

## World Para Nordic Skiing Rules & Regulations Working Group

Meeting Minutes: May 04, 2020, 14:00 UTC

Meeting by Microsoft Teams:

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

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### MINUTES:

1. Review minutes prior meeting - clarifications
2. Discussed JPN request to begin WG meetings 1 hour earlier (13:00 UTC)
  - Accepted by group, next meeting (May 11) will begin at 13:00 UTC
3. Review Microsoft Teams working environment
  - Described by LA but not demonstrated due to screen share issues.
4. Continued to discuss rules proposals as per workplan

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	
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	

### Discussion:

- 215.2 WCH entry deadlines (USA 3)
  - Current special rules for WCH entry deadlines are inconsistent and too early in relation to National qualification processes and making financial commitments. Having different timeframes from WC takes more effort to keep track of and potential for error.
  - WG consensus / proposal is to follow the same entry timelines as for World Cup (Prelim & Final entries) including +-10% changes threshold for no penalty.
- 216.1 Race Entry Fee Payment (NOR 2) – greater flexibility
- OC Guidelines / Event Planning / Logistical Rules
  - FRA # 1 & NOR 4 & 5: Room & Board (Accommodation) Costs
  - NOR # 6: OC Transportation Costs

- These three proposals were discussed together due to their relationship in regards to team services, logistics and costs.
  - Race Entry fee payment proposal (NOR 2) was made due to lack of consistency in application and enforcement experienced between OC's last season including requirement to prepay in advance based on final entries. Since entry fees apply to each race and final entries are only confirmed 2 hours before TCM then billing should be done based on whether an athlete actually races as this can change from day to day.
  - HPN pointed out that while this flexibility makes sense from teams perspective, from an OC's perspective they have a fixed budget and depend on predictable funding. Collection / reimbursement etc is also challenging.
  - DL presented overview of new funding model under discussion and development by WPAS. Under the new model daily entry fee would be eliminated and instead teams would pay a daily event rate per team member (~55Euro) same as WCH model. This would be paid to WPNS who would use the money to pay for jury, timing, staff (instead of OC) and also provide a base operating grant to the OC (partial based on entry by numbers & partial based on entry by names). Additionally OC responsibilities would be focussed on FOP operations rather than on accommodation and transportation logistics except to coordinate and provide a range of options and prices such that teams can choose an accommodation and transportation option and make their own arrangements (thus saving money overall).
  - EC questioned how well this would work in locations without centralised accommodation options (like most alpine resorts) since many nordic venues don't have same options – Germany last season is a good example. The other question is what happens if accommodation prices are more expensive then the current 125Euro threshold – then overall costs for teams will rise. This creates an argument to keep a maximum threshold.
  - AR& RR agreed that it would be ideal if OC could provide a range of hotel/price options including information about accessibility options at different properties.
  - VD pointed out that the key is flexibility and that the system works for teams (first priority is that it works for teams and OC interests should be secondary but supported by clear consistent requirements)
  - HPN supported the model but suggested that schedule needs to be in place early enough ( eg 1.5 year in advance) so that teams can make cheap bookings as many resort areas book up a 6mo to a year in advance. 8 weeks ahead (@ entry by numbers may be too late) so OC's may still need to arrange block bookings at range of properties.
  - Transportation considerations (FRA proposal) was also discussed. Again, teams will prefer to have options and flexibility rather than be forced to pay for and use OC transportation options.

- HA indicated that JPN always appreciates when OC can arrange & provide transportation.
  - LA indicated that effective transportation that meets everyone's needs is often challenging for OC's and will become more complex if teams are staying a variety of locations versus a central location (in reference to accommodation discussion.)
  - EC indicated that transportation does not need to be challenging and suggested that transportation guidelines be developed as part of OC Manual.
  - **ACTION:** it was agreed that transportation schedule & logistics ( including accessibility) guidelines be prepared and incorporated in an OC manual. CAG to provide input.
  - NOR # 7: Prize Money
    - AR provided rationale, confirmed proposal is in relation to WC. Issue is range of different (and often cheap) prizes (plastics kids medals, chocolate etc) provided at WC not being appropriate for this level of competition. This topic recently received attention in Norwegian media that compared prize money for para athletes to FIS (ef Wilde vs Theresa) athletes concluding that para athletes are not valued.
    - RR asked if any IPC sports provide prize money to athletes
    - DL summarised issue related to number of prizes at WC (6 comp/day x 3 places + guides) and that OC prizes often VIK or dependent on sponsors. Does not feel it would be possible to impose this on OC's. FIS & IBU prize money relate dto sponsors and broadcasting. Para Sport not there yet.
    - Japan indicated that medals at WC are very important for sponsors and media.
    - HR proposed that rather than offering prize money for every competition that provide it only for relays to create extra excitement and energy – this was very popular in Altenberg.
    - EC suggested that perhaps if resources were limited then prize money could be offered for overall results by class and CC/BT at end of WC event (ie make each WC a mini tour – this would add motivation and excitement).
5. Meeting was adjourned at 15:45 UTC. Remaining rules items deferred for online discussion and at next meeting on Monday May 11 @ 13:00 UTC
- 224.8.2 Adaptive Equipment entry timelines – being discussed by Equipment WG – await decision
  - 314.1.3 Start order (USA 5)
  - 323 Start Procedure Heats (USA 6)
  - 324.4.2 & 315.3 Relay start – (FRA 2)
  - 331 BT WG Rule Changes for Rifles
  - 310 Race Distances (FRA # 3, NOR # 1, RUS # 1)
  - 324: new formats CC & BT Team sprint (USA # 7&8)– deferred to STC based on proposals
  - Factors (FRA # 4 & RUS # 2) – deferred to Factors & Bt WG's