

## 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FIS Alpine Youth Sub-committee (Experts Group)

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 – Zurich (SUI) – 08:00 – 12:00 Meeting Room: La Place B

**Chair:** READ Ken (CAN)

**Experts Group Members:** BEGINO, Martin (ARG); BORNAT, Pierre (FRA); ERTL, Andreas (GER); HAVNELID JOHNSEN, Stefan (NOR); KATO, Kiyotaka (JPN); RIML, Patrick (USA); SHUTE, Jenny (GBR); TSCHOUR, Beat (SUI)

**Excused:** EHN, Gert (AUT); KRIZOVA-CHARVATOVA, Olga (CZE)

**Replacements:** ANDREEVA, Mila for MINEV, Teodor (BUL); SCHERER, Christian for EHN, Gert (AUT); VISA, Carles for TOUSSAINT, Patrick (AND)

**Sub-Committee Members:** ANDERLIC, Bostjan (SLO); CALGALA, Radovan (SVK); DE MAN, Harald (NED); DOJCINOVIC, Jelena (BIH); DORSS, Dinars (LAT); GRIBOV, Konstantin (RUS); KARHILA-RASANAN, Jaana (FIN); MARTIN, Gianfranco (ITA); MELIN, Lars (SWE); NAGY, Csaba (HUN); PASTOR, Jacques (MON); STAMOU, Spiridoula (GRE)

**FIS:** GERDOL, Peter; CHOLINSKI, Andrew

**FIS Youth Race Organisers Committee:** DETASSIS, Mauro

**Guest Speakers:** BERTHOD, Martin (St. Moritz); HUBER, Michael (Kitzbuhel); LEHMANN, Marcus (Wengen); LYNAM, Brian (Lake Louise)

**Guests:** ATANASOVSKI, Alexander (MKD); BOGGIT, Kenneth (DEN); BASS, Nick (CAN); DEKLEVA, Janez (SLO); DE WEGT, W (NED); GRASIC, Dusan (CAN); CATTIN, Stephane (SUI); DANIELSSON, Olle (SWE); GALINIER, Joe (FRA); KNIGHT, Chip (USA); LANDSTROM, Darryl (USA); SHUSOVLEVA, C (RUS); STAUFFER, Thomas (SUI); SUNDBERG, Karin (SWE);

1. **Welcome, opening of the meeting and Roll Call of Members present (Chair)** - The Chairman welcomed members, replacements, guests and speakers to the meeting. Vice Chair Gert Ehn expressed regrets, having suffered a family bereavement. The Chairman has conveyed condolences on behalf of the members.
2. **Approval of the Agenda** - the agenda was approved.
3. **Speed Workshop: Building A Robust Athlete Pathway to World Cup**
  - 3.1. **Introduction & Current Situation:** The purpose of the Speed Workshop emerged from the presentation to the sub-committee in Cancun from the OPA Nations, which presented their calendar coordination and special initiative supporting ladies in speed for training and competition. Overall, FIS Alpine registrations are slowly increasing (after a big drop when FIS age changed in 2013); however, there has been a significant decline in the number of athletes and organizers for speed competitors and this is a cause for concern. Small fields lead to pressure on clubs, organisers and resorts. To ensure we continue to promote opportunities for younger athletes, four WC organizers who work with COC organizers are invited to present.
  - 3.2. **Panel Presentations (summary of objectives and how each organizer coordinates COC & WC)**
    - Markus Lehmann – Wengen – working with mens EC
    - Martin Berthod - St. Moritz – working with ladies EC
    - Brian Lynam - Lake Louise – working with ladies & men Nor-Am
    - Michael Huber – Kitzbuhel – working with mens EC

The Sub-Committee listened to presentations by the four race organisers listed above, all of whom run Continental Cup speed races in combination with their World Cup Classic events. All noted challenges:

- *Field size dropping, especially on the Ladies' side.*
- *Financial - each organizer described the financial challenge to host the COC event (but all viewed hosting COC events as an investment in the future of the sport)*
- *Calendar challenges, and little flexibility in timetabling the combination of events, made more difficult by climate changes, and by running events at times of the year with short daylight hours.*
- *Some are calendared at peak season, so accommodation is limited.*

All noted the following advantages:

- *Seen as an investment in Youth*
- *Safety preparations are on a World Cup level; shared technical facilities, waxing rooms etc.*
- *Introduction to classic DH courses (normally with lower starts)*
- *Opportunity to become familiar with difficult courses without media pressure*
- *Familiarity with difficult courses leads to lower risks at later World Cup level events.*
- *Excellent training opportunity and team building for staff; builds confidence*
- *Magnifying opportunities for increasing know-how of organisers*
- *Safe speed events for COC athletes – a legacy for the World Cup classic events.*

- 3.3. Panel Discussion:** The organisers were thanked for their initiatives, and it is clear this is a very good way of transitioning athletes from COC to WC level. Discussion followed - how to increase the availability of training; how to encourage more participation; how to best facilitate the transition from COC to WC level? How to bring young athletes to EC level? This gap in early training needs to be explored. Can we set training camps, e.g. on glaciers? Where can we train in speed? Must work with NSAs to train at FIS level. Can we encourage FIS Media coordinators to work at EC level? There are plenty of experienced media people at WC, so they are less needed. This would help to raise the profile of the COC tour. Costs were discussed. It is easier for organisers to manage the budget when events are run as a loss leader alongside a WC event. It was agreed that FIS is not in a position to support costs. NSAs should try to work with each other to run joint training camps for athletes to pool resources, share learning, and cut costs. COC events need more publicity / TV coverage. When there is investment, publicity follows, and sponsors then become interested. Speed events are run over several days, and athletes often prefer to opt for technical events that are completed in a shorter time. Winter is perceived as the racing season by athletes, but should also be used for training. DH training courses are often only used once per day rather than to maximize use through multiple runs. Free skiing – at least 3 runs on training day. Section training, goal is to get 3-4 runs on the track. SG should also be used as a training tool. Further flexibility suggested for technical standards – for example, lower the VD from 350-300m to introduce young athletes; we are fighting to find organisers; sprint format is good.

There was agreement that gender balance needs to be addressed – having more top level female coaches and organisers may help to retain Ladies in the speed disciplines. JS was asked to forward this comment/concern to Ladies SC. Need to educate: parents believe DH is dangerous; many coaches now lack experience - have to build their confidence, importance of thinking long-term. There is a need to encourage experienced organisers of Speed events to work with less experienced OCs. SUI, SVK – run early season speed camps for U16s (SG). USA – combined FIS/U16 DH races on a FIS track. This is regarded as a U16s development race; same track separate race. All nations train SG at U16 level, but very few start to introduce DH until FIS level.

The Chair ended the Speed Workshop by thanking the speakers – the meeting very much appreciated the WC / COC organizers' presentations, and their commitment to youth development. The athletes value these events and the OC's were thanked for this support.

#### **4. Meeting of the Alpine Youth & Sub-Committee (Cancun) The Minutes were approved.**

The Chairman outlined the new Experts Working Group. FIS Council has approved the membership of this group for the next two years. The group will meet in the autumn (other members are welcome to attend also); the full Subcommittee will meet in the spring. If a vote is required at the autumn meeting, only members of the Experts Group may vote. The Experts Group is as follows: Chairman Ken Read (CAN); Vice-Chairman Gert Ehn (AUT); Members: Martin Begino (ARG); Pierre Bornat (FRA); Olga Krizova-Charvatova (CZE); Andreas Ertl (GER); Stefan Hafnelid Johnsen (NOR); Kiyotako Kato (JPN); Patrick Riml (USA); Beat Tshuour (SUI); Jenny Shute (GBR, Ex Officio).

#### **5. Reports from Special Groups**

- 5.1. Equipment/SRS (Jean-Pierre Morand or Christian Frison-Roche)** - both had given regrets, no current issues; helmet regulations apply for U16 and under this season; there will be an equipment change after this season – new men's GS ski regulations from July 2017.

## 5.2. FIS Youth Races Organisers Committee (Mauro Detassis) - Report from annual meeting – Annecy (FRA) 16-18 September

Mauro Detassis (Chairman FYROC) thanked Val d'Isere Ski Club for hosting the meeting in Annecy, and Janez Flere and Jenny Shute for attending. SVK had joined the group and attended, also BIH (not able to attend this time), but will in future. 12 ROCs are now represented in the group. Dimitrije Lazarovski (IPC) had given a Paralympic presentation and four ROCs plan to include a para-alpine event on the same track. All ROCs are now in favour of the removal of Article 608.4. The ROCs are aware of new helmet rules for the season. Calendars presented for next four seasons (included in minutes). Statistics for race entry numbers show an increase:

2014/15: 2100 athlete participants

2015/16: 2296 athlete participants.

Update on Calendars: 2017-18 (confirmed); 2018-19 (confirmed); 2019-20 (draft) – attached.

The Chairman thanked MD for his report, and encouraged NSA representatives who have FIS Children's event organizers who are not members of the Committee to join this group; JS thanked MD and Val d'Isere, and noted that there will be a proposal to update the constitution of the group to encourage more efficient working.

## 5.3. FIS Medical Committee (Dr. Jenny Shute) - MedCom meetings will probably be ahead of tech meetings in future; a reminder about concussion guidance, published in the FIS Medical Guide. If there is any doubt re the possibility of concussion, athletes must be removed from the field of play.

## 6. New Proposals/Discussion Points:

### 6.1. Proposal to eliminate ICR 608.4 – Limits on Competitions for CHI competitions - the FIS Youth Race Organisers had unanimously supported removal of rule. There has been no way of monitoring the rule, as U16/U14 athletes are not registered, and no sanctions. **Proposal to delete ICR 608.4, effective immediately, was supported unanimously.**

### 6.2. FRA proposal: ICR 608.6 - Pierre Bornat and Jean-Louis Galinier (FRA) presented a proposal that the start order for the second and subsequent groups in the draw at these events should be based on nations with athletes ranked in the top 100 in the world. Three of the FIS U16/U14 competitions include a SG race – Val d'Isere, Borovica, Whistler. This rule has been used at La Scara for 7 years, and was introduced for safety reasons; this year one of the nations placed an objection. Comments were requested, and the rule was not universally supported. The Chair asked the three organisers to discuss and come together with a proposal for the next meeting. It was agreed that La Scara should continue with this start order for the coming season. **The Proposal was tabled until the Spring Meeting.**

### 6.3. AUT - discussion point: FIS age limit (Christian Scherer for Gert Ehn) - From 1998, the proposal to increase the upper limit of the younger age categories by a year was discussed, and finally approved for implementation in season 2013-14. The aim was to better coordinate with education systems, to provide more skill development through training and less competition and to be more closely aligned to physical development of the athlete. However, with the experience of three seasons, the drop out rate has dramatically increased since this; coaches feel that the old age range coincided better with athlete development. A number of NSA's support lowering the FIS age by one year, but several other NSA's remain undecided, feeling that the school system works best at present. It was noted by ARG that the reduction in men's GS radius to 30m will make it easier for younger men. Overall FIS registrations declined from 11,202 (season 2011-12) to 8,596 (season 2012-13) due to the age change – and have not recovered. If two years come through into FIS level at the same time (which will happen if rule is reversed), will mean a very large increase in numbers, but for one year only.

**Action:** AUT was asked to produce a formal proposal for the spring meeting; it was noted that the earliest implementation would be 2018-2019.

**Action:** JS was asked to refer this to the Medical Committee for comments.

**7. FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships (Janez Fiere/Peter Gerdol)**

- 7.1. 2017 – Are (SWE) – Mar. 6 – 14, 2017 – presentation by Race Organisers** - all is in place; travel by flight or car, long journeys (140km from Trondheim, a little shorter from Ostersund). Vehicles will be essential in Are as accommodation is 3km distant from the slopes. Previous week is very busy – school holidays; training will be expensive and difficult to book. Speed events are to be run on the men's WC slope; lots of terrain, heavy turns and *jumps*; the technical events will take place on the lower part of the WC slope. No gates/panels will be available for training, must take own. Homepage will open 1<sup>st</sup> November. [www.are2017.com](http://www.are2017.com). FIS Inspection – all good.
- 7.2. 2018 – Davos (SUI) – Jan. 30 – Feb. 08, 2018** - coming along well; may be under new management; there will be test events this season (Ladies Speed, men's tech). Swiss Championships will also be there.
- 7.3. 2019 – Val di Fassa/San Pellegrino (ITA) – Jan. 25 – Feb. 03, 2019** - dates to be confirmed. Speed at Passo Pellegrino, technical events at Val di Fassa; will have new chairlift. Test events will be run.
- 7.4. 2020 - New Candidates** - No candidates are firmly set for 2020, but interest has been expressed by prospective organizing nations.

**8. Other Youth Competitions**

- 8.1. 2017 EYOF: Erzurum (TUR) – no information**

**9. FIS Update/Promotion and Development (Andrew Cholinski)**

- 9.1. Snowkidz – 3977 events, 582 organisers, 52 countries;** Snowkidz/WSD toolkits are distributed free of charge; preferred suppliers are all confirmed again for next season; skis are provided to organisers to help run their events; demos will be aligned to "Bring Children to the Snow" events. **Kids to Athletes:** How do those attending the events get involved in competition? Tracking isn't possible. The solution is making events to bring kids to the snow – the events can be very simple. Opinions sought.

**9.2. FIS Snow Day (January 15, 2017)**

**10. Various/New Business/Questions - none**

**11. Next Meetings/Events:**

- 11.1 Informal Gathering: Aare (SWE) - 2017 FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships** focus on National team coaches; the Race Directors will advise on the best day and time for the gathering, and will circulate the information.
- 11.2. FIS Calendar Conference: Portoroz (SLO) – 24 - 28 May 2017**
- 11.3. FIS Autumn Meetings: TBC**
- 11.4. FIS Congress: Costa Navarino (GRE) – 13 – 19 May 2018**

The Chairman thanked Peter Gerdol, Janez Fiere and FIS staff for their work and support of the COC competitions and World Juniors. He reiterated thanks to the World Cup/COC organizers. He reminded the Experts Group members to consider the items under evaluation for any recommendations or proposals prior to the Spring meeting – age/equipment issues, and speed promotion.

## WORLD JUNIOR SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017 ÅRE (SWE)

| Date |    | Ladies                        | Men                      |
|------|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SUN  | 5  | arrival day                   | arrival day              |
| MON  | 6  | DH TRA                        | DH TRA                   |
| TUE  | 7  | DH TRA                        | DH TRA                   |
| WED  | 8  | DH                            | DH                       |
| THU  | 9  | SG                            |                          |
| FRI  | 10 |                               | SG                       |
| SAT  | 11 | AC (SG/SL)                    | AC (SG/SL)               |
| SUN  | 12 | GS + TEAM EVENT (night event) | TEAM EVENT (night event) |
| MON  | 13 | SL (night event)              | GS                       |
| TUE  | 14 |                               | SL                       |



**1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting**

The Chairman opened the Meeting and welcomed all present, in particular Council Member Eduardo Roldan. The Chairman noted that a former Chairman, Heinz Pachler had passed away and asked for a minute silence.

**2. Roll-call**

The Alpine Coordinator, Janez Fleré, called the Roll (see enclosure).

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

The Agenda, with no additions, was unanimously approved.

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting at Hotel Gran Fiesta Americana Coral Beach Resort, Cancun (MEX) 07.06.2016**

There were no remarks to the Minutes of the previous Meeting which were unanimously approved.

**5. Report of the Chairman and the Coordinators**

**5.1 Chairman**

The Chair offered his thanks to Peter Gerdol (Coordinator Men) and Janez Fleré (Coordinator Ladies) for preparing and finalising the 16/17 Calendar as well as preparing the 17/18 Calendar. The coordinators strive to find a balance of venue and event in the interest of all involved. Many nations and venues were interested in balancing the Calendar and he hoped for good snow conditions in order that the speed events prior to Christmas could be run.

The running of the speed clinics is very pleasing and this season will be held at Innerkrems 16-20. Jan. 17 where DH and SG would be managed.

In matters of Media Coverage there had been little advancement however the sub-committee continues to work on this subject. The Chairman encouraged each nation to improve its coverage and asked members to closely follow the races during the coming season and come with ideas to improve the situation to the Spring Meeting.

**5.2 Coordinators**

**Peter Gerdol (M)** reported on visits to a number of potential venues and course with inspections to follow. In the Southern Hemisphere there were some good events run despite poor weather and snow conditions. Speed events coming out of Mt. Hut were good and it was pleasing to see World and Europa Cup teams there training.

**Janez Fleré (L)** reported on inspections of potential venues. There were concerns on where the speed clinic project was going to. For young competitors speed events are very demanding and as these athletes advance to World Cup more so; there are also concerns about FIS athletes moving on to Europa Cup. Currently there is work to improve Penalty and Points due to the large gap between FIS and Europa Cup events. There will be some Inspections carried out in November.

**6. European Cup calendars 2016/17**

Janez Fleré briefed members on the Ladies 16/17 Calendar.

There would be live TV coverage at the city event (M + L) in Kronplatz ITA. He regretted that in December there were no speed events.

Remarks: GER had concerns that the rescue systems be fully operational right from the beginning of any event.

Peter Gerdol briefed members on the Men's 16/17 Calendar.  
He was pleased to see higher prize money available at the Europa Cup in Kitzbühel.  
Remarks: GER asked that coaches receive confirmation as soon as possible in order to manage travel arrangements. Hafjell NOR was noted here.

**7. European Cup calendar proposals 2017/18**

Janez Flerè briefed members on the Draft Ladies 17/18 Calendar.  
Members will note that it begins in NOR moving on to SUI and ITA. There is a good range of nations and venues with Crans-Montana SUI prior to the World Cup.  
There were no remarks from the members.

Peter Gerdol briefed members on the Draft Men's 17/18 Calendar.  
The DH at Hafjell NOR was to be confirmed and throughout the season it was hoped to run 3 x AC events. Chamonix FRA returns to the calendar with the technical event dates and venues in mid. February still to be confirmed.  
There were no remarks from the members.

**8. Presentations**

**8.1 2017 FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships, Are (SWE)**

The Project Manager Hans Olsson made a short presentation and informed members that it was the intention to use the World Cup slopes. The championships are during a holiday period so that designating training slopes could be difficult. Ski testing would however be available as well as "warm-up" slopes. Details would be available on the website as per 01. Nov.16.  
There were no comments or questions.

**8.2 2016 European Cup Finals, Sarntal – San Candido/Innichen (ITA)**

A representative from Sarntal presented a short film identifying the area and some of the facilities available as well as the improvement project. He thanked coaches in advance for their support during the event as this was extremely important.  
There were no comments or questions.

**9. Miscellaneous**

There were no miscellaneous points raised.

**10. Next meeting**

FIS Calendar Conference, Portoroz (SLO) 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

**11. Closing of the meeting**

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 16.30hrs.