



**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE SKI**  
**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**  
**INTERNATIONALER SKI VERBAND**

To:  
Members of the FIS Speed Skiing Committee

For information to:  
- Speed Skiing NSA

Copy to:  
- Gian-Franco Kasper, FIS President  
- Sarah Lewis, FIS Secretary General  
- Christian Knauth, FIS Marketing & Communications Director

Oberhofen, 05<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**Minutes Speed Skiing Committee  
Cape Town (RSA), 28<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

Dear Skifriends,

We take pleasure in sending you today the Minutes of the Speed Skiing Committee meetings held in Cape Town (RSA), 28.05.2008, and Cambridge (GBR), 10.05.2008.

We would also like to take the opportunity of informing you that the minutes are available on the Member Services section of the FIS Website: <http://www.fis-ski.com/>.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution and we wish you a beautiful summer!

Kind regards,

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**

*G. Richter*

Geertje Richter  
Administrative Assistant

**Enclosure: ment.**



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## INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

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### AGENDA

**for the Meeting of the Speed Skiing Committee, Cape Town (RSA)**

**Hotel Southern Sun - The Cullinan**

**Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2008, 09.00 – 18.00 hrs, Conference Room "Aloe"**

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1. Roll call
2. Welcome by the Chairman
3. Accept minutes of last meeting
  - Zurich 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007 (attached)
4. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in the agenda)
5. FIS support for smaller disciplines
  - Council motion for "associated disciplines"
6. Progress with 2007/08 World Cup season
  - Kalevi 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Race
  - World Cup winners
  - Kalevi Cup winners
7. Outline Calendar for 2008/09 season
  - Bids: Sun Peaks (4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009)
  - FIS need official applications through respective NSA!
8. Plans for WSC 2009 and later
  - 2009 – Vars (FRA) 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2009
  - 2011 – Hundfjallet, Salen (SWE) ?
  - 2013 – Sun Peaks (CAN) ?
9. Homologation Issues (Luc Cristina)
  - Akureyri (ISL)
  - NZE
  - Les Arcs
  - Additional Homologations
10. TD Working Group progress (Luc Cristina)
11. Speed Rules:
  - New helmet design (Philippe May)
  - French translation (Jean-Lou Montes – para 10)
  - Track lining proposal
  - Jean-Lou Montes' Proposal

- Minimum travel time for athletes
  - Safety improvements
  - Applicability of FIS lodging rates for cancelled events
  - Calculation of SDH WC points
  - Format of FIS entry (to include category and age-group)
  - National classification
  - SDH equipment regulations
  - (French Translation)
12. Sponsorship reports
13. Any other business
14. Dates of next meeting – Zurich 30.09. – 05.10.2008

**All proposals and decisions of the Speed Skiing Committee are subject to the approval of the FIS Council Meeting during the FIS Congress 2008**

**Present (Cambridge):**

Richard Taplin (RKT)	GBR	Chairman
Luc Cristina (LC)	SUI	TD Coordinator
Alexandre Barblan	SUI	Rep: Philippe May
Jean-Lou Montes (JLM)	FRA	
Alberto Monticone (AM)	ITA	

**Guests (Cambridge):**

Marco Cozzi	ITA	TD
Per Kjellström	SWE	
Silvano Maison	ITA	TD
Pascale Montes	FRA	
François Roveyaz	ITA	TD

**Present (Cape Town):**

Richard Taplin (RKT)	GBR	Chairman
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**Guests (Cape Town):**

Risto Happonen	FIN	TD
Ladislav Sandor	SVK	
Geri Richter	FIS	

**Apologies:**

Richard Beare	CAN	
Kalevi Hakkinen	FIN	Honorary Member
Philippe May	SUI	

**1./ 2. Welcome, Roll Call**

*(Cambridge)*

The Chairman welcomed the delegates and advised that it was a great pleasure in being able to host them in his College. He acknowledged that the official meeting of the Speed Ski Committee, to be held in Cape Town (RSA) on Wed 28 May, was too expensive for many of the interested parties to attend, hence the reason for this earlier meeting. The thoughts and suggestions from this meeting would form the basis of decisions in Cape Town. Alexandre Barblan was representing Philippe May, who was training for a bicycle marathon race in the USA; the committee wished Philippe well.

*(Cape Town)*

The Chairman welcomed the few who were present in Cape Town, and advised that Dave Pym (CAN) had hoped to be present, but had a number of other responsibilities, so might not be able to make it.

Kalevi Hakkinen sent his apology for absence, and is still recuperating after the accident to his leg. His 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary race in Salla had been a great success, and he thanked all those who had supported him.

The Chairman congratulated the winners of this years World Cup circuit: Sanna Tidstrand (SWE) in Ladies' S1, Ivan Orrigone (ITA) in Men's S1, and Marc Poncin (GBR) in Men's SDH categories.

**3. The Minutes from Zurich (29 Sep 2007)**

were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**4. Matters arising**

Most matters were covered under individual agenda item headings. Those that were not, included:

- a. Nations' Cup (para 4) JLM said that he had tested the Nations' Cup proposals and, while he was clear that a ranking should involve both men and women, seniors and juniors, and SDH as well as S1, it was important that the scheme should have default values allowing all competing nations to be awarded a ranking in the list. This probably required some form of 'negative' points where a nation had insufficient skiers in any specific categories. He would make a proposal to the Committee at the Autumn meeting. **Action: Jean-Lou Montes**
- b. Results Format (para 4) Results lists still failed to show the full category of each competitor – Sen/Jun, M/F and S1/SDH - contributing to problems of calculating the Nations Cup. It was agreed that all organisers would be approached to ensure that results were in the format which had been designed; often the problem started from not asking for the information on entry forms. **Action: Chairman**
- c. FIS Code It was noted that a number of athletes still appeared at races and on results without a FIS Code. FIS registration was an indication that racers had appropriate insurance and had signed the 'Athletes Declaration'. The Chairman advised that all registrations had to be through a National Ski Associations (NSA), and that some NSA processes were unnecessarily lengthy and/ or expensive, particularly since FIS itself made no charge for Speed registration; this case is believed to be particularly true for USA skiers. **Action: Chairman**
- d. Exchange of TDs. Because of a lack of funds, the exchange of TDs between CAN and Europe had not taken place. FIS Council were to be advised that the Committee felt that this should be undertaken whenever possible. **Action: Chairman.**

*{Chairman's Note: Per Ahlbertz (SWE) had expressed an interest in welcoming a CAN TD to Salen, and might pay towards additional travel costs}*

**5. FIS Support for smaller disciplines**

The motion that Speed Skiing should be considered as one of the 'associate' disciplines would be proposed at the FIS Congress in Cape Town (RSA). It was agreed that the motion in its current form – referring to Speed Skiing, Grasski and Rollerski as 'associate' disciplines – was unhelpful, since this seemed to indicate that these disciplines were not complete members of FIS. The Committee had been asked to consider an alternative descriptor – to many 'smaller' seemed to be better than 'associate', 'affiliate' or 'minor'; 'second tier' had also been proposed. **Action: All Members to consider/Chairman to propose wording change to Council.**

**6. Progress with 2007/08 Season**

a. Hakki's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Race had gone well in Salla (FIN), with much positive input from the resort, under the leadership of Kari Koskimaa. The event had drawn much local interest, and good media coverage in Finland. In some cases, costs appeared to be greater than the FIS-designated level of €60 per day for racers on full-board terms; this had also been the case for Sun Peaks. It was acknowledged that much of the problem lay in a lack of a title sponsor, which would enable organisers to defray costs, pay for lift passes etc, but also that not all resorts were aware of the 'FIS contract' which they should sign and return to the FIS. The Chairman was tasked with forwarding such a contract to each organiser. **Action: Chairman.**

*(Cape Town)* Risto Happonen made the point that races were frequently held in the resorts' high season, and thus best prices were not always available.

b. While non-FIS registered racers sometimes participated in events, they were not entitled to appear in the official results. In addition they should prove to the OC that they had full insurance, and they must sign the current Athletes' Declaration. **Action: All TDs.**

c. Tracie Sachs had been overall Ladies World Cup Champion on 5 consecutive years from 2003 to 2007 inclusive. This feat had only been equalled once before in skiing, by Annemarie Moser-Proell for Ladies Alpine between 1971 and 1975. The Chairman had written to the Guinness World Records organisation to confirm Tracie's claim in respect of Ladies Speed Skiing.

d. The Committee noted that one of its aims was to encourage both junior skiing and the SDH class as means of entry into the sport. Consequently, OCs were encouraged to include these categories in their prizegiving ceremonies, and particularly for the WC Final. At this year's Final, the advice of the TD had been sought as to what categories should be awarded, rather than checking with a member of the Speed Ski Committee. It was agreed that TDs should not be put in the position of making decisions on ceremonial aspects of races, but

that OCs should seek guidance (over and above the published rules) from a member of the Committee. **Action: Chairman.**

In addition, a full member of the Committee would make every effort to attend all World level events. **Action: All Full Cttee Members**

- e. Kalevi Hakkinen had been in touch with the Chairman, and was having the Kalevi Cup engraved to mark the success of Marc Poncin (GBR) as the winning male SDH racer during the last World Cup season. This would be passed to GBR for a national prizegiving later in the year. **Action: Chairman.**
- f. A number of events had had to be cancelled towards the end of the season, because of warm weather; these included Idre (SWE) and Cervinia (ITA). In addition, the Final had been dogged by poor visibility. It was also felt by some that the Hundfjallet (SWE) race had been held under marginal circumstances, and that the homologation for this piste needed reviewing. It was agreed that the Swedish Speed Ski Federation should be advised of this need, with a view to LC undertaking the task as soon as was possible. **Action: Chairman, Luc Cristina, Per Kjellstrom.**

*{Chairman's Note: on Tue 13 May, Per Ahlbertz advised the Chairman that LC should come to renew the homologation, and that Hundfjallet were ready to pay his expenses. Action: Luc Cristina}.*

## 7. Outline calendar for 2008/9 season

The Chairman advised that the response from organisers had been very positive, with bids from all organisers of races in 2008, albeit those for Salla (FIN) and Verbier (SUI) had yet to be confirmed. There were hopes that Les Arcs would wish to run a World Cup, using the 180 max kmh dispensation, following Vars; this might depend on getting financial assistance from Départemental sources. The programme for Vars was long enough to allow the OC select the best window of opportunity for racing. The provisional calendar is as outlined below, and will be enlarged to indicate other major speed ski races held by non-FIS organisers:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>17 – 24 Jan</b>	<b>Vars (FRA)</b>	<b>World Speed Ski Championships</b>
End Jan	Les Arcs (FRA)	<i>(provisional)</i>
4 – 7 Mar	Sun Peaks (CAN)	2 x WC
14 – 17 Mar	Salla (FIN)	2 x WC
21 – 22 Mar	Sälen/Idre (SWE)	2 x WC
24 – 25 Mar	Sälen/Hundfjallet (SWE)	
1 - 3 Apr	Cervinia (ITA)	1 x WC
<i>18 - 19 Apr</i>	<i>Verbier-Nendaz (SUI)</i>	<i>Popular races</i>
20 - 23 Apr	Verbier-Nendaz (SUI)	1 x WC <b>Final</b> <i>(provisional)</i>
<i>18 – 20 Apr</i>	<i>Verbier-Nendaz</i>	<i>Swiss Champs</i>

All OC were to receive a FIS contract document, which would need to be signed by the OC and FIS. **Action: Chairman.**

(Cape Town) Risto Happonen confirmed that Salla wished to hold their WC races from 14-17 March, and provided a copy of the planned programme. He also queried whether AUT would be holding any events, since that nation had many Speed Ski athletes; the Chairman agreed to contact Reutte, Goldeck and Bad Mitterndorf to seek their views and possible involvement. It was agreed that an event before the World Championships would be beneficial.

**Action: Chairman.**

## 8. Plans for World Championships

a. Vars had held a most enjoyable WC race in 2008, and the Committee expressed their appreciation of the work done by Philippe Billy. Vars had been accepted by FIS Council as the location for the 2009 World Speed Ski Championships. It was agreed that the Chairman should seek Council permission to use the Vars track up to its full homologated potential for the World Championships. **Action: Chairman.**

b. Per Kjellstrom advised that Hundfjallet wished to hold the World Speed Ski Championships in 2011, and this was provisionally accepted by the Committee with the proviso about homologation outlined in Item 6f (above). The SWE federation would need to make an official candidature to the FIS, and the opportunity remained open for other organisers to propose their candidature until an organiser had been accepted by FIS Council. **Action: Per Kjellstrom.**

c. The Committee expressed their appreciation that organisers were coming forward earlier, and hoped that we would also have a bid for 2013 in the near future; this message would be transmitted to all nations. **Action: All.**

## 9. Homologation issues

a. Akureyri (ISL) Christer Weiss had visited and homologated the speed ski piste at Akureyri in the North of Iceland. The dossiers were passed to the Chairman for signing, and then returning to FIS. **Action: Luc Cristina**

b. NZE Homologation The Committee had hoped to assist NZE in homologating a piste for a number of years. The case now lies with the NZE Speed Ski Committee to arrange a suitable occasion for LC to homologate their piste(s), and possibly to train 1 or 2 AUS/NZE TDs for speed ski events. Failing that, LC would be happy to welcome a trainee AUS/NZE speed TD to a European event and carry out TD training then. The Chairman was to advise NZE that the 'ball was in their court'. **Action: Chairman, Luc Cristina**

c. Les Arcs LC had visited Les Arcs in the Summer, and had suggested 2 possible ways forward: they could either use the existing piste, but only up to a start level corresponding to 180 kph; or they needed a new



homologation for the full piste. **Les Arcs cannot presently be used for FIS events above 180 kph. Action: Jean-Lou Montes.**

- d. Other Pistes This year the circuit included both RUS and POL racers. There was an indication that RUS would like to homologate a piste in the future.  
(Cape Town) The Chairman advised that he had discussed with Harrachov (CZE) and Zakopane (POL) the possible use of the outrun of their ski flying hills as new pistes. Mr Sandor indicated that this would be very helpful to his racers and, additionally, the SVK federation were looking to develop a new racing resort on their side of the High Tatra Mountains.

#### 10. TD Working Group progress

As last year, it was proposed that all Speed TDs would meet at the time and location of the Autumn meetings, and discuss potential rule changes. All members were asked to send potential rule changes to LC well before that meeting. **Action: All TDs, Luc Cristina**

#### 11. Speed Rules

- a. New helmet design Philippe May had worked with Scott to try to produce a safer helmet, meeting CE 1077 norms. Scott had done research on suitable fixings and have produced a design, incorporating a face guard and attachment points for an outer aerodynamic helmet, which operates as required and which has been tested (eg during a fall by Douglas Hall) under race conditions. However, Scott are not able to produce these under CE 1077 standards, since the original helmet has been amended, and FIS, FSV and FSSV have signed a note accepting this limitation.

AM advised that an ITA manufacturer is prepared to homologate a full helmet, including screw fixing points, and Per Kjellstrom indicated that they also had a preferred manufacturer. From our point of view, we would be happy to work with any and all firms prepared to homologate a complete speed ski system. We do not wish to create a monopoly. ***It was agreed that:***

- 1. The Chairman would write to all SS nations advising that the competition to create a new helmet was open to all.***
- 2. The Chairman would discuss the situation with the Equipment Committee.***
- 3. Alberto Monticone would produce a form of words for the Committee to send to his ITA helmet contact.***
- 4. Both the original (40 cm) and new (48cm with suitable inner helmet) rules would continue for season 2008/9. Action: All***

- b. French Translation of Rules. The Chairman thanked JLM for having translated the rules into French, and advised that they seemed to be a good match, but that, as a non-native French speaker, he was not the

best person to judge this. **Action: Jean-Lou Montes will send a copy to Alexandre Barblan for him to comment.**

- c. Track lining proposal. The current rule requires small flags (pennions) or pieces of twig to mark the outside of the piste. A number of resorts had experimented with using dye instead, and the meeting accepted that this was a reasonable, additional alternative. It was noted that a specific snow dye – which did not cause melt etc – should be used, rather than a syrup or even wine! **Action: Luc Cristina and TDs to propose wording changes to rules for Autumn meeting.**
- d. End of timing marker. The meeting agreed that, to deter ‘hooking’ actions, the end of timing zone piste mark should be a number of metres (between 2m and 5 m) after the lower timing cells. **Action: Luc Cristina and TDs to propose wording changes to rules for Autumn meeting.**
- e. Waiting Time. Per Kjellstrom stated that, when races are disrupted for climatic or other reasons, athletes often have to wait at the start for a considerable time. He felt that they should be allowed to withdraw from the start point, back to the waiting area, and that the start process should then recommence once the problem had been resolved. **Action: Luc Cristina agreed to consider whether any rule changes were required.**
- f. Specific Rules for SDH category. LC felt that the SDH racers needed to have distinct rules about their element of the competition, since the difference in equipment and capability inevitably led to different processes – eg may need more lower start levels. He asked that all nations should consider whether specific SDH rules were required. **Action: All Nations.**
- g. Nations Cup Competition. It was agreed that the Nations’ Cup points should only be calculated at the last event of the season. JLM agreed to consider possible bases of calculation, which were as inclusive as possible – eg included Juniors, Ladies, SDH etc – specifically in a manner which would rank all competing nations. **Action: Jean-Lou Montes.**
- h. Resort Information. It was agreed that all WC nations/OCs should provide full information on their events for racers at least 4 weeks in advance of the event. **Action: Chairman to advise all OC.**

## 12. Sponsorship

- a. The Chairman advised that he had built a number of links with potential sponsors during the year, but had failed to convert any leads into action to date. Current leads included Husqvarna and Siemens. Per Kjellstrom advised that Intel (Sweden) had expressed an interest to Per Ahlbertz; the Chairman agreed that he would be happy to make himself available to meet Intel, or any other potential sponsor, as needed. Again, all

members were asked to capitalise on any sponsorship opportunities.

**Action: Chairman, Per Kjellstrom and All Members.**

- b. AM advised that an ITA manufacturer – LISKI (see [www.liski.it](http://www.liski.it)) - had offered to practical sponsorship for the Speed Ski WC circuit. Specifically, they had indicated that they might provide safety netting and supervisory manpower. They will need to know the length of B netting for each location, and their representative, Diego Parigi, would meet the Chairman in Cape Town. **Action: Alberto Monticone, Chairman.**

*(Cape Town)* The Chairman had had a meeting with Dr. Diego Parigi on Tuesday 27 May, in which Dr Parigi had further outlined his concept, which was to make a quantity of netting available (in each country where they had representatives) from whence it could be transported to the resorts in turn. Further details and discussions were needed, and the Chairman had advised that he would be happy to travel to meet LISKI Board members if that would be helpful. **Action: Chairman.**

### 13. Any Other Business

- a. Pal Proitz (NOR) had expressed an interest in becoming a candidate Speed Ski TD. **Action: Luc Cristina to liaise.**
- b. SWE had heard that NOR had the potential of a new Speed Ski piste. **Action: Per Kjellstrom would enquire and advise.**
- c. There were discussions over a new branding logo for S1 and SDH, incorporating some form of 'speed flashes', as in F1 racing.
- d. The meeting expressed the view that the event on the skijump outrun at Bad Mitterndorf had been a major media success, and recommended that further such locations should be identified and homologated. *(Cape Town)* See item 9d (above).

Alexandre Barblan informed the meeting that a website – [www.speedski-info.com](http://www.speedski-info.com) - had been created by himself and Michel Borland in order to act as a repository for all speed ski information, and encouraged members to provide them with information of specialist or general interest. **Action: All.**

### 14. Dates of next meeting

The next meeting would be held in Zurich, possibly on Sat 4 October 2008, and preceded by a meeting of the Speed TD Working Group on Fri 3 October.