



FIS NEWSFLASH

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Fédération Internationale de Ski

International Ski Federation

Internationaler Ski Verband

FIS Cross Country and Alpine World Cups off to perfect start

A spectacular weekend of action saw the FIS Cross Country and Alpine World Cups get off to a terrific start while the FIS Snowboard World Cup staged its fifth event of the season in Switzerland.

Rainy and cloudy weather could not dampen the enthusiasm when 80'000 spectators helped create a tremendous atmosphere for the opening edition of the FIS Cross Country World Cup in Düsseldorf (GER). For Düsseldorf a new record was set in terms of the number of participants as no less than 130 athletes from 24 nations (including athletes from Australia, China and South Africa) took part in the competitions which was broadcast live on German television channel ARD as well as Eurosport. A massive effort behind the scenes took part in staging the event with 5000 cubic metres of artificial snow spread out over the centre city to provide the foundation for the competition which was held along the banks of the Rhine river.

For the 6th successive season Sölden (AUT) bid athletes welcome for the first competitions within the FIS Alpine World Cup with glorious weather conditions greeting the spectators in the Austrian ski resort. On both days around 15.000 spectators made their way to the base of the Rettenbach glacier at an altitude of 3,249m to witness a couple of competitions which gave plenty of promise for a terrific season to come.

Some 320 km. south-west of Sölden, the Allalin glacier at Saas-Fee (SUI) at 3,500m marked the fifth stop and the highest location of the Snowboard FIS World Cup tour this season. With all the challenges

involved in staging FIS World Cup competitions at such an altitude, FIS enjoyed a terrific cooperation with the local organizing committee and the Swiss Ski Association. It was the second time Saas-Fee hosted an event within the Snowboard FIS World Cup. No less than 104 athletes took part in the Men's and Ladies HalfPipe competitions while 94 athletes were in action during the Men's and Ladies' Snowboard Cross competitions.

FIS Media Guide available on FIS Website

FIS is pleased to announce that a link has been established to the on-line Interactive FIS Media Guide on the FIS website, www.fis-ski.com. The FIS Media Guide has been produced mainly with the aim of providing the media with an invaluable tool of information for all the FIS disciplines but can certainly also be a useful research tool for those working within the skiing industry or supporters of skiing in general.

FIS IT Manager Francesco Cattaneo, IT Support David Werlen and Ski Jumping Media Manager Kurt Henauer have worked intensively to produce the guide which will provide the user with an extended list of useful statistics which are automatically updated as results come in.

For example you will find the top three athletes from FIS World Cup competitions in all FIS disciplines since 1980, a link to all venues when and where FIS competitions have taken place over the years, how many podium spots participating nations have earned, an extended list of the youngest and oldest winners, in addition to calendars, biographies and numerous other features in the guide.

FIS represented at SPORTEL Monaco Convention

FIS represented by President Gian Franco Kasper, General Secretary Sarah Lewis and

Communications and Marketing Director, Christian Knauth, featured among an extended list of international federations at the 16th edition of SPORTEL Monaco, the International Sports Television Convention at the Grimaldi Forum in the Monagescuc Principality from 24th – 27th October.

Since its inauguration in 1990, SPORTEL Monaco brings together: broadcasters, cable and satellite services, acquisitions and distribution executives, producers, event organizers, international sports federations, sponsors and advertisers, marketing agencies, international press, and new media.

Amongst numerous personalities SPORTEL Monaco was attended by H.S.H. Prince Albert II and IOC President Jaques Rogge. The international symposium turned its focus to the exciting developments taking place in the field of "New Screens for Sport including TV-to-Mobiles" technologies as well as "The influence of television on sport: rules and refereeing.

Important issues on GAISF Council agenda

The GAISF Council, of which FIS President Gian Franco Kasper is a member representing the International Winter Sports Federations conducted its' annual autumn meeting during SPORTEL Monaco. On the agenda, the Council dealt with items the revision of the statutes & byelaws of the association, which was decided at the last General Assembly in Berlin. The final document will be submitted to the next General Assembly in Seoul in April for adoption.

Furthermore, the criteria and requirements for membership were also revised. The Council is working to have a better and comprehensive system of recognition enabling it to work properly and in the best interests of its association and members.

Challenges ahead for GAISF Media Working Group

The GAISF Media Working Group dealt with a busy agenda during their meeting in Monaco. The Group which includes Christian Knauth, FIS Marketing and Communications Director as a member took

the opportunity to discuss the preparations for the 2006 SportAccord (to be held at Grand InterContinental Hotel in Seoul from 3rd-7th April next year) and the importance of establishing contacts for the 2008 Olympic Summer Games in Beijing (CHI) as well as the 2009 World Games in Kaoshung (TAI).

The GAISF Media Working Group also had the chance to review the requirements for a GAISF Press Card and the need to provide training and support for the various international sports federations in relation to their media activities.

Laich to become new Director of the Swiss Ski Association

Hansruedi Laich will take over as new Director of the Swiss Ski Federation from 1st February 2006. The announcement was made on 25th October at the Hotel Marriott in Zurich by President Duri Bezzola. The employment of Laich is part of a new organizational structure within the Swiss Ski Federation in which the new Director will assume the overall operational responsibility for sports- and business-related affairs. The 52-year old Laich has been involved in Swiss skiing for many years having served as President of the Eastern Regional Office for the Swiss Ski Association from 1995-1997 before he was elected to the Executive Board of Swiss Ski in 2004. The passionate Masters ski racer will remain in his current position at the St.Gallen branch of the Swiss Raiffeisenbank, one of the major sponsors of the Swiss Ski Association until he begins his new role.