

To the

- Members of the Sub-Committee for Alpine Rules

For information to:

- Gian Franco Kasper, FIS President
- Sarah Lewis, FIS Secretary General
- Bernhard Russi, Chairman Alpine Committee
- Janez Fleré, Alpine Coordinator
- Jeff Weinman, Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Alpine Classification
- Elena Gaja, Chair of the Sub-Committee for Alpine Courses
- Walter Vogel, Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Alpine TD's
- Ken Read, Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Alpine Youth Questions

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

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Oberhofen, 06.06.2019

**Minutes Sub-Committee Meeting for Alpine Rules
Hotel Croatia Cavtat-Dubrovnik (CRO), Thursday, 30.05.2019**

Dear Ski friends,

We have pleasure sending you today the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub-Committee for Alpine Rules held in Cavtat-Dubrovnik, 30.05.2019.

You are kindly asked to send any remarks to the FIS Alpine Office in Oberhofen no later than **30th June 2019** (flere@fisski.com).

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: www.fis-ski.com.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution.

Kindest regards,



Michael Huber
Chairman Sub-Committee for Alpine Rules

Enclosure: mentioned

All proposals and decisions of the Sub-Committee are subject to the confirmation of the Alpine Committee and to the approval of the FIS Council.

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION
Sub-Committee for Alpine Rules**

**Minutes Meeting Sub-Committee for Alpine Rules
Thursday, 30.05.2019, 08:00 – 12:00 hrs.**

1. Welcome and opening of the Meeting

Chairman Michael Huber opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

2. Roll call (enclosed)

Janez Flere called the Roll. Some members who were not present had apologized and in their absence were represented by other persons (see attached list).

Michael Huber welcomed those members attending for the first time, Anki Svaerdby-Bergman (SWE) and Alexey Orlov (RUS) and asked for a moment of silence for our long-term member Iouri Gouriev (RUS), who passed away last winter.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The invitation was sent out on April 30th in compliance with the Sub-Committee Rules. It also included the agenda and numerous enclosures. As an additional item, the Chairman asked to include “validity of poles and panels” under agenda point 8.2. No additional items were requested and the agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting in Zürich (SUI), 27th September 2018

The minutes were approved with no additional remarks from the members present. Michael Huber thanked those involved with the preparation of the excellent minutes and did a brief recap on rules decisions from the past year.

5. Report of the Chairman

Firstly, Michael Huber thanked those who attended the “Alpine Rules Workshop”, held about one month ago, that was essential to the preparation of the agenda and enclosures for today’s meeting. In his report, he intends to speak about items which are not on today’s agenda, although many are taken from the minutes of past meetings:

- Alpine Combined. Based on a decision by the FIS council, the AC will remain an event at all levels in the future. Following an internal discussion it was felt that new ideas, requiring changes to the ICR, may be needed to raise the attractiveness of this event. There are no changes intended at the moment, so art.1100 will remain as such although he hopes that in the near future this item will be brought to the agenda again. The Chairman wants to express two personal opinions to the Alpine Rules Members. First, he sees the necessity for an improvement of the fairness and excitement by adapting rules about the balance of the Speed and Tech parts of the Alpine Combined. Specialists from both sides should have a chance to win an AC. Secondly, he has heard of concerns with regard to running AC at lower levels, as it is

a most demanding event for both athletes and organizers. In the past, it was possible to achieve a Combined result by combining an individual speed event and a Slalom. These were not run on the same day and sometimes not even at the same site!

- Revision of the VD: it was the intention of the Chairman to update all Vertical Drop Rules in all alpine events but this project has stopped. The ramifications of such a massive change would be a great responsibility and it is felt that the effects, either negative or positive, cannot be foreseen and could be quite significant. As long as there is no order from the Alpine FIS leadership to review this item, it will not be touched by the Chairman again.
- Downhill in two runs or Slalom in three runs: as there is no trend so far to be considered this item will also remain un-touched.
- Check of CIT/UNI/MAS rules: thanks to Jana Palovicova and David Mansfield who will work on this issue and give a report in fall 2019.
- A further item not on the agenda and, a very personal issue of the Chairman, is Injuries in Alpine Ski racing. In an online article of the US Ski racing Magazine it was reported that over 40 athletes were absent from the World Cup circuit during the 2018/19 season for a long period due to injury. About 50% of them due to some kind of knee injury. From official FIS statistics, over 191 athletes asked for a single penalty (no start for more than 8 months), 156 of these were due to a skiing injury. Other athletes have been injured but didn't asked for a single penalty. Considering there are about 3'000 official FIS alpine competitions, it could be imagined that there were around 200'000 starts this past season. When compared to the number of injuries, this does not sound so much but every injured athlete is one too many. The question to put forward is; "Can the ICR contribute to lowering these numbers?" Based on the statistics no single aspect can be highlighted, it is a mixture of many reasons. More public discussion is necessary to search for improvements and he asks the members in Alpine Rules to do the same.

6. ICR Parallel Rules

6.1. ICR 1210-1233 Parallel

The Chairman, Michael Huber, informs the meeting that this type of alpine event, and most of the present wording, was brought into the ICR in 1975. It was really hard work for the workshop to go through the wording and adapt it to the new philosophy of Alpine Parallel, as summarized by the workgroup under the lead of Ken Read. It was necessary to go through all the articles one by one and to review background information, as well as to double check and so avoid errors or misunderstandings. The guidelines of this overall proposal were:

- All changes based on the new principles
- Adjust to harmonize Parallel rules between different levels
- Adjust to give Parallel open opportunities to be adjusted by Cups and Series.

The Chairman then presented the whole proposal along with explanations about the background with the wish that Members of the "Subcommittee Rules" will transmit this information to their countries.

A number of questions were raised. Some were answered quickly and some items were discussed very intensely.

- Common sense and agreed on unanimously, to delete the word “maximum” connected with the Penalty time.
- Open request that the Organisers have the possibility, following the Qualification Run, to reduce the field to 16 competitors (rather than 32) for the Elimination Heats.
- There remain open questions about special situations of DSQ and DNS and timing details between parallel start and delayed start the second run, who will be winner of the heat.
- Not supported was the request to have a racers decision to choose red or blue course by himself before start, as second run is more important then the first one, so this could decide the result.

Vicechair Dave Pym asked that the proposal be forwarded unanimously to the Alpine Committee and the FIS Council, with the outlook of working on the discussed open details at the Fall Meeting so that they may be put into the Precisions of the Northern Hemisphere. This was agreed by the members present. He asked every Rules member to bring forward written comments and proposals about the few open questions as soon as the minutes and the proposal are available.

[SEE ENCLOSURE art. 1220 - 1234](#)

7. ICR major rule proposals

7.1 ICR 614 Competition course and Training vs Warm up slope

An introduction of this item by Michael Huber included information on why this proposal came up. The main objective is to avoid uncertainty in this very important matter and to make clear where responsibility has to be taken. The proposal covers two things. First, it creates a definition about the “Competition Course”, which should not be mixed up with the word “Course” as this has its own specific meaning. All the ICR was checked for the use of the expression “Course” and adjusted in order to keep consistency of this proposed definition. Secondly, it gives a more complete definition about “Training” and the obligations and responsibilities that are involved, compared to a “Warm up slope”.

Following this introduction, the proposal was discussed and adopted unanimously to forward it to the Alpine Committee.

614	<u>Competition Course, Competition and Inspection</u>
614.1	<u>Competition Course</u>
614.1.1	Technical Parts of a Competition Course <u>and Technical Parts.</u> <u>A competition course is a designated area on a specific ski-slope, described by the respective FIS homologation. Start and finish installations, television towers, measuring equipment, sponsor advertising equipment etc. are necessary items for a competition and are part of the competition course.</u>
614.1.3	<u>Training on Competition Courses and Warm up Slopes</u> <u>Official training in Downhill is part of the competition and governed in art. 704.</u> <u>For other types of Alpine events, the Jury may approve special training with or without gates (free ski) which can take place on the competition course. In that case, the training has to be controlled by the Jury and the Race Organization.</u> <u>Appropriate Warm up slopes outside the competition course should be made available to the participating teams under specific guidelines by the Organizer. Warm up slopes are not under the control of the Jury and are not governed by the ICR.</u>

8. ICR minor rules clarifications

8.1 ICR 606. Competition Suits

Explanation and discussion of the given proposal. General remark, in future to use the corresponding level number (see: FIS point list 1st page) when discussing rules that are specific to certain competitions (e.g. FIS events referred to as level 3, World Cup as level 0). As it happens both systems are used in this proposal. To make it complete, the word "Universiade" as a level 1 competition was added.

The proposal was adopted unanimously to forward it to the Alpine Committee.

(NOTE: At the Alpine Committee on May 31st 2019, the **Yellow marking** was discussed and adopted as an additional precision to avoid misunderstanding and to follow the present rule of the Specifications).

606.2	Competition Suits
606.2.1	For <u>Downhill, Giant Slalom and Super G competitions all Alpine Events (except Slalom)</u> at <u>all FIS levels the Olympic Winter Games, FIS World Ski Championships, FIS World Cup, FIS Continental Cups and FIS World Junior Ski Championships</u> competition suits must conform to the Specifications for Competition Equipment.
606.2.2	<u>At all Alpine Events (except Slalom) The-the</u> competition suit <u>for Olympic Winter Games, FIS World Ski Championships, FIS World Cup (level 0), FIS Continental Cups, Universiade and FIS World Junior Championships (level 1)</u> must have a label attesting conformity with FIS specifications for competition suits. <u>DH/SG/GS:</u> <u>Fulfillment of requirements is to be attested by a specific standardized conformity label affixed in a non removable way at the back of the lower left leg above the top of the ski boot cuff area of the competition suit in a location, which is and shall remain visible during competition. The conformity label shall include the following text:</u> <u>"Conforms to FIS specifications GS 2015"</u> <u>Labels affixed by manufacturers shall comply with the specifications set forth in the attachment. The conformity label attests that the manufacturer and NSA are guaranteeing that the surfaces of the competition suit are not plasticised or treated by any chemical means (gaseous, liquid or solid) and that they have a minimum permeability of 30 (thirty) litres per m2/sec with a measurement tolerance of 3,0 (three) litres per m2/sec.</u> <u>For level 0, athletes with competition suits without label will not be permitted to start (art. 627.2.). Both conformity systems, label and plomb systems, will be valid <u>only at level 1</u> during the transition period until the end of the <u>2017/18 2019/20</u> season.</u>

8.2 ICR 680.1 Rigid Poles

The Chairman has been in contact with the person in charge of "Specifications for Poles and Panels" (Werner Nachbauer from the University of Innsbruck) and was asked to use the word "bending device" instead of "hinge" in the proposed articles. This was in order to keep consistent wording between the Specifications and the ICR. A discussion followed about the search for a better word, but finally it was decided to keep the wording.

The proposal itself is on the agenda for the third time and after a general introduction, it was unanimously adopted to be forwarded to the Alpine Committee for approval.

680.1	Rigid Poles
	Must be round, uniform poles <u>without a hinge bending device and should be of the same material and dimensions as the flex pole. –a diameter between a minimum of 20 mm and a maximum of 32 mm without joints. Rigid poles may be used for the outside gate or pole, and in exceptional cases (e.g. high wind) as the outside pole of the turning gate (see art. 680.2.1.2). They must be of such a length that when set, they project about 1.8 m out of the snow and must be made of a non-splintering material (plastic, plasticised bamboo or material with similar properties).</u>
680.2	Flex poles
	Flex poles are fitted with a <u>spring loaded hinge bending device</u> . They must conform to the FIS specifications.

In addition, Janez Flere and Michael Huber asked the members of Alpine Rules to give their opinion about another item within the “Specifications for Poles and Panels” regarding the “Date of Validity”. This is due to possible misunderstandings by Juries and written requests from four manufacturers. The intended wording reads:

“The FIS homologation of the panel/pole is valid as long as there is no new panel/pole specification introduced. The year of homologation has to be imprinted or inserted as reference to which specifications the product was adopted. In case of product changes (e.g. change of quality by changing the production plant, materials or manufacturing details) the panel/pole has to be re-homologated.”

After a short discussion, no objections were given by the members and the wording will be adjusted in this way to be included in the Specifications for Poles and Panels.

8.3 ICR 801.2.4 Slalom Direction Changes

Two proposals were sent to the Rules members for evaluation.

For the proposal from USA, Jeff Weinman gave a short explanation and put forward arguments as to why to open up and delete min./max. Direction Changes in Level 3 and 4 and Children (U16, U14). The experience in North America is positive and is already used on a National basis. Vice-Chair Dave Pym supports the proposal and gives additional arguments.

801.2.4	Number of Direction Changes: (number of direction changes by rounding up or down of the decimals) for <u>Category 0, 1, and 2</u> all FIS events:
	- 30% to 35% of the vertical drop, +/- 3 direction changes
	<u>For Category 3 and 4 competitions:</u>
	- <u>Gates must be set according to 801.2.3</u>
	<u>Exception for U16 - U14 competitions:</u>
	- <u>Gates must be set according to 801.2.3</u>
	<u>32% to 38% +/- 3 direction changes</u>

The Chairman reminds members that this item has been debated numerous times. His proposal is on the other end, not to open it up but to limit it strictly to the very few exceptions he feels exist.

Janez Flere explains that at present some exceptions exist and there is already a procedure in place to deal with these situations.

There then followed a lengthy discussion with arguments both in favour and against by the members. In the end a vote was held:

1st – VOTE: Who is in favour of the proposal (USA) to open it for level 3 and 4 (2 yes, 17 no, 3 abstentions)

2nd – VOTE: Who is in favour of the proposal to limit it to an exemption shown on the homologation certificate (14 yes, 6 no, 2 abstentions)

800	Slalom
801.2	Gates
801.2.4	Number of Direction Changes: (number of direction changes by rounding up or down of the decimals) for all FIS events:
	- 30% to 35% of the vertical drop, +/- 3 direction changes
	Exception for U16 - U14 competitions:
	32% to 38% +/- 3 direction changes
<u>801.2.4.1</u>	<u>Exception: for cases where the number of direction changes cannot be fulfilled due to unusual terrain, the Homologation certificate will show that an exemption has been granted.</u>

8.4 ICR 623.1.2 Re-runs

The motivation behind this precision follows the constant discussions at TD meetings on this subject. It is to update the ICR with clarification about the procedure in case of a missing gate. It still remains that the racer has to stop immediately when asking for a re-run in the case of a missing gate independently of who or how a gate was knocked down. If the racer completes the run with a missing gate, art. 661.4.1.3 is valid.

The proposal was adopted unanimously and will be forwarded to the Alpine Committee.

623	Re-runs
623.1.2	In special situations (e.g. in case of missing gates , failure of the timekeeping system or other technical failures), the Jury may grant a re-run.
623.2.5	Absence of a gate knocked down by a previous competitor that has not been promptly replaced.

Based on a specific question regarding broken gates interfering with a competitor, article 623.2.6 was mentioned as the overall guideline on how to deal with reasons for a re-run. It follows common sense that a broken pole moving through the course can be considered as interference

8.5 ICR 615.1.5 Red line

The Chairman explained that the original wording of this item came into the ICR for TV/Advertising purposes. The circumstances around this ruling have now changed and the Committee for Advertising supports the deletion. It was unanimously agreed to forward this to the Alpine Committee for approval.

615.1.5	The organiser must define by a clearly visible red line an "inner finish area" and ensure that the competitors are able easily to reach this area on skis.
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9. Other Rules changes (ISR proposals from Sub-Committees or Working groups)

9.1 Working Group Timing and Data (will be presented at the meeting)

Dave Pym presents the proposal coming from the Data and Timing working group. He explains each proposal and asks for the support of the members. All were adopted unanimously to put forward to the Alpine Committee.

611.2.1 *Electric Timing*

For all international competitions, FIS World Cup, FIS Continental Cups and FIS competitions, two synchronised electronically isolated timing systems operating in time-of-day must be used. One system will be designated system A (main system), the other system B (back up system) prior to the beginning of the race. **Only exception for Parallel on Level 2, 3 and 4 Competitions.**

Time of day times must be immediately and automatically sequentially recorded on printed strips at the maximum precision of the timing device according to the requirements for homologation. The final result is calculated by subtracting the start time from the finish time for each skier's run and is then expressed to 1/100th (0.01) precision by truncating the calculated net time on course.

All times used for the final result must be from system A. If there is a failure of system A, a calculated net time from system B must be used following the same procedure as set out in art. 611.3.2.1. It is not permitted to substitute time-of-day times from system B for use with system A for the purpose of net time calculations. For all events, system A must be connected to its respective start gate contact. System B must be separately connected to another electronically isolated start gate contact.

Refer to the FIS Timing Booklet for more details regarding cabling and complete wiring descriptions, diagrams and start gate installations.

All timing equipment and technical installation should be set up or protected in such a way that danger to the competitors is avoided where possible.

Synchronisation of the timing systems must occur as close as possible to the scheduled start for the first run of the day. Synchronisation of all systems must be maintained throughout each run. Timers must not be re-synchronised during any run.

611.2.2 *Hand Timing*

Manual (hand) timing, completely separate and independent of the electronic timing, must be used for all competitions listed in the FIS Calendar. Stopwatches or hand operated battery powered timers that are installed at both the start and the finish and capable of expressing **the times of day** to at least 1/100th (0.01) precision qualify as proper hand timing devices. They must be synchronised prior to the start of **each the first run**, **preferably** with the same time-of-day as system A and system B (**see art. 611.2.1**). Printed records, either automatic or hand-written, of recorded hand times must be immediately available at the start and at the finish.

611.3.2.2 *Photo Finish*

A Photo Finish System may be used to determine a competitor's finish time. In case of a failure of system "A" and "B", and where the competition has been recorded by the Photo Finish System, this time must be used in place of hand-timing **without any correction**.

The photo finish time is taken when any part of the competitor's body first crosses the finish line. The photo finish result is to be provided to the Jury only.

Michael Huber, as Chair of Alpine Rules, informs the meeting about an open discussion that is to take place in the Subcommittee Alpine Courses, to adjust the rule about the validity date of homologation certificates for Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The subcommittee rules members have no objections and the subcommittee courses should feel free to adopt to their needs and then include it in the ICR.

650.5.6 Validity of the FIS Homologation Certificate

650.5.6.1 Downhill and Super-G

The certificate is valid from the date of issue: it will expire on 1 st July* ~~November*~~, five (5) years later. A re-homologation must be carried out before a new certificate is issued.

*) = For the Southern Hemisphere 1 st November ~~July~~.

650.5.6.2 Slalom and Giant Slalom

The certificate is valid from the date of issue: it will expire on 1 st July* ~~November*~~, ten (10) years later. A re-homologation must be carried out before a new certificate is issued.

*) = For the Southern Hemisphere 1 st November ~~July~~.

10. Precisions (Southern Hemisphere)

Janez Flere informed that the update to the Precisions for the Southern Hemisphere will be published in June following the upcoming Council Meeting.

11. Other Reports / Miscellaneous

11.1. Appeals Commission Alpine

Josef Zingerle stated that no cases had been dealt with by the Alpine appeals commission.

11.2 S.C. Alpine TD, Youth & Children, Alpine Courses

There are no changes to the ICR being considered by the Alpine Sub-Committee Youth and Children. The same applies to both the SC Classification and SC TD's.

12. Next meeting

FIS Autumn Meeting, Zurich (SUI), 1st to 5th October 2019

The Chairman thanked all those who contributed to this intensive meeting and hoped to see all again in Fall. He outlined those subjects that will be up for discussion (see below) and closed the meeting.

- Final precisions about Parallel
- Introduction of thoughts about how to improve the KO rules (art. 1240)
- Report about the evaluation of CIT/MAS/UNI rules