



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

## Summary of Minutes

**Event: IPC Nordic Skiing STC Meeting**

**Date: 30 September 2013 – 2 October 2013**

**Place: IPC HQ Bonn, Germany**

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Participants	Name	Position	(Initials)
	Rob Walsh	Chairperson	RW
	Len Apedaile	Vice Chairperson	LA
	Tor Undheim	Head of Competition	TU
	Hans Peter Neeser	Head of Technical Control	HP
	Dia Pernot	Head of Classification	DP
	Colette Bourgonje	Athlete Representative	CB
	Dimitrije Lazarovski	Senior Snow Sport Manager	DL
	Barbora Kohoutova	Winter Sport Administration Assistant	BK

**Not Present:** Kaspar Wirz      Head of Biathlon

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## Purpose of the Meeting

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## Executive Summary/ Main Outcomes

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## Summary

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### 1. Opening

#### 1.1 Welcome

Welcome to Colette Bourgonje as the new STC Athlete Representative.

#### 1.2 Roll Call

See participant list.

#### 1.3 Review of previous meeting minutes/action items

##### *Discussion*

Minutes from the June 15 phone call were sent via email by Len.

#### 1.4 Preview of agenda for this meeting

##### *Discussion*

Approved.

### 2. Classification

Discussion with Dr. Peter Van de Vliet, IPC Medical and Scientific Director and Julia Rauw, IPC Classification Manager

#### 2.1 Classification schedule for 2013-2014 season

##### *Discussion*

##### Canmore World Cup

1. Classifiers: Katerina Magkou, Jon Kreamelmeyer, Kyle Nagle, Julie Sanders + 2 VI panels
2. Dates of Classification: 7, 8 December

##### Vuokatti World Cup

1. Classifiers: Jon Kreamelmeyer, Lars Meiworm, Dia Pernot, Anne Lannem + 1 VI panel (not two because of classifier availability - protests will be addressed at next event)
2. Dates: 6,7 January 2014

##### Oberstdorf WC

1. Classifiers: Bjorn Taylor, Jon Kreamelmeyer, Katerina Magkou, Sue Sandwick +2 VI panels
2. Dates: 14, 15 January



There will be a letter sent out to Nations telling about requirements and asking for a list of athletes who will need classification. This is for planning purposes

Sochi PWG

1. There will be no classification planned for PWG, though there will be classifiers available for protest possibilities
2. Classifiers: Katerina Magkou, Dia Pernot, Jon Kreamelmeyer, Kyle Nagle

## 2.2 Classification in SDMS

*Discussion*

Classification information is in SDMS, uploaded by the nations and being used by classifiers. Was used this last year and will use it again this season.

## 2.3 Classification rules – how to handle sport class changes after First Appearance

*Discussion*

We need clarification on the rule regarding a classification protest or observation that results in the change of sport class after first appearance. All newly classified LW athletes are subject to observation during their first competition. Any change or potential change of sport class made by the IPC classification panel during first appearance will be noted on the unofficial results. Classification protests after first appearance will be handled the same as regular protest, with a protest time of 15 minutes after the posting of unofficial results. If there is a change in the sport class as a result of observation or protest then the results will be recalculated with the percentage of the athlete's new sport class. Classification protests may only be made during an event where classification is offered, in accordance with the IPC classification rules. A classification protest must be submitted by an NPC representative on site at the event. Nations who are not present are not allowed to protest. The STC has asked the IPC to review this last requirement in the next update to the IPC Classification Code, with the idea that nations not present may be able to protest based on evidence presented via ParalympicSport.TV or other internet media.



## 2.4 Classification Roles and Responsibilities

### *Discussion*

#### STC role

1. To gather evidence and input from the field and participating nations, and to present suggestions for improvements to the IPC Governing Board.
2. To communicate changes to the classification rules/policies to the participating nations.
3. The role of the Head of Classification is to support the development of the sport regarding classification.

#### IPC Management role

1. To ensure that the sport complies with the IPC Classification Code.
2. To oversee classification research and to consult with the STC on sport specific input.
3. To review any changes of the sport class definitions for the sport, and to work with the STC to assess the impact of the changes and timing of changes on the sport.

## 2.5 Classification review 2013

### *Discussion*

#### Lessons Learned (Dia/Len summary):

1. Currently there are only two technical classifiers. There is a plan to use Ridderweek event in Norway to give an opportunity to train new classifiers. Julia is working on this with Anne Kroken.
2. This year is the first for use of the classification status of "Not Completed" based on lack of medical documentation. This does not allow the athlete to compete in the competition until the needed information is received and the evaluation is completed. A message is being sent to NPC reminding them to submit required documents on time through SDMS.
3. Now we have fixed review dates on the R status which is helpful. Review status 2014 means review during 2014/15 season.
4. During WCH there was much discussion among the nations and the jury about sit ski positions and the use of a hip belt. The IPC TD seminar (just completed) included a discussion on how to interpret this from the jury point of



view in the case of a protest, and the wording of the rule will be clarified in the rulebook.

## 2.6 LW Classification development

### *Discussion*

#### LW research project

1. Peter Van de Vliet handed out a printed summary of the research which is still being carried out.
2. Project next steps
  - a. Tests with able bodied skiers in sit ski positions will be conducted in October.
  - b. Testing with disabled athletes – Vuokatti – hope is up to 15 athletes can be tested during the World Cup event, or maybe others on a different schedule during fall training camps if teams are at Vuokatti.
  - c. Items to still work out with the research team:
    - i. Exact time and dates for testing in January
    - ii. Whether or not testing can be completed using the athletes' personal sit skis or if the research prototype must be used.
    - iii. Date and time for presenting the research information status to the nations during the event.
3. How research translates into Nordic Skiing classification
  - a. This will be looked at more carefully over the winter, though we will follow a model used by other IPC sports.

#### Other Classification development

1. LW Classification experts meeting in the spring of 2014 to report on status of sit ski research and also to discuss proposals for LW standing class research.
2. 14-19 December – Congress on Science and Skiing, in Austria – 6 papers will be presented in Paralympic sport.

#### VI classification progress update

1. Currently there is work going on to develop an analysis matrix for all IPC sports – will provide to Nordic Skiing to assess what is relevant to the sport.



#### ID Classification Plan / Inclusion of ID Athletes

1. The IPC Governing Board approval a request from INAS this summer to include ID athletes into the competition of IPC Nordic Skiing. There is no timeline set for this inclusion yet.
2. This approval does not guarantee inclusion of ID athletes into the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.
3. A classification model for intellectual function in Nordic Skiing will have to be developed.
4. Researchers visited the 2013 INAS World Championships.
5. The next INAS championships will be held in March 2014 in Italy.
6. The STC will work with IPC management to develop a plan to schedule ID athletes in an IPC event.

### 3 Equipment

#### *Discussion*

#### Review process for equipment

- i. Currently there is no enforcement of the rule calling for athletes to bring equipment to classification. In the future this rule will be emphasized and athletes will be required to bring all adaptive equipment (prosthesis, sit ski, or other customized equipment) to classification.
- ii. This season we will collect data on adaptive equipment used by all athletes to create a registry of athletes and their equipment that is allowed. This will make it easier to determine when an athlete needs has new equipment that needs to be reviewed according to the rules. To begin we will ask nations to provide photos of adaptive equipment.
- iii. Any request for changes to approved equipment needs to be submitted by email to IPC Nordic Skiing account.  
Decision: Once the equipment registry has been completed and it is determined which data fields are most critical, the rule about changes will be reviewed and updated if necessary.



iv.

Standards – More specific standards will be published once all data has been collected on equipment currently in use and common fields/characteristics of approved equipment is assessed. Such standards for sit ski frames might be used to help develop a low cost sit ski for development, similar to the racing chair developed for athletics.

There was one request submitted by an NPC to use new adaptive equipment: The request was not approved based on the IPC equipment principles, but more testing and investigation in the future is welcomed.

#### 4 Anti Doping

##### *Discussion*

Testing for this year will increase in advance of the Paralympic Games.

IPC will introduce the use of a biological passport – blood samples.

#### 5 Medical

##### *Discussion*

During the Sochi PWG, IPC will do a medical survey including injuries and illness suffered by athletes in each sport.

IPC is looking for a partner to start a study of thermoregulation by impaired athletes.

Medical services at the endurance village will be reduced limited in comparison to a full village.



Tuesday, 1 October 2013

## 6 Competition

### 6.1 Calendar 2013-14

*Discussion*

WC calendar

1. Review of Events

- a. Canmore WC: TD – Guy Magand, BT staff – Joe Bajan
- b. Vuokatti WC: TD – Len Apedaile, BT staff – Geir Colbjornsen, Asst. TD – Marita Kaipanen
- c. Obersdorf WC (CC Only): TD – Olaf Gruhn
- d. Oberried WC (BT only): TD- Guy Magand, BT staff - Peter Bonner
- e. Sochi PWG – TD – Len Apedaile, Race Director – Hans Peter Neeser, Asst TD (CC) – Guy Magand, Asst. TD (BT) – Ruedi Keller, Fixed Jury member - Gary Larson

2. Update on any LOC issues

3. WC trophies / prizes (proposal made by nations at sport forum)

- a. The World Cup overall trophies will be ordered the same as last year and awarded at the World Cup events in Germany.

Sochi PWG – discussion below

### 6.2 Calendar 2015-18

*Discussion*

i. World Championships 2015 will be in USA at the site of recent World Cups (Cable, WI).

ii. Would like to have event in Korea/Japan in 2015, but contact with PWG 2018 organizer is still limited so no plans exist yet.

iii. Interest for 2014-15 WC has been shown by Russia (Tyumen), Norway and Finland also, but no agreements are set.





iv. World Championships 2017 – a visit was made this summer to Slovenia to look at a venue that wanted to host both Nordic and Alpine Championships I Slovenia in 2017 but no further progress has been made.

### 6.3 IPCNS Points

#### *Discussion*

- i. Points lists for July-September will be updated monthly if necessary.
- ii. New license timeline – an additional fee will be charged for licenses requested after 1 October.

### 6.4 SDMS

#### *Discussion*

- i. There was a request at the Sport Forum to include team staff members in SDMS in order to make it easier for event registration. Dimitrije will check with the SDMS developer on getting this done.
- ii. There was a request at the Sport Forum to include in SDMS a double fee for VI athletes and then have guides licensed with no fee, therefore allowing multiple guides for an athlete with no additional fee. Dimitrije will check with the SDMS developer on getting this done. If this change is made in SDMS, rule changes will also need to be made regarding event entries of VI athletes and guides.

## 7 Rules and Technical Control

### 7.1 Biathlon equipment

#### *Discussion*

- i. Discussion with Marko Kurvinen about renewal of IPC contract for Biathlon equipment and maintenance. Marko will submit a proposal for next season.
- ii. Rifle Supports – last year the green rifle supports were



removed from the range in order to allow more flexible positions by the athletes. This change seemed to work well so was approved by STC to continue in the future.

## 7.2 Timing/Results

### *Discussion*

- i. Timing/Results contract status with Per Starheim – contract for this year is valid. Discussion for next season is still to be made. Currently, the costs of Per to complete the results for the World Cup events is more than what IPC collects from organizers in sanctioning fees.
- ii. MSL (who has contract with IPC) would like to develop nordic results system similar to what they have done in alpine. The end product and timeline is unknown. This will need time to develop with MSL learning our sport.

## 7.3 TD education

### *Discussion*

#### Report on TD Seminar (27-29 Sep)

1. Fourteen participants from 9 nations participated, including TDs, Assistant TDs, Biathlon staff members and a few others.
2. Finalized TD agreements to be used for this season to set expectations between TDs and nations (will be published with updated rules).
3. The focus of the meeting is to review last season and prepare for coming season, but from an officials/TD perspective. The seminar is too short to also include a focus from the LOC point of view.
4. In the future, LOC meetings with IPC staff will be arranged if possible to help organizers better understand IPC expectations and provide better events.
5. A suggestion was made to publish TD certification status on website with participants' names.
6. There was a discussion on how to pay for future seminars. Unlike FIS, most of the costs are paid by IPC and not the attendees.



Future TD assignments

1. Race Director for 2015 WCH- Len Apedaile

TD/Officials Uniforms

1. Additional jackets and warm up clothing is needed so that new TDs and officials can be easily identified at an event. Perhaps this can be ordered as part of the IPC/Descente agreement for Sochi clothing, but since Descente does not usually make Nordic warm-ups these may need to be purchased separately. Another option discussed was to use no longer used blue 2010 IPC jackets from IPC staff, or extras since new jackets will be issued for Sochi.

## 7.4 Rulebook changes/adjustments

*Discussion*

Many of the changes proposed by the Sport Forum or STC were written as part of the TD seminar work. These changes were reviewed by the STC and additional work was done to correct wording (such as on the sit ski strap location). The final version will be reviewed by Hans Peter and Len before final publishing.



Wednesday, 2 October 2013

**8 PWG Sochi 2014**

(STC was joined by IPC staff Juergen Padberg, who works directly with Sochi OC on games preparation.)

*Discussion*

Qualification Criteria

- i. For men, 91 slots have been allocated from a quota of 120. For women, 54 slots have been allocated from a quota of 80.
- ii. Several nations have requested additional slots through the bipartite process. Based on the information provided, the STC approved the requests submitted by Austria and Slovakia for additional slots with the condition that the athletes attend a World Cup event this season and meet eligibility requirements. Notices will be sent to other nations asking for more complete information by 30 November. After this information is received the STC will make decisions on approval the remaining requests.

Sochi Event Program

- i. The Sochi PWG event program has been approved.

PRIS

- i. Paul Lee has asked for tie breaking rules to be included in PRIS. Tor will work with Hans Peter to get the information to send.

Memorandum of Agreement

- i. The specified travel dates for ITOs are acceptable.
- ii. Entry visas for Russia will be part of the accreditation process. (Accreditation card will serve as visa.)

TD/RD visits

- i. The final homologation visit is to be scheduled for November, preferably with the FIS visit at the same time.
- ii. A visit by RD or TD to check snow conditions on Paralympic courses and to check course maintenance/grooming will be scheduled for December or January.



Torch relay candidates

i. Hans Peter Neeser has been nominated by IPC Nordic Skiing STC to represent IPC Nordic Skiing in the 2014 PWG Torch Relay in recognition of many years of service.

## 9 PWG Pyeongchang 2018

*Discussion*

No official contact has been appointed from the OC for biathlon or cross country skiing for the 2018 PWG, so there has not been much of an opportunity to make plans for preparations. First official meeting with IPC management will be this fall and sport managers are expected to be named soon, so we hope to start discussions in the near future.

## 10 Overview of budget and program priorities

*Discussion*

Last year's expenses were over budget.

Dimitrije has submitted budget for next year.

## 11 Development

*Discussion*

a. KAZ has expressed interest in helping develop this region, Proposal for regional meeting summer 2014. This would include summer and winter sports. This meeting should focus on program priorities and athlete identification.

b. Three Balkan nations received a grant from the Agitos Foundation. This will result in a camp and meeting to discuss future.

c. Rob will follow up with Kaspar (not present) to see if there has been any progress on any of his other efforts regarding development.



## 12 Governance

### *Discussion*

#### FIS

i. There has been some discussion of moving TD assignments within FIS, as is done in IPC Alpine Skiing. At this point, the current method of TD education and assignment for IPC Nordic skiing is working well so we will continue in the way.

#### IBU

i. The IPC CEO (Xavier Gonzalez) has reached out to IBU to discuss ways in which we can cooperate more closely, but so far no official meeting has been set.

## 13 Other business

### *Discussion*

#### STC Structure

##### i. Athlete Representative

According to the agreement made at last season's Sport Forum, we will have an election for the STC athlete representative during the Sochi PWG. Rob will talk with Todd Nicholson, the IPC Athletes Council chairperson, to see if it can be arranged to have the elections combined with the Athletes Council elections.

##### ii. Head of Technical Control

With Hans Peter stepping down after this season, a new Head of technical control will need to be appointed. This was announced at the 2013 Sport Forum, but so far no interested candidates have identified themselves.

##### iii. Head of Development

Rob will ask for a new STC position to focus on sport development.

## 14 Closing

### *Discussion*

Next meeting(s)



- i. There will be a meeting with classification researchers in Vuokatti for any STC members at the event.
- ii. There may also be a chance for discussions or a short meeting during the PWG.
- iii. The next full meeting of the STC will be in the Spring - dates to be determined.