

2009 IPC NORDIC SKIING SPORT FORUM MINUTES

Event: IPC Nordic Skiing Sport Forum Meeting

Date: 9 March 2009

Place: Mount Washington, Vancouver Island CAN

Participants	Name	Position	(Initials)
	Rob Walsh	Chairperson	RW
	Hans Peter Neeser	Head of Technical Control & Officiating	HP
	Anne Lannem	Head of Classification	AL
	Kaspar Wirz	Head Competition Biathlon	KW
	Tor Undheim	Head of Competition Cross Country	TU
	Eric Angstadt	IPC Winter Sports Manager	EA
		NPC Representatives	
Not Present	Sandy Metzger	Vice Chairperson	SM

Purpose of the Meeting 2009 Sport Forum Meeting

**Executive
Summary/
Main
Outcomes**



AGENDA

Event: IPC Nordic Skiing Sport Forum Meeting

Date: 9 March 2009

Place: Mount Washington, Vancouver Island CAN

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Adoption of Agenda**
- 4. Adoption of Agenda Open Forum 2008 Nes, NOR**
- 5. IPCNS STC Reports**
- 6. Vancouver 2010 PWG Qualification Criteria**
- 7. Calendar Planning 2009/2015**
- 8. Rules and Regulations Matters**
- 9. Motions from NPCs and STCs**
- 10. IPCNS Business Planning Overview**
- 11. Closing**



SUMMARY

1. WELCOME

Rob Walsh welcomed all NPCs and presented the STC Members.

STC Members

Present

Rob Walsh (USA) Chairperson
Hans Peter Neeser (SUI) Head of Technical
Control & Officiating
Anne Lannem (NOR) Head of Classification
Kaspar Wirz (CAN) Head Competition
Biathlon
Tor Undheim (NOR) Head Competition Cross
Country Skiing

Not present

Sandy Metzger (USA) Vice Chairperson

IPC Management

Eric Angstadt IPC Winter Sports Manager

2. ROLL CALL

13 Nations present plus Korea (KOR) present as a new member.
Unanimous agreement to welcome Korea.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

<i>Discussion</i>	New agenda to be adopted
<i>Decision(s)</i>	Poland seconds motion to adopt. 12 in favour.
<i>Action(s)</i>	



4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES IPCNS OPEN FORUM – NES, NORWAY 2008

<i>Discussion</i>	Meeting of 12 nations to discuss items. Move to adopt minutes as official. France seconds
<i>Decision(s)</i>	Motion passed with 11 in favour.
<i>Action(s)</i>	

5. IPCNS STC REPORTS

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>AL: Gives presentation summarizing Clasification for 2009 Suggests again to provide ideas from here to Vancouver. Clarification for R or protest under exceptional circumstances Correct to 79% for Sit skiers Questions? RUS: Will there be reconsideration of Percentage System for each class? AL: Yes, after Vancouver. FRA: Do you begin process now to apply right after Vancouver or begin the review the process after Vancouver? AL: In a way we will start now to develop a new approach, but we will not classify athletes in another system before Vancouver. JPN: What exactly will be the protest Procedure. AL: Right now there is a time limit until after classification for protest for your own athlete. Then there is the 1st appearance where other teams could protest other athletes. The exact procedure will be released in good timing before next season. UKR: Which are the classes more difficult to reconsider fo rpercentage review. AL: Difficult to respond, many varieties in classes, it is a challenge. Maybe in the future we can do research and comparison with able body athletes. RUS: Before Torino, percentages were changed for some classes. Why will it not change before Vancouver? AL: We want a stable system for you to know it will not change and will be better for the athletes.</p>
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KW: Gave presentation on Biathlon. Motions will be brought up later to deal with the issues of pursuit format and .22 caliber rifle.

TU: Gave presentation on World Cup competition. Gave a look at the calendar for the future and talked about a survey that will be done to help make competitions better in the future.

HPN: Gave presentation on TD development. Asks nations for nominations of people who would like to be IPC officials.

RW: Gives STC Chairperson report.

Decision(s)

Action(s)

6. VANCOUVER 2010 PWG QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

Discussion

RW presented information about the Qualification Guide for PWG 2010.

This was added to the agenda because of the discussion with nations during and since the World Championships in Vuokatti.

2010 PWG Qualification Guide was published last April. It is based on World Cup races and not World Championships. Comments would have been better before Jan 2009. Now it is best to move forward with what we have.

There are parts of the Qualification Criteria (QC) where you have enough provisions for Bipartite Invitation. Application that will be available for NPCs to apply for additional slots. For Torino all allocation slots for invitation were granted as it was under the Quota. We believe we will still be under the quota. If you have someone not qualified through WC but did participate at WCH we encourage you to send the forms. Reminded about the max quota for PWG.

BLR: What is the timeline for Bipartite?



	<p>EA informed the schedule as set forth in the QC.</p> <p>RUS: will the Bipartite limit count against the maximum quota?</p> <p>Answer: the QC allows for Bipartite to be done outside the quota, but this is the decision of the Bipartite Commission.</p>
<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	

7. CALENDAR PLANNING 2009/2014

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>TU: Described the calendar for the 2008/09 season in detail. He gives a more general view of the coming years until 2014.</p> <p>Japan asks if a rest day in Norway is possible. Answer: if everyone agrees, yes. Start could be on Dec 16.</p> <p>Finland: Is it better to start with classic in biathlon race due to waxing? Answer: Tor will ask this question in the questionnaire that is sent to the nations so there will be input.</p> <p>Austria: Is this schedule for PWG 2010 fixed, or will there be changes to the days/events? Answer: it's fixed.</p>
<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	<p>Tor will hand out a questionnaire with several items on it that will allow the nations to have input for future planning. It will be put in the mailboxes in the race office.</p>

8. RULES AND REGULATIONS MATTERS

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Discussion on the two items about clarification in terms of the timing systems, the decimal places used and truncation or rounding of decimal places during calculation.</p>
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<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	TU and HP to do the timing and make clarifications in the Rulebook.

9. MOTIONS FROM NPCS AND STC

<i>Discussion</i>	<p><u>MOTION 1</u> -Bulgaria.</p> <p>We would like to propose to IPC Nordic Skiing to consider the possibilities to organize International Youth Competitions and to renew the tradition to organize international training camps for young skiers. We think that more attention must be paid to young athletes and possibilities for their development with good coaches and specialist</p> <p>FRA second motion.</p> <p>RW: spoke to BUL – This is more of a suggestion than a motion.</p> <p>Lower level races in conjunction with camps would be preferred.</p> <p>Larspar Wirz and Sandy Metzger are working on the project for lower level races to be implemented and increased.</p> <p>USA: Is this a motion for something to be done?</p> <p>RW: it is more a request or recommendation from BUL to emphasize the need for this.</p> <p>KW: All present NPC's who have lower level races, we are working on a Super Cup, regionally. If the present nations don't know where these races are hosted we need to know, the STC can then step in to help the growth. STC needs to know where the potential is.</p> <p>Nations shall provide this info on regional races to Kaspar. No need for high level races but an opportunity for all athletes.</p> <p>FRA: what is meant by youth?</p> <p>RW: We should think in terms of sport development, not just age.</p> <p>RW: working group volunteers to develop this programme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wolfgang Egger (AUT) and Hideki Arai (JPN) volunteer
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TU to include in the questionnaire.

Vote in favor 14

MOTION 2 Canada

Modification of Appendix II: Biathlon Pursuit Format Formula and Final Entries (1.3.1.2.9 & 1.3.1.2.20-21)

This is an official motion to utilize a different formula for determining start times for the second race or final and in order to include as many athletes as possible, request the top 15 athletes (vs. 10) race the final and if the athletes are 30% behind the winner's calculated time (real time with %), those athletes start as a mass start.

Please refer to attached appendices for explanation, reasoning, examples and solutions..

Please note that this motion contains 3 ideas but since they all concern the one race format, it is submitted together.

Please feel free to separate each point and consider individually.

Norway seconds motion.

Vote: 2 in favor. 5 against.

Part 2:

HP: If we go from 10 to 15 how many lanes do we have? At the moment the rules says we have as many athletes in the final as lanes. If we say we have 10 lanes and allow 15 athletes, no lane assignment is possible which is important for coaches to place rifles.

NOR: Suggest to fill up is the way that IBU has done it.

Vote: 5 in favor. 7 against.

Point 3 - withdrawn.

MOTION 3- IPCNS STC

For reason of safety, a guide is allowed to hold the B Class athlete (one arm or one pole) on certain sections of the track which shall be clearly marked as described in Rule 316.4.

France second motion.

RW explains that this motion was discussed at last year's open Forum and was supported but nations wanted to vote again at the Sport Forum when there were more nations attending.

CAN: Our concern would be with the addition of



athletes using holding zones cause more congestion when there are other skiers passing.

JPN: If there are other athletes are allowed to hold, then that would change the percentage and give them another advantage.

RW: To change the percentage is not part of this motion but if it is something that you can consider when voting.

Vote: 11 motion passes.

MOTION 4 – IPCNS STC

**Change existing rule 340.1.8 to:
For the B1 class, a guide is obligatory. For B2 and B3 classes a guide is also allowed. A competitor may change guides if the guide has an accident or can not keep up.**

This motion was passed at the Open Forum last year, so it is withdrawn here.

MOTION 5- Japan

IPC Nordic Skiing will propel discussion and examination with INAS-FID regarding the possibility the re-inclusion an ID class in the future winter Paralympic Games.

France seconds motion.

EA explains that this issue is being worked on by the IPC Governing Board for all sports and cannot be acted on by IPC Nordic Skiing except to make a recommendation.

NOR: The thought is good, but if you ask the IPC athletes they are not in favor of this, they are top athletes. If we want to be taken serious by all athletes then this motion is not good. Going to make it more difficult.

FRA: I think that the proposal is right but in my understanding is that the STC should have a plan on how to do this if the Governing Board approves. FRA believes that the ID classes should have their own distance.

USA: In the US it would not make sense that we are the same thing. It would hurt a lot of the progress in integration with the able bodied. I disagree with going



any further.

FRA: Clarify that the INAS FID athletes are different from Special Olympics.

NOR: We have athletes that ski in the past when ID athletes were included, and they feel it is better now in IPC with better chances to train with able bodied.

USA: I also think that what we all want as nations is to have equality with the Olympic rings. This would be a wrong or a step backwards if we want the same acceptant or equality.

GER. Every nation has a different definition of ID.

There was no vote, since the STC has no authority to act on this motion.

MOTION 6 –Norway

IPC sanctioned Nordic Skiing events have a minimum age for athletes.

The age limit should be 16 years, as a minimum.

Canada seconds motion.

RW explains that the minimum age for the PWG is already set by the IPC at 15 so this motion needs to be re-worded. Norway formally willing to change that.

FRA. Each sport organizes its own minimum age. Each sport needs to decide what the minimum is.

NOR: Mainly the intention was for World Cups where even able bodied has a limit.

USA: IBU does not have an age limit. If you are training hard enough, and good enough, 15 is fair, but if they are good enough at 13 or 14 then they are helping the sport.

NOR: A comment on IBU, you have to be 16 or older to hold a rifle.

RW: When does this age limit take effect? It's important to know during/before the season.

FRA: If you define that the beginning of the season, the season changes. If you go by the date of birth, it will never change. The beginning of the season changes.



Norway. As long as your 15 before the Paralympic starts.

If someone's birthday is in the middle of the event, are they allowed to compete?

Norway. Has to be before the start of the event/competition.

The amended motion is:

At IPC Nordic Skiing World Cups and World Championships events, a minimum age for athletes should be defined. The age limit should be 15 years old before the start of the competition event as a minimum.

Vote: 14 in favor. Motion passed.

MOTION 7-Norway

Use of 22 cal. Rifle for LW classes in IPC sanctioned events

Canada seconds motion.

KW stated that this question was included on the Biathlon survey completed in Vuokatti and only 5 nations were in favor.

NOR: How many countries are not allowed to use 22? Answer: France. Italy, Japan, Russia, Slovakia.

Vote: 5 for it. 9 against. Motion did not pass.

MOTION 8- Russia.

Entry for relay race should be submitted before team captain meeting. Final confirmation with mentioning names and stages should be submitted 2 hours before start.

Ukraine seconds motion.

Vote: 10 in favor. Motion passes.

MOTION 9- Russisa

For sit-skiing competitions two tracks should be groomed always (also for classic style competitions).

Ukraine seconds motion.

Hans Peter. We always try to have two tracks for sit ski but we sometimes have to use the same course for standing. It is a problem when we have free and sit skis at the same time. We tell the organizer we



need to tracks, but sometimes it is not possible.

UKR: We think that we need to define the minimal distance between two tracks.

CAN: I support this principle but some organizers may be unable to host our events with this restriction. The usual distance is 1.2 meters between tracks.

Russia withdraws motion and instead puts forth the following recommendation which is supported by the nations:

Whenever possible, with a minimum distance of 1.2 meters between the tracks, for sit-skiing competitions two tracks should be groomed always (also for classic style competitions).

MOTION 10- Russia.

During the race running should be on the right track. Athlete is not obliged to give the way to other competitors on the right track.

No nation seconds the motion, so it is not brought to vote.

MOTION 11- Russia.

The left track is only for passing. The athlete is obliged to give the way on the left track to other competitors who are faster than he/she and who pass and overtake him/her. The athlete is not allowed to make hindrances for athletes who pass and overtake him/her.

HP: If we follow FIS rules, you have to give way. For sit skiers, some can not give way.

Recommendation to leave it as FIS. If not, it could be a disadvantage for an LW10 having to go back to right track.

RUS withdraws this motion and we follow FIS rule.

MOTION 12- Russia

In case of refusal to give the way on the left track and making hindrances for athletes who pass and overtake, the penalty should be in the form of one minute additionally.

No nation seconds the motion, so it is not brought to vote.



MOTION 13- Russia

To include biathlon relay into the program of IPC competitions.

Canada second motion.

At the Paralympics, we are not allowed to add an event.

NOR: Adding in is okay. But replacing another event is not okay.

RW: This would be a recommendation to STC to work on inclusion for the Program in the future.

TU will include this in the survey.

Russia agrees. No vote is taken.

MOTION 14- Russia

Biathlon pursuit. Zeroing should be arranged before the prologue. Before finals one more zeroing should be arranged mandatory.

Ukraine seconds motion.

HP: We did that last week in Whistler. It turned out very well. Has no big influence of the schedule. It's good the way we did it. That the bib number gives you the lane but I don't see another possibility of seeing who is zeroing in each lane. I would like to ask Russia for a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes.

Russia accepts the amendment and the motion now states:

Biathlon pursuit. Zeroing should be arranged before the prologue. Before finals one more zeroing should be arranged mandatory. Zeroing time before the finals will be a minimum of 20 minutes and max 30 minutes.

Vote: 13 in favor. Motion passes.

Motion 15- SUI

The inclusion Criteria as mentioned in the Classification Handbook under LW 9 for standing athletes should be added in the Handbook for sitting athletes (LW10-12) as well.

France seconds motion



HP explains from his discussion with the Swiss (not present):

For some standing athletes it is possible to merge two different disabilities and get a specific percentage.. Why is this not also possible for the sit skiers? N\To create a new class with special characteristics? It has not happened yet at international level that someone needs this, but it could.

Vote: 9 in favor. Motion passes.

RW explained that this will not be able to be implemented till after Vancouver for the reasons explained at beginning of Forum that major classifications changes would not be made.

Motion 16- Ukraine

Add the following to the Rules of Biathlon Pursuit and CC Sprint Competition Format: "Copies of start lists for the finals must be distributed among participating countries at the same time when bibs for these finals are received."

Norway seconds motion.

Vote: 13 in favor. Motion passes.

Motion 17- Ukraine

Change wording of IPC NS Classification Guide (LW8 class profile) as follows: "Athletes in this class will be strictly forbidden to use affected arm to assist poling or paddling."

The reason for this inquiry is the difference between functional possibilities of this affected for two athletes those were classified as LW8 athletes but have different impairments. One of them can use his affected arm and assist poling and paddling and the second one can be an amputee just few centimeters below the elbow.

In that case the first athlete gains advantage not only due to movement of his affected arm during the race and better balance but also because of the reason that he is allowed poling and paddling.

Italy seconds motion.

RW: if passed, this motion could be in the rules next year.

NOR: why can this be changed and not the one in motion 15? Answer: this change does not affect how the athlete is classified or the result of



classification.

HP: this is about technique and not classification.

JPN: in favor of the motion.

RUS: Maybe a creation of a third class would be best?

RW: This idea is not part of this motion as of now.

Vote: 12 in favor. Motion passes.

PROCEDURAL MOTION 1

The Sport Forum request that the IPC contract to have a professional timing and results crew attending all World Cup events to improve the accuracy and speed of results posting.

RW mentioned that discussions were taking place to contract with Per Starheim for this purpose. Per has done an excellent job in the past at some events for IPC.

Voting 14 in favor Motion passes.

PROCEDURAL MOTION 2

Clarification to Rule 8.3.3 of the Rulebook (Biathlon) to address specifically B athletes without a guide:

Position in Shooting Lane

The competitor must ensure that no part of his body or equipment protrudes over the 1.5 m red lines marking the shooting lane, or the extension of those boundaries, while shooting.

B 1 – 3 with Guide:

The guides have to take the poles of their athletes while the athlete is shooting.

LW 10-12 / LW 2-9 / B3 without Guide:

In general Poles do not have to be taken off. If the poles are interfering with other lanes, the athlete can be enforced by an official to take it off.

Finland seconds motion.

Voting 14 in Favor. Motion passes.

OTHER COMMENTS:



	TU to include in the questionnaire: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Volunteers needed to look at a new Relay format for future events.- FRA suggests to include questionnaire about the possibility of requiring the LOC to provide waxing services for all teams at an event.
<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	

10. IPC BUSINESS PLANNING OVERVIEW

<i>Discussion</i>	EA gave a presentation regarding the IPC initiative on Sport Business Planning that affects all sports, including Nordic Skiing. The goal is to create sustainable independence for each sport.
<i>Decision(s)</i>	
<i>Action(s)</i>	

11. CLOSING

RW Thanks everyone for a cooperative and productive Forum.