordance with ICR art. 207.1.2), presenters and hostesses should be ready on both sides of the podium.

During the **FIS fanfare (short version)** the top three athletes stand behind the podium when looking at the podium, if entering from the left side, the order is 3-1-2; if entering from the right side, the order is 2-1-3.

Announcement of the winners' presentation by the speaker calling the full name of the Championships, the year and the completed competition.

Announcement of winners in the language of the host nation and in English; the top three athletes in the order 3-2-1 step on the podium when their names are being announced:

- In 3rd place: *name, family name and country* (third-placed athlete steps on the podium)
- In 2nd place: *name, family name and country* (second-placed athlete steps on the podium)
- In 1st place: *name, family name and country* (first-placed athlete steps on the podium)

Welcome and presentation of personalities handing over the prices in order 3-2-1 while festive music is being played in the background.

The national flags of the top three athletes are hoisted (athletes to face the flag poles) and in honour of the winner, **the national anthem** is played (flags may also be hosted on a video wall).

Announcement of the closing of the winners' presentation while athletes remain for a short **photo shooting session** with their equipment and the presenters are marching off.

3. Medal Ceremony

In general, the medal ceremony should take place at a designated Medal Plaza on the evening of the respective event. However, it can also take place in the finish area (e.g. the final competition which is followed by the closing ceremony).

No equipment (e.g. skis/boards, poles, ski boots, helmet, glasses) may be taken onto the podium for the official part of the ceremony (in accordance with ICR art. 207.1.1).

3.1 General Technical Requirements:

- **Podium:** An attractive large podium (minimum 5x10m) must be prepared by the LOC. Each podium must have sufficient space for up to six athletes in the case of a team competition. The height of the individual podium places is terraced from the top (1st place) down to 3rd place. The medals and gifts of honours should be placed on presentation trays or cushions during the handover.
- The creation and design of the podium and the back wall must be coordinated in detail with FIS and the marketing rights holder.
- **Flags:** The FIS flag and the Championships flag shall be hoisted on tall flagpoles near the podium within the view of the medalists. Four flagpoles shall be provided to hoist the flags of the successful competitors' nations at the ceremony. Alternatively, the national flags may be hoisted virtually on the video wall within the view of the athletes.
- **Medals**: The Championships medals will be presented by the FIS President or another FIS representative. The LOC is responsible for the honorary persons (presenters) who will hand over the **gifts of honour** (see Rules of the Organisation of Championships). Partner/sponsor products or gifts may only be presented to athletes at the official medal ceremony with prior approval of FIS.

3.2 Technical Requirements: Medals Plaza

- **Meeting point:** A meeting room (green room) shall be provided for all persons involved (e.g. athletes, honorary guests etc.). This place can also be the starting point for the procession of the persons involved. The LOC shall arrange for transportation of the athletes, to and from this meeting point.
- **Accompanying programme**: The LOC may organise a creative programme before or after the ceremony, which aligns with the overall appearance of the Championships.

3.3 Technical Requirements: Finish Area

- Due to the live TV coverage, the presentation should take place immediately after the official confirmation of the competition results by the jury (max. 15 minutes after the competition is finished (official protest time)). Set-up of the podium infrastructure should begin as soon as the last athlete crosses the finish line.

3.4 Medal Ceremony Rundown

FIS fanfare (short version) is being played.

Announcement of the medal ceremony by the speaker with the full name of the Championships, the year and the name of the competition for which the ceremony is staged.

Introduction and entry of presenters guided by hostesses, who at this stage may be carrying the Championships medals.

- Welcome and introduction of the personalities, who will honour the winners: "The medals are presented by the President of FIS [first name], [last name*], potentially accompanied by a Vice President of FIS or a FIS Council Member* [first name], [last name], [nation].
- "The gifts of honour will be handed over by [first name], [last name], [function]"

Entry of the top three athletes on stage with background music, guided by hostesses.

- The athletes' order of entry onto the stage and behind the podium, if entering from the spectator's left side: 3-1-2; if entering from the spectator's right side: 2-1-3.
- Positioning on the stage: First, the top three athletes shall stand behind the podium. Honorary guests stand on one side, hostesses on the other side of the podium (near the table with FIS medals and gifts of honour).

Proclamation of the athletes in the language of the host nation and in English. The ranking must be announced from 3rd to 1st place.

Announcement of winners in the language of the host nation and in English; the top three athletes in the order 3-2-1 step on the podium when their names are being announced:

- In 3rd place and the winner of the bronze medal [year] [first name], [last name], [nation] (the third-placed steps onto the podium)
- In 2nd place and the winner of the silver medal [first name], [last name], [nation] (the second-placed steps onto the podium)
- In 1st place, the winner of the gold medal and FIS World Champion [year] [first name], [last name], [nation] (the winner steps onto the podium)

The presentation of the medals begins after all athletes have been announced and are standing on the podium:

- "[first name], [last name], [function], will now present the medals to the successful athletes together with [first name], [last name], [function]"

- The hostess carrying the medals meets the medal presenter in front of the podium.
- The medal presenter takes the medal from the cushion and presents it to the 3rd placed athlete. He congratulates the athlete with a handshake.
- The same procedure follows directly afterwards for the 2nd and finally for the 1st placed athletes.

Afterwards, the **honorary guests of the LOC hand over the gifts** of honour to the 3rd to 1st-placed athletes.

- "The gifts of honour will be handed over by [first name], [last name], [function]" (*Solemn music during honouring of the athletes*).
- "In honour of the successful athletes, the national flags will be hoisted and in honour of the winner and World Champion, the national anthem of (nation) will now be played."

Playing of the national anthem of the winner (long version) and flags hoisting:

- During the playing of the national anthem of the winner, the three national flags shall be hoisted. In case of a tie all (four) national flags of the athletes on the podium (1st - 3rd) shall be hoisted.
- Anthem shall not be cut short.

Announcement of the closing of the medal ceremony:

- Closing of the official ceremony. Departure of all persons announced by the speaker (honorary guests, hostesses).
- Athletes ranked 1, 2 and 3 remain on the podium for a photo shooting session.

The LOC in cooperation with FIS should direct the **media coverage and activities of the medal ceremonies**:

- After the official part of the medal ceremony is over, the athletes may have their pictures taken with their equipment (e.g. skis, snowboards, etc.)
- In case women and men are awarded at the same ceremony, women shall be awarded first and after the conclusion of the women's ceremony, the men's ceremony begins.

Closing part: Following the official part of the medal ceremony, the programme can be closed by the Organiser and include further entertainment, including music, dance, fireworks/laser show or any other creative programme that aligns with the event.

4. Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony takes place after the last competition and medal ceremony of the Championships. After the last competition, the medal ceremony takes place in the finish area at first. The closing ceremony commences straight after, in a smooth transition avoiding a gap between the end of the medal ceremony and the beginning of the closing ceremony.

The table below outlines the required elements of the official programme of the Championships closing ceremony. The ceremony may include further entertainment and creative programme that align with the event.

The run time indication below is only an example. In general, the duration of the ceremony should not be overly extended, and the focus should be put on excitement and entertainment.

Activity	Run Time (in min)
Immediately after the final medals have been given out and the athletes have walked off the stage, the FIS Fanfare (short version) starts. Announcement of the closing ceremony by the speaker including the full name of the Championships.	4-5
Presentation of the participating nations.	4-5
Closing speech: President of the LOC or the representative of the nation.	3-5
Closing speech: FIS President or representative with the declaration that the Championships are officially over.	3-5
Lowering of the flag of the organising nation.	0.5
Lowering of the FIS flag.	0.5
FIS Fanfare long version Handover of the FIS flag: 4 to 6 representatives of the current Organiser or host nation athletes carry the large FIS flag with the FIS emblem. At the same time, another representative or athlete carries the hand-held flag with the FIS logo.	1

The LOC representative or athlete hands over the hand-held flag to the FIS President or FIS representative, who stands in the middle between the current and the future Championships organisers. The FIS President or FIS representative hands over the hand-held flag to the future Championships Organiser.	0.5	
At the same time, the representatives of the current LOC or host nation athletes hand over the large FIS flag to the representatives of the future LOC or future host nation athletes.	0.5	
The representatives of both LOCs march away, the new LOC with the large FIS flag in hands accompanied by music.	1	
The officials march out.		

Annex 1:
Technical Requirements for the Winner's Presentations and Medal Ceremonies of the FIS Para World Championships:

- The podiums for winners' presentations must have a common design, look and be accessible for athletes using wheelchairs or sit-skis allowing them to independently access and position themselves on the podium.

- If a ramp is to be used, the gradient should not be more than 1:12 (8.33%) to allow athletes in wheelchairs to access the podium. In order to allow for medal presenters who are wheelchair users to efficiently and safely perform their duty, the height of the podium for the 1st place shall not exceed 400 mm.

- The width of the podiums should be wide enough for a wheelchair user to be able to safely reach the top and have sufficient room to turn to go back down. The material of the ramp shall be non-slippery in case it rains and the podium gets wet.

- Alternatively, the winners' presentation can be conducted on snow without an elevated podium. Sufficient moving space for athletes in sit-skis shall be considered for the athletes to be able to move efficiently when taking their positions and when leaving their positions again.

- There is also the possibility to use a "triangle banner" or any kind of other "rank markers" at ground level with the event branding and/ or the numeration (when looking from the front) from left to right 2-1-3 on it, which indicates the podium spots.

- Considerations for presenters who have a vision impairment:
    - Presenters with a vision impairment may be accompanied by a guide, who will receive a briefing before the ceremony starts. If the presenter is not accompanied by a guide, they will be provided with a detailed description of the pathway and procedure prior to the actual ceremony.