



Minutes

Event: 2013 IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Forum

Date: 21 February 2013

Place: La Molina, Spain

| Participants | Name | Position | (Initials) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| | Sylvana Mestre | Chairperson | SM |
| | Nick Dean | Vice Chairperson | ND |
| | Markus Walser | Head of Technical Control and Officiating | MW |
| | Erik Petersen | Head of Competition North America | EP |
| | Didier Cuche | Head of Competition Europe | DC |
| | Viktor Krstevski | Head of Competition Para Snowboard | VK |
| IPC Management | Dimitrije Lazarovski | IPC Snow Sports Senior Manager | DL |
| | Hugh Daniel | Factor System Group Member | HD |
| | Mariona Masdemont | Secretary | MM |
| Not present | Tommy Lee | Head of Competition Asia and Southern Hemisphere | TL |
| | Toby Kane | Athlete representative | TK |
| | Peter Van de Vliet | IPC Medical and Scientific Director | PV |



Agenda

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1 Opening

- 1.1 Welcome
- 1.2 Roll call
- 1.3 Conduct of the meeting
- 1.4 Adoption of agenda

2 Issues arising from previous meetings

- 2.1 Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting
- 2.2 Update Action Item list

3 Reports

- 3.1 Report from the Chairperson
- 3.2 Report from the IPC Snow Sports Senior Manager
- 3.3 Report from the Head of Competition – North America
- 3.4 Report from the Head of Competition – Europe
- 3.5 Report from the Head of Competition – Asia and Southern Hemisphere
- 3.6 Report from the Head of Technical Control and Officiating
- 3.7 Report from the Athlete Representative
- 3.8 Report from the Head of Competition of Para Snowboard
- 3.9 Report from the Factor Group
- 3.10 Classification

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 Recommendations from the nations
- 4.2 Recommendations from the STC

5 Closing



Summary

1. Opening

The meeting was called to order at 15:30.

1.1 Welcome

The Chairperson (SM) welcomed all members to the meeting. SM reminded that the IPCAS Sport Forum is the formal gathering of IPC members participating in the respective IPC Sport and serves as an advisory and consultative body to assist the IPC, and in particular the respective IPC Sport Technical Committee, in the further development of that IPC sport.

SM informed that the IPC President, IPC CEO and the IPC Sports responsible persons in the IPC management team are ex-official members. SM congratulated the OC for their excellent job. SM informs that MM and DL will keep the minutes and that ND will be conducting the Sport Forum.

1.2 Roll call

See participant list.

All invited nations were present except CRO and SWE.

The list of delegates was as follows:

Members with voting rights: 17

Observers: 9

There were additional observers from: USA (1 observer)

1.3 Conduct of the meeting

Discussion

ND outlines the meeting procedures to be followed such as timing and housekeeping items. ND informs that votes are vested in the nominated delegate and are not transferable. Only the delegate has speaking rights but the Chairperson may invite the others to speak.

1.4 Adoption of agenda

Discussion

Moved: AUS



Seconded: USA
The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. Issues arising from previous meetings

2.1 Adoption minutes of previous meetings

Discussion

The draft minutes of the last Sport Forum were taken as read.
Moved: USA
Seconded: AUS
The minutes were adopted.

2.2 Action item List

Discussion

Matters arising from the minutes are covered in the IPC Snow Sports Senior Manager's report.

3. Reports

3.1 Report from the Chairperson

Discussion

SM informs this is the last SF for the current STC and that their mandate ends June 2014. Informs that after this mandate she will not continue as Chairperson of the STC; acknowledges it has been the most challenging, emotional and interesting work she has ever done. Gives thanks for the help and assistance during these years. Congratulates the OC for their excellent job in putting together this WCH and to the OC's team for the tremendous effort they have done, knowing the financial situation in Spain and in Catalunya has been a strain to bring this WCH forward.

Clarifies the governance of the sport as the STC still sees that there are some misunderstandings from some nations regarding the governance of the sport. The IPC is the IF for Alpine skiing for athletes with impairment. In fact the International Paralympic Sport Federation for Alpine Skiing is the IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee (IPCAS STC). The IPCAS STC works conjointly with the IPC Snow Sports Senior Manager. The IPCAS STC Chairperson reports to the IPC the Governing Board (GB). The FIS has no governance or management authority when it comes to skiing of athletes with impairment. The IPC Governing Board, with the aim of achieving the goals of self-



sustainability and ultimately self-governance for the remaining nine IPC Sports, approved the IPC Sport Governance and Management Initiative. During the 2007 IPC General Assembly it was decided to include in each IPC Sports' Business Plan a target date to achieve self-governance (no later than December 31, 2016). However it had also been clarified that such target date was only an aim to achieve; for valid reasons the date may be altered.

The self-sustainability of the sport remains an important goal to achieve before any such independence can come into effect.

In the 2011 IPC General Assembly a motion presented by ITTF and seconded by World Archery read:

That all sports on the Paralympic Games programme will be independent by 2016:

- i) either as a sport integrated into the international federation ("mainstream" or for the able-bodied); or
- ii) as a sport in its own right independent of the IPC and IOSDs

The motion was amended as follows:

For the General Assembly to agree that all sports on the Paralympic Programme must be independent or have signed an agreement to establish their independence by 31 December 2016; such independence to take effect before the opening of the Village at the 2020 Paralympic Games.

At that moment the motion, if passed, could only be effectively implemented by excluding those sports which had not achieved independence by 2016 from the Paralympic Games Programme (as a consequence Athletics and Swimming may e.g. no longer be included in the Paralympic Games).

The motion was defeated with 38 votes in favour, 52 against, and 3 abstentions.

Among other sports and nations IPC Alpine Skiing spoke against the adoption of the amended substantive motion.

Alpine Skiing referred to the lack of interest of some of the IFs/NSFs to integrate the respective para-sport and expressed concern that under the current motion, their sport may be excluded from future Games.

Nevertheless, the STC together with the IPC Snow Sports Senior Manager work for self-sustainability of the sport and subsequently attract FIS interest.



DL will update you on the FIS relations.

SM encourages everyone to think carefully about what means self-sustainability and how an IF achieves this status in order to proceed with their daily business.

SM presents to the members the figures of the sport in terms of licenses and races.

The STC has been working very hard on trying to create win-win situations that could attract possible sponsors. We are proud to announce that in August 2012 we signed an agreement with Liski as official supplier for IPC Alpine Skiing.

DL will update on future sponsor possibilities.

There is a need to be aware that in order to create win-win situations there is a need to work in areas that need to be improved such as classification, female participation, development of children/youngsters and the encouragement of our sport in nations with no or low participation.

The STC is aware that the increasing number in licenses and number of races are attracting the FIS as well as possible partners nevertheless the STC wants to be cautious and ensure the future of the sport for our athletes.

Regarding classification, unfortunately due to illness PV cannot be here today. At present he is the acting HoC of our sport.

The STC is well aware of the misunderstandings that have arisen this year with classification that lead to DSQs of athletes in races.

Although the STC is not responsible for classification matters we have been granted to clarify the following:

- The factor system does not drive classification or changes in classes
- The factor system is a competition format that requires further study once the experts create a clear pathway of classes among the 10 impairment types approved by the IPC.

Alpine skiing will move forward by:

- conducting a research study in terms of the examination of key components (biomechanical) that should be considered in a future classification system
- define adaptive equipment



- do an inventory similar to the one presented (ITU)
- review the wording of sport class profiles
- define key indicators of sport specific classification
- review visual impaired athletes
- continue with para snowboard classification

SM informs that HD will present the ongoing study of the factor system. SM takes the opportunity to thank HD for his hard work and enthusiasm during this last 6 years.

SM thanks the coaches, despite the hard work they have with their teams, that they show high commitment to our sport helping us with the factors. Gives personal thanks to Manuel Hutter (AUT) and Jordi Carbonell (ESP) and although he is not more involved with our sport on a daily basis but he keeps contact with us, thanks Sebastien Michel from Canada.

The importance of promoting development camps will help bring future athletes to our sport. In this regard and since the last SF the STC has promoted and participated actively in:

- Winter Youth Camp (19-24 March 2012)
- EU Snow Sport Circuit

The STC will continue working hard in finding possible actions in other regions of the world.

On the road to Sochi 2014 PWG, SM reminds all nations present that the IPC will be calling for research applications for all projects that are to be conducted during the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

The IPC Research Application Form as well as the details on the application procedure, schedules, and examples of previously approved research projects will be on the IPC website in the Sport Science section. SM strongly encourages the members to pass on this message to anyone who might be interested to help IPC Alpine Skiing and the Paralympic Movement in this regard.

3.2 Report from the IPC Snow Sports Senior Manager

Discussion

Report is attached.

3.3 Report from the Head of Competition for North America

Discussion

Report is attached.

3.4 Report from the Head of Competition for Europe

Discussion

DC mentions that he was appointed as Head of Competition for Europe for season 2012/2013 to replace Mr. Jordi Carbonell.

Since the beginning of season 2012/2013 in the area of Europe and before the beginning of the WCH, we had 11 events including 3 WC events, 5 EC events and 3 IPCAS events.

The weather conditions were a major factor in the cancellation of 10 races:

- 1 slalom EC
- 4 giants (2 EC , 2 WC)
- 2 super G EC
- 2 super combined EC and 1 Downhill EC

But we were able to do :

- Downhill EC
- 1 Super Combine EC
- Super G (2 IPCAS and 2 EC)
- 8 Giants (1 IPCAS, 3 EC and 4 WC)
- 16 Slaloms (6 IPCAS, 3 EC and 6 WC)

During these races we had disqualifications for equipment problems and no respect of the rules.

We regret the lack of participants on some events (Tignes, Rogla).

About the rules, we believe that some points must be studied:

- a recommendation on setting to have compatibility to all categories and some not favourable
- standardization and specification for Guide's bibs
- adaptation of A Point Ris 804.3 about if racer has not correctly crossed the imaginary line
- adaptation of points Ris 801.2.4 and 803.2 in the context of a competition indoors. Indeed it is difficult to respect the number of gate combinations and number of direction changes

DC thanks all the teams for their collaboration and those that have worked with him. Hopes in the future to provide more help to develop more high level IPC races.

3.5 Report from the Head of Competition for Asia and Southern Hemisphere

Discussion

TL did not send his report.



3.6 Report from the Head of Control and Officiating

Discussion

Report is attached.

3.7 Report from the Athlete Representative

Discussion

TK did not send his report.

3.8 Report from the Head of Competition of Para Snowboard

Discussion

Report is attached.

3.9 Report from the Factor Group

Discussion

HD informs about all the outcomes from the working group regarding the factors.
Report is attached.

3.10 Report on classification issue with presentation from PV

Discussion

Report is attached.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Recommendations from nations

Discussion

Canada

Recommendation #1:

DL responded referring to his report which addressed this issue. No further discussion.

Recommendation #2: Coach's/Expert's Working Group

EP responded that IPCAS supports this approach and a letter has to be sent out to all NPC's.

SM noted that CAN, SUI, GER send a request in October. Swimming and Alpine skiing are two sports that are moving forward with this. CAN suggested that delegates contact their NPC's to see what has happened.

Recommendation #3: FIS Committee on Athletes with Disabilities

The STC has no authority. It is a FIS sub-committee.

SM expressed frustration at its lack of progress.

MW explained the function of this DAR Committee.

Russia

Recommendation #1: Review LW9-1 and LW9-2 factors

SM: The factors are subject to a detailed review every year. See the report from HD.

Recommendation #2: Geographical principles for the Calendar

DL: The STC supports this and tries to achieve it as best it can. However, it is the nations who propose the races and they cannot always arrange them to suit. The STC is trying to publish the calendar of WC and EC races earlier to make it easier for the nations to fit in their lower level races.

Recommendation #3: Consider possibility to host IPCAS races by directly entering them into the FIS calendar

MW: FIS only allows NSFs to apply for races and will not accept them from NPCs. The NPC needs to work with their NSF and the IPC to schedule races.

France

Recommendation #1: Single set of EC & WC points across all categories

There was some confusion as to the wording of the recommendation and it was left to be re-drafted for consideration later in the meeting.

Recommendation #2: That WC and EC points should be awarded by gender rather than by category

FRA: The problem is that there are some races where there are only one or two competitors in a category resulting them being awarded 100 & 80 points, even though they are far behind the fastest time. We have changed the points system to deal with this.

SM: The STC will definitely keep the 3 category system and will not support changing that.

AUS: While not opposed to the motion, it is another step towards a one category system

SUI: Need a different solution for Nations Cup

Moved: FRA
Seconded: no seconder
Motion lost due to no seconder.

Slovakia

Recommendation #1: Concerning costs – licence fees and daily charges have increased by 200%

DL: reviewed the charges levied and set by IPC and noted that they had increased by a relatively small amount. He noted, however, that they had increased, but that this issue was a General Assembly matter, and was outside the scope of the STC.

Switzerland

Recommendation #1: Regarding wild cards for speed events

MW: This was a safety issue and because of that it could not be considered.

Recommendation #2: Rule about changing guides

EP: It has been possible to change guides at short notice. In the age of the internet it should be possible to submit the request quickly and get a response quickly

SUI: We do not have professional guides and often had 2 or 3 guides for the athlete depending on their availability.

SM: Reason is not just administrative. Can be that teams want different guides for different races or conditions, the question then is: how we consider the guide, as adaptive equipment or as an athlete? Nevertheless the STC has always approved in cases of problems more than one guide per athlete.

AUS: Very difficult to have only one guide for the whole season.

ND: Following the rule really only requires a bit of organisation.

SUI: Guides have to be licensed. Why is there a need for additional controls?

SM: Be careful of unintended consequences in deleting the controls on guides

UK: Wanting to clarify that it is possible to nominate one guide for one race and another for the next race.

RUS: Want to use different guides for Tech and Speed events for safety reasons.

SM: For the Paralympics, only one guide per athlete will be permitted (injury excepted).

ND: STC does not wish to change the rule

Motion proposed: SUI

Motion Seconded: RUS

In favour: 3

Against: 10

Abstentions: 4

Motion lost.

Recommendation #3: Use the new safety panels on gates. FIS use them already.

MW: We generally use FIS rules. For most races they are the same in IPC and in FIS. New safety panels are used in FIS EC and WC races but they are sometimes carried from venue to venue.

GBR: What about leveraging the relationship with LISKI?

SM: The STC is looking to acquiring 2 sets of safety panels – one for EUR and one for NA.

MW: Implementation in FIS has been faster in NA due to liability issues.

SUI: Can we do it for WC events?

ND: The STC will take this matter on advice.

Recommendation #4:

Already covered in the precisions – see website.

Recommendation #5: Concerning fees for races

SUI: WC costs much more than EC, but there is no difference in the race, the competitors or the sponsors. This makes the higher fee very difficult to cover.

AUT: Very hard to get organisers and sponsors to cover higher fees.

ND: The STC understands the issue, but there is not much scope for variation



Recommendation #6: Following adoption of rule 318.3

The restriction that new developments need to be advised by 30 SEP in the competition year is unduly restrictive, and it should be possible to provide 30 day notice

SM: Would prefer to remove the timeline altogether but the STC would need 30 days to respond.

USA: Will the changes be published to other nations?

SM: Yes

MW: A system for good communications needs to be in place, and the website does not currently meet that need.

SM: Pointed out that changes of this nature take some time to implement properly, and some patience is needed.

Motion Proposed: SUI

Motion Seconded: AUS

In favour: 15

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

Motion passed.

4.2 Recommendations from STC

Discussion

Recommendation #1: That future Sport Forums be unique events

SM: Sport Forums should be held at another time rather than during the WCH when all participants have so many other responsibilities. The SF is too important to be mixed with the WCH.

USA: Could be at WC Finals

SM: That is possible, but it still may have the same difficulties. Will consult with IPC CEO the possibility for another timeline.

5 Closing

Discussion

SM does final remarks:

Surprised not to see more important issues discussed on this SF and reminds the members that the SF is similar to a general assembly of the sport.

Important issues to take in account for the future:



- new classification in alpine skiing
- adaptive equipment
- commercial racing equipment
- technical questions on race format
- future development actions

Reminds that the Factor Working Group needs some more members with mathematical skills and willingness to spend some time working on the issues and consulting with others. If you have some candidates, please contact HD so he can explain the process.

Reminds that the qualification criteria for the PWG will be clarified in the writing to not to be misinterpreted.

The SF was declared closed at 19.30.