

Minutes

Event: IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Forum 2015

Date: 30-31 May 2015

Place: GSI, Bonn (GER)

| Participants | Name | Surname | Initials |
|--|-----------|-------------|----------|
| Chairperson | Markus | Walser | MW |
| Vice Chairperson | Erik | Petersen | EP |
| Head of Technical Control and Officiating | Ozzie | Sawicki | OS |
| Head of Classification | Sandra | Titulaer | ST |
| Head of Snowboard | Davide | Cerato | DC |
| Head of Competition (Asia & Oceania) | Jane | Stevens | JS |
| Athlete Representative Alpine Skiing | Mitchell | Gourley | MG |
| Athlete Representative Snowboard | Bibian | Mentel-Spee | BM |
| Head of IPC Snow Sports | Dimitrije | Lazarovski | DL |
| IPC Winter Sports Administration Assistant | Barbora | Kohoutova | BK |

Purpose of the Meeting

Meeting of the nations that practice IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard to discuss the items on the Agenda.

Executive Summary/ Main Outcomes

Agenda

Event: IPCAS Sport Forum 2015

Date: 30-31 May 2015

Place: GSI, Bonn (GER)

Saturday, 30 May 2015

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 08:30 – 09:00 | Introduction |
| 09:00 – 12:30 | Split sessions (Room #1 Alpine Skiing, Room #2 Snowboard) |
| 09:00 – 10:00 | Rules and Regulations |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Qualification Criteria |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Long Term Competition Calendar |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | 1 Opening |
| | 1.1 Welcome |
| | 1.2 Roll Call |
| | 1.3 Adoption of Agenda |
| | 2 Issues arising from previous meetings |
| | 2.1 Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting |
| 14:30 – 17:00 | 3 Reports of the Sport Technical Committee |
| | 3.1 Report by the Chairperson |

- 3.2 Report by the Race Director – Alpine Skiing
- 3.3 Report by the Race Director – Snowboard
- 3.4 Report from Head of IPC Snow Sports
- 3.5 Report from Vice Chairperson
- 3.6 Report from Head of Technical Control and Officiating
- 3.7 Report from Head of Classification
- 3.8 Questions on reports

17:00 – 17:30 Coffee break

17:30 – 18:00 **4 Competition Calendar**

18:00 – 18:30 **5 IPC Alpine Skiing and Para Snowboard World Championships**

- 5.1 2015 IPC Alpine Skiing WCH Panorama, Canada
- 5.2 2015 IPC Para Snowboard WCH La Molina, Spain
- 5.3 2017 IPC Alpine Skiing WCH
- 5.4 2017 IPC Para Snowboard WCH

18:30 – 19:30 **6 Software Presentation**

19:30 Dinner

Sunday, 31 May 2015

08:30 - 10:00 **7 IPC Alpine Skiing**

- 7.1 STC/NPCs motions

10:00 – 11:30 **8 Snowboard**

- 8.1 STC/NPCs motions

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 12:30 **9 Conclusion on motions**

- 10 Other relevant issues**
- 11 Questions and closing**

Summary

1. Opening

1.1 Welcome

The Chairperson (MW) welcomed all members to the meeting. Members of the IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee and IPCAS management were introduced.

1.2 Roll Call

AUS, AUT, BEL, BRA, CAN, CRO, DEN, ESP, FRA, GBR, GER, HUN, ITA, JPN, NED, NOR, NZL, POL, RUS, SLO, SRB, SUI, SVK, SWE, USA

Absent: AND, ARG, ARM, BIH, BUL, CHI, CHN, CZE, FIN, GRE, ISL, IRI, KOR, MEX, ROU, RSA, TUR, UKR, UZB

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

Discussion

Moved by USA.
All in favour.
The agenda was adopted as circulated.

2. Issues Arising from Previous Meetings

2.1 Adoption Minutes of Previous Meetings

Discussion

Last meeting was held in La Molina in 2013.
Moved by CAN. Seconded by USA
All in favour.

2.2 Status Action List

Discussion

DL reported there are no pending issues.

Action(s)

3. Reports of the Sport Technical Committee

3.1 Report by the Chairperson

Discussion

See attached presentation. The STC appointments for the new cycle were done very late and this should be avoided in the future. Only MW and EP are continuing members in the STC and are therefore the only ones from the current STC that were involved in the decision making last season. WC situation was not ideal. MW thanked the organizers for hosting races. The two WCH, alpine skiing and snowboard, went well.

3.2 Report by the Race Director – Alpine Skiing

Discussion

The Race Director of Alpine Skiing was not present.

3.3 Report by the Race Director – Para Snowboard

Discussion

See attached presentation. The snowboard group had a very productive meeting in the morning. More countries are expected to participate in snowboard e.g. SUI, JPN and Scandinavian countries. With regards to PyeongChang 2018 PWG, the STC is waiting for the IPC Governing Board decision on the upper limb medal event. It is confirmed that at the 2018 PWG there will be two disciplines among two genders for snowboard.

3.4 Report from Head of IPC Snow Sports

Discussion

- DL thanked the participants for coming to the meeting. This time the Sport Forum takes place in a different environment i.e. outside of WCH. This should help to achieve a better discussion, good decisions and bring new ideas in a calmer environment.
- The last Sport Forum took place in 2013 and since then BK joined the management team as IPC Winter Sports Administration Assistant.
- The new STC was formed after the approval of the IPC Governing Board in fall 2014. JS acted as co-opted member last season to help out in the activation of Asia and Oceania.
- Previously the AS Race Director has been the STC member. This season this was not the case. The STC is discussing the role of the race director for alpine skiing and for snowboard and will inform the nations once the position is open.

- The sports website is updated to provide best possible information in short amount of time. Apart from La Molina where decisions were late there were no further issues.
- SDMS is continuously being updated. The plan is that LOC gets access to the online entries in order to follow up on their competition to help organize the event with greater ease.
- Factor working group and IPC colleagues responsible for the SDMS use SDMS for factor analysis which provides accurate data.
- F-values used are from FIS but STC is looking into if IPCAS can have its own.
- Software was tested at WCH. No big issues. Will be updated and then ready in July. Special session on software is scheduled in the agenda for later to address specific issues users are facing
- IPCAS has relationship with FIS. Uses FIS TDs. There is support available from FIS when needed. Next week MW will meet with FIS. In Nordic Skiing the federation is cooperating with IBU.
- Our rules are WADA compliant. There was an update in December 2014 in order to comply with the new Anti Doping Code. Our sport has no big problems with anti doping which is positive.
- DL thanked the organizers of the WCH. The contracts for 2017 WCH will be signed in next few weeks. The bid for 2019 WCH and 2021 WCH will open soon. There is an idea to have all snow sports WCH together in the far future. So far we have two interested organizers for 2019. For 2021 WCH only one interested organizer approached us so far.
- The goal is to develop a long term competition calendar. The meeting at WCH about the calendar was positive. A greater cooperation between countries is needed especially in order to avoid overlap in races.
- The licensing process is structured in steps in order to reduce costs for new athletes.
- IPCAS held an expert classification meeting based on successful application for the Agitos Grant Support Programme. The IPC Classification Code Review took place and is still taking place. One major focus of the new code is to have evidence based classification. This year's application for the Agitos GSP was towards VI classification research. Furthermore IPCAS has

established cooperation with a VI researcher from a Canadian University in Waterloo.

- The media activities are growing. These activities help to present the sport to companies for sponsoring etc. Companies were already contacted with documentation presenting our sport.
- There were 130 race days in 2014/15 season (in 2013/14 season there were 110) in alpine.
- Youth competitions are very important to secure numbers in the future.
- The goal is to secure a World Cup title sponsor
- Sport Forum is needed every year. At the moment it takes place every two years. Many advisory groups were established and these therefore need to meet every year. The model and structure of the meetings needs to be developed. The idea is also to have a meeting together with IPC Nordic Skiing in order to be stronger. Classification research is ongoing. Hopefully there were enough participants that took part in the Classification Code review.
- Lastly, the IPC is challenging the sport with regards to women participation in snowboard in relation to PWG 2018 especially with regards to upper limb class. This is caused by zero representation of women lower limb class at WCH and low numbers of these athletes being licensed. The sport wants this class to be at PWG 2018 and believes it can be achieved therefore IPCAS STC will send another letter to the IPC Governing Board. The nations are encouraged to help out and cooperate with IPCAS. There is a possibility that a provisional OK will be given until next year.

3.5 Report by the Vice Chairperson

Discussion

See attached presentation. Races in Lake Placid and Mt St Anne were done together with able bodied races. This integration was positive. In the future the aim is to host international classification in alpine skiing and a WC in North America.

3.6 Report by the Head of Control and Officiating

Discussion

See attached presentation. Athletes are key. Safety and fair play is of most importance.

3.7 Report by the Head of Classification

Discussion See attached presentation.

3.8 Question on reports

Discussion CAN asked about observation and processed related to athletes with a 'confirmed' sport class status

Observation did happen this season but it is deliberately hidden to avoid athletes intentionally misrepresenting.

Classification forms in snowboard include more data so more information is available for these athletes.

A process for 'confirmed' athletes exists and is in the IPCAS Classification Rules and Regulations. The IPCAS Head of Classification can issue a protest under exceptional circumstances. It is a very complex process but it exists.

Due to lack of data among alpine skiers re-testing is needed. The emphasis is on research to provide evidence on which sport's classification can be based on. The most important is that athletes participate in the data gathering so that the classifier working group can determine the need for research. The data collection will be at IPCAS international classification opportunities to maximize sample size and it might also happen at World Cups.

4. Competition calendar

Discussion Draft competition calendar was presented and discussed.

5. IPC Alpine Skiing and Para Snowboard World Championships

Discussion Panorama WCH: see attached presentation.

Broadcasting was about 1/3 of the whole budget.

Large anti-doping costs.

La Molina WCH organizer was invited but is not present. The work done to organize the event was appreciated and IPCAS thanked the organizer.

6. Software presentation

Discussion Snow sports finalized the software. There is one for alpine skiing and snowboard and one for biathlon and cross country skiing. The Coaches

Advisory Group (CAG) agree that they do not want race administrator at races anymore. STC to look into it. There are few updates that need to be done and then the software will be ready. Live results will be possible if the LOC provide good internet (in WC and EC). The software is set up so that data is constantly backed up unless hard disc is broken. The software is compatible with all versions except Windows 8 and Windows 10 which we are working on. The computer does not need to have very high performance but needs to be weather resistant.

Sunday, 31 May 2015

7. IPC Alpine Skiing Recommendations

Discussion

See attached.

AS STC:

All in favour.

AUS1: motion withdrawn

AUS2: there is great variance in residual arm length in this class. The proposal is that STC creates a rule where at the start consistency is achieved. The STC will make a rule on how this respective class will start based to limit to impact of the variance.

All in favour.

AUS3: STC informed the participants that this is a medical issue and therefore no vote can take place. STC to put it to medical department. Motion withdrawn.

CAN1: STC informed the participants that whenever possible a FIS Homologated slope needs to be used. If this is not possible an application can be made for IPC Alpine Skiing to consider an event homologation. In this situation the nations must send an application to IPCAS well in advance. It is clarified that this applies on for IPCAS level races. STC to clarify.

Motion withdrawn.

CAN2: The motion is clarified. It should say between events not

between run 1 and run 2. Floor is open for discussion as STC is not comfortable deciding on this.

AUT: guide has to be from same NPC

USA: Guide to be licensed for the country. Guides to be tied to the athlete

TDs force majeure possibility is mentioned.

MG: it is sometimes an athlete's responsibility to fund their guide. Financial burden?

FRA: agree that they cannot change between runs except force majeure.

BEL: small countries' budget problems

Wording amended: to switch guides between events but not between runs. Force majeure rule applies for between runs.

Clarification on what is a competition and what is an event. Word 'competition' is changed to 'event'.

Motion is carried. All in favour.

Motion on guides (USA): guides to be tied to athlete to the race 2 in favour. Motion is not passed.

CAN3: This was agreed upon.

CAN4: #1

Jury inspections – STC. Jury inspections to be improved at WC level.

CAN: on one race a course setter set obliques only to one side which is a disadvantage to some impairments. Jury inspection took place. Part of jury education where they must see disadvantage to the athletes; some athletes.

SUI: Run1 inspection. Consensus on slope to be able to tell it to RD

RUS: athletes must train

USA: RD/jury do not listen to the CAG/nations.

MW: Communication must improve between STC, RD, management

USA: coach schedule did not allow to have run2 inspection

MW: RD not on contract now. Posting in next few days.

OS: CAG is established and acts as a resource to help coaches to turn to

MW: RD to work with CAG. CAG is under STC. DC is no longer RD for snowboard.

Motion CAN 4.1 withdrawn. STC to deal with it.

CAN4: #2

Discussion on changing the gates for sitting in the middle of the race. To change the order of the race? Organizational problem. Testing at lower level races? It would help the sport i.e. better look of the sport. Less hitting of gates by sit skiers. STC to look into how to test this, e.g. at IPCAS level. Rulebook only mentions diameter. STC to look at injuries related to this (medical dpt.) To be tested but re-evaluated next year.

CAN5: motion withdrawn

CAN6: STC clarified the youth already.

Motion withdrawn.

CAN7: motion withdrawn. STC disagrees.

ESP1: Discussed this morning. Motion withdrawn.

ESP2: motion withdrawn

ESP3: motion withdrawn

FIN/DEN/NOR/ISL/SWE:

Running a youth event and IPCAS event at the same event is good e.g. Landgraaf. It has to be separated from adult event. Cannot be integrated. Youth must have their own start list.

Scandinavia agrees. Have events together. Also education component.

Motion withdrawn.

FRA1: Snowboard situation is explained. Snowboard is not big enough currently to sustain financially. There will be a name change to IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard. In PWG 2018 snowboard will be as a sport. Snowboard has no STC and no funds to have its own STC. AS is

responsible for snowboard. This governance model will stay until it is more sustainable. The various expert working groups are already separated. Para snowboard will be re-named to snowboard.
Motion withdrawn.

FRA2: strive for inclusion of more impairment types e.g. ID athletes. Insufficient data. It is based on IPC decision/GB approval. Not at this stage.
Motion withdrawn.

FRA3: STC is looking into it.
Motion withdrawn.

FRA4: IPCAS is bringing over missing FIS parts
Motion withdrawn.

FRA5: WCH timelines to be reviewed by STC.
Motion withdrawn.

GER1: STC is clarifying this in rules. There will be new section on this in the rules.
Motion withdrawn.

GER2: Motion withdrawn.

GER3: Motion withdrawn.

GER4: Motion withdrawn.

GER5: Motion withdrawn.

GER6: Motion withdrawn.

ITA1: Motion withdrawn.

ITA2: Motion withdrawn.

ITA3: Procedure was clarified by the STC. The jury needs to be informed why the athlete is not starting a) must be informed b) reason. It is not a must to hand in the medical form. The important thing is that the jury is informed. When there is an injury the medical form can be handed in later, no need to hand it in on the slope but it should be handed in for our records and injury survey.

STC to clarify at which competition level: WCH, PWG etc.?

NED1: Motion withdrawn.

NED2: Motion withdrawn.

NED3: Motion withdrawn.

NED4: Motion withdrawn.

NED5: Motion withdrawn.

NED6: New plan will be up.

Motion withdrawn.

NED7: clarification: video control. Panorama was handled too late.
Future WCH will be handled earlier.

Motion withdrawn.

NED8: Motion withdrawn.

SUI1: Motion withdrawn.

SUI2: STC believes it does not have the person at this level. Maybe in the future. Motion withdrawn. It is agreed that it is a good idea.

SUI3: Motion withdrawn.

SUI4: Clarification on level 3+4 and 13+14years. Implication on youth circuits/development.

MG: Many IPCAS races are held on slopes that are not suitable for 13/14yr olds.

IPCAS races are on FIS homologated slopes.

DL: FIS is putting kids' races on non-homologated

SLO: give the opportunity to good young racers to start competing

Youth development committee - - -16yrs

AUT: takes one year to earn the points

DL: not to look at best athletes that succeeded while young. We need to look at athletes that dropped out due to challenges

Motion: to be 13yrs by December 31. For technical events only at levels 3+4.

16 in favour. 4 against. Motion passed.

SUI5: Motion withdrawn.

SUI6: Motion withdrawn.

19:00 1st day of the meeting is closed

08:30 2nd day of the meeting starts

SVK1: Factors are adjusted based on more athletes, not based on one athlete performance. This question relates to small groups/small sample size. We look at change over time. Numbers are compared to standing classes too so that we compare with larger groups. We also look at differences between technical and speeds.

SVK: The problem is that these athletes get no funding due to no results.

GBR: It is important that coaches understand it as they have to go back to their federations and explain why these athletes do not perform. Workshop on factors is needed. STC to look into organizing workshops during competitions so that people understand the basis and background of factors.

ESP: The performance of the SVK B1 athlete is incredible. ESP soon to have a developing athlete to join him as he is amazing

MW: Recommendation cannot be focused on one athlete.

MG: Developing B1 is a lot of work. In the past there were successful B1's. It is possible but it may take years.

Factors are adjusted every year in all classes. Numbers are very stable, minimal changes.

Factor group to look at B1 group.

Motion withdrawn.

SVK2: 301.11 rule on accommodation and accommodation packages provided by LOCs. LOC is no longer responsible for arranging accommodation. Accommodation is between facility and the guest. If possible they can recommend. LOC of WCH in Panorama gave options. If organizer offered accommodation in their invitation then they need to follow rule.

FRA: Accommodation is an issue in Tignes. We want it to be as close to slope as possible. Some countries submit accommodation request very late.

STC to re-check wording of the rule.

RUS: make fixed cost e.g. 90EUR. Makes it easier to make budget as there are different prices across countries.

STC is at the moment looking at WC model.

KJ: if we have fixed packages then it will be difficult to find organizers.

GBR: organize races in smaller resorts to reduce costs rather than in high profile resorts.

But then slopes are not homologated.

BEL: Every year NPC makes choices to prioritize sports for the year so that athletes can compete the whole season. Accommodation is not the problem. The cost of sending the athlete to race is so big already that cost in accommodation is not detrimental.

If LOC provides package and deadline is put in, and NPC missed the deadline, the LOC has no obligation to deal with accommodation. Only can help.

Motion withdrawn.

DL: official invitations for EC and WC need to be sent to help in budget planning.

SVK3: motion withdrawn

SVK4: STC clarifies this is an issue of a specific athlete and it cannot be as recommendation. STC does not accept it.

Motion withdrawn

SVK5: motion withdrawn

SVK6: Classification with 'C' status means confirmed. Athletes with 'R' status have fluctuating impairment. IPC is working more with IBSA. Research is going on. STC recognizes that VI classification needs to be sport specific.

Motion withdrawn.

USA1:

AUT: Organizers choose. If they can and have the opportunity then they do it, if not, then not. It eliminates SC.

RUS: Agree with AUT

CAN: if SC at PWG or in WCH then it needs to be done throughout season to train for it

MG: Athletes Advisory Group (AAG) talked about it at length, but did not reach consensus. Personally, agrees with KJ. Like FIS has done it. We probably have no SC specialists. WC blocks are often physically demanding already. SG is considered less physically demanding when compared to SC. DH days are always long and hard. Organizer should be able to schedule SC if they wish, but not be pressured by STC to run SC. It is important to ensure strong SG and DH discipline globes before including SC races. Must avoid a situation where we have some SC and some SG, but not enough for a discipline globe in either. Should not score Cup points for SG from SC(SG). Scoring for IPCAS points is fine.

CAN: We cannot compare to FIS as our athletes are not specialists. Our athletes race in everything.

SLO: It is the freedom of choice of athletes and organizers. Do not support the recommendation.

KJ: Enough DH and SG need to take place. If no SC then more DH and SG.

RUS: Variation of ski length during SC is important component of learning and feeling the skis.

Motion amended: if PWG test event then not as WC Final.

2 in favour

12 against

Abstentions: 10

(24 nations present)

Not present – BRA

Motion not passed.

STC to look into globes. Eliminate SC globe. Focus to have DH and SG globes.

USA2: The STC has already put this forward but got shut down by medical department due to insufficient data. STC recognizes the need for 3 and knows how to approach IPC in order to get approval. It will most likely not happen this year. Classifier working group needs to work together with athletes. Athletes need to take part in the research. All in favour.

No abstentions.

HUN1: SRB explained their activities regarding their regional youth camps which are a success as they have developed athletes that are/will be ready for IPCAS races.

IPCAS cannot accept the motion as it cannot support individual athletes. IPCAS is always available for support though. Camps are one way, good way, how to help in development.

Motion withdrawn.

CAG (presented by KJ): There is consensus. IPCAS accepts. If you qualify for DH then qualify for all speed

8. Snowboard Recommendations

Discussion

ITA1: recommendation passed on to IPC Governing Board (GB). GB meets in June. No voting at the Sport Forum possible. GB has to approve it.

ITA2: With FIS on continental cup level. Not possible with WSF as there is no agreement. IPC to negotiate with WSF. Cooperation with able bodied is encouraged e.g. east nations alpine circuit. FIS approved. At WC not likely to happen. GBR have problem linking with FIS.

ITA3: Topic was discussed this morning. The direction is this way. Will be likely implemented this season. No vote required. Goal is to not to exclude people but we need to do it in steps. New athletes to come to continental cups. That is why continental cups will be right before WCs. Motion withdrawn.

NED1: already done. Motion withdrawn.

NED2: Done. Motion withdrawn.

NED3: Minimum standard requirements were followed. It will not be in rules. Motion withdrawn. RD to make sure that it is done.
Organizer handbook is being created.

NED4: Start gate is already in rules. Every WC followed the rules for start gate. Transportation of start gate is expensive and increases costs to the LOC. Single start gates would be too expensive. NED has start gates that can be packed in one box.
Motion withdrawn.

NED5: motion withdrawn. Discussed this morning. Same as ITA.

NED6: DC disagrees. Falco is part of CAG. IPC informed CAG. Decision maybe came late. CAG and RD roles to be clarified.
Motion withdrawn.

NED7: same as ITA. Motion withdrawn.

NED8: discussed in the morning. Motion withdrawn.

NED9: discussed in the morning. Motion withdrawn.

USA1: done. 300s section will also be adjusted.
Motion withdrawn.

USA2: Discussed in the morning. Motion withdrawn.

USA3: Motion withdrawn.

USA4: (error 3): was already addressed. Motion withdrawn.

9. Conclusion on motions

Discussion

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10. Other relevant issues

Discussion

Presentation – research by SUI – see attached

Factors:

Radius adjustment vs single amp standing

Factor group to check.

Factors are reviewed every year.

Factor working group comes from mathematical background and is without AS background on purpose to avoid bias. Data is used from recent years only to reflect the recent environment, recent athletes, recent equipment. There is a lack of data in small groups.

FRA: wondering when factor adjustment takes place, what is the reason behind it. Nations feel they are not informed enough and lack the knowledge. HD to make presentation and to explain it during US event to athletes and to the coaches

Adaptive equipment reminder.

FRA: situation with airbags.

STC remind nations about adaptive equipment submissions. Commercially available equipment for AS racing is not adaptive equipment. No approval needed.

FIS specification helmets – IPCAS to send email to the nations

11. Questions and closing

Discussion

Sport is about athletes. Structure and planning was brought in. Communication between us and the athletes and the nations was not great in the past. The Chair believes that the meeting was a success. All nations feel the same. In person meeting is important. Should be every year. STC needs to see that the nations trust their work and that sport product is being delivered. Passion is the common driver among all of us involved.

At 12:45 the Chairperson closed the meeting.