



FIS NEWSFLASH

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Fédération Internationale de Ski
Internationaler Ski Verband

International Ski Federation

Signals positive at FIS Technical Committee Meetings in Zurich (SUI)

While most athletes are in the midst of their final preparations for the upcoming season, around 350 delegates from 40 nations convened when the FIS Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups, as well as National Ski Association representatives, Event Organisers, Media, Marketing Agencies and other interested parties gathered at the Airport Hotel Hilton between 29th September to 2nd October.

(Brief summaries and additional reports from other committees will follow in the next edition of the FIS Newsflash as more information becomes available)

Innovations under discussion by Nordic Discipline Committees

All Nordic disciplines were content with the direction of the discussions and proposals submitted by the various working groups and sub-committees during the meetings in Zurich.

The Tour de Ski in 2006/2007 was a central point on the agenda during the meetings of the Cross Country Committee. The Committee finalized their proposal for the calendar and also decided on the format of the competition, the distribution of World Cup points and the prize-money at stake.

For the Ski Jumping Committee the main topic of discussion was the new rules that were introduced on a trial basis during the FIS Summer Grand Prix which have been positively received overall. The new rules include the standardized cutting of the jumping suits and the introduction of the FIS Cup. Furthermore, two amendments to increase the excitement of the ski jumping

performance have also been successfully introduced, namely the extension of the green phase from 5 to 10 seconds for the start signal and the information system to evaluate performances which will be maintained in the upcoming FIS Ski Jumping World Cup series.

The issue of defining new ways for increasing the exposure of the sport especially for youngsters below the junior age was part of the discussions in the FIS Nordic Combined Committee in addition to the calendar work and various adjustments to be introduced for the 2006/2007 FIS Nordic Combined Summer Grand Prix.

Challenges ahead for FIS Alpine Committee

The Alpine Committee meeting which rounded off the series of Sub-Committee meetings during the Zurich sessions on the morning of Sunday 2nd October, honoured former conference member of the FIS Alpine World Cup Committee, Hugo Spinnox (BEL), who passed away earlier this year.

The fruitful meeting included the Committee's approval of the frame 2006/2007 FIS Alpine World Cup calendars which notably includes a number of events during the season with men and ladies participating at the same site, whilst the detailed calendars will be finalised in the coming months and submitted in spring 2006. Additionally a proposal to limit the qualification for the World Cup Downhill competitions to the last scheduled training day was approved. The competition program for the 2007 FIS Alpine World Championships in Are (SWE) was defined, whilst the Alpine Committee confirmed that Test Events for the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships and Olympic Winter Games must be carried out at least one year before the event itself. The Classification sub-committee's proposal to increase the

number of participants from the host nation to 90 for FIS-level downhill competitions was supported; whilst the Rules and Control sub-committee made a precision to article 614.1.5 of the International Competition Rules (Precisions for the 2005/2006 season will be published in mid-November 2005 on the FIS Website). The Alpine Courses sub-committee undertook its' usual administrative nominations of FIS inspectors for upcoming homologations, whilst reviewing safety measures and sharing experiences between members.

Strong interest by organizers and ski areas in Freestyle competitions

In the past couple of seasons Freestyle skiing has gained an increasing interest with the organizers and National Ski Associations which has helped stabilize the programme. This development was evident as the committee established the 2006/2007 FIS Freestyle World Cup calendar during its meeting in Zurich. Additionally the calculation of the FIS points system and world rankings featured as an important item on the agenda. The deadline for submitting bids for the 2011 FIS Freestyle World Championships expired on October 1st and the Korean Ski Association with Phoenix Park and the USSA (United States Ski and Snowboard Association) with Deer Valley (USA) have applied. The bids will be evaluated during the coming season with the election by the FIS Council taking place during the 2006 FIS Congress in Vilamoura (POR).

Snowboard organizers looking to build on bright starts to the season

On the back of an outstanding opening to the season in Valle Nevado (CHI) and having recently signed a three-year extension with NOKIA as main sponsor of the Nokia Snowboard FIS World Cup, the Snowboard Committee dealt with its agenda in positive spirits.

The main item for consideration was the provisional 2006/2007 FIS Snowboard World Cup calendar as well as reports on

preparations for the upcoming season. With the Olympic Winter Games only four months away, the competition managers for the Snowboard events that are taking place in Bardonecchia made their final presentation of the preparations to the Committee, with particular emphasis on Snowboard Cross which is featuring on the Olympic programme for the first time. In addition interesting facts and figures were presented in an analysis of the TV exposure from the recent competitions in Chile.

FIS Medical Committee projects

The coordination group of the FIS Medical Committee chaired by Professor Bengt Saltin had three main points on the agenda during their Zurich meeting. First of all discussions took place regarding the establishment of a FIS Injury Surveillance System with the assistance of the Oslo Sports Trauma Research Centre. Objectives, budget, main tasks, etc. will be described in a detailed proposal to be submitted to the FIS Council in November. The group also reviewed the publication of the updated FIS Medical Guide, which will be split into two publications with one designed to contain the needs of event organizers and the other providing specific medical information. In the future the FIS Medical Committee will deal with injuries, education and medical guidelines/directions in working groups of the committee.

Creative sponsoring methods challenges FIS Advertising Committee

With sponsors and manufacturers constantly looking for new markets and innovative ways to promote their products, the FIS Advertising Committee tackled a number of challenges during its' meeting in Zurich. The Committee took the opportunity to review comments on commercial markings on equipment and clothing and proposals for amendments to the regulations, as well as a trial of the use of rotating banners at the FIS Alpine World Cup events and virtual advertising. Interesting statistics were presented in relation to the influence of competitions starting times on TV ratings.

Proposals of the FIS Committees

All proposals of the FIS Committees from their meetings in Zurich (SUI) will be submitted to the FIS Council which meets in Oberhofen (SUI) on 6th and 7th November. Details of the decisions of the Council will be published in the FIS Newsflash.

Dear Friends of FIS,

Should you have any feedback, comments, you are most welcome to send them to me at: frandsen@fisski.ch. "FIS Newsflash" will not only be distributed via e-mail but also be published in the News section of the FIS Website.

Best regards

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