

NORDIC COMBINED LADIES' STRATEGY DOCUMENT, NOVEMBER 2016

The FIS Council acknowledged the strategy plan for the development of Nordic Combined Ladies (NC-L) presented by the Nordic Combined Committee. It describes the future roadmap and is designed as a support tool for all National Ski Associations (NSA) in their development of NC-L at national level:

1. Introduction

Nordic Combined for men is the traditional Nordic discipline and already featured at the first Olympic Winter Games in 1924. There has been a good development the last decades. It is still the smallest of the Nordic disciplines but presently the only Winter Olympic discipline without ladies on the programme. Therefore, the main goal for the future is to keep the positive trend and development for the men and to develop Nordic Combined Ladies to become an Olympic discipline in the future.

With the engagement of the National Ski Association developing Nordic Combined ladies athletes and a structured competition pathway, we believe it can also be an Olympic discipline in the future. Cross-Country Skiing has had the ladies on the programme since the 1952 Olympic Games in Oslo and Ski Jumping Ladies became an Olympic discipline at Sochi 2014.

In the last years, we have seen great support from all the NSAs and the Organising Committees around the world for Nordic Combined Ladies. This has resulted in a FIS Youth Cup system that is starting in August and ends in March. With this commitment from all the NSAs, I am sure that we will be able to develop Nordic Combined Ladies to the level that it can become an Olympic discipline for the future.

This document is meant as a tool and a guideline for all our partners involved in Nordic Combined and the development of Nordic Combined Ladies. It will be updated each year during the FIS Spring meetings and posted online.

2. History of Nordic Combined Ladies

Nordic Combined Ladies does not have a long history in FIS, but it has been firmly integrated in the FIS Youth Cup system since 2014.

The FIS Youth Cup Nordic Combined is a competition series for the discipline's young athletes, which was held in Oberstdorf in 2009 for the first time and has been a yearly fixture ever since. The first girls took part in the summer of 2014 which turned out to be a great success with 10 nations and 40 girls at the start. This success enabled FIS to develop the FIS Youth Cup further and in March 2015, Trondheim (NOR) hosted the first winter edition, which was the first Nordic Combined Ladies' event on snow. It featured nine nations and 36 female athletes.

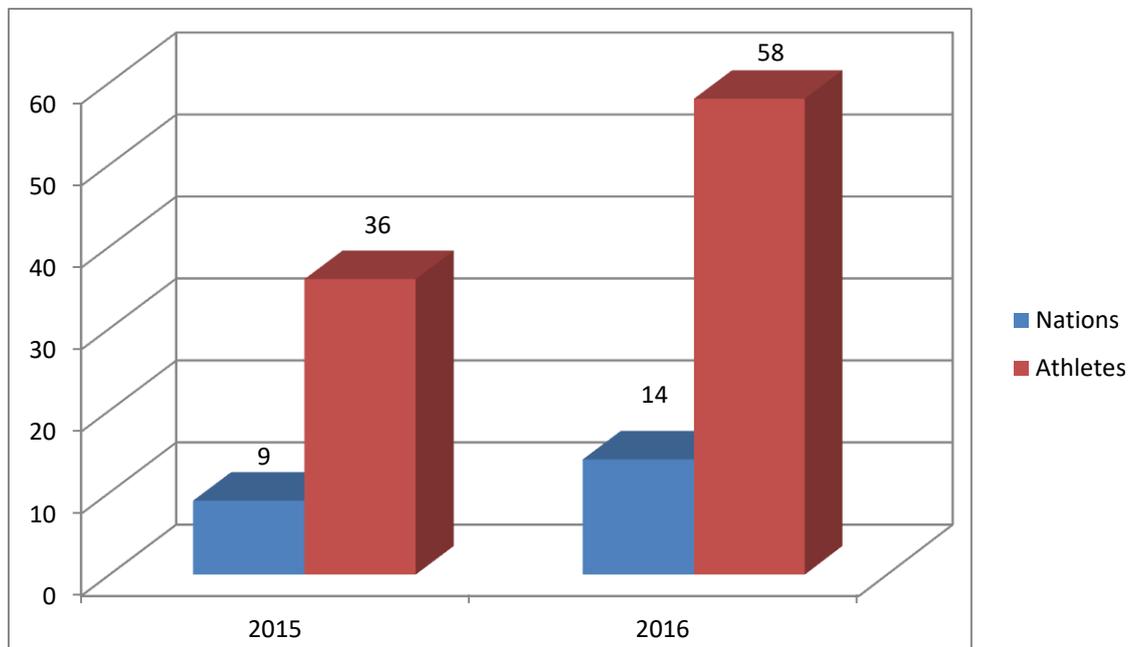
In the following season of 2015/16, the FIS Youth Cup grew to three events with the opening in Oberstdorf (GER), new organiser Harrachov (CZE) and the season finals in Trondheim (NOR) in February, a joint event with the FIS Nordic Combined World Cup tour that gathered a lot of media interest also for Nordic Combined Ladies.

For the upcoming season 2016/17, one more organiser (Vuokatti (FIN)) has joined the calendar. This brings the FIS Youth Cup to a total of 4 organisers through the season.

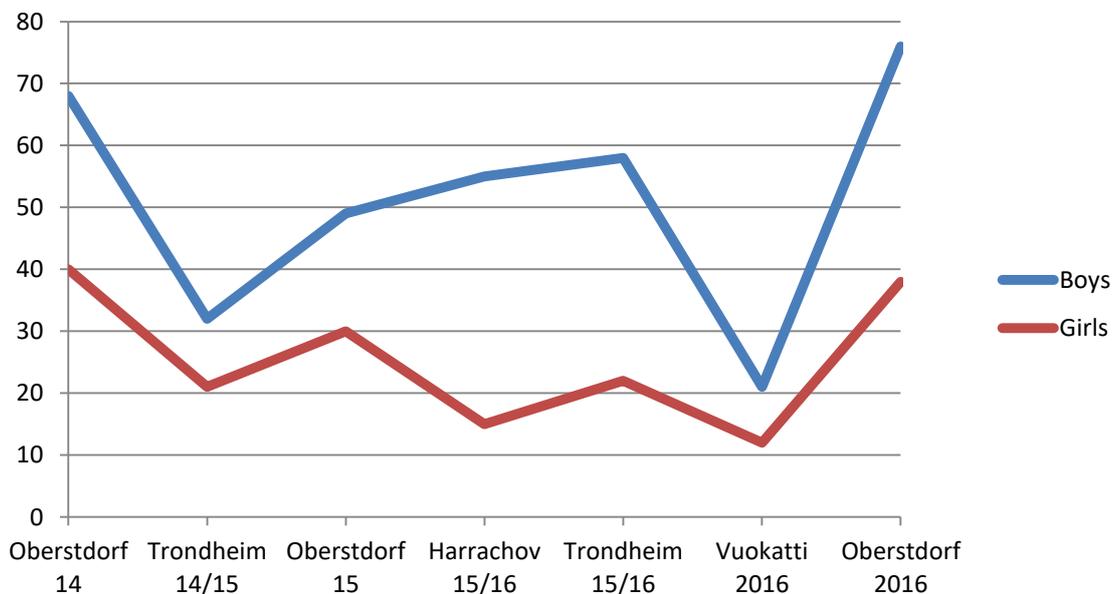
The athletes in the Youth II category will compete for an overall ranking title in the upcoming winter for the first time.

Below you will find several different statistics about female participation in Nordic Combined in the past two years:

Nordic Combined Ladies attending FIS Youth Cup events 2015 vs. 2016



Athletes attending the FIS Youth Cup events from 2014 – 2016



3. Short-Term Strategy

The Nordic Combined Ladies made big steps the last three years. The performance level of the athletes is rising and the number of nations and athletes attending events around the world are growing each year.

The following points are presently on agenda and being addressed:

- Youth Coordinator
- Four FIS Youth Cup events through the year
- FIS Youth Cup ranking system
- Close cooperation with SJ-L and the SJ/NC Youth Sub-Committee

Youth Coordinator

The Nordic Combined Youth Coordinator will also support the Nordic Combined Ladies events. The task for this position is to support all the FIS Youth Cup organisers, coordinate the Youth Cup calendar with other competition series like the OPA (Alpen Cup) and to ensure the events are organised in accordance with the FIS rules.

Four (4) FIS Youth Cup events

In the season 2016/17, there will be 4 organisers on the FIS Youth Cup calendar. For the overall Youth Cup this is a sufficient number of events to award the title. In cooperation with the OPA (Alpencup), there will be 6-7 competition weekends during the season that will be open for all nations to participate in NC-L events.

FIS Youth Cup ranking system

The Nordic Combined Committee decided in June 2016 to add the ranking system to the Youth Cup. This means that the normal World Cup ranking system is used for all Youth Cup events through one season, summer and winter.

Close cooperation with SJ-L and the Sub-Committee for SJ/NC Youth and Children's Questions

Very important for the future development of the NC-L is the close cooperation with SJ/SJ-L. Through the Sub-Committee for SJ/NC Youth and Children's Questions, we are able to develop the NC-L in coordination with SJ/SJL which is important for all our nations to share resources.

4. Long-Term Strategy

With the development that have been taking place over the last seasons, the Nordic Combined Committee has agreed to the following timeline goals for the future:

- 2018: NC Ladies first Continental Cup event – Otepää, EST
- 2019: NC Ladies at the Junior World Championships
- 2020: NC Ladies in the Youth Olympic Winter Games
- 2020/21: NC Ladies first World Cup Series
- 2021: NC Ladies at the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships
- 2022: NC Ladies on the programme of the Olympic Winter Games"

Oberhofen, 28.11.2016