

World Para Nordic Skiing Rules & Regulations Working Group

Meeting Minutes: April 27, 2020, 14:00 to 15:30 UTC
Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Attendance: LA, AR,VD,EC,RR,JR,HA/AF, HPN,GK,EG,DL

MINUTES:

1. Reviewed minutes from April 20 (posted on website)
2. Welcome to Hideki Arai (and interpreter Akiko Fukai) from Japan who is joining the WG
3. Reviewed proposed grouping (below) and discussed work plan, process, timelines and priority. Elke will set up a group chat mechanism through Microsoft Teams platform where group work and discussion on rules updates can occur online and on an ongoing basis in addition to the scheduled online meetings. This will allow WG members to provide input and discussion on various proposals at their leisure.

Initial rule proposals are planned to be discussed at the May 6 STC meeting.

Rules Proposals	Priority/ Order	Comment
310 Race Distances	2	Prepare comparative data – take direction from STC
213,215,216, 221, 224 Invitations, Race Entries, Fees, Prizes, Adaptive equip guidelines	1	Adaptive equip guidelines are being reviewed by Sport & Adaptive Equipment
OC Guidelines: entries, accommodation, transportation, wax cabins, homologation	2	
WCH program	1	Defer to STC
Bt Factors: B1 & LW 5/7		Defer to STC, BT WG
331 Biathlon Rules Updates	3	
314, 315, 323, 324 Start order & Procedures	3	
Other topics or issues arising from past season:		
○ Fluoro ban	1	
○ Homologation Protocol for WC Courses	2	

4. Fluoro ban discussion:

- LA provided background and overview of fluoro issue (health & environmental) and FIS decision to ban in 20/21. Key issue for implementation will be testing & enforcement
- RR & EC provided an overview of the CAG Fluor discussion:
 - CAG feels WPNS should wait to implement until FIS/IBU system is in place and working. Should not implement in PWG year therefore one proposal would be to wait until after PWG.
 - Also concern about potential high cost of testing equipment not yet proven and whether WPNS can afford this cost (especially beta technology)

- CAG consensus that WPNS does need to follow a ban however the key concerns at this stage is how to guarantee integrity of a ban and fair play.
 - Implementation of a ban must be done fairly
- RR indicated that a German institute is developing the technology to be used by FIS & IBU to test skis. Now would be a good time for WPNS to provide a signal that we are interested
- DL indicated that para alpine and snowboard are also discussing the fluoro ban and that it is likely that WP snow sports would take a coordinated approach
- FIS & IBU have convened a task force that is working on this. WPNS should be participating.
- Implementation will require new rules, monitoring/testing and sanctions policies. LA indicated WPNS would likely follow lead of FIS IBU. Violation likely to be treated like doping with DSQ (though not competition bans). This will ultimately be an STC/ WPSS decision and Rules WG will finalise implementation rules once decision has been made.
- Group agreed that a decision needs to be taken and that teams need to be clearly informed as soon as possible so that they can make preparations.

5. WCH Schedule Proposal (Norway #3)

- AR introduced Norwegian proposal regarding WCH schedule. Proposed that the schedule be mixed like PWG and not like in Prince George which was too inefficient for non-biathlon athletes.
- HPN proposed that BT & CC WCH be separated – long combined event is not fair to athletes that do both sports as then they have to choose which races they will compete in.
- EC indicated preference for WCH schedule same as PWG schedule as WCH are preparation for games experience with full schedule. WPNS & OC should make more effort to make games like
- HPN indicated need to consider venue & OC (Bt or CC venue) – as need to have good venues for WCH and not many venues have capability
- RR supported both approaches – PWG schedule is key and as good as it gets, however if WCH are split (Bt &CC) then it will be more possible to introduce different race formats within each sport & have more compact event (4-5 events per championship vs 7 in current schedule)
- HA agreed with idea of separating WCH events
- HPN suggested that we need to do a better job of differentiating sport expectations between WC & WCH in order to ensure WCH level & experience is higher than WC
- AR suggested we need to consider governance change implications if WPNS splits into FIS/IBU Federations in future and suggested WPNS WCH could be integrated with FIS & IBU WCH. Also expressed concerned that splitting WCH's could become expensive for teams due to application of WCH fees.
- LA & DL noted current initiative to run combined WCH amongst para snow sports (Lillehammer)

- Conclusion: mixed schedule is better – however a decision with regards to WCH formats & schedule is not up to rules committee but STC & Nations meeting.
6. 214.2 Invitation Publication timeframe (USA #1)
- EC introduced USA proposal that invitation must be published at least 2 months before competition (current standard is 3 months – 90 days which would be better). Issue is that this rule is not consistently being implemented / followed / enforced.
 - Discussion centered around current experience is that this is not being met. DL indicated that it is also a problem in other sports and with late OC selection or changed OC's. Inclusion in contract is not seen as viable option due to IPC legal dept issues. DL indicated initiative to have calendar for subsequent season confirmed by OCT of current season and this will provide plenty of time for OC to prepare / plan.
 - **Conclusion is that proposed changes will NOT be made to the rule, current rule and timeline will stand but that WPNS must do a much better job at enforcing this rule (office & RD).**
7. 215.1 Update Preliminary (6 to 8weeks) and Final (10 to 4 days) entries dates (USA # 2)
- EC introduced USA proposal and indicated that purpose of change is standardization (noting that rules provide for final entries 2 hrs before TCM) to improve efficiencies for teams.
 - Earlier timeframe for preliminary entries helps planning and requested that preliminary entries for all events be made available at same time to facilitate multiple entries in same session.
 - EG indicated that there were no issues with opening SDMS earlier or for all events. Still need a timeframe (deadline for prelim entries –6 weeks) is to allow OC's to plan for hotels, transport, wax cabins etc.
 - AR argued that 6-8 weeks is too early – especially at beginning of season because this is often too early to know who will qualify to attend the event. Even ten days can be problematic and especially if you have to pay for accom in advance like last season.
 - HPN indicated that 4 days for final entries is too late as these entries are needed for DCAS and jury is usually already on site 4 days before. DCAS must be done before jury arrives.
 - There was a discussion about the logistics of hotel bookings, guaranteeing rooms, room deposits. LA indicated that current policy (OC checklist) is that if final entries are within 10% of preliminary entries then there is no penalty to teams.
 - AR proposed that 4 weeks is more ideal than 6 weeks for preliminary entries deadline and that teams could lock into the +- 10% commitment by 4 weeks out.
 - DL indicated that this is also issue with other sports and should be standardised across sports
 - **Conclusions were that:**
 - **SDMS would be opened for all competitions at the beginning of the season (exact dates tbd but likely October) and,**
 - **that 4 vs 6-week deadline for preliminary entries would be forwarded to STC /WPS for further discussion, and**

- **that 10 days is still necessary for final entries for DCAS and final venue preparation purposes (and usually travel) and so would remain unchanged.**
8. Delegate review responsibility amongst WG for associated documents
 - LA indicated that responsibility for reviewing related rules/ technical documents for update requirements consistent with rule changes would be delegated amongst various Rules WG members and other WG's and that Rules WG would be responsible for completing updates.
 - HPN: Homologation Manual
 - Timing & Data WG: Points & Points Rules
 - BT WG: BT Range & Equip + Range OP's manual + IR Education.
 - GK/EG: OC Checklist & new Manual
 - Others TBD.
 9. Next meeting to continue with rules proposals.
 10. Meeting was adjourned @ 15:35 UTC