FIS Council Meeting 7 July 2026, Online

Minutes

1. Opening of the Meeting

President Alexander Ospelt opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He proposed opening the meeting with a closed session of the Council, in the absence of FIS Management and the FIS Administration, with no minutes to be taken.

The Council agreed to hold a closed session for discussion with the FIS President only, without minutes being taken.

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2. Closed Session Council (ca. 30')

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3. Members

Members Present:
Alexander Ospelt, President (FIS)
Danielle Aravich, Athletes' Representative (USA)
Deidra Dionne (CAN)
Tove Moe Dyrhaug (NOR)
Alex Fiva, Athletes' Representative (SUI)
Victoria Gosling (GBR)
Michael Huber (AUT)
Nevena Ignjatovic (SRB)
Magdalena Kast (ARG)
Tomaz Kunstelj (SLO)
Ken Odashima (JPN)
Dexter Paine (USA)
Jana Palovicova (SVK)
May Peus (ESP)
Jean-Philippe Rochat (SUI)
Flavio Roda (ITA)
Fabien Saguez (FRA)
Franz Steinle (GER)
Verena Stuffer, Athletes' Representative (ITA)
Patrick Toussaint Mas (AND)
Martti Uusitalo (FIN)
Zhao Wang (CHN)

Members Excused:
Adam Hall, Athletes' Representative (NZL)

Urs Lehmann, Secretary General a.i. (FIS)

Guests:

Jelena Dojcinovic, FIS Membership Manager (item 7.2 and 8.1)
Sandra Spitz, FIS Sport and Event Director (item 8.2)
Bruno Sassi, FIS Communications Director

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4. Approval of the Agenda

The Council approved the agenda.

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5. Minutes of the FIS Council Meeting 10 and 19 June 2026.

The President introduced the revised format of the Council minutes, explaining the intention to prepare decision-oriented summary minutes while retaining transcripts solely as supporting records where required. Council members welcomed the revised format and supported the approach.

During the discussion, the composition of the Statutes Working Group was clarified. It was noted that the Statutes Working Group would initially commence with **Michael Huber** as chair, Jean-Philippe Rochat, Franz Steinle and Alison Pitt, with the possibility of adding a further representative from the Legal & Safety Committee at a later stage if required.

The Council also took note that, following his appointment as Interim Secretary General, **Urs Lehmann** had joined the Financial Review Working Group.

The Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 June 2026.

The President presented the revised minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 June 2026, following consultations with the Legal & Safety Committee and the former Council members. Members of the current Council who had not been part of the previous Council abstained from the approval.

The Council approved the revised minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 June 2026.

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6. President's Report

The President reported on activities since the 57th FIS Congress in Belgrade, reaffirming that athletes remain at the centre of FIS' priorities and decision-making. The report covered the transition following the Congress, engagement with key stakeholders and the implementation of decisions adopted by the Congress and Council. It also included updates on the IOC Session and the Olympic programme, including FIS' continued advocacy for Nordic Combined, Snowboard Parallel Giant Slalom and the development of Freeride Skiing and Snowboarding, as well as the GLORIA Award for Environmental Sustainability in Sport, received by FIS at the Madrid Sport Summit, where Alexandra Meissnitzer participated in the Snow Sports panel representing FIS. The President also provided an update on the ongoing organisational review. In addition, the President mentioned from his candidature document the future World Championships concept, as a basis for strategic discussion.

During the discussion, views were exchanged on the future World Championships concept and its sporting, commercial and operational implications.
It was further noted that the concept will continue to be evaluated and that consultations will be held before deciding on the establishment and composition of a small working group.

The Council further took note that, due to the ongoing developments within the IOC and various International Federations, the current approach regarding Russian and Belarusian athletes is under close review. In particular, the status of the anti-doping situation is also being analysed. Therefore, the current approach, including the AIN procedure, remains unchanged for the time being. The existing FIS Individual Neutral Athlete policy will remain applicable, including the freezing of FIS points until a further decision by the Council is taken. Once the ongoing review has been completed and the relevant requirements have been clarified, the matter will be brought back to the Council for consideration.

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7. Governance and Organisation

7.1 Operational Structure

The President and the Secretary General (a.i.) presented the revised operational structure of the FIS Administration following the recent organisational review. The revised structure aims to strengthen collaboration across the organisation, particularly between the sport, commercial and finance functions, while providing clear responsibilities within the FIS Administration. The organisational charts can be found as annexe to the minutes.

The Council was also informed that **Janne Leskinen** had been appointed as the new FIS Alpine Director and is expected to take up the position following the completion of his notice period.

The Council took note of the updated operational structure.

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7.2 Development and Membership Programmes

Jelena Dojcinovic (FIS) presented an update on the FIS Development and Membership Programmes, including the outcomes of the recent Development Seminar and feedback received from National Ski Associations. The discussion focused on strengthening education programmes, supporting National Ski Associations and enhancing communication and engagement across the FIS family. Furthermore, a Working Group was established under the lead of Victoria Gosling to install the NSA Connector Platform.

The Council welcomed the continued development of the FIS Plus and Start programmes.

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7.3 Appointments in accordance with the FIS Statutes art. 11.3.4

Following the President's invitation to Council members to express their interest in standing for election as Vice-President or Treasurer in accordance with Article 11.3.4 of the FIS Statutes, the President informed the Council that FIS had received six candidatures for the four Vice-President positions and one candidature for the position of Treasurer. The elections were conducted by electronic vote.

The President noted that the Vice-Presidents would not constitute an Executive Committee and that responsibilities would continue to be shared across the Council.

The Council elected the following Vice-Presidents:

Martti Uusitalo (FIN) – 86.36%

Deidra Dionne (CAN) – 86.36%

Dexter Paine (USA) – 77.27%

Victoria Gosling (GBR) – 63.64%

The Council further elected Jean-Philippe Rochat (SUI) as Treasurer.

The Council took note that the President, the Secretary General (a.i.) and the elected Treasurer, Jean-Philippe Rochat, serve as ex officio members of the Finance Committee. The remaining members of the Finance Committee will be appointed at the September 2026 Council Meeting.

The Council approved the appointment of **Thomas Stenz** as Chair of the Audit Committee. The remaining members of the Audit Committee will be appointed at the September 2026 Council Meeting.

The Council further approved the appointments of the Chairpersons of the Expert and Technical Committees by a show of hands, with the individual votes remaining confidential.

For positions where more than one candidate had been nominated, the Council elected the following Chairpersons:

Snowboard Cross Sub-Committee: **Marcel Looze**

Freestyle Sub-Committee: **Anders Olofsson**

Para Snow Sports Committee: **Roman Jakic**

It was further noted that the Vice-Chairs and the remaining members of the Standing and Technical Committees will be appointed at a later stage.

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8. Sports and Events

8.1 Election 2031 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships

Prior to the election, the Council considered the postponement of this Agenda point in the last Council Meeting and a proposal submitted by the Slovenian Ski Association to award the 2031 and 2033 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships simultaneously.

The Council did not approve the proposal to award the 2031 and 2033 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships simultaneously.

Both candidates agreed to the same terms and conditions and are ready to sign the event organizer contract.

The Council subsequently proceeded with the election of the host of the 2031 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships. The election was conducted by electronic vote.

The Council elected Oberstdorf (GER) as host of the 2031 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships**.**

The candidate Planica and other potentially interested venues are requested to consider their interest in a further candidacy for the year 2033 (or possibly even for 2032 in the event of new WSC rules).

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8.2 Olympic Disciplines PSG, Nordic Combined, Freeride

FIS Management informed the Council of the outcomes of the recent IOC decisions concerning Snowboard Parallel Giant Slalom (PSG), Nordic Combined and Freeride Skiing and Snowboarding.

The Council discussed the implications of the Olympic programme decisions, in particular the exclusion of Nordic Combined from the Olympic Winter Games 2030 programme.

FIS Management confirmed its continued commitment and support to the development of Nordic Combined and its intention to work towards the discipline's inclusion in the Olympic Winter Games 2034 programme.

The Council welcomed the inclusion of Freeride Skiing and Snowboarding in the Olympic programme and took note of the corresponding increase in FIS athlete quota places.

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8.3 Report from the Meeting of the Race Directors

Sandra Spitz, FIS Sport and Event Director, presented the report from the recent meetings of the Race Directors. The report outlined key findings and priorities for the next term, including the development of a long-term calendar, strengthened coordination across disciplines and departments, more efficient decision-making and implementation processes, and a review of the Technical Committee structure to simplify governance and clarify responsibilities.

The Council welcomed the proposed direction and supported the continued work to further develop the technical committee structure and operational processes in close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders.

The Council further suggested that the review of the Technical Committee structure be coordinated with the Statutes Working Group to ensure alignment with the ongoing governance review.

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8.4 Wild Card – Request Exceptional Continuation

The Council considered the request submitted by the Netherlands Ski Federation regarding the continuation of unused Wild Card starts for Marcel Hirscher. Following discussion, the Council agreed that the matter should be considered within the context of a broader and transparent Wild Card framework rather than through an individual exception.

The Council did not approve an individual exception and requested FIS Management to develop a broader Wild Card framework, considering the views of the Athletes' Representatives, and to submit a proposal for consideration at the September 2026 Council Meeting.

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8.5 Host Selection – FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships 2027 and 2028

The Council took note of the application to host the **FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships 2027 in Lake Placid (USA)** and approved the award of the Championships to Lake Placid (USA) from 2–11 March 2027.

The Council took note of the application to host the **FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships 2028 in Verbier (SUI)** and approved the award of the Championships to Verbier (SUI) from 3–12 March 2028.

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9. Commercial

9.1 Report ExBo Media Rights

FIS Management provided an update on the ongoing work of the Executive Board relating to media rights, production and digital strategy.

The Council took note of the presentation.

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10. Any other business

10.1 Expenses and daily allowances for Council Members.

The Council took note of the administrative update for Council members.

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10.2 Proposal for a transitional implementation period for Southern Hemisphere

The Council considered the request submitted by the Argentinian Ski Association to defer the implementation of the increase in FIS fees for the Southern Hemisphere by one season. It was noted that the Southern Hemisphere calendar and budgets for the 2026/27 season had already been finalised before the fee increase was approved at the FIS Congress.

The Council approved the request and agreed that the increased FIS fees for the Southern Hemisphere will be implemented from the 2027/28 season onwards.

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10.3 Change of Licence Requests

Under Any Other Business, the Council revisited the topic of athlete change of licence requests, which had been discussed at the previous Council meeting on 10 June 2026. The Council reiterated the need to establish the previously agreed working group to review the wider change of licence framework, while ensuring that pending change of licence requests are addressed without delay.

The Council requested FIS Management to prioritise the pending change of licence requests and to progress the broader review of the change of licence framework through the previously agreed working group.

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11. Next meetings of the FIS Council

11.1 Upcoming meetings

The Council took note of the in-person Council meeting in Oberhofen, Switzerland, on 1 and 2 September 2026, in conjunction with the meeting of the FIS Race Directors.

It was further confirmed that a hybrid participation option will continue to be offered for Council members unable to attend in person.

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12. Closing of the meeting

President Alexander Ospelt closed the meeting at 17:15 hrs.

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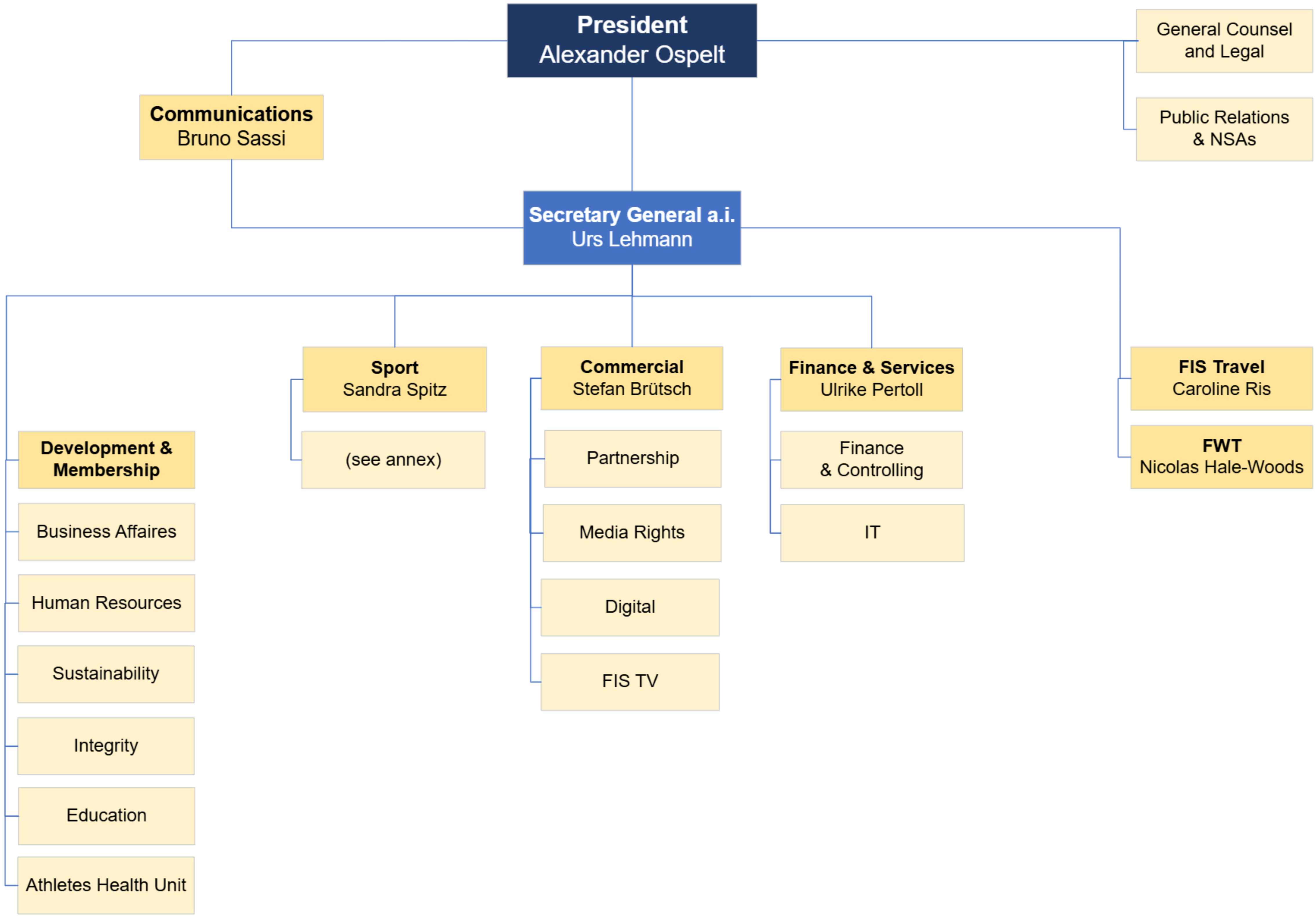
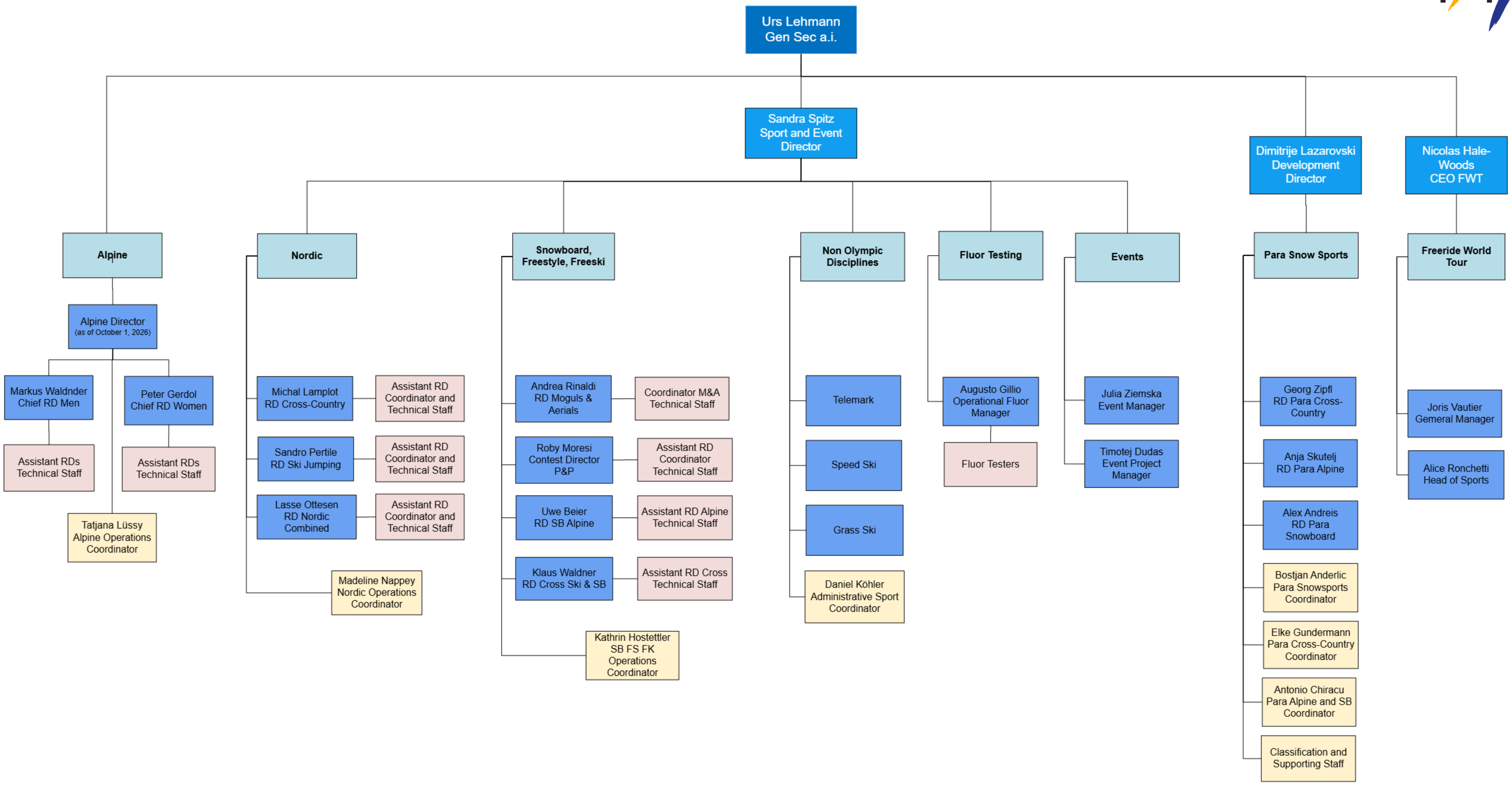
Oberhofen, 7 July 2026

Urs Lehmann
Secretary General (a.i.)

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE FIS (AS OF AUGUST 1, 2026)



ORGANISATION SPORTS DEPARTMENT



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