

MINUTES

Event: IPC Nordic Skiing Technical Committee Meeting

Date: 3rd – 5th September 2010

Place: IPC HQ, Bonn, Germany

Participants	Name	Position	(Initials)
	Rob Walsh	Chairperson	RW
	Len Apedaile	Vice Chairperson	LA
	Hans Peter Neeser	Head of Technical Control & Officiating	HP
	Kaspar Wirz	Head of Competition Biathlon	KW
	Tor Undheim	Head of Competition Cross-Country	TU
IPC Management	Eric Angstadt	IPC Winter Sports Manager	EA
	Jessica Korber	IPC Winter Sports Coordinator	JK
Not present	TBD	Head of Classification	-

Purpose of the Meeting	Annual STC Meeting
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**Executive
Summary/
Main
Outcomes**



AGENDA

Event: IPC Nordic Skiing Technical Committee Meeting

Date: 3rd – 5th September 2010

Place: IPC HQ, Bonn, Germany

3/9/2010

8:00 AM Arrivals

- 11:00 AM
1. Opening
 - Welcome
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of the Agenda
 2. Meet with IPC staff
 3. Review
 - Season 2010
 - Vancouver 2010 PWG
 4. Biathlon equipment discussion
 5. Nordic Skiing STC structure & goals

4/9/2010

- 08:00 AM
6. Proposed Rule changes for 2010/2011
 - Proposed new race format – Cross Country pursuit
 - PWG/WCH jury composition
 7. Classification
 - Classifier needs for 2011
 - Classification seminar in Vuokatti - Proposal
- 13:30
8. Calendar Planning 2011-2015
 - 2011 WC calendar & WCH schedule
 - 2012 WC outline
 - 2013 & 2015 WCH
 - 2014 PWG schedule, program, milestones
 9. TD assignment plans



10. TD seminar plans

5/9/2010

08:00 AM 11. Development level race series
- Regional/National races
- IPC sanctioning

12. FIS/IBU relations

13. 2011 Sport Forum Planning

13:30 14. Budget

15. Other business

Departures



SUMMARY

1. OPENING

1.1 Welcome

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1.2 Roll Call

Rob Walsh	(USA) Chairperson
Len Apedaile	(CAN) Vice Chairperson
Hans Peter Neeser	(SUI) Head of Technical
.	Control & Officiating
Kaspar Wirz	(CAN) Head of Competition
.	Biathlon
Tor Undheim	(NOR) Head of Competition
.	Cross Country
Eric Angstadt	(ESP) IPC Winter Sports
.	Manager
Jessica Korber	(GER) IPC Winter Sports
.	Co-ordinator
 Members Absent:	

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

Discussion

Decision(s)

Action(s)

2. MEET WITH IPC STAFF

Discussion

Decision(s)

Action(s)

<p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<p>Discussion with XG on Sponsorship & Branding. - The STC should draft a list with all potential assets that can be taken into consideration for a potential sponsor to have an interest for IPC NS</p>
<p><i>Decision(s)</i></p>	<p></p>
<p><i>Action(s)</i></p>	<p></p>

3. TOPICS FOR REVIEW OF THE SEASON

Discussion

<p><i>Discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the colour for the WC leader bibs as they should be a different colour, maybe red with letters.
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Women

VI: Letter "A"

Standing: Letter "B"

Sitting: Letter "C"

Men

VI: Letter "D"

Standing: Letter "E"

Sitting: Letter "F"

Vancouver 2010 PWG review

- Discussion on the start interval
- Number of starting groups
- Discussion on special needs for TV:
 - Duration of the start especially for the sprint discipline needs at least 7 min.
 - IPC NS need to sit down with the Broadcasters in advance to Sochi 2014 to define a detailed schedule.
- EA presented his report from Vancouver 2010:
 - Complete review of PRIS processes and contents is urgently required.
 - Complete review of the NS qualification criteria for Sochi 2014 is required.
 - Timing and format of events needs to be planned to ensure operations suit stakeholders such as Omega, OBS (TV), Protocol, etc

Decision(s)

To order 2 sets of red bibs lettered from A to F.

Action(s)

EA to check with XG regarding placing the sponsor logos on the bibs.
 EA to contact the Alpine bib provider.
 STC to carefully review the programme plan for Sochi 2014

4. DEVELOPMENT

Discussion

Overview where IPC stands regarding Development and how it affects the sport.
 Challenges with funding and resources. This will be an item for the Sports Council.



Considerations:

- Regional strategy
- KW gave an overview of the current situation in CAN before the PWG and after and how this can have an impact on other nations with similar situations.
- Pilot studies (University of Berlin) that have taken place have proved that very young athletes may not be able to initiate serious training that takes them straight into Nordic Skiing
- It is crucial to identify the emerging countries or nations where there are many potential athletes (Eastern Europe, Balkan area nations, etc)
- Identifying a group of volunteers/professionals that can carry such activities in each nation/region is an activity that needs to be done in parallel (Coaches, technicians)
- Concept of a summit (but multisport oriented, maybe together with Alpine) where the main subject should be development.
- Concept of a partnership of IPC with CPC to develop the multisport summit concept. This would be a possibility that needs to be discussed.
- Canada has already a 4-5 year plan in place. How can this be transferred to an international scope? How can we develop a concept that is applicable and interested to many nations regardless of their capacity of finding resources.
- What would be IPC's approach on a concept of this nature? Who would take the lead? IPC Development Committee should be the leading body; the STC should summarize a paper concept to present to this committee.
- HP→ Are we aiming for elite sport? How can we ensure we make the training worth the effort for all athletes?

Discussion on where the sport is going

- How far and how much can we intend to create a brand concept for this sport
- How much can we push to grow the calendar regionally? Can a specific number of low level



	<p>races be introduced easily that will offer a balance for the participation and organizers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The STC needs to put a list with all the items that should be taken into consideration for the correct objectives and elements that may be achieved in the strategic planning. - Determine which are the leading nations for IPC Nordic, analyze what the trend is. - What is IPC offering and attracting athletes to a competition? Rankings, awards, this leads to the discussion of the Point System.
<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	STC to bullet point all the items that should be taken into consideration for the correct objectives and elements that should drive the sport and be reflected in the corporate plan.

5. DISCUSSION OF BIATHLON EQUIPMENT

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>The IPC Biathlon equipment requires a significant update and replacing of many parts. This represents a huge investment that carefully needs to be determined as equipment becomes rapidly outdated. The most reasonable is to ensure we have the required equipment for World Cup circuit. In North America the plan is to use the legacy from the Vancouver 2010 PWG.</p> <p>Proposal: Instead of purchasing the full equipment, the aim is to obtain a service agreement with Marko Kurvinen from EKO Aims until 30 June 2013 including World Cup Circuits at World Championships. Equipment would go back to Finland at the end of each season for maintenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STC to send a letter to Kurvinen including a list with the expected services to get an overall figure from him. <p>The IPC and STC should be responsible for the development of technical specifications within the sport in cooperation with a university if applicable.</p>
<i>Decision(s)</i>	If IIPC buys the equipment, two IPC persons should go to Finland in the fall to get the full scope of work and functioning directly with Eko Aims.
<i>Action(s)</i>	EA to send the proposal to MK. Based on the offer IPC will determine how to invest in the purchasing or leasing of new equipment.



5. NORDIC SKIING STC STRUCTURE & GOALS

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Review of the roles & responsibilities of the new Vice Chairperson within the STC.</p> <p>KW suggestion: PWG planning and Development</p> <p>HP suggestion: One person being responsible for development of athlete recruitment (CC & BT) and international relations.</p> <p>TU: Has acted more as Head of Competition for World Cups as opposed to only Head of Copetition CC</p> <p>LA: For now he would prefer to assume an open role within the STC to learn more about the structure and way of proceedings.</p> <p>KW to write a job description for the position of Head of Development. EA to share the existing documentation for the equivalent position in other STCs</p> <p>Position: The best solution might be to find some external for this position.</p>
<i>Decision(s)</i>	<p>RW to send an email to XG regarding the recommended structure and responsibilities of the STC after reviewing during this meeting.</p> <p>RW to rewrite the job description for the position of Head of Classification.</p>
<i>Action(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter to be drafted about the current status of Classification regarding the approach for the season 2010/2011 and the current factors. - STC to review the content of the letter.

6. PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 2010/2011

<i>Discussion</i>	<p><u>Third BT medal event and Proposed new race format for the Cross-Country Skiing Middle Distance into pursuit</u></p> <p>HP presented two suggestions regarding the competition schedule for the PWG / WCH that STC</p>
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and IPC Management reviewed

If the addition of another competition day is accepted by SOCHI, the proposal would be to split the middle distance in CC and implement an additional long distance competition for BT. Then the BT athletes would concentrate more on their sport instead of attending the whole programme. The addition of the third BT medal event should be a priority over the split of the CC Middle Distance event into two days

HP: Middle distance pursuit competition format should be changed to having 2 days of competition instead of only one day. Also, technique should not change between races

→ see proposal according to appendix VII IPC Middle Distance Pursuit Competition Format.

Most of the LOCs are usually in possession of a 5K loop but not a 3.75K and this could be a challenge.

TU: Supposed to have the same calculation for men and women.

HP suggested that the distance is always doubled in the second race for this format

The proposal may be that athletes have to attend the 7.5km to be allowed to start also in the 10/12.5km race

The new BT and CC format should be already tested in Vuokatti/Finland in order to figure out the best calculation to get the best results.

There has to be special consideration for the start formula and the break into two races.

Another possibility would be to make the participation in the BT long be tied with the BT Middle

A third option would be that if it is meant to be a pursuit, it could use the results from the BT Middle as the first race. Then set the formula for the final race. This could be tested in Vuokatti and for the



WCH simply include the third BT (not pursuit)

Discussion on the width of shooting lanes: Potentially change from 3m to 2,75m, How will this decision affect current organization of events??

Discussion on including the figure of a Race Director for WCH and PWG

The STC strongly recommended the inclusion of this role for the WCH and PWGs as these responsibilities have been done in the past by the TDs. HP will fulfil this position in future events (WCH 2013 / PWG 2014)

PWG/WCH jury composition proposal

- IPC TD
- IPC CC TD Assistant (Start Finish and all courses for both BT & CC)
- IPC BT TD Assistant (Shooting range and Penalty Loops)
- IPC Race Director
- Chief of Competition
- 1 additional Jury member
- Other Officials:
Addition of an IPC Results Official outside the Jury

Rules and Regulations Changes:

KW: The changes of the FIS rules that affect IPC should be applied and the recommendations of HP together with the Rules Committee should be applied for the IPC NS Rules and regulations.

HP: It should be up to the Jury in consultation with the Local Organizing Committee to decide if pit boxes in the middle distances will be used or not.

The TD should sign the official and unofficial results



	<p>that are posted on the race board.</p> <p>TU brought some issues up on behalf of Per: Seeding groups, shooting line, that need to carefully be managed in order to have the correct response from the software.</p> <p>IPCNS Point System: STC discussed the possibility to adapt a similar system like the FIS point system.</p> <p>VI Athletes and their Guides: EA explained to the STC the common policy for all athletes in visual impaired categories and how they must be belonging to the same NPC.</p>
<i>Decision(s)</i>	<p>STC agreed to include the CC middle distance format in the programme for this season to be tested.</p> <p>STC would like to suggest including the 2-day BT pursuit and testing this format already this season in order to start developing the Sochi programme.</p> <p>STC agreed to put a Race Director in place. HP, RW and EA will take care of the correct wording.</p> <p>STC agreed to increase the number of jury members to 6 following the FIS model.</p>
<i>Action(s)</i>	<p>Decisions to be reflected in the Rules and Regulations for IPCNS</p> <p>TU will work on the point system and draft the specifications on how it would apply to IPCNS. The idea might be to start calculating them as of this season and potentially start using them the following. Per should be informed about this in order to implement the necessary changes. TU to manage this process and present proposal to STC by 1 December 2010.</p> <p>Licensing Process and provisions about nationality to be included into the Regulations.(EA)</p>

7. CLASSIFICATION

Discussion The overall feeling is that the current Classification



system is not in accordance with the sport in some ways and this should be the focus over the next two seasons in order to shape it correctly so there can be something firm implemented by season 2012-2013.

Discussion on the fact it should maybe go back to its roots, to the basis with fewer classes.

The previous Head of Classification AL recently sent a proposal (about increasing number of classes) which was contradictive to the discussion held in Vancouver during the Games.

RW questioned if the number of classes is really relevant to the sport since there are the 3 categories. PV responded that this number of classes was due to the factor system which does not currently have a sustainable model as a basis.

RW explained the current status on Classification and the fact AL would no longer be available to continue as HoC or as a classifier during this season.

A meeting late September with AL, DP and Torger will help set the direction of how the review of the class profiling system will occur throughout the season.

Factor System discussion

PVV came into the meeting to explain what the overall aim should be with the review of the Nordic Classification System. One aim is to reduce the number of classes and review the profiling system. The other is to separate the factor analysis from Classification.

What parameters would need to be considered for NS when analyzing everything that has impact on the results and ultimately the factor determination? Balance, tracks, gradients, etc. This could lead to a sport specific system which in principle would be based on best practice.

Research would be required to validate how these components are measured and valued and brought into the equation.



	You still need a medical classifier for interpreting medical diagnostics. With a good set of rules, can make the assessment much easier.
<i>Decision(s)</i>	EA to present a summary of the basic aspects of the Factor system AS is using and if a similar approach could be done for NS.
<i>Action(s)</i>	EA to work at IIPC HQ in order to migrate IPCNS results from the lasy cycle that can be potentially reviewed by a statistics expert to give input into factor analysis.

8. CALENDAR PLANNING 2011-2015

<i>Discussion</i>	<p><u>2010/2011 WC calendar & WCH schedule</u></p> <p>WC in Vuokatti: Changes in the competition schedule are required due to the fact that the LOC is not able to run the BT competition during the week but on the weekend.</p> <p>PWWC in Solleftea: Change of the CC Street Sprint from Classic to Free Technique.</p> <p>WC in Finsterau: Test of the CC Middle Pursuit</p> <p>WCH in Khantyj-Mansisk: Inclusion of a third medal event.</p> <p><u>Draft Calendar 2011/2012</u></p> <p>NZL: These would be low level races (IPCNS or COC)</p> <p>WC in Madison/USA: 24 - 29 Jan 2012</p> <p>WC in Minneapolis/USA: 31 Jan - 5 Feb 2012</p> <p>STC to scope another two WC sites in EUR</p> <p><u>Draft Calendar 2012/2013</u></p> <p>WC in Sochi/Russia (Test event): 5 - 10 Mar 2013</p>
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	<p><u>2013 & 2015 WCH</u></p> <p>WCH 2013 ? Bid Package to go out in NOV 2010</p> <p>WCH 2015 Firm Interest from ITA</p>
<i>Decision(s)</i>	<p>STC to send a proposal to XG to include the WCH in the counting for World Cup points.</p> <p>STC to send proposal for inclusion of 3rd BT medal event in the PWG Programme before 5 Nov 2010</p>
<i>Action(s)</i>	<p>EA to facilitate the communication between STC and IPC CEO and GB</p>

9. TD ASSIGNMENT PLANS

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>TD assignment plan for Season 2010/2011 presented by HP</p> <p>HP displayed the TD assignment plan for the next 4 years (2010-2014). This plan has a clear defined pathway for interested FIS TDs to become IPCNS TDs by participating as Jury in WC events and eventually progressing to the highest level WCH-PWG Jury or TD members</p>
<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	<p>HP to continue to manage this plan and follow up on the new candidates and review of the performances.</p>

10. TD SEMINAR PLANS

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Rita Van Driel quitted the work as NS TD due to her appointment as Governing Board Member.</p> <p>NS TD Seminar 2010: Presented by HP</p> <p>Plan is to host this seminar yearly in the fall.</p>
<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	<p>EA to budget these activities accordingly.</p>

11. DEVELOPMENT LEVEL RACE SERIES

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Discussion about the races in NA and the</p>
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	programme in Canada. How this may be applicable to other regions.
<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	

12. RELATION TO FIS AND IBU

Discussion

There are 3 possibilities for seeking self-governance and independence from the IPC in 2016 or beyond:

- to go under the umbrella of FIS
- to go under the umbrella of IBU
- to become an independent organization

One objective is to be able to host IPC races at the same time there are FIS races being held. First step would be CC races followed by BT races in the next season. Therefore the STC need to contact organizers to find competitions where this is feasible.

Another possibility would be for IPC to consider specific results obtained at FIS races into the IPCNS overall rankings.

The IPCNS STC is at least strategically situated, TU in the FIS Sub-Committee for skiers with a disability, HP as FIS TD, LA is a member of the FIS RULES Committee for CC.

HP proposed to present on behalf of IPC Nordic Skiing to the FIS Homologation Commission, → AUG/SEPT 2011

Another thought from the STC is to eventually brake the BT and CC races (potentially add IBU and CC races as part of an overall IPC Nordic Skiing Calendar??)

STC Recommendations:



	* Attendance to regional races from FIS/IBU
<i>Decision(s)</i>	EA to create a survey regarding the relationship between NPCs and the associated FIS NSAs and IBU National Federations for the sports of CC and BT.
<i>Action(s)</i>	STC to communicate with the nations

13. 2011 SPORT FORUM PLANNING

<i>Discussion</i>	<p><u>Place:</u> Khantyj-Mansisk (RUS)</p> <p><u>Date:</u> Monday, 4 April 2011</p> <p><u>Time:</u> 1:30pm - tbd</p> <p>KW: Suggested to hold also an athletes meeting during the WCH in advance to the SF. Proposed date: Saturday, 2 April 2011.</p> <p>IPC Management/STC defined the time schedule.</p> <p><u>Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Athlete participation in FIS/IBU events. <p>Possible use of this as IPC points / qualification / WC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendation of a new point system (TU)• Recommendation for changing diameter of the targets (KW)• Development efforts (KW)• TD development (HP)• Calendar (TU)• Classification• ID-class• 2014 PWG programme• Governance – FIS/IBU relations
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<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	RW to draft Agenda for the Sport Forum EA to release the information regarding the Sport Forum info package

14. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011

<i>Discussion</i>	<u>Place</u> : Khantyj-Mansisk (RUS) <u>Location</u> : Khantyj-Mansisk (RUS) EA informed on the status and progress, and highlighted the challenges in receiving clear and accurate answers for the planning and contract compliance. EA intending to release the info to the nations as soon as information is reliable as the contract is not signed yet.
<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	HP attending Site Visit 17-18 September

15. BUDGET

<i>Discussion</i>	EA gave a summary of the budget from last season 2009/2010. Total income: 17.535,44 € Total expenses: 43.516,65 € → Overall deficit = 25.981,21 € Pending Sanctioning fees from Bessans WC! Main activities planned for season 2010/2011 which need to be considered for the budget are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TD seminar• Biathlon: equipment, storage, transportation, maintenance• STC Spring Meeting• Competition Co-ordination logistics• Classification: to be determined depending of the outcome of the meeting with IPC and
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	current classifiers.
<i>Decision(s)</i>	STC to send feedback regarding budget components to EA and RW by 15 October. EA and RW to finalize the budget for 2010/2011 until end of October.
	IPC to define the composition of classification panels in order to handle protests on site.
<i>Action(s)</i>	EA to put figures into the Corporate Plan EA to contact Bessans LOC and French NPC to get the fees paid.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion

- NS Corporate Plan

EA communicated to the STC the new draft document that will drive the Corporate Plan for the sport

- Licensing Process:

TU will be the responsible person on site during the WCs to verify the license status of the athletes in cooperation with JK and EA. IPC SDMS tool can generate a list with ALL athletes who's license is currently validated. LOCs will be addressed to reject entries from athletes who are not on the valid list. No entries, licenses or payments will be accepted on sight.

- Sochi 2014

Main Milestones for STC to keep in mind

Apr 2011: Slot allocation method determined

Jun 2011: Medal events programme

Nov 2011: Athlete quotas & Eligibility criteria determined

Apr 2012: Qualification criteria released

Number of site visits: Preliminary site visit outside the 4 visits from the MOU



- ID classes: if it is to be considered, should be addressed at the Sports Forum.
- World Cup points season 2010/2011

TU will be responsible for verifying the WC points and rankings, EA to publish the lists on the IPC NS website.

- Organizer Manual

STC wants to include financial aspects in the organizer manual.

HP suggests publishing the manual on the IPC NS website so that Organizing Committees can download it from there.

- Competition Sanctioning Fee (Organizing Committee) & Race Entry Fee

EA made a proposal regarding the amount of the competition sanctioning fees for Organizing Committees and race entry fees for athletes that should be included in the Regulations in order to comply with some of IPC's general policies and like other winter sports.

- Email from Yannick Borseaux was reviewed and commented.
- Discussion to establish a Qualification Criteria for the 2013 WCH

Decision(s)

STC to review contents of the Corporate Plan throughout the season:

- Until end of October first draft version produced
- Presentation at the Sport Forum to the nations
- Review during STC Spring Meeting

Action(s)

EA/JK to get information from PV regarding ID classes in IPC sports and distribute to the STC

EA to amend the Joint Regulations for NS and sent it



to the STC for review. HP to include an extract from this document (financial aspects) in the organizer manual.

17. NEXT MEETING

Spring 2011 - potentially in North America