



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE SKI
INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION
INTERNATIONALER SKI VERBAND

To:
Members of the FIS Speed Skiing Committee

For information to:
- Speed Skiing NSA

Copy to:
- Gian-Franco Kasper, FIS President
- Sarah Lewis, FIS Secretary General
- Christian Knauth, FIS Marketing & Communications Director

Oberhofen,

**Minutes Speed Skiing Committee
Dubrovnik (CRO), 22nd May 2009**

Dear Skifriends,

We take pleasure in sending you today the Minutes of the meeting of the Speed Skiing Committee held in Dubrovnik (CRO), 22.05.2009.

We would also like to take the opportunity of informing you that the minutes are available on the Member Services section of the FIS Website: <http://www.fis-ski.com/>.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution and we wish you a successful season with plenty of snow!

Kind regards,

Speed Skiing Committee
Dick Taplin, GBR
Chairman

Enclosure: ment.



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INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

AGENDA

for the Meeting of the Speed Skiing Committee

Friday, 22.05.2009, Hotel Croatia Cavtat, Dubrovnik (CRO)

1. Roll call
2. Welcome by the Chairman
3. Accept minutes of last meeting (Zurich 4th October 2008 (attached))
4. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in the agenda)
5. World Championships–Vars (FRA) 17th–24th January 2009
 - Report from those present
6. Plans for World Championships 2011 and later
 - 2011–Hundsfjallet (SWE)?
 - 2013–Sun Peaks (CAN)?
 - 2015–Austria?
7. 2008/2009 World Cup season reports
 - Nations' Cup winners (JL Montes)
 - Individual winners
 - Race cancellations
 - Trophies
8. Outline Calendar for 2009/2010 season
 - Bids requested
9. Homologation Issues (Luc Cristina)
 - Hundsfjallet homologation problems
 - Potential new pistes: Slovakia (L. Sandor), Norway (P. Kjellstrom), Cervinia (D. Berthod)
 - Visit to NZE (L. Cristina)
10. TD Working Group (TD WG) Report (Luc Cristina)
11. Speed Rules changes:
 - To be advised
12. Sponsorship reports
 - Dubai (P. Kjellstrom)
 - Morocco (J-L Montes)
13. Any other business
14. Dates of next meeting–Zurich (SUI), Saturday 26th September 2009

All proposals and decisions of the Speed Skiing Committee are subject to the approval of the FIS Council

1. Roll call

The Chairman, Dick Taplin opened the meeting, Friday, 22nd May 2009 at 10.10 hrs.

Present:

Richard Taplin (RT)	GBR	Chairman
Luc Cristina (LC)	SUI	TD Coordinator
Per Kjellström (PK)	SWE	
Marco Cozzi (MC)	ITA	Rep Dante Berthod
Dave Pym (item 6b/11c only)	CAN	Rep Richard Beare

Not present/Excused:

Richard Beare	CAN	
Dante Berthod	ITA	
Kalevi Hakkinen	FIN	Hon Member
Philippe May	SUI	
Jean-Lou Montes	FRA	

Not present:

Ladislav Sandor	SVK
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Guests:

Francesco Cattaneo (FC)	FIS
Ingrid Christophersen	GBR TD
Judith Lessing (JL)	FIS Secretariat

2. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman presented apologies from absent members and welcomed those attending, particularly Judith Lessing who was attending her first meeting and who had provided so much assistance throughout the 2009 season and Francesco Cattaneo who had come to advise on results and points issues. He noted that, despite some problems with weather and results calculations, it has been a successful season with 298 athletes registered from 22 countries (5 continents), and a World Championships and seven World Cup events. He congratulated Philippe May (SUI) who was an active member of the Committee, and led the Verbier Organising Committee, but had also achieved silver medals at the World Championships and in the overall World Cup ranking; the experience of a current athlete was an invaluable committee asset.

3. Accept minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting—held on 4 October 2008 in Zurich (SUI)—were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. **Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in the agenda)**

The Chairman noted 5 actions not covered elsewhere in this agenda. These were:

- *To contact the Austrian Ski Federation to seek possible nominations for the 2015 World Championships.* He advised that he had spoken to Klaus Leistner, OSV Sec-Gen, who was supportive in general terms. {Afternote: the Chairman also discussed this topic with Ingo Hopfgartner who felt that, after improvements had been completed under its new owner, Goldeck would be a possible venue}.
- *To advise FIS that FIN had made a bid for a race in Salla.* This had been done.
- *To circulate cahiers de charge to all organisers.* This had been done, but only 2 had been returned by organisers.
- *To contact Randy Rogers (USA) about a speedski race in USA.* There has not been a response to date.
- *To request FIS Council ratification of the Rule Changes 2008/9.* This had been done, and the approved changes issued as Precisions.

In order that Francesco Cattaneo could attend other meetings, the Committee then considered problems of WC and FIS points for the different categories of racer, as recorded under Item 11a.

5. **World Championships – Vars (FRA) 17th – 24th January 2009**

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Committee to the resort of Vars for having run a very professional World Speedski Championships from 17 to 24 January 2009. He also expressed his thanks to the FIS Council for giving permission that the slope could be used to its maximum homologated potential, which had added to the impact of the event. It had been the subject of a BBC prime-time programme presented by Graham Bell, and 31 other TV channels had carried feeds, resulting in a very high visibility of the sport.

Unfortunately, the results had misattributed the winning Junior prizewinner, with a result that Simon Billy (FRA) had not been given his Gold Medal; this would be rectified in conjunction with the FIS office. LC noted that there had been a number of organisational errors, and he would send a report to the OC and the TD.

Decision 1: Judith Lessing would obtain a replacement Jun DH gold medal for Simon Billy, and changes would be effected for other Junior medal winners. (Action JL and RT).

Decision 2: LC would write to the Vars OC (copying the TD) explaining his concerns over access and piste protection. (Action: LC)

6. **Plans for World Championships 2011 and later**

a. 2011. The Swedish Ski Federation have formally requested that they could organise the 2011 World Speedski Championships in Hundfjallet. FIS have advised that this will be considered by the FIS Council at their next meeting. The FRA Speedski Committee has expressed their strong support, and will be sending a large contingent, and has encourages that other nations

do likewise. It was felt that there had been considerable improvement to the Hundfjallet piste, but some further work was still required to raise standards, particularly the need to cut back a number of trees on either side of the piste which might be a potential problem with local planners. LC would work with the organisers to see if an alternative scheme using greater protection might be possible.

Decision 3: Hundfjallet is to be thanked for their bid for 2011, and advise that further safety improvements were needed. (Action: RT)

Decision 4: LC to work with Hundfjallet OS to ensure that safety works are undertaken (Action: LC).

b. 2013. Adam Earle has proposed Sun Peaks (CAN) as the location for the 2013 World Speedski Championships. At present there are concerns over generating sufficient sponsorship to meet the fees and other additional costs, but work was proceeding to find these. Dave Pym advised the meeting that he was strongly in favour of an event in N America, and would give Sun Peaks every help, as he had done this year (with additional safety equipment for their WC races). The Chairman was to contact Sun Peaks to encourage their bid.

Decision 5: Sun Peaks was to be encouraged to bid for the 2013 World Speedski Championships. (Action: All, RT to write)

c. 2015. There has been strong and consistent support from AUT racers, particularly in the SDH category, and the Committee would strongly support a bid from AUT for a World Championships for 2015. the Chairman would remain in contact with AUT contacts to encourage such a bid.

Decision 6: The Committee would be interested in a bid from AUT for a WSSC for 2015. (Action: All, RT to write)

d. Future. The French Speedski Federation advised that Les Arcs is considering making the safety changes necessary to re-activate their full homologation with a view to holding a WC race, possibly in 2011, and a World Speedski Championships some time later.

7. 2008/2009 World Cup season reports

The Chairman briefly outlined the results of the 2008/9 World Cup season. Cervinia had pulled out of the programme early on, and it was understood that the resort was undergoing a change in ownership which could affect their desire to support speedskiing in the immediate future. Bad weather had forced the cancellation of one race in Sun Peaks (CAN) and the curtailment of the Verbier/Cervinia race with subsequent problems of ranking SDH racers (see Item 11a). However, 114 athletes had competed in the WC series, with an average of nearly 3 races each.

The Chairman congratulated the winners of each series. Sanna Tidstrand (SWE) and Simone Origone (ITA) again won the S1 series, with Philippe May (SUI), Bastien Montes (FRA), Karine Dubouchet-Reval (FRA) and Tracie Sachs (USA) also on the overall podium. In SDH, the winners were Gunther Foidl (AUT) and Janni-Marie Heikkila (FIN), with Marc Poncin (GBR), Brian Morris (USA), Jennifer Romano (FRA) and Patty Moll (SUI) in silver and bronze positions. The best S1 Juniors were Lisa Hovland-Udan (SWE) and Julien Kipfer (SUI) and, for SDH, Janni-Marie Heikkila and Charles Queyras (FRA), making a total of 8 nations which achieved overall podium places. *(Note: Unfortunately Brian Morris had not received his trophy, and the Chairman was taking steps to obtain a replacement for him).*

In addition to the FIS globes, the Hakkinen and Taplin Trophies were awarded to the SDH classes, and Per Kjellstrom and Jean-Lou Montes had provided trophies for the winning Juniors. In the Nations Cup, FRA were the winners ahead of SWE, with ITA in 3rd place. While the listing was accepted for 2009, it was suggested that the Nations Cup regulations might be difficult to apply, and hence it was agreed that it would be considered again in the Autumn.

PK made the point that the WC circuit is expensive, and moving racers—particularly Juniors—to different venues frequently involved parents making long journeys. At the resort, they sometimes found that they had to pay full rate for lift passes etc simply to support their racer on snow—despite their presence making little effect on the uplift capacity because they tended to be static once at the race piste. OCs should be encouraged to be more generous with lift passes for support personnel—coaches, managers and parents.

Decision 7: Further Nations Cup calculations would be considered at the Autumn meeting if forthcoming (Action: All).

Decision 8: The Chairman should approach ROC asking for greater generosity of ski passes for parents supporting Junior racers (Action: RT).

8. Outline Calendar for 2009/2010 season

Written bids had been provided by Vars (FRA) (23-25 January 2010) and Sun Peaks (CAN) (2 WC between 4 to 7 March). At the meeting, PK offered a double WC at Idre (20/21 March) and Hundfjallet (23/24 March) and, subsequently Kalevi Hakkinen rang to advise that Salla (FIN) would accept a double WC from 15-17 March.

LC advised that the Italian Speedski Federation had identified a potential new piste at Recoaro¹, which he was homologating, and that they would be interested in running a FIS race followed by a WC prior to the race in Vars. Verbier-Nendaz had not yet offered to run a race, but the Committee believed that they might wish to hold the Final in conjunction with their Speed Week.

¹ Recoaro Terme in Italy (in the Veneto region) is a small ski resort with just 4 ski lifts (1 gondola, 2 chair lifts, 1 surface lift) but boasting an impressive 700 metres (2296 feet) of vertical descent. Recoaro Terme has 8 pistes. It lies NW of Vicenza. See: <http://en.comuni-italiani.it/024/084/index.html>

Decision 9: An outline calendar is attached for comment/amendment. (Action: All).

9. Homologation Issues (Luc Cristina)

LC reported that he had been busy during the year, having discussions with Hundfjallet (see item 6b) and in helping to homologate Recoaro (item 8). He would also work with the Vars OC to improve safety procedures there, particularly with regard to the access to the racepiste. No further information had been received about pistes in Slovakia (Ladislav Sandor), Norway (Christer Weiss) or New Zealand; with regard to the latter, it was agreed that FIS should be asked to carry the grant of SFr 4800 forward to facilitate a homologation visit by LC if needed. LC advised that there had been a suggestion of a newer, faster track in Cervinia, but that this could not be progressed until the new organisation had become established. Millar Reid (GBR) had suggested a new piste in Aonach Mor, and Philippe May has been working with Andorra about proposing a new piste there.

Decision 10: The Chairman is to request that SFr4800 be carried into 2009/10 budget to enable a homologation visit by LC, if required. (Action: RT and LC).

Decision 11: LC to follow up other homologation proposals as they are made. (Action: LC).

10. TD Working Group (TD WG) Report (Luc Cristina)

LC had received a number of suggestions from TDs, which would be translated into proposals for the Autumn meeting. A number of specific points were raised:

- a. Which helmets are allowed? It was agreed that the situation over helmets had not changed, and that S1 racers may still choose whether they use the thin-shell helmet and the smaller outer (40cm circle test) or a full inner helmet with a larger outer (50cm circle test).
- b. Numbers of runs TDs were concerned that some organisers were not allowing racers enough practice, and particularly that all competitions should aim to have at least 3 runs each day.
- c. Transport of equipment. PK was concerned that, while low-cost airlines had improved the costs of travel, they frequently had very limited baggage allowances, and questioned whether there was any potential to get an international agreement to move skis and equipment by a specific surface carrier.
- d. Standard Results The Committee agreed with Christer Weiss that many resorts do not produce results in a standard format. FC has agreed to provide a standard input format for results to be sent to FIS.
- e. Prizegivings. The Committee agreed that prizegivings can become too protracted because of the numbers of prize categories, and this needed to be simplified. To an extent this will be improved by a test to be undertaken by FC (see item 11a, below).

Decision 12: Competitors may continue to choose between both agreed helmet standards. (Action: All)

Decision 13: All ROC should be encouraged to ensure at least 3 runs each day (weather permitting). (Action: LC)

Decision 14: FIS would be asked if there is any benefit in providing contracted surface transport to move equipment between WC locations in Europe. (Action: PK).

11. Speed Rules changes:

a. Changes in WC and FIS point calculations. The past season had been beset with problems of result calculations and presentation, as a result of which mistakes had been made in two medal presentations. It was agreed that a root cause of these problems was the problem of trying to integrate three different categories of racer: ie S1, SDH and Junior racers. To date, all results had been recorded on a single list, in order to be homogenous, whereas our rules generally differentiated these classes. It was felt that SDH WC points should not depend on the number of S1 athletes present at any event, and we also had to recognise the additional speed limits placed on Junior racers. FC suggested that the simplest means of solving this would be to calculate separate FIS point lists for S1, SDH and SDH(Jun) racers, effectively treating them as separate events. WC points would be treated in a similar manner to avoid future confusion.

Decision 15: While organisers would still produce an overall 'scratch' results list, showing all competitors, this would be supported by separate event listings for S1, SDH and SDH(Jun) from which all FIS and WC points would be calculated. (Action: All)

Decision 16: In future SDH and SDH(Jun) would be defined purely on age. There would not be a separate Jun category in S1, but the best Junior racer in S1 would be recognised at each race. (Action: All)

Decision 17: Over the summer suitable F factors and/or minimum penalties for each event will be calculated in order to present separate points lists; a skier could score points in more than 1 category – ie they could ski SDH or SDH(Jun) as well as S1. (Action: FC, RT and LC).

Decision 18: The Committee would produce clarification changes to the Speedski Rules for the Autumn meeting in Zurich. (Action: All)

Decision 19: FIS would provide a free results programme to all organisers to ensure that results would be produced in a standard manner. (Action: FC).

b. Result Rankings. In the course of the past season, there had been some confusion over the application of Rule 1233.9.2 (Classification of competitors). It was agreed that the meaning was that "each racer should be ranked in order of their last speed, within the group in which they achieved that

speed, and in reverse order of runs'. Thus, all finalists would be listed before those whose last run was in the semifinal, before those who stopped at the prior start level etc.

Decision 20: The Chairman was to draft new words for Rule 1233.9.2 in time for the Autumn meeting. (Action: RT).

c. Speed Limits. The Committee noted that the decision to have 3 events within the sport - S1, SDH and SDH(Jun)–now gave greater safety control over speeds, and thus it was opportune to seek FIS Council approval to relax the 200kph absolute limit for those racing in the S1 category. They pointed out that the safety record for Speedskiing was probably better than that recently demonstrated for Alpine skiing in the Oslo Centre analysis.

Decision 21: Chairman to write to FIS Council requesting that the 200 kph speed limit be relaxed for S1 racers. (Action: RT)

12. Sponsorship reports

There was nothing to report under this heading. Philippe May had been to Dubai, and advised that the snowdome was unsuitable for a speedski race; consequently no sponsorship would be forthcoming. Jean-Lou Montes advises that the French Speedski Federation were still only in early discussions with the Royal Ski Club of Morocco.

13. Any other business

There was not other business.

14. Dates of next meeting

The FIS Autumn update meetings would be in the Hilton Hotel, Zurich between 24 and 27 September. It was suggested that the Speedski Committee would seek to meet at **10.00 on Saturday 26th September 2009** to give delegates the chance to attend within the day.

For the minutes:

Richard Taplin

Chairman FIS Speedski Committee

OUTLINE SPEED SKI PROGRAMME 2009/10 SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<i>14/15 Jan 2010</i>	<i>Recoaro (ITA)</i>	<i>FIS level race trial</i>
<i>16-18 Jan 2010</i>	<i>Recoaro (ITA)</i>	<i>WC race</i>
<i>23-25 Jan 2010</i>	<i>Vars (FRA)</i>	<i>WC race</i>
<i>4-7 Mar 2010</i>	<i>Sun Peaks (CAN)</i>	<i>2 x WC races</i>
<i>15-17 Mar 2010</i>	<i>Salla (FIN)</i>	<i>2 x WC races</i>
<i>20-24 Mar 2010</i>	<i>Idre (SWE)–21/22 Mar</i>	<i>WC race</i>
	<i>Hundfjellet (SWE)–23/23 Mar</i>	<i>WC race</i>
<i>April 2010?</i>	<i>Verbier (SUI)</i>	<i>WC Final?</i>