

Dear all, please find below a summary of the main outcomes from the IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee (STC) Meeting which took place in Bonn (GER) from 28 May 2015 until 1 June 2015.

1 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson provided a summary of the 2014/2015 season, reported on the strengths and weaknesses and looked into the next season and the far future.

- The IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard STC was confirmed as of October 4, 2014
- The implementation and management required to operate the sport for 2014 -15 was largely completed by the previous STC
- The World Cup season was far from ideal. There were numerous challenges created by communication problems, calendar issues, weather and qualification criteria. There was no WC in North America
- The two 2015 World Championships went well
 - The 2015 Snowboard World Championships were a successful event. It was the first WCH for snowboard that was under the IPC. The events ran well despite very challenging weather conditions with very good tracks despite these conditions. The organizer presented a great event overall.
 - The 2015 Alpine Skiing World Championships were a successful event. These were the first Canadian Championships. The event was blessed with great weather and great slope preparation.
- More work needs to be done on governance e.g. athlete and coach's groups to support the management more, need to clarify roles of RD and STC members.
- PyeongChang site visit went well.

2 Report from IPC Management

- The main focus of the season was the World Championships. The competition was delivered which is a success. It was delivered as best as situation permitted despite budget and weather constraints
- Competition-wise, we had NorAms. Competition in Kimberly should have been the WC Final which would be a good event to have prior to the WCH. With regards to ECs we need to be stronger with competitions in Europe
- There was no classification opportunity in North America this season. IPCAS faced problems with VI classification due to lack of classifiers willing to commit. New VI classifiers have been trained since. There was Expert VI meeting that discussed common problems across sports. Work is being done with researchers on VI sport specific classification. The zero classification policy in PWG was a success. There is progress in classification but it is moving slowly as now the emphasis is to have evidence based classification

- Licensed athlete numbers in SDMS are stable which is mainly due to WCH as usually after PWG numbers go down. Next season there might be decrease in the numbers.
- Qualification Criteria for PWG need to be published two years prior and for WCH one year prior. The idea is to publish QC for WCH 2017 this year since athletes need a two-year licence. For PWG the QC discussion is starting now
- Hugh Daniel plans to step down after PWG 2018 so STC needs to find a group that can take over and be familiar with factor system. Athletes from Athletes Advisory Group believe that HD was good at speaking to athletes and explaining difference between classification and factors
- IPCAS representatives attended this year's FIS meeting.
- The budget is separated in snow sports. Alpine skiing budget is supporting the snowboard budget. The sport finished in minor plus. The numbers fluctuate depending on the season
- The Sport Forum was taken out from the WCH which IPCAS believes was positively taken by the nations

3 Report from Head of Snowboard

- Bibian Mentel-Spee was selected as athlete representative in La Molina
- Doping controls are expensive for the LOCs
- Coach's Advisory Group was established. The goal is to have its members represent the whole world as at the moment we are missing a representative from Asia
- Alpine skiing supports snowboard as snowboard is not self-sustainable therefore cannot be governed alone separately
- Recommendations on medal events went to the Governing Board for their meeting in June

4 Report from the Vice Chairperson on competition in North America

- There is a potential to cooperate with able bodied lower level events
- Hosting WC races in USA brings challenges due to costs

Alpine skiing:

2014/15 Successes

- Successful WCH in Panorama, CAN
- 2 new race administrators trained on MSL software
- 3 new sites for IPC events

2014/15 Challenges

- International classification in North America
- Field sizes for women
- Development and Level 1 events

Snowboard:
2014/15 Successes

- Successful WC's in USA and CAN
- International classification, Aspen
- New site for IPC events, Aspen, CO

2014/15 Challenges

- Increased level 1-4 events in North America
- More sites for IPC snowboarding events

5 Report from Head of Technical Control and Officiating

- TD's are using ICR and not IPCAS rulebooks
- There is a need for TD education
- The IPCAS Rulebook is still not comprehensive enough and is missing some FIS parts
- There is an idea to have TD mentors to educate our TDs as able bodied AS is different from IPCAS
- More communication needed with European/Asian TDs

6 Report from Head of Competition (Asia and Oceania)

Season 2014/2015:

- Appointed as co-opted member to assist in the promotion and development of alpine skiing and snowboard in Asia and the Southern hemisphere
- Southern Hemisphere Cup GS and SL to be held at Coronet Peak in Queenstown, 24th and 25th of August as part of Winter Games
- National Championships GS and SL to be held at Coronet Peak in Queenstown on the 26th and 27th of August
- International Classification (PI) to be held in Queenstown 22nd and 23rd of August
- No calendar space in NZ for snowboard this coming season.
- No interest from Australia for either alpine skiing or snowboard for this coming season

Planning for the future, May 2015 onwards:

- Closer working relationship with Australia and the Asian countries to establish a balanced ski and snowboard programme within the region.
- Explore development in countries such as China
- Development level races in 2016 and WC speed and tech series planned for NZ in August/ September 2017
- Talks initiated around the possibility of holding a World Championships in the Southern hemisphere for alpine skiing, snowboard and possibly cross country skiing in 2021.
- Provision of annual international classification opportunities in both Asia and the Southern Hemisphere

7 Finance

There is a need to increase income. STC is looking into developing a model for WCs.

8 Calendar

Alpine skiing:

- Draft calendar for alpine skiing was presented and discussed. There should not be more than four WC European events. WC must be in minimum of two continents and three is too much due to costs. USA to explore the possibilities of hosting a WC at end of February. The target is to have five WC. The main focus is to make it easier for athletes to travel from race to race and that the qualification criteria enable them to compete

Snowboard:

- There is a strong WC competition calendar ahead
- There will be introduction of Giant Slalom (GS) which is simple to set up and is for athletes new to the sport
- The focus also needs to be on lower level competitions

9 Classification

- Lower limb split of classes in snowboard was a success. No further changes in snowboard classification planned in the next few years
- Alpine skiing classification needs improvement and based on the new Classification Code the classification must be evidence based. As a result classification research needs to be conducted. Alpine athletes will be asked for re-testing which will not count into their classification (sport class and status will not change from the re-testing, no changes to SDMS). There is no target set which will imply that there is success or failure. KJ and MG to make sure that nations are aware of this research and that IPCAS need athletes to participate in the research
- In snowboard the start gate and upper limb impaired athletes pushing off and using their hands must be resolved.
- Discussion over snowboard equipment whether we need to look at soft vs. hard boots. If equipment overrides impairment then it needs to be dealt with e.g. minimizing impairment by wearing hard boots
- ST and the STC members discussed the recommendations from the Athlete Advisory Group (presented by IPCAS Athlete Representative) regarding classification

10 Factors

- The STC approved the Factor Report as submitted by Hugh Daniel
- Hugh Daniel will step out from the factor group and therefore STC need to start looking into finding a replacement.
- It is agreed that HD will visit some of the competitions next season to observe and to educate athletes and coaches on the topic of factors.

- It was discovered that there is a mistake in previous minutes as it said there would be 'no changes' to the factors but instead should say 'no significant changes anticipated'. This was brought up by AAG.
- MG brought up the issue of variation in factors in LW9 class. The STC recognized the issue and will take the necessary steps to follow up on this issue however it is clarified that due to the complexity of this issue there is no chance to change anything for upcoming season. Proper processed with evidence is required.

11 Rules and regulations

The IPCAS STC reviewed the document in great detail. All changes were highlighted in colour and draft document will be published on the website. Some items that were discussed include:

- Separation of alpine skiing and snowboard rules and regulations
- Change 'para snowboard' to 'snowboard'
- Tie breakers and the procedures related
- Nations Cup trophy to be awarded to 1st man and 1st woman
- STC decided and voted on that snowboard trophies will be awarded for two disciplines and overall. Snowboard will also have a trophy for first nation for women and men.
- Numbering issues throughout rules and regulations
- Section on youth and NCP licences to be reviewed, updated and made clearer
- Nationality of guides
- Job and role description of a race director
- STC to explore the possibility to allow skis or snowboard on podiums
- Review of sanctioning and participation fees
- Organizer's manual/handbook to be created
- Section on waxing rooms to be cleaned up
- Guide/athlete distance

12 Recommendations for Sport Forum

The STC went over the recommendations that were sent from the nations and from the working groups.