FIS COUNCIL MEETING 1 SEPTEMBER 2026, THUN, SWITZERLAND

MINUTES

1. Opening of the Meeting

President Alexander Ospelt opened the meeting and welcomed the Council Members to Thun, Switzerland. He noted that the Council Members would visit the FIS Headquarters in Oberhofen later that day, providing an opportunity to see the working environment and meet with the FIS staff. The President briefly outlined the agenda and explained that several of the topics addressed during the Council Meeting would also serve as a basis for further discussion during the subsequent Council Workshop.

He further informed the Council that, following the roll call, the meeting would continue with a closed session attended by Council Members only and without recording.

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2. Members

Members Present:
Alexander Ospelt, President (FIS)
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)
Franz Steinle (GER)
Verena Stuffer, Athletes' Representative (ITA)
Patrick Toussaint Mas (AND)
Martti Uusitalo (FIN)
Zhao Wang (CHN)

Members Online:

Danielle Aravich, Athletes' Representative (USA)
Adam Hall, Athletes' Representative (NZL)
Fabien Saguez (FRA)

Members Excused:
Flavio Roda (ITA)

FIS:

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

Guests:

Jelena Dojcinovic, FIS Membership Manager (Item 6)
Ulrike Pertoll, FIS CFO (Item 7)
Arda Göktas, FIS Controller (Item 7)
Sandra Spitz, FIS Sport and Event Director (Item 8)
Bruno Sassi, FIS Communications Director

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3. Closed Session Council (ca. 30')

The Council held a closed session. The session was not recorded and is therefore not reflected in these Minutes.

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4. Approval of the Agenda

The Council discussed the scope of the Council Meeting and the subsequent Council Workshop. It was clarified that formal Council decisions could also be taken during the workshop.

Any formal Council decisions taken during the subsequent Council Workshop are specifically identified under **Item 13** of these Minutes.

The President proposed an amendment to the Rules and Terms of Reference of the ESG Committee under Item 6. In addition, it was requested that the appointment of the Board of the Marc Hodler Foundation be addressed under Item 6, Governance and Organisation.

The Council <u>approved</u> the agenda and the proposed amendments to the agenda.

Record Correction: The Council noted that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 July 2026 did not reflect that, following his election as Treasurer, **Jean-Philippe Rochat** had joined the <u>Financial Review Working Group</u>. The minutes shall be amended accordingly.

The Council <u>agreed</u> that the Minutes should be corrected accordingly.

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5. President's Report

President Ospelt referred to his written report and highlighted several recent developments across FIS. These included the launch of the FIS and FESA Alpine Performance Series: Speed Excellence, building on the successful Speed Clinic and Speed Academy pilot programme, the recognition of FIS as a finalist in three categories at the Sport Positive Awards 2026, and the successful delivery of the FIS Para Cross-Country World Cup in Canmore, which demonstrated strong sporting, community and sustainability outcomes.

The President further informed the Council that the ongoing review of the FIS Eligibility Policy remains in progress and that the policy will not be implemented for the 2026/27 season pending further alignment with the IOC framework and subsequent Council consideration. He also provided an update on the reorganisation of the Office of the President, including the appointment of Alexandra Meissnitzer as Director of Strategy & Public Affairs and the streamlined structure supporting the President's activities.

The Council took note of the President's Report.

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6. Governance and Organisation

6.1 Appointments in accordance with Article 11.3.4 of the FIS Statutes

The President presented the proposed appointments to the Standing Committees and other governance bodies.

6.1.1 Interim President

The President explained that the FIS Statutes required the Council to appoint an Interim President. **Dexter Paine** was proposed for the position.

The Council elected Dexter Paine as Interim President of FIS.

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6.1.2 Chairs and members of the Standing Committees

6.1.2.1 Finance Committee

The Council noted that the President, the Secretary General a.i. and the Treasurer serve as ex officio members of the Finance Committee, with **Jean-Philippe Rochat**, as Treasurer, serving as Chair.

The Council approved the appointment of **Martti Uusitalo**, **Michael Huber** and **Jana Palovičová** as members of the Finance Committee.
The members concerned abstained from the vote.

6.1.2.2 Audit Committee

The Council noted that **Thomas Stenz** had been elected Chair of the Audit Committee on 7 July 2026 and unanimously approved **Franz Steinle** and **Karin Mattsson** to continue as members.
The members concerned abstained from the vote.
It was also noted that a future merger of the Audit and Finance Committees may be considered as part of the broader governance review.

6.1.2.3 Nomination and Remuneration Committee

The Council discussed the future composition of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, including the expertise and representation required.

The Council agreed to dismiss the existing Nomination and Remuneration Committee and to defer the appointment of a new Chair and members to the next Council meeting.

6.1.2.4 Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance Committee

Before considering the appointments, the Council reviewed the qualification requirements contained in the Rules and Terms of Reference of the ESG Committee:

Current Rule		Rule Change Proposal	
Qualifications	All members including the Chair shall be independent of the FIS Council except the ex officio members.	Qualifications	Expert knowledge of FIS rules and regulations, as well as a comprehensive understanding of FIS governance and related regulatory matters.

The Council approved the amendment to the qualification requirements in the Rules and Terms of Reference of the ESG Committee.

Anna Harboe was proposed as Chair, with Magdalena Kast, Stefano Arnhold, Franz Steinle, Tomaž Kunstelj and Ken Odashima as members. The Council discussed the scope of the Committee, particularly its governance responsibilities, and emphasised the need for the Committee to work in coordination with the ongoing governance and Statutes review.

The Council elected **Anna Harboe** as Chair and **Magdalena Kast**, **Stefano Arnhold**, **Franz Steinle**, **Tomaž Kunstelj** and **Ken Odashima** as members of the ESG Committee by majority.

6.1.2.5 Strategic Planning Committee

The Council considered the proposed composition of the Strategic Planning Committee and discussed the importance of close alignment with the Council and the wider strategic work of FIS. Following a request to strengthen representation from South America, Magdalena Kast was added to the proposed composition.

The Council elected **Sirpa Korkatti** as Chair and **May Peus**, **Daniel Bosco**, **Fabien Saguez**, **Patrick Toussaint Mas**, **Deidra Dionne**, **Zhao Wang** and **Magdalena Kast** as members of the Strategic Planning Committee, with the members concerned abstaining.

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6.1.3 The Expert Committee – The Anti-Doping Advisory Board

The Council considered the reappointment of the Anti-Doping Advisory Board comprising **Rasmus Damsgaard** as Chair, together with **Hans Geyer**, **Günther Gmeiner**, **Francesca Rossi** and **Ben Rutherford**.

Council members requested further information regarding the Board's mandate, activities, meeting frequency and achievements.

The Council reappointed the Anti-Doping Advisory Board. FIS Management will provide a report on its activities at the next Council meeting.

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6.1.4 Appeals Commissions

The Council reviewed the current composition and role of the Appeals Commissions. It was noted that the Appeals Commissions provide a second level of remedy for field-of-play decisions before possible recourse to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The Council discussed the scope of their work, the designation of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, the continued suitability of the current composition and the workload assigned to certain members.

Cross-Country Skiing	Anna Rosa, ITA
Ski Jumping	Ivo Greger, CZE
Nordic Combined	Günter Csar, AUT
Alpine Skiing	Josef Zingerle, ITA
Snowboard/Freestyle/Freeski	Peter Krogoll, GER *(tbc)*
Speed Skiing	TBD after technical meetings in Geneva
Telemark	Hans-Peter Birchler, SUI
Grass Skiing	TBD after technical meetings in Geneva
Para Cross-Country Skiing	Tobjorn Brok Pettersen, NOR
Para Alpine Skiing	Julia Syparenko, UKR
Para Snowboard	Christian Femy, FRA

The Council approved the current composition of the Appeals Commissions, with one abstention, and agreed that their structure, composition and scope of work would be reviewed for the next term.

It was suggested that a future Council workshop include a short introduction to the International Competition Rules and the role of the Appeals Commissions.

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6.1.5 Confirmation of Signatory Authority for FIS Following the Election of the New Council

Following due consideration, the Council approved the granting of the following signatory authorities:

- Alexander Ospelt, President, joint signatory authority by two
- Deidra Dionne, Vice President, joint signatory authority by two
- Victoria Gosling, Vice President, joint signatory authority by two
- Martti Uusitalo, Vice President, joint signatory authority by two
- Dexter Paine, Vice President, joint signatory authority by two
- Jean-Philippe Rochat, Treasurer, joint signatory authority by two

The remaining members of the Council shall have no signatory authority registered in the Commercial Register.

Confirmation of the Registration of **Ulrike Pertoll** in the Commercial Register:

Following due consideration, the Council confirmed Ulrike Pertoll in her function as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of FIS. She shall have joint signatory authority by two and shall be registered accordingly in the Commercial Register on behalf of FIS.

Election of the Board of the Marc Hodler Foundation:

In accordance with the Statutes of the Marc Hodler Foundation, FIS, as founder of the Foundation, is responsible for appointing the members of the Foundation Board.

Following due consideration, the Council appointed the following persons as members of the Board of the Marc Hodler Foundation:

- Alexander Ospelt, President
- Dexter Paine, Vice President
- Victoria Gosling, Vice President
- Flavio Roda, Council Member
- Martti Uusitalo, Vice President
- Deidra Dionne, Vice President
- Jean-Philippe Rochat, Treasurer
- Urs Lehmann, Secretary General a.i.

All newly appointed members of the Foundation Board shall be registered in the Commercial Register with joint signatory authority by two.

All other persons currently registered as members of the Foundation Board shall be removed from the Commercial Register and replaced by the persons appointed above.

FIS Travel, FIS Marketing and FIS Academy

The Council was informed of the proposed changes to the board composition of FIS Travel, FIS Marketing and FIS Academy.

For FIS Travel, **Alexander Ospelt**, **Urs Lehmann** and **Ulrike Pertoll** were proposed as Board members.

For FIS Marketing and FIS Academy, **Alexander Ospelt** and **Urs Lehmann** were proposed as Board members.

It was further noted that all three daughter companies are required to report to the Council.

The Council approved the proposed board changes for FIS Travel, FIS Marketing and FIS Academy and of their reporting obligation to the Council.

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6.2 Statutes Working Group

Michael Huber, as Chair, presented the first progress report on the review of the FIS Statutes and outlined the work completed to date. He emphasised that the review remained a work in progress and that the implications of potential amendments required further assessment.

The Council took note of the progress report. The comments raised during the discussion will be considered as part of the ongoing review.

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7. Finance

7.1 Report of the Financial Review Working Group

The Council received an update on the work of the Financial Review Working Group and reviewed the development of the financial position of FIS, including revenues, costs, cash, equity and distributions.

The Council discussed the financial outlook and noted the need for measures to ensure the long-term financial stability of FIS.

7.2 FIS Finance Update

Ulrike Pertoll, FIS CFO, presented the financial update for the first quarter of the 2026/27 financial year.

The Council took note of the update.

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8. Sports

8.1 Principles of the Long-Term Calendar

Sandra Spitz, FIS Sport and Event Director, presented the proposed principles for the development of a long-term FIS World Cup calendar. The approach aims to manage World Cup calendar density, balance established and emerging markets, strengthen the Snowboard and Freestyle disciplines, improve regional coordination and maintain the global character of FIS competitions. The introduction of a Calendar Impact Score was suggested to support the assessment of events based on defined sporting, media, economic, strategic, sustainability and logistical criteria.

The Council discussed the geographical and disciplinary distribution of events, the impact of existing contractual commitments, the inclusion of further disciplines and the importance of establishing calendars sufficiently early to support their commercialisation.

The Council agreed on the core principles of the long-term FIS World Cup calendar.

FIS Management will continue the development of the long-term calendar and the Calendar Impact Score in cooperation with the Race Directors. The work will also include a media-rights review by the Media Rights Executive Board, before a draft long-term calendar is submitted to the Council for approval later in fall.

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8.2 Wild Card Framework

A proposal for a common Wild Card framework across FIS disciplines was presented. The framework would establish common principles, including sporting criteria, a defined number and period of starts, anti-doping compliance and safety requirements, while the technical criteria would be developed separately for each discipline by the competent Committees and Race Directors.

The Council approved the principle of adopting a common policy and framework governing the granting of Wild Cards across all FIS disciplines. The relevant Technical Committees and Race Directors were mandated to develop the disciplinespecific conditions and regulations for subsequent approval by the Technical Committees and, ultimately, the Council in Spring 2027.

Until then, the existing rules and conditions remain in place in 2026/27 for athletes who already hold a wild card ─ for example, in the case of Alpine, Marcel Hirscher (NED).

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8.3 Regulation of Injured Status

The Council reviewed the existing Alpine injured-status regulations and discussed the unintended interaction between the FIS points adder and injury-status protection, which could, in certain cases, result in injured athletes improving their ranking without competing.

Following the discussion, the Council <u>agreed</u> to refer the matter to the Alpine Technical Committees for further consideration, with a view to developing an adjusted approach that ensures the fair treatment of injured athletes.

<u>No amendment</u> to the Alpine injured-status regulations was approved at this stage.

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8.4 Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN)

The Council discussed the conditions for the participation of persons of Belarusian and Russian sporting nationality in FIS competitions during the 2026/27 season.

Following the discussion, a secret ballot was held. Option 2, “Open under Neutrality”, was <u>approved</u>.

Under the approved conditions, athletes and support personnel of Belarusian and Russian sporting nationality may be granted access to FIS competitions on the basis of a signed declaration of neutrality based on the principles established by FIS. Compliance with the neutrality requirements will be continuously monitored, with sanctions applicable in the event of a breach.

Athletes may participate only in individual events (i.e. no team events, no relays etc.) and must compete without national symbols, including flags, anthems or national uniforms. All applicable anti-doping requirements must be fulfilled.

The decision applies to athletes only. The participation of Russian and Belarusian officials and representatives in FIS Committees, as well as the organisation of FIS competitions in Russia, was not decided under this item.

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9. Legal Update

The Council received an update on ongoing legal proceedings and other legal matters involving FIS.

The Council took note of the update.

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10. Miscellaneous

10.1 Athletes' Commission – Rules and Terms of Reference

The Council was informed that the proposed amendments to the Rules and Terms of Reference of the Athletes' Commission required further consultation and would therefore be deferred to the next Council Meeting in the framework of the Technical Autumn Meetings.

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10.2 FIS Junior World Championships Park & Pipe 2027

FIS Management presented the application of the Chinese Ski Association to host the FIS Junior World Championships Park & Pipe 2027 in Secret Garden, China, from 14 to 27 February 2027.

The Council approved the application.

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10.3 FIS Junior World Championships Snowboard Alpine 2027

FIS Management presented the application of the Korean Ski Association to host the FIS Junior World Championships Snowboard Alpine 2027 in Phoenix Park, Korea, from 13 to 15 February 2027.

The Council approved the application.

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11. Next meetings of the FIS Council

- **1 October 2026**
  In-person Council Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, during the FIS Technical Autumn Meetings
- **3 November 2026**
  Online Council Meeting
- **2 February 2027**
  In-person Council Meeting in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, during the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships
- **18 March 2027**
  In-person Council Meeting in Planica, Slovenia, during the FIS Ski Flying Final
- **13 May 2027**
  In-person Council Meeting, location to be confirmed, during the FIS Technical Spring Meetings

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12. Closing of the meeting

President Alexander Ospelt closed the meeting at 16:30 hrs.

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13. Additional Council Decision and Discussions during the Workshop

13.1 Future of the FIS World Championships

The Council was presented with a preliminary assessment on the future frequency of the FIS World Championships, taking into consideration sporting value, calendar implications and commercial and media-rights potential.

Council agreed on the concept of yearly world championships from 2032 on in principle but a formal decision will be taken after further studies regarding the feasibility and commercial prove will be presented and discussed in the council.

For Andorra 2028 the value potential, the key risks and the plausibility have to be assessed.

Both will be discussed in the next Council Meeting.

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13.2 Change of Licence / Change of National Representation

The Council reviewed the existing change-of-licence framework and unanimously approved the principle of allowing one ordinary change of nation and one subsequent return to the athlete's original nation after a minimum period of four years. During that period, the athlete may continue to compete for the current National Ski Association. Following the return to the original nation, no further change would be permitted. The passport, residence, connection, and release requirements have been further clarified and refined. While the underlying principles remain broadly consistent, the provisions have been updated to provide greater certainty and consistent application and will be aligned with the relevant ICR provisions.

The Council mandated the FIS Administration to prepare the corresponding amendment to Article 203.5 for formal approval at the next Council Meeting.

As a one-time transitional measure, the Council agreed that change-of-nation requests received or initially notified to FIS by **31 August 2026** may be processed upon receipt and verification of all required documentation, including cases where the documentation had not been completed by the regular 1 May deadline.
The 1 May deadline will apply strictly again from the following licence year.

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13.2.1 Cases

Alpine

- Diaco ABRISHAMI, GBR to IRI: approved following receipt of a valid passport.
- Shannon POTTER, GBR to IRL: approved under the one-time transitional arrangement.
- Adriana JELINKOVA, return from CZE to NED: accepted in principle under the endorsed policy direction, subject to formalisation of the amended rule.
- Ikkyu RAVIWONGSE, USA to THA: FIS was authorised to request the required documentation. The change may be approved administratively if all applicable requirements are fulfilled.

Ariels

- Yehor NESKOROMNYI, UKR to SUI: the requested exception was not approved, as the applicable passport and status requirements were not fulfilled.

Cross-Country

- Maximilian WANGER, SUI to LIE: approved.

Freeride:

- Dylan Wu, CAN to USA: pending receipt of the required documentation.
- Jonatan SUKCHAROEN LALAND, NOR to THA: the request falls within the transitional arrangement and may be approved upon receipt and verification of all valid documentation.

Freestyle

- Augustus Richard “Gus” KENWORTHY, return from GBR to USA: accepted in principle under the endorsed policy direction, subject to formalisation of the amended rule.

Masters

- Viktor POLINKOVSKIY, RUS to ISR: approved.

Snowboard

- Following subsequent clarification, FIS was informed that the initial enquiry had been made by Tyler Ashbee on behalf of an athlete. FIS will confirm the identity of the athlete concerned and whether the requested change is still being pursued. If so, the case will be submitted to the Council for consideration at its next meeting.

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13.3 Working Group International Commercial Growth

The Council approved the establishment of the Working Group International Commercial Growth and the appointment of **Dexter Paine** as Chair. The initial membership comprises **Urs Lehmann, Stefan Brütsch, Jeremy Thum, Diego Züger, Sophie Goldschmid, Deidra Dionne,** and **Jean-Philippe Rochat**, with **Alexander Ospelt** serving as an ex-officio member. The composition of the Working Group may be further refined and expanded, including through the addition of athlete representation.

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13.4 Concept of New Committee Structure

FIS council confirmed, to adopt the updated list of Committee and Sub-Committee members for the FIS Technical Fall Meeting in Geneva 2026, so that they can fulfill their tasks and duties as given in the present Committee Rules. Until February 2027, new Rules and Terms of Reference for FIS Committees will be established and decided by the Council with effect toward the FIS Technical Spring Meetings in May 2027.

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13.5 Nordic Combined

The FIS Council, supported by a group of experts, held further discussions regarding the future development of this classic FIS discipline, following the IOC's decision to remove it from the program of the 2030 Olympic Winter Games. The general view expressed was that the relevant technical FIS Committees should continue to consider ways to strengthen the discipline with a view to its future reinstatement.

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Oberhofen, 1 September 2026

Urs Lehmann
Secretary General (a.i.)