

IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee Meeting

Summary of main outcomes

May 2014

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 26 May 2014 until 28 May 2014.

1 Report from the Chairperson

The Chairperson provided a summary of the 2013-2014 season and gave her appreciation for the work that the STC members did during the Sochi 2014 PWG. There were some challenges and lessons learnt from the Games and this learning experience should be taken into account for the future. In addition the following items were discussed:

- The new STC structure was proposed to the IPC CEO. The current STC will be active until 15 October 2014
- The call for the position of IPCAS Race Director and Para Snowboard Race Director was sent out and communicated
- The Chairperson informs that with the start of the new cycle all references to FIS in the IPCAS Rules and Regulations will be removed
- A report on the 2013-2014 competition season was provided. The weather created problems for some races in Europe but apart from that there were no major issues. There are still some pending payments of the competition fees of which the management is taking care of
- The development projects have demonstrated the need and the importance of such programmes and have made it evident that there is a need to start with competitions for the youth
- The Chairperson brought to attention to the STC the IPCAS Rule 306.4 as there were several medallists at the WC and EC this season that did not excuse themselves and were not present at the ceremonies and are asking for the medals.

2 Report from IPC Management

- The Head of IPC Snow Sports reported that the auditors were at the IPC HQ over the last couple of days and therefore will provide a financial overview to the STC members at a later stage. Nevertheless it is clear that the main income is generated from races and licences.
- The relationship with FIS improves year by year

- IPC Management is working closely with the IPC IT department on automatization of several administration processes including SDMS, factor study and the display of the competition calendar on the website
- There is work being done in terms of developing the contracts for World Cups and World Championships which includes aspects of sport specificity and minimum standards

3 Calendar

- Notice was sent repeatedly to the nations. For ECs the deadline was 1st May but IPCAS only received interest from Pitztal and Kuhtai which is a concern.
- Rankings/point list for WCH is to be published on 16 February 2015
- Development of youth races in South America in particular in Chile. For the future the plan is to establish the IPCAS South American Cup
- The schedule in Landgraaf will be very busy as there will be classification, alpine races, para snowboard races and a youth race

4 Factors

- Factor adjustments were done now and this is planned to stay for the cycle. The adjustments were based on the last 4 years because the results are very good.

5 Equipment rules

- There will be separate equipment rules for alpine skiing and para snowboard
- The references from FIS are to be taken out
- A request from medical department is that IPCAS considers the elimination of the full face helmets *i.e.* the 'downhill bike helmets' because of high risk of injury e.g. neck injuries, snow accumulation, increased sliding and lack of shock absorption.
- The need to conduct a study on bindings in sit skiers, their behaviour at different speeds, forces *etc.* HOC sit skis/bindings that are on the market were discussed. Is it the idea to go conservative?
- Prosthetic inside a ski boot vs. prosthetic directly attached to a binding was discussed and a study is needed whether this is suited for racing or if it only stays within general public.

- Crash helmets with new specifications were considered but kept open since not all teams can afford to buy the newest helmet. Helmets cannot be modified. Sitting athletes wishing to wear full face helmets must submit a waiver.
- Modification to ski goggles was discussed and request of Gabriel G.Y. reviewed. Such modification to ski goggles will not be allowed.
- The current equipment rulebook only mentions back protectors but IPCAS is aware that there are ski shoulder pads and chest pads therefore such protectors must be designed for alpine skiing and must be worn under the racing suit.
- Adaptive equipment: Sit ski breaking device defined.
- Cameras on athletes: Discussion over mounting cameras on athletes, more specifically on the backs of the Guides and on sit skis near the springs to see how the ski behaves and to see the real speed. The STC raises concerns about safety, it is also against the IPCAS Rules and there is an issue with the ownership of the footage. A camera on the forerunner is a good solution, ideally to be placed on the boot.

6 IPCAS Rules and Regulations

- The IPCAS STC reviewed the document in great detail. All changes were highlighted in colour and draft document published on the website. Some items that were discussed include:
 - IPCAS TD's: IPCAS having their own TD's that accomplish specific training
 - Types of competitions
 - Appeals procedure
 - Start procedure

7 Classification

- The season 2013/2014 was summarized and evaluated from the classification perspective. This season's classification events had high number of classified athletes.
- Classification Expert Meeting was organized by IPCAS in order to gather information for a full review of classes in alpine skiing. Wide range of participants was invited including athletes, coaches and researchers. The attendees were selected on basis of knowledge, engagement, interest and sense of critique. IPCAS plans to review the outcomes of the meeting and decide on the next steps