

To the
Members of the FIS Council / FIS Honorary Members
National Ski Associations
Committee Chairs

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Oberhofen, 7th December 2020

Summary / Minutes of the FIS Council Meeting 7th December 2020

Dear Council Members,
Dear President,
Dear FIS Family Ski and Snowboard Friends,

In accordance with article 32.2 of the FIS Statutes we have pleasure in sending you the Summary and Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting which took place on 7th December 2020.

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Members Present
- 3) Current Status of competitions in different nations (report by council members)
- 4) World Cup Test Events 2021 for the Olympic Winter Games in China
- 5) Freestyle/Freeski/Snowboard World Championships 2021 in China
- 6) Appointment of a new FIS Secretary General
- 7) Nordic Ski Championships - collaboration with Infront
- 8) Other Business
- 8.1) Fluorinated Ski Wax Prohibition (Roman Kumpost)
- 8.2) Report from the Athletes' Commission (Hannah Kearney)
- 8.3) Recommendations – request – proposals etc. from Patrick Smith
- 9) Next Meeting

1. Opening of the Meeting / President's Report

Gian Franco Kasper opened the Council Meeting welcoming the Council Members and thanking those attending despite the busy times caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. He was pleased to report that several successful competitions have been staged despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

He went onto explain that after the departure of Secretary General Sarah Lewis that the FIS Staff has rallied and is fully focused on the competition season. The FIS Staff continues to work in smaller shifts as part of the Covid-19

recommendations in Switzerland making it quiet at the headquarters. The Austrian Federation was thanked for helping to get Ski Jumping Race Director Sandro Pertile on a flight into Innsbruck after he tested positive for Covid-19 in Russia.

2. Members present

The following elected Council Members were present at the online meeting on Thursday 7th December 2020:

President Gian Franco Kasper; Vice-Presidents Mats Årjes, Aki Murasato, Patrick Smith, Roman Kumpost, Members: Steve Dong Yang, Dean Gosper, Alfons Hörmann, Hannah Kearney, Dexter Paine, Flavio Roda, Erik Roeste, Konstantin Schad, Peter Schröcksnadel, Martti Uusitalo, Eduardo Valenzuela, Michel Vion;

3. Current States of Competitions in different nations

Erik Roeste reported on the strict rules in place in Norway to stage competitions. He added that professional ski athletes do not have a possibility to get an exemption for a mandatory 10-day quarantine when returning to Norway from foreign countries, so they are not returning home during the season.

Gian Franco Kasper added to the report a reminder about the Norwegian Cross-Country team's withdrawal from World Cup competitions until the Tour de Ski, which Erik Roeste confirmed was on the advice of the Norwegian medical team.

Mat Arjes and Martti Uusitalo underlined that the Swedish and Finnish Teams will also sit out Cross-Country events leading up to the Tour de Ski also based on the medical advice of their team doctors. Sweden is hopeful to compete in the Tour de Ski, while Finland is doubtful based on the current situation.

Gian Franco Kasper emphasized that missing Norway, Sweden and Finland during the December events could have long-term consequences for the sport.

Aki Murasato said that was disappointing to have the World Cup events in Japan cancelled due to the Covid-19 travel restrictions, but he is looking forward to host a full schedule of events for next season.

Michel Vion reported on the cancellation of Val d'Isère last weekend due to a lack of snow, but the area has since received an abundance of snow and he expects good conditions for the December events in France.

Alfons Hörmann said that the German Ski Federation is working closely with the National Olympic Committee, who oversees the regulations for all German sports. He voiced concern about the potential restrictions that could be put in place in the regions of Dresden and Bavaria, which could have an adverse impact on upcoming events. The Nordic World Ski Championship in Oberstdorf is planned to be held without spectators based on the current trends. The various restrictions in place are reviewed every 2-3 weeks with the next deadline for key decisions regarding the Nordic World Ski Championships coming in early January.

Flavio Roda stated that the World Cup competitions in Italy are moving forward, although with additional costs. He emphasized how important it is to keep the

competitions running for the health of the sport. The ski resorts in Italy are closed to the public until January 6th, but remain open for training and races. The Alpine World Ski Championships in Cortina are currently planned to be staged with no spectators, but there is a chance a small number of spectators could be allowed.

Roman Kumpost reported on the upcoming Ski Flying World Championships, which will proceed this weekend without spectators. He will be the FIS representative at the Ski Flying World Championships.

Peter Schroeksadel said that Austria may not be able to take part in the Ski Flying Championships due to Covid-19 infections amongst both the A and B Teams. The scheduled World Cup competitions in Austria have been able to take place in terms of Covid-19, but the main challenge has come with the lack of snow. He added that the Federation fought hard to ensure the ski resorts will be open to the public for tourism, however restaurants and hotels remain closed.

Dexter Paine reminded about the early Alpine World Cup cancellations and added that the Snowboard Freeski events in Copper Mountain also had to be cancelled. The U.S. teams are currently in Europe, and he thanked his fellow council members for helping the American athletes currently in Europe.

Patrick Smith added his thanks to the people who have helped the Canadian athletes that are currently in Europe.

Eduardo Valenzuela said the situation in Spain is improving in terms of Covid-19 with ski areas potentially opening next week.

Gian Franco Kasper concluded the reports saying that Switzerland ski resorts are open, however they face heavy pressure from the EU to close the ski resorts. The next national-level decision will come next week.

4. World Cup Test Events 2021 For the Olympic Winter Games in China

On 4th December BOCOG, FIS and the IOC issued a joint press release informing that in light of the current global Covid-19 situation that no FIS Test Events for the Olympic Winter Games in Beijing will be staged during the 2020-21 season.

This affects the following planned FIS World Cup events:

FIS Ski Jumping World Cup – February 10-14
FIS Nordic Combined World Cup – February 12-14
FIS Alpine World Cup – February 24-28 (women only)
FIS Cross Country World Cup – March 19-21

The current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic affecting many parts of the world means that travel restrictions are currently in place, including a current mandatory 14-day quarantine for all international visitors to China. The travel situation is likely to remain complex for the coming months, during which the Beijing 2022 test events are scheduled.

With the Beijing competition venues all scheduled for completion by the end of 2020, all stakeholders felt that the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 are well on

track and that removing the Beijing Test Events for FIS events will reduce the complexity of this season for all involved, including the athletes.

Gian Franco Kasper thanked Steve Yang and the Chinese Ski Association for their efforts to make the World Cup Test events possible, even if in the end the travel restrictions made it not possible to stage.

Steve Yang said everyone associated with the Test Event competitions was very disappointed not to be able to host the test events this winter. The focus will now move onto carrying out all the National Level Testing Activities and scheduling international events next fall for the Nordic disciplines and Cross.

Moving ahead the education of the Technical Officials will be to be the priority. Additionally, it will be essential to ensure the Ski Jumping hill meets all standards.

Gian Franco Kasper reported that he is positive regarding finding replacement venues for the various World Cup competitions that were cancelled.

5. Freestyle, Freeski Snowboard World Championships 2021 in China

On 4th December the announcement was also made that the FIS Freestyle, Snowboard and Freeski World Championships scheduled to be staged as part of the Test Event programme for Beijing 2020 was cancelled.

Dean Gosper reported on the Technical visit in October saying all the venues and courses were in excellent condition. While it was a disappointment to cancel the World Championships, but facing the long quarantine, it was the right decision.

He continued discussing the possible alternatives for World Championship venues. Calgary (CAN) is a potential host for the Park and Pipe events, possibly adding Aerials and Moguls as part of a pre-existing World Cup stop this winter. Discussions are underway with three various nations to host the Cross and Snowboard Alpine events as a package.

He continued that he is optimistic that replacement venues can be found for all the World Championship events. This will depend on strong cooperation from the commercial and broadcast partners.

Therefore, the Council agreed not to formally cancel the 2021 FIS Freestyle Snowboard and Freeski World Championships and continue to look for alternate venues.

6. Appointment of a new FIS Secretary General

Prior to the meeting, the FIS Council members were informed that FIS had posted the position of FIS Secretary General on its website in addition to informing all National Ski Association about the open position. Surprisingly the interest was low and just a few applications were received. In addition, Gian Franco Kasper invited the director of the General Association of International Sport Federations (GAIFS) Philippe Gueisbuhler to submit an application. The Council was sent his CV.

President Kasper Informed that as a council member of GAIFS and Sport Accord for many years he had successfully worked with Mr. Gueisbuhler for several years and confirmed that he did an outstanding job in this position.

After receiving the information in advance of the meeting, several Council members said that they would prefer to wait until after the Congress to appoint a new Secretary General. Therefore, a compromise was proposed to hire him under the title 'FIS Director' until the Congress in May, at which time the newly-elected president can determine how to move forward.

Mr. Guisbuhler joined the call to introduce himself to the Council and provided them with his background and experience.

After speaking briefly with him, the Council discussed the best way to move forward. Gian Franco Kasper made it clear that since he is currently employed, he does not have a firm date when he could start.

The Council confirmed that they support hiring Mr. Gueisbuhler as the FIS Director.

7. Nordic World Ski Championships – collaboration with Infront

Exact figures will be provided by Infront in terms of expected losses from the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships due to the Covid-19 restrictions by the end of the month. Until that report arrives, no formal request can be made to the FIS Finance Commission.

8.1. Fluorinated Ski Wax Prohibition update – Roman Kumpost

There have been further developments in the Fluor Ban Tracking Device, which were reported by Roman Kumpost. He was pleased to report that the Fluor Tracking device is ready. It has a total of 10 sensors to ensure ideal measurement values. The sensor head will host the entire technology for the device, which can be used in all outdoor conditions. Field validation will be in mid-December with the 10 trackers that have been built. The validation will take place in two phases through the winter.

A more detailed report that outlines the technology is available in a power point presentation that will be distributed to the Council with these minutes.

8.2. Athletes' Commission update – Hannah Kearney

Hannah Kearney provided feedback from the members of the athletes' commission on the season thus far. She said it would be helpful to make the Covid-19 protocols in place clearer for the athletes and more universal at each venue.

In terms of the FIS Covid-19 Testing Protocol, she was reminded that FIS will always follow the rules and regulations in place in each individual nation. Therefore, it is virtually impossible to have universal FIS guidelines.

Some athletes have expressed concern about the calculation for the Crystal Globes and would like the potential to 'drop' some events from the calculation.

Gian Franco Kasper informed that such a decision would need to be proposed by each discipline's Technical Committee for consideration by the Council.

She also raised the question about Olympic qualification points if athletes cannot compete in the full schedule of FIS competitions.

Gian Franco Kasper informed that the IOC is currently working on any necessary adaptations for the qualification system for Beijing 2022.

8.3 Recommendations, requests, proposals, etc... from Patrick Smith

Gian Franco Kasper summarized the process that has been agreed on by the Council in regards to the election of the new Council and FIS President. According to the FIS Statutes, individuals have until 30 days to declare their candidacy at which point the appointed Working Group can begin its role.

Patrick Smith asked about the various scenarios for the next Congress in May 2020. Gian Franco Kasper replied that the ideal option is to have it in person.

While an online Congress is an alternative, the process of voting for Council members would be extremely complicated with an online system. The National Ski Associations would have to agree on several adaptations for an in-person Congress, such as only being able to conduct the Congress in one language. Additionally, some proposals that are normally discussed at a Congress in an open-floor setting may need to be postponed until the 2022 Congress.

Patrick Smith asked for an update about the role of the administration since the departure of Secretary General Sarah Lewis. Gian Franco Kasper emphasized that the staff is working together to ensure that all operation areas continues to work smoothly through the season.

Patrick Smith asked for an update on any litigation from Sarah Lewis. Gian Franco Kasper will send a report from the FIS Lawyer to the FIS Council when it is prepared.

9. Closing of the meeting

President Gian Franco Kasper proposed a next Council Meeting for the first half of January to review how the season is progressing and receive a last update before the World Ski Championships. The date will be circulated shortly.

FOR THE MINUTES

Jenny Wiedeke
Communications Director