

2009 IPCAS SPORT FORUM MINUTES

Event: IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Forum Meeting

Date: 22 February 2009

Place: High 1 Hotel, KOREA

Participants	Name	Position	(Initials)
	Sylvana Mestre	Chairperson	SM
	Nick Dean	Vice Chairperson	ND
	Markus Walser	Head of Technical Control & Officiating	MW
	Kihong Kim	Head Competition Asia and Southern Hemisphere	KK
IPC Management			
	Eric Angstadt	IPC Winter Sports Manager	EA
	Michael Knaus	IPC Race Director	MK
Not Present			
	Erik Petersen	Head Competition North America	EP
	Gillian Hall	Head of Classification	GH

Purpose of the Meeting Sport Forum

Executive Summary/ Main Outcomes

AGENDA

Event: IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Forum Meeting

Date: 22 February 2009

Place: High 1 Hotel, KOREA

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9:00 AM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome by Chairperson Alpine Skiing.2. Roll Call.3. Adoption of the Agenda.4. Report of the Chairperson.5. Other relevant reports (Classification, Equipment)6. Presentation Factor System by Hugh Daniels. |
| 12:00 PM | Lunch Break |
| 13:00 PM | <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. New Point System by Sebastian Michel.8. IPC Management Report.9. Calendar Review.10. Motions from NPC's.11. Motions from STC Committee.12. Closing. |

SUMMARY

OPENING

Nick Dean opened the meeting by outlining the meeting procedures to be followed, timing, and housekeeping items

1. Welcome

SM thanked the World Championship Organising Committee for the excellent event in all aspects. SM welcomed all the delegates, and specially thanked Patrick Jarvis member of the IPC Governing Board for his attendance and participation. Apologies for the STC members not present, Gillian Hall and Erik Petersen. SM informed that Hugh Daniel was to keep the minutes. Procedures for the Sports Forum are defined in Chapter 2.4 of the IPC Handbook. SM informed that votes are vested in the nominated delegate and are not transferrable. Only the delegate has speaking rights, but the chair may invite others to speak.

2. Roll Call

All invited Nations were present except:

Finland

Iran

The list of delegates distributed was as follows:

Delegates 28

With voting rights: 14

At the roll call some Nations only had one of their two delegates present, confirming that the other delegate was expected later, they were asked to advise the Chair.

Four Nations from this group, Netherlands, Great Britain, Belgium, Czech Republic included delegates with voting rights.

In all we had finally 18 Nations with 18 votes.

Observers:

There were additional observers from:

Canada

Czech Republic

Germany

Japan

New Zealand

Slovakia

USA

The executive members consisted of:

Sylvana Mestre IPCAS STC Chairperson

Nick Dean IPCAS STC Vice-Chairperson

Markus Walser IPCAS STC and TD for the World Championships

Kim Ki-Hong Head of Competition for Asia and the Southern Hemisphere

Eric Angstadt IPC Winter Sports Manager

Michael Knaus IPCAS Race Director

Minutes: Hugh Daniel

3. Adoption of Agenda

<i>Discussion</i>	Moved: Canada Seconded: South Africa
<i>Decision(s)</i>	Agenda was adopted.

ADOPTION MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

<i>Discussion</i>	No minutes were provided from the last Sport Forum October 2004
-------------------	---

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE IPC ALPINE SKIING STC

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>SM presented her report to the present delegates.</p> <p>The first point was to clarify the governance of IPC Alpine Skiing.</p> <p>The IPC is the IF for alpine skiing for athletes with a disability.</p> <p>In 2006, the IPC Governing Board, with the aims of achieving the goals of self-sustainability and ultimately self-governance for the remaining nine IPC Sports, approved the IPC Sport Governance and Management Initiative.</p> <p>At this point it was explained that FIS has no Governance or Management authority when it comes to skiing for athletes with a disability.</p> <p>Structure</p> <p>The IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee appointment was finalized the summer of 2007. It replaced the previous SAEC committee responsible for the oversight of disabled Alpine skiing.</p> <p>This new committee is part of what has been called the "Initiative". With this Initiative, IPC is pursuing self-sustainability and self-governance in all of its sports throughout the next few years.</p> <p>A number of sports have already been integrated within able-bodied International Federations.</p> <p>The IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee (STC) is the body in charge of running the sport together with IPC Management.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <pre> graph TD A[IPC GB] --- B[IPCAS STC] A --- C[IPC Mngt] B --- D[Alpine Skiing] C --- D </pre> </div> <p>Regarding the day by day working operations the IPCAS-</p>
-------------------	--

STC uses the IPC Alpine Skiing Rulebook in conjunction with specific elements from the FIS - ICR. The STC continues to develop the IPC Alpine Skiing Rule Book.

The STC works together with the IPC Management team, IPC Winter Sports Manager and Race Director, to facilitate the administrative and financial tasks regarding athletes, registrations, contracts with Organizers, etc. Together, the calendar is defined, update of the IPCAS Points list, and work to maximize race quality at all levels of IPCAS races.

I am very pleased to report that the STC committee as been working hard to improve 3 fundamental issues of our sports:

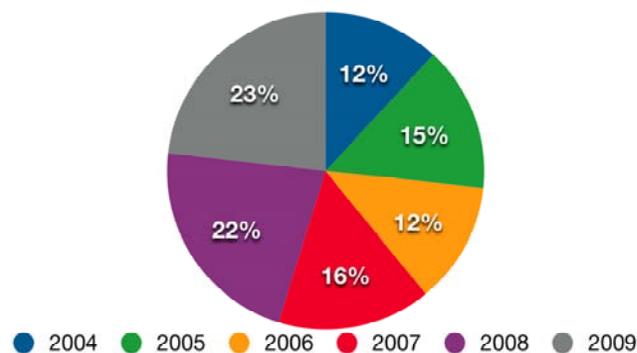
- Classification
- Factor system
- Injury study

Hugh Daniel will present the ongoing study of the factor system, I want to take the opportunity to thank Hugh for his hard work and enthusiasm during this 2 years. I want also to thank Sebastien Michel from Canada, Ray Watkins from USA, Manuel Hutter from AUT, Maike Hujara from GERM, Jordi Carbonell ESP, all of them coaches that spite the hard work they have with their teams they have shown a high commitment with our sport.

A separate presentation on classification will be made on behalf of Gillian Hall who unfortunately cannot be here today.

Today we can assure you that Alpine skiing is a growing sport as reflected by the following figures on licenses and number of races. Not only this numbers have increased but also the standard of competition is improving rapidly.

Percentage Races



Percentage Licenses

AÑO	Licenses	Nations	NO NPC
2003/2004	167	20	
2004/2005	383	32	2
2005/2006	351	34	
2006/2007	339	26	
2007/2008	396	36	
2008/2009	467	34	

We acknowledge that there are areas with room to improve such as female participation, and the encouragement of our sport in nations with no athletes or very low participation.

The IPC is pursuing to develop the sport at the youth and children level, promoting development camps.

Reminder for all the nations:

The IPC is calling for research applications for all projects that are to be conducted during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, from 12-21 March 2010.

The IPC Research Application Form, as well as details on the application procedure, schedules, and examples of previously approved research projects are on the IPC web- site in the Sport Science section.

In order to be considered by the IPC, applications must be received by 10 March 2009.

All research approved by the IPC must comply with internationally recognized ethical standards and research practices.

With the 2009 IPCAS WCH a week away from ending, we have not received any formal expression of Interest to host the 2011 IPC Alpine Skiing World Championships.

It is a very big concern as this lack of interest highly puts into risk the celebration of such event.

We strongly encourage all teams to transmit the message to National Ski Federations/Resorts and Clubs that might be interested to help IPC Alpine Skiing and the Paralympic Movement in this regard.

I would like to thank all of you for your contribution, your dedication to help grow the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing.

5. Reports

1. Report on the 2007 IPC General Assembly – Nick Dean

- Occurs every two years
- The forum for all members of the IPC (around 165 organisations) plus 8 IPC sports (of which IPCAS is one), 5 IOSD Sports and others.
- IPC sports are not members of the IPC yet have voting rights.

Key Areas

- 6 key areas were highlighted from a Biennial Report. Two directly affect our sport:
- IPC Sports Governance and Management; and
- IPC Classification Code.

IPC Classification Code

- Classification is fundamental for fair competition and is unique to the Paralympic movement.
- The IPC Classification Code was approved.
- The code provides a framework for classification policies and procedures that are common to all sports. It is proposed to be in place by the 2012 summer Games.

Sports Governance and Management

- An ongoing initiative to strengthen the IPC Sports and assist them in developing the capacity to reach self-governance.
- Relevant motions were carried.
- “At least one member of each IPC Standing committee shall be athlete who has competed in the Paralympic Games in the eight years preceding his or her appointment”.
- “Through the nomination process for STC appointments all reasonable efforts will be made to appoint at least one athlete who has competed in the Paralympic Games in the respective sport in the eight years preceding his or her appointment”.
- Sports specific target dates for IPC Sports independence will be determined by 31 March 2009. The target dates will be set no later than 31 December 2016 and included in the respective sport specific business plan. There

will be no absolute deadlines. The intent is to provide motivation and focus.

- A motion was put forward with the intent of placing the selection qualification process with the NPCs rather than the STCs. This was defeated.

2. REPORT ON THE FIS RELATIONSHIP – ERIC ANGSTADT

As explained by Sylvana and Nick, the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing is governed by the IPC, through its Governing Board, the IPCAS STC and IPC Management.

FIS continues to support IPC Alpine Skiing in terms of Technical advice and co-operation regarding TD attendance to IPCAS events.

The way to work through FIS has been defined to be through the Chairperson of the FIS Sub-Committee for skiers with a disability and through the Alpine TD Commission.

In terms of a potential future acceptance from FIS to overtake the sport of Alpine Skiing for athletes with a disability, this still needs to be driven internally from FIS' membership. In the mean time, the IPC will continue to enhance and develop the sport to increase its level and resources.

SM added some comments on the technical side of the relationship:

FIS wants IPCAS to comply completely with FIS rules for equipment. We are currently not in conformance for downhill skis, and this is a subject that needs further discussion.

There is a requirement to homologate Sit-Skis because FIS wants full homologation across all aspects.

Patrick Jarvis: Do we know which countries have their committees fully integrated into their NPC?

SM: Yes, several do, and progress is being made, but there are still quite a few countries that have not yet progressed in this way.

Australia:

1. Who is the Head of the FIS side of the relationship with IPC.

SM: Regarding the working relationship we were directed to Janez Flere and Evelio Gonzalez. FIS has a FIS-Subcommittee for Disabled who the Chair is Steve Podborski from Canada, SM and MK are members at large.

2. If the TD is under IPC responsibility for races, why do we have to conform to FIS Rules?

MW: The reason for FIS homologation is that the manufacturers build equipment to FIS specifications, and IPCAS is not big enough to economically influence the manufacturers to build to different specifications. FIS rules are published 2 years in advance and as a result there is no ambiguity. On the subject of Sit-skis, MW is having a meeting with manufacturers in Bonn in May with the purpose of getting them to take the lead in homologation work.

SM: FIS equipment rules include substantial medical studies, and so it is beneficial to use their research and its benefits.

3. Does not FIS have a very broad range of rules to accommodate a whole range of age groups and circumstances?

MW: No. From age 15 onwards, with only a couple of specific exceptions, they use the same rules. They agree only to use children's rules for a few designated children's events.

In order to depart from FIS specifications, IPCAS would need to have evidence that a particular group is disadvantaged by the rule, and to counter the rule with solid medical evidence.

Austria Equipment rules were changed recently when a number of teams had already completed their purchases. Can we be sure this will not happen again?

MW: From 2010/2011 (after the Paralympics), IPCAS equipment will conform to FIS rules. Until then, IPCAS will follow the FIS rules with the specific exceptions shown on the web site. That is the final authority.

If there is any uncertainty, then all delegates were invited to send a communication to SM (copy MW) to seek clarification.

MW apologised for some confusion that previously existed, and noted that a process was now in place to avoid this.

Austria There is still some confusion in GS.

MW: Because we allow 5cm tolerance in length, it may be very difficult to find a ski with the right turning radius and also the right waist width. The TD will make a judgement to accept that, and it will be accepted through the Paralympic year. In the following year, all skis must conform to FIS.

Canada Suggested a conference call following the equipment meeting so that delegates could understand the regulations.

MW: That's a good suggestion, but it would be better to have a conference call *before* the equipment meeting to gather opinions and understand the issues.

SM: reminded delegates that they should address communications to IPC Alpine Skiing ipcalpineskiing@paralympic.org. That address includes Sylvana, MW and Eric.

Australia: There have been some other communication problems. There has been progress with the Factor Group, but none with the Equipment group – just one meeting.

SM: Noted, that the members need to make these working groups work. She has not heard from the members about this.

3. Classification Process Presentation – SM

SM presented the report from GH.A copy of this report will post on the web site.

4. Report from the Head of Competition Asia and Southern Hemisphere - KK

KK welcomed all the delegates and their teams to Korea and expressed the hope that everyone should enjoy the experience.

This is the first time Korea has hosted a World Championship. It has cost over \$1M to stage, and the contributions from the nations have covered less than half that amount.

The hosting organisation is doing there very best to help. If there were any problems, he would do his best to help.

BREAK**6. PRESENTATION ON FACTORS – HUGH DANIEL***Discussion*

Hugh Daniels did a presentation on all the outcomes from the working group regarding the factors.

A copy of the presentation will be post on the web site.

Australia: Will the existing mechanism be used for next season.

Hugh: (corrected response) The Factor Committee would like to use Trimmed Medians and the Percy & Warner model for next season, but there are some details to be finalised and agreed before putting a proposal to the IPCAS STC, who will make the decision.

7. PRESENTATION ON POINTS CALCULATION – SEBASTIEN MICHEL

A copy of the presentation will be post on the web site.

France: This is a good idea, but isn't there a contradiction? How can we promote female participation with this system?

Sebastien Michel: Can still decide to use a different cut of race points – say 100 for men and 160 for women. Hopefully there will be more women in the future.

South Africa: As we have a problem with small classes having better results than large classes we should be cautious. Some categories, such as VI, may be advantaged.

Sebastien Michel: Hopefully the factor adjustment system will help. Also changes to the cut-off should also help.

SM: This arose from some unusual cases where athletes qualified for WC without sufficient ability.

Canada: What is the year of implementation?

Sebastien Michel: After 2010, subject to the motion.

Spain: Supported the proposal.



LUNCH

8. MANAGEMENT REPORT – ERIC ANGSTADT

EA reminded the present members about the importance of having a straight communication line with their NPCs in order to have the most accurate and updated information regarding.

There was also a brief reminder to review the Vancouver 2010 PWG Qualification Criteria to avoid any misunderstandings as the timeline for determining slots and Bipartite Invitations would start as of 30 April.

Regarding IPC's Initiative for obtaining self-governance and independence for its sports, EA presented the Strategic Planning, based on which the STC together with IPC Management will develop the IPC Alpine Skiing Business Plan. This contains the main guidelines and action items in the areas of:

- Governance
- Management
- Competition Co-ordination
- Development, Education and Certification
- Media and Communications
- Marketing and Sponsorship

9. REPORT ON THE CALENDAR – IPC RACE DIRECTOR

MK: The target for the coming season is the lead-up to the Paralympic Games.
WC events would be first in Europe, and then in Aspen before the Paralympics.

Other events include:

NZ Winter Games (August 09)

Possible Continental Cup in Australia (if so, prior to the NZ event)

Noram

European Cup

And more events at a lower level for the development of the sport.

MK: Presented the possibility of buying the software for the calculation of the races. A licence costs 700€. Once the organisation is licensed they can

import all the files and handle the points. New software, which is no longer dependent on Microsoft Access, is under development.

Australia: How definite is the WC in Aspen?

MK: Still working on it. There will be a meeting with Kevin Jardine in Vancouver.

SM: Note that doping control will be extended to European Cup from now on.

KK: Note that KAS gets significant support from the Korean Government if it stages an event each year. They may lose that support if they don't put on an event in any one-year.

SM: would like Japan and Korea to alternate.

10. MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE SPORTS FORUM BY NPCS

Discussion EA advised that under the Standing Orders, the only valid motion was Motion 03, submitted by the STC.

Discussion on Motion 01 – Canada: IPCAS World Championships Fee

Canada requested clarification. The concept from the IPC is broad and so the STC should review the details to improve transparency, and to have a timeline in place to improve clarity.

EA referred to STC by-laws. He was in favour of these considerations by the Committee and the timeline. For the future, everyone is now aware of the mechanism and will ensure the timeline is respected.

ND remarked that the motion was not valid in terms of the Standing Orders, but suggested that a Recommendation be made arising from the discussion.

Recommendation

The Meeting acknowledges the quality of these World Championships, and asks the IPC to be involved in the consultations process on fees and timing of World Championship events and that the budget and costs should be transparent.

Patrick Jarvis: Supported Nick in this recommendation and suggested that delegates go through their NPC's and ask the IPC for transparency on costs.

Canada asked that fees should be part of the invitation.

MW said that fees should be on the invitation.

Canada withdrew Motion 01.

Discussion on Motion 02 – Canada: Entry Quotas for the Alpine Skiing Downhill at 2010 PWG

Canada Concern that we may be leaving medal-capable athletes out of the race. The athlete Quota is:

Downhill	Men	Women
Seated	25	18
Sitting	25	10
Visually Impaired	12	10

Is there anything that can be done?

EA: We understand and agree with the issue, but the negotiations are closed. We needed to respect the quotas VANOC offered as for including the SC event in the programme. The only opportunity we have is to move slots from one category to another.

SM: As we have already negotiated with VANOC to add the Super-Combined, which was not in the original program, there is now no possibility to further modify the program.

The process of selection is that each NPC may submit 3 athletes. If not all the slots are taken, then the process is repeated using athlete rankings until all slots are filled.

Canada withdrew Motion 02.

Discussion on Motion 04 – Japan: Calendar Planning

EA: Policy is to have interest forms for all races in the coming year by May 1st. Sometimes Nationals and lower competitions were accepted at short notice, but that is not ideal.

Regarding Entry Fee, Accommodation and Transportation, all except Transportation are covered in the IPCAS Rule Book.

Because of wide variations in transportation costs, it is not possible to set a specific rate.

Japan withdrew Motion 04.

Discussion on Motion 05 – Slovakia: Refunds due to Cancellation

Slovakia: Slovakia has a large team at the World Championships, and its costs are very high. When 2 athletes had to withdraw at 2 weeks' notice due to injury, they sought a refund of the charges.

They suggested the IPC should guarantee a refund if a team had to withdraw up to 2 athletes for medical reasons.

EA: In the case of Slovakia, the IPC has refunded their fee. For the accommodation fee paid to the organisers, this money has been used to reserve rooms, etc, and cancellation is not always available without penalty but IPC can not control this.

EA said he would accept a recommendation that the IPC discuss with the organising committee regarding ways in which some refund might be possible.

Slovakia: asked that the IPC indemnify the team in the event that they have a medical injury.

SM: said that the rule book was quite clear on this matter, and no indemnification was possible.

KK: we understand the problem; however the money has been paid by contract as a package. If the money had been paid on an individual basis, the costs would have been double.

Motion 05, Points 1, 2 and 3 were withdrawn.

Point 4 was about development of young athletes.

Slovakia: asked that IPCAS initiate a program for the development of young athletes.

SM: expressed her personal interest in this subject.

One event for young athletes has been staged, and it was very successful. However, in the past year the priority has been on Classification and Factors.

IPCAS is still seeking sponsors to assist with creating a program, and were hoping for an event in the next winter season.

It was suggested that the delegates approach their NPCs to assist with this.

SM: has approached Olympic Solidarity and FIS for support, but has not had a positive response.

Slovakia withdrew Motion 05

11. MOTIONS submitted to the Sports Forum by the STC

Discussion on Motion 03 – STC: Change to the Points System

Moved: IPC STC

Seconded: Canada

Discussion

Australia: Expressed concern that this is the beginning of a single category system for the sport.

SM: Was also concerned about this, but is very committed to the 3 category system. The points should be kept as a separate issue from the categories. The purpose of the change is to make sure the standard is high across all categories. It is not good for the sport or for the athletes for some to be 20 seconds behind.

Germany: Shared the concern, but in favour of the motion. Expressed the hope that we will still have 3 categories in 10 years time.

SM: Confirmed the commitment to 3 categories, and asked the delegates to make sure their NPC's supported this.

Patrick Jarvis: Commented that the motion was only for a single season, and could be reverted.

MK: Commented that the 3 category system was well established, and there were no plans to change it, nor were there any plans to have an overall winner.

SM: Thanks to Patrick for identifying a wording error on the motion. It was now corrected to read:

***MOTION 03:** To implement modifications to the actual IPCAS points calculation system, as presented during the IPCAS forum, from the 2010/2011 season.*

Vote: The Motion was carried.

12. CLOSING

Sylvana declared the meeting closed and asked for remarks.

There was discussion of World Cup Points that did not form part of the Sport Forum