

## Minutes

Event: IPC Cross Country skiing and Biathlon Sport Technical Committee

Date: 06 – 08 June 2015

Place: Bonn, GER

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Participants	Name		(Initials)
IPCNS Chair	Rob	Walsh	RW
IPVNC Vice Chair	John	Farra	JF
Head of Technical control and officiating	Len	Apedaile	LA
Head of competition	Tor	Undheim	TU
Head of Biathlon	Alexey	Kobalev	AK
Head of Classification	Dia	Pernot	DP
Athlete representative	Akzana	Abdikarimova	AA
Head of IPC Snow Sports	Dimitrije	Lazarovski	DL

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**Purpose of the Meeting**    IPC Cross Country skiing and Biathlon Sport Technical Committee

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**Executive Summary/  
Main Outcomes**

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## Agenda

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- 1 **Opening**
  - 1.1 Welcome
  - 1.2 Roll Call
  - 1.3 Adoption Agenda
  - 1.4 Issues Arising from Previous Meetings
  - 1.5 Adoption Minutes of Previous Meetings

### Saturday, 6 June

2. **Competition season 2014-2015**
  - a. Review of competition season 2014-15
  - b. Athletes Focus Group Info
3. **Calendar 2015-16**
  - a. WC calendar
  - b. Review of Events
  - c. Update on any LOC issues
- 3.1. **CoC Calendar**
  - a. Asian Cup
  - b. Others
  - c. Calendar 2016-18
  - d. WC 2016-17 (UKR, ?)
  - e. WCH 2017
  - f. PWG 2018
  - g. WCH 2019

#### **4 IPCNS Points**

- 4.1. Rule changes passed regarding points calculation
- 4.2. Sanctioning fees
  - 4.2.1 WC Fees (proposal to increase?)
  - 4.2.2 CoC Fees

#### **5. Timing / Results**

- 5.1 Timing/Results contract status

#### **6. Biathlon**

- a. Biathlon Working Group
- b. Electronic rifle development
  - 6.1. Can we move forward with VI rifle improvement?
  - 6.2. Request to hold .22 competition test
  - 6.3. Biathlon relay proposals

#### **Sunday, 7 June**

#### **7. Equipment**

- a. **Inventory of athletes' adaptive** equipment
- b. Review process for equipment changes – what do we do now that we have a baseline of inventory?

#### **8. Classification**

- a. Summary of Classification
  - 8.1. Summary of sit ski research
    - a. How does this affect classification in future?
    - b. Standing class issues – how can we make changes?
    - c. VI discussion
    - d. Athletes issues on classification
    - e. II athlete discussion

#### **8.2. Classification schedule for 2014-15 season**

- a. Craftsbury World Cup
- b. KOR Asia Cup?
- c. Finsterau?
- d. Classification opportunities at CoC
- e. It is unrealistic that this is paid by LOC

- f. Can there be an evaluation (provisional classification) to allow competition at lower level?
- g. Reinstatement of Bjorn Taylor (status update)
- h. Classification Rules – the process for making changes in class criteria (with Peter's involvement?)

**9. Rules / Technical Control**

- a. TD development
- b. TD assignment plans
- c. TD clothing update
- d. Bibs / access control update
- e. RD
- f. Rulebook changes/adjustments
- g. Proposed changes from Sport Forum
- e. Organizer Technical Guidelines
- f. Entry timeline for WCH?

**10. PWG – PyeongChang 2018**

- a. Preparations/capabilities/concerns
- b. PRIS
- c. Memorandum of Agreement
- d. TD/RD visits

**Monday, 8 June**

**11. Development**

- a. Agitos Foundation opportunities?
- b. Efforts in South America?
- c. Development camps / races

**12. IPC Department function discussions**

- a. SDMS
- b. Marketing/Sponsorship
- c. Finance
- d. PWG
- e. Media/Communications
- f. Website
- g. Social media

**13. Other Business**

- a. Next STC Meeting
- b. Phone meetings
- c. In person meeting in fall
- d. Roles and operations within STC
- e. Working Groups – BT, Classification, Development, Officials, Athletes

**14. Closing**

## Summary

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### 1. Opening

#### 1.1 Welcome

The Chairperson (RW) welcomed all members to the meeting. RW encouraged the members to open and fruitful discussions.

#### 1.2 Roll Call

See participant list.

#### 1.3 Adoption of Agenda

*Discussion*

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

#### 1.4 Issues Arising from Previous Meetings

#### 1.5 Adoption Minutes of Previous Meetings

*Discussion*

Minutes from previous meeting are approved.

### 2. Review of competition season 2014-15

*Discussion*

Season 2014/2015 had 4 World Cups competitions in last competition season for Cross Country skiing and 4 for Biathlon, beside those competitions we had 4 regional competitions.

WC Vuokatti, FIN

As Vuokatti, FIN is our regular stop on World Cup calendar we need to work with them to bring the competition organisation to World Cup required level.

For next competition season we will provide well in advance check list for WC organisers, and beside that we have site visits during the summer for preparation, but one of the outcomes is that we need to provide Competition Technical Manual for World Cup organisers. This will be also discussion some of the issues from World Cup competitions on our TD seminar in September.

This is good point in order to discuss and expect from OC to deliver minimum standard for World Cup events

	<p>WC Final Surnadal, NOR We had few issues there but in general competition was delivering on very high level. We had in lead up to competition one official visit made by TD Guy Magand.</p> <p>WCH Cable, USA We had issues with Technical delivery of event, as on the other side we had <b>very good delivery in term of IPC department's expectations.</b></p> <p>Forming Athletes Focus group During the World Championships Governing Board member Mr Todd Nicholson had meeting with all athletes present on World Championships. The outcome of the meeting is that Athletes Focus group was formed and leader of the group is Ms. Akzana Abdikarimova from Russia.</p>
<i>Action(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Deadline for cancellation of event</li> <li>➤ Competition Technical Manual for organisers</li> <li>➤ Summer visits should be done on behalf of RD</li> <li>➤ TD to be educated on TD seminar in order to make complete side visit</li> <li>➤ Long term calendar should be build up</li> <li>➤ Education of Organisers to meet minimum standard of IPCNS World Cup expectation</li> </ul>

### 3 Competition Schedule 2015-16

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Tyumen World Cup confirmed, no international classification Vermont World Cup confirmed, international classification for PI confirmed and VI to be confirmed Pyeong Chang Asia Cup confirmed, international classification for PI and VI confirmed Finsterau World Cup confirmed, this competition will be also test event for World Championship for 2017 Vuokatti World Cup Final confirmed</p> <p>Beside World Cup events we will have several Continental Cups in next season and deadline for calendar update is 01 October 2015.</p>
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	<p>Calendar for next competition season will be published in next 10 days.</p> <p>Long term competition calendar was review and will be updated in October 2015</p>
<i>Action(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Competition calendar for Season 2015-16 confirmed and to be uploaded to web page</li> <li>➤ Travel day on World Cup Final have to be after World Cup Final medal ceremony</li> <li>➤ Official invitation should be delivered by 01 October with all <b>information's as well departure day after final medal ceremony</b></li> <li>➤ Note to be send to all Nations and invite them to send proposals on long term calendar for World Cup level competitions as well Continental Cups</li> </ul>

#### 4 IPCNS Points

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Presentation was made on analysis on F value on IPCNS points. This will still be follow in next season as we are still trying to have more data, and in next season we will be in position to change it. RW would like to see more analysis in what will be update in next season or seasons</p>
<i>Action(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ AA to inform Athletes Focus group on analysis which is taking the place every year</li> <li>➤ TU to follow up numbers in next seasons, and also to transfer this calculation method to SDMS in order to follow up on easier way, DL to work on this transfer</li> </ul>

#### 4.1 Participation of athletes with high support needs

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Presentation was made on participation numbers of athletes with high support needs which showed that we are having stabile number of participating athletes in our competition circuited on regular base in individual and relay competitions</p> <p>Discussion was done on VI women participation and risk of not having</p>
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<i>Action(s)</i>	<p>medal event on PWG as of not fulfilling with minimum criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ TU will follow up on analysis in next season</li> <li>➤ Nations to be encouraged to work on growing the numbers in female athletes population</li> </ul>
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#### 4.2 Sanctioning Fees

<i>Discussion</i>	STC review all sanctioning fees and new figures will be updated in IPC Nordic Skiing rules and regulations. Proposal was to have sanctioning fee for WC be \$750/race and for CoC \$250/race.
<i>Action(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LA to update new sanctioning fee in IPC Cross Country skiing and Biathlon rules and regulations.</li> <li>➤ Office to publish DRAFT IPC Cross Country skiing and Biathlon rules and regulations on webpage by 01 July</li> </ul>

#### 5. Timing and Results

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>NEW IPCNS results software system</p> <p>We had very challenging season as we tested on competition new software with not much time in lead up to new season to make more tests outside of competition.</p> <p>In order to provide stabile software solution we had Lab Test in MSL HQ in Madrid, ESP to test software. Several changes were made, but despite all efforts until the end of competition season we never reach delivery of results without problems.</p> <p>We prepared after season one report which is delivered to MSL in May 2015. Goal is to have stabile and correct application that will provide us correct results.</p> <p>IN additional to software was how to resolve transponders issue, as in different regions we will find different transponders and timing devices. On FIS competitions we have start gate and finish cells, and transponders make life to OC much easier as they do not need lot of people controlling finish line.</p>
<i>Action(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ TU to provide report and request on further development of IPCNS software solution</li> <li>➤ DL to work with ATOS and MSL on new services – Live results</li> </ul>

## 6. Biathlon

### *Discussion*

Forming Biathlon working group was great idea, as this group worked very well in last season. Alexey was leader of that group and he will provide us more information.

Focus was on electronic shooting system,

One of the new key notes on education seminar for TDs will be new part on education of BT international referee in terms of Biathlon equipment and shooting range itself.

Main reason of having formed Biathlon working group was to discuss about idea of electronic shooting system for all VI and LW athletes. First test was done during World Cup in Vuokatti, FIN, and further official discussion took place during Sport Forum in Cable, USA. Test showed us that electronic rifle was working but there was some issues that we need to work out as well we had some different opinions from teams that we need to discuss further.

The idea is to have only one system of shooting for all athletes.

RW

Last topic on Biathlon is new Relay format for Biathlon. Biathlon working group had very dynamic discussion on new race format. Before Sochi Nations was not comfortable with Biathlon pursuit so we stayed with middle format.

### *Action(s)*

- Shipping cost VS buying cost (of 'BT equipment)
- Creating small group to follow up on cost question
- Survey to be created and send to nation about .22 shooting test
- AK to discuss further with Biathlon working group on .22 shooting system
- Biathlon working group to check times on penalty loop and see potential change of the length of it
- TU to work with AK, JF, LA and AA on proposal of BT/CC relay

## 7 Equipment

### *Discussion*

This is related to adaptive equipment inventory. We have in IPC Cross Country Skiing and Biathlon very clear process about presenting adaptive equipment to STC but there is always opportunity to improve.

Update of equipment has to be provided prior to season. If there is no change athletes need to provide declaration where he/she will confirm that there is no changes in adaptation of his/her equipment.

Equipment affects the classification as it could provide some technology/sport advantage that influence the classification  
There is already rule/policy that everybody needs to provide declaration about equipment.

As we have form, and we should remind the Nations on the deadlines which are indicated in rules.

### *Action(s)*

- Letter to Nation about new adaptive equipment inventory
- Letter to Nation about declaration which should be submitted
- DL to communicate with IPC IT department and in license process include tick box on new equipment question.

## 8 Classification

### *Discussion*

Short summary on sit ski research was provided.

It was agreed that STC will create classifiers working group which will help with communication between classifiers, STC and researchers group.

We need to do some changes on standing classes, as we have some classes that are not able to perform on same level in two different sports technique, like classic and free.

Classification schedule

USA PI confirmed and VI TBC

KOR PI and VI

GER no plans for classification

Classification on Continental cup, the aim of IPC is not to have

classification on World Cup, World Championships. The question that has to be answered is can we make provisional classification on continental cup done with one panel. Classification at Continental Cup level is a challenge due to costs to the OC and lack of broad international participation for protest opportunities at event. Clarification on Bjorn Taylor status was provided. In next weeks official letter will be sent to Bjorn about ending the suspension as well about involvements in classification panels. IPC Medical department in March 2015 provide clear pathway on classification rules change. STC should review it, and advise management on any planed classification rule change in order to avoid any miscommunication like we had in last season.

*Action(s)*

- DP to create reply letter to researchers with specific questions
- DL to send official letter to Bjorn
- STC members to review pathway of classification rule changing and sport class change

## 9 Rules

*Discussion*

New proposals was presented for Rule and Regulations update, STC members discussed on proposal and LA will submit to IPCNS office final DRAFT which should be published on IPCNS webpage by 01 July. Motion from sport forum was about having nations meeting and sport forum every year. We have proposal for organisation of sport forum next year in Finsterau, GER. The question is the timing when this meeting could/should be conducted. STC should make final proposal.

*Action(s)*

- LA to provide to office assignment of TD for next competition season
- LA to provide to office final DRAFT rules for upload to webpage
- LA and DL to provide clear definition on RD job description
- STC to provide proposal on organisation of next sport forum and nations meeting
- LA and DL to finalise Organiser Technical Guidelines
- JF and DL to work on new proposal for timeline for 2017

WCH.

- LA and DL to propose new timeline for WC competitions.

## 11 Development

### *Discussion*

Further information was provided on development initiative that was done during the competition season. Regional initiative should be in force together with continental cup competitions. STC made several decisions in order to provide more chances to Nations to organise the continental cup.

Promotion of sport has to be made over social networks, and proposal could be to be created Instagram account for Nordic skiing. Like that athletes could share more social content which could invite more athletes.

STC encourage Nations to apply more to AGITOS foundation especially on regional level, where we should have several nations working together. In additional to ski camp we could have continental cup race, which with provide to new athletes competition experience.

### *Action(s)*

- JF and DL work on development programs and possibilities which should be shared with Nations
- JF will prepare document to provide more details to Coaches advisory group

## 2.1 Finance

### *Discussion*

Finances were presented to STC members. The situation with finance is not perfect and STC have to make some cuts on cost in next seasons in order to provide more sustainability approach in terms of running the sport.

### *Action(s)*

- DL to provide to STC figures after season 2014/2015 finish

## 2.2 PRIS

### *Discussion*

STC will receive first draft version of PRIS for 2018 PWG. DL had first meeting with Paul Lee and first basic or general information was shared.

### *Action(s)*

- DL to follow up with Paul Lee on first draft PRIS document

## 2.3 MoU

*Discussion*

DL and LA worked together with POCOG and IPC responsible person Juergen on MoU for 2018 PWG. We provided all feedback and new version should arrive in next weeks.

*Action(s)*

➤ DL to follow up with POCOG on getting new version of MoU

## 10 PWG PyeongChang 2018

*Discussion*

Report was provided a short update on his visit to Pyeong Chang and showed some pictures of the venue and discussed preparations.

*Action(s)*

➤ No specific actions to this topic. Len will continue to work with POCOG.

## 12 IPC Department function discussion

*Discussion*

**Report was made on IPC department's involvement on sport specific delivery.** New SDMS platform was just delivered and some sport specific improvement will be made prior next season. Also new services will be available in order to help OC in lead up to competitions. **Marketing** department has created two presentations of Snow sports which are shared with more than 20 potential partners.

**Media** and communications department will, soon as new competition calendar is uploaded, make kind of long term season plan. Further to that communication with OC will be created from September month. During summer we will have several stories published on sport webpage, as well one survey in terms of media info will be created, where we will try to find are we providing all needed info on our webpage or not.

**Social media**, we will explore possibilities of opening Instagram account beside of having active twitter and facebook account.

**Medical and anti-doping**

In last competition season we did not had any issue with injuries and doping testing, we will try to continue and maintain good praxis in upcoming seasons.

*Action(s)*

➤ DL to work closely with all IPC departments

13 Other Bussines

*Discussion*

RW will work with DL and LOC from Cable WCH to resolve remaining financial issues.

It is important that STC members keep everyone informed on their actions and work with others to accomplish the tasks. STC members can use working groups to help reach our goals – already we have an **athletes’ working group, one for classification and another for biathlon.** One for coaches is also there although not yet official.

Next STC meeting: phone calls will be held over the summer and then a decision will be made if we need to hold a face-to-face meeting in the fall.

*Action(s)*

➤