2023 Snow Sports NZ Alpine Forum Minutes

Sunday, 22 October 2023 10:00 am

pride and represent new Zealand well.

Meeting Subject: Snow Sports NZ Alpine Forum Meeting Date: 22/10/2023 10:00 am Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting In attendance: Nic Cavanagh, Jono Howson, Hannah Hazeldine, Jesse Teat, Erika Harris, Fiona Boyer, Sarah Aston, Margy Pohl, Peter Jackson, Toby Arnott, James Lazor, Patrick O'Reilly, Scott Bradley, Melanie Souter, Yulia McKenzie, Tim Wilkins, Celine Arnold, Debbie Nelson, Carl Nelson, Grant Harris, Christopher Smith, Brenner Yamada, Jessica Schalberg, Adrian Farnsworth, Dave Grogan, Duane Barakat Apologies: Flick Wallace, Joanne Watterson, Cameron Wilson MINUTES 1. Welcome, opening of the meeting by ASC Chair, Jono Howson 2. Welcome and report from Snow Sports NZ CEO, Nic Cavanagh Thank you everyone for attending this Alpine Forum I would like to start by thanking NZSki, Coronet Peak, the Remarkables and Mt Hutt for their continued support. NZSki are the home of alpine ski racing and we are very fortunate to have their support throughout the season. This season was challenging with a low tide and a late tide but it's a credit to the clubs and resorts that we were able to still hold majority of our races. One of the big things we are looking forward to in early 2024 is the Youth Olympic Games and at this stage NZ Alpine has 1 mde and 1 female quota spot confirmed for the games, and we have 6 athletes competing to qualify for these spots. The nominations will be put forward in early December for the NZOC to then make their selections. Another piece of work underway at the moment is a refresh of the Alpine strategy. This will kick off in early November and you should expect to see some work come through by the end of the year for further information and consultation. This will be looking at some of the challenges we faced this season and how to best position Alpine the best that we can moving forward and make it fit for purpose into the future. A lot of work is already underway and we have received a lot of feedback already around pathways and around structure. Once we get the Alpine strategy refreshed we have commitment from the Snow Sports NZ board to make some structural changes which will bring on more resource. We are contingent on getting our strategy right and then recruiting and bringing on more human resource to deliver that strategy. Another piece of work that we will be looking at is the incorporated societies act, we have until 2026 but the work will get underway in the next year. This will flow on from our strategy work as with the incorporated societies act we will have to make some subtle tweaks to our constitution, and depending on where we land with the alpine strategy work we may be making further changes to our constitution. That also sits across the integrity framework that is coming to be in early 2024 and locks at just how our sports works with members and works with good safeguarding and practices for our sport. Thank you to the ASC for all their hard work, to all volunteers and ROC's from the clubs and resorts thank you for your hardwork and commitment, the sport wouldn't be what it is without your collective volunteer effort. Jono and Hannah thank you for your stewardship and leadership in the alpine space. Once we have the refreshed strategy I look forward to boosting our resource. And finally wishing all our athletes heading to the northern hemisphere all the best. Ski fast, ski safe and go and compete with

3	Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Alpine Forum held online, 30th October 2022.	Jono Howson
	Peter Jackson requested an update on the 'Whole of Sport' review.	
	NC: it was presented to Sport NZ in January and resulted in the 'strength and adapt' funding for the Maunga Wahine project.	
	9-10 November for the Alpine re-strategizing and this will be shared wider pre-Christmas.	
	The minutes were approved by Peter Jackson and seconded by Patrick O'Reilly.	
5	Report from the Alpine Sport Committee	Jono Howson
	ASC Workstream 2023	
	2023 ASC Alpine ReportOctober 22nd 2023	
	Jono Howson, Alpine Sport Committee	
	Our 2023 domestic season is behind us. The October Ski Team selections are about to be announced and Alice Robinson, one of	
	the first of the NZL FIS cohort to re-establish in the northern hemisphere, is in final preparations for Soelden next weekend. Our expanding FIS cohort of athletes are on the move all over the world. Some are already in place in Austria, the US and Canada,	
	others about to return to Europe and North America shortly.	
	We have had a good season in New Zealand for our Youth, National Points, and FIS athletes. We have had large fields,	
	Whakapapa returned to hold races, our FIS cohort performed well, we had minimum points races at the ANCs with an exceptional field of international athletes that came to New Zealand.	
	It was however, a close run thing. We are reminded that the season started very late and collapsed into an even shorter period	
	than usual placing considerable strain on resorts, ROCs, and clubs. Despite these strains the NZL Alpine community rallied and we	

need to acknowledge the commitment from all the people involved, both professionals and volunteers, that make it happen. Without strong well supported clubs and the volunteers involved, as well strong supportive resorts there would be no ski racing – period.

The ASC met again last week for the first time since May and picked up where it left off. This group does not meet in seasonas most of us are embroiled in the season putting in place what has been decided from October to May each year in advance of the next season.

We do have our ongoing challenges as well. Rules and criteria change in response to considerations around safety and fairness, taking part is expensive, insurance premiums for travelling athletes have a huge impact on budgets post covid, the sport is under resourced and the work with the community and SSNZ to establish a coherent strategic pathway for the sport is ongoing. At a technical level the ASC with SSNZ provide shape and order to the community around engagement with the FIS, calendar, rules, timing and TD education and support to clubs and resorts within our means in season and a range of leadership roles to provide support for an increasingly large number of people that love and take part in Alpine ski racing. One thing we can all agree on is that although the season is short New Zealand is a world class destination with a vibrant and knowledgeable racing community.

at concludes my report
Rules Proposals for consideration by the ASC
6.1 Wanaka Snowsports Club supported by Michael Bushell, Alpine Timing
WSC Rule
Change Pr
Note: This proposal was discussed at the TD Forum and was unanimously supported by the TD's. Fiona Boyer, as the TD for the event which was impacted this season. Notes that this has been an recuring issues and is
support of this change Jesse Teat: Notes this issue can happen where variation in course set causes widely varying run times.
ightarrow The support will be noted and the proposal will be brought to the ASC.
6.2 Tim Wilkins- QAST Proposal for a NZ National Youth Series in addition to the NZ National Youth Championships.
One of the open debatable topics in my proposal is what and how many races count. Basically there are 6 race at the 3 large resorts plus another 2 races at another South Island resort and 2 races in the North Island, total 10 races (single run races). That is why I have proposed your best 5 races count meaning you don't have to go to Ruapehu and you may not need to go to Dobson but if you want to get some good points or you bomb out you could go to Dobson. The North Island skiers have the opportunity to gain some points at their local field but they must also turned up to the South Island. South Islanders have the opportunity to go to the North Island to try an pick up some points as well. However based on 5 races the lion share can be picked up at the 6 main races.
Not too sure whether you go deeper with the points scaling but however given our smaller fields I think down to is fine.
We need to have as many athletes turning up to the races for competitive reasons and also fun and companionship reasons. This year felt quite isolated between clubs and resorts particularly with the cancellation of the last race and Mt Hutt not turning up to Coronet Peak.
RDF
New Additiona
Proposal is for a NZ Youth Series reintroduced. But with a drop system so that missed or DNF race can be discounted. i.e best 4 out of 6.
The series aspect is proposed to boost race attendance, more peer to peer racing, and an effective youth select ranking system.
Notes below are the responses to this proposal.
Notes below are the responses to this proposal: From the Wanaka Snowsports Club
• The WSC oppose a change to WC points (its unanimous)
• The WSC would like to stick with the current NP system

- WC points would not truly reflect performances. A win by 0.01 would be reflected the same as a win by 10 seconds.
- WC points would not take into account the level of athletes in the field therefore making an assumption all races are the same standard.
- Working in line with FIS points whilst still allowing the 1 run race system allows for athletes and parents to become

accustomed to how FIS works which is bette	r, but still gives them	opportunity to race.
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- NP's is in line with what most other countries do in youth racing.
- It is a change towards FIS compared with Interfield racing.
- NP's encourages the athletes to give everything to each individual race with less concern about a DNF
- Chopping and changing the system becomes confusing for athletes and parents.

From James Lazor - Dobson Ski Club

• In favour on driving a series so that Mt Dobson can invest in their event with the guarantee that athletes will attend.

From Duane Barakat, Northern Ski Team

- in favour a series if Whakapapa is in consideration.
- The series keeps the motivation for the athletes and keeps them committed to competing.
- How we build it out will be really important, which resorts are involved, which discipline counts. Injuries, cancelled races etc how will it be structured.

From Margy Pohl - cautions that a series does imply significant travel cost for parents.

Fiona Boyer - questions if are we preparing athletes for FIS or just maximising participation? The cumulative series points does encourage race chasing.

Jesse Teat - this doesn't have to be applied for team selection. It is just to boost participation.

Paddy O'reilly - travel and cost are a major factor. They are already racing a lot in the southern lakes to force it isn't the right move.

★ Strong views on both sides. No consensus from the forum attendees. the proposal will be brought to the ASC.



Jesse Teat: The National Points system does manage the varying course, the varying field qualities, athletes with no points. JT feels we should be using National Points as our ranking system.

Jono Howson notes that a WC points system inherently need head to head racing to function well.

Fiona Boyer: this should be part of the SSNZ strategy and what is right for the sport. We have tried both ways over the years, this issue calls on the ASC and SSNZ to decide based on the strategy.

Toby Arnott and Peter Jackson were also in support this sentiment	
Duane Barakat notes he is in favour of limiting the quota of overseas athletes.	
Peter Jackson: would WC points be applied to only NZ athletes? POR: WC could be won by international athlete but would be discounted from the list when considering rankings.	
7. 2024 Draft Calendar	
At the point in time some dates are still to be confirmed. Dobson, Whakapapa, Snowplanet, Aus ANC, Para-Alpine.	
MP: for the FIS athletes, with Wanaka FIS Tech, NC, ANC, Thai NC, NJC there is a lot of pressure on athletes to attend all these races. We may be looking at quite a small field when it comes to the NJC. The Juniors will want to race for points at the Thai NC. Would it be possible to have the NC at Hutt to include Super G?	
8. Any other business	
PJ: Homologation of super G at Coronet Peak? Is it current, will it be possible going forward.	
BY: 18 women and 18 men in the last race. It isn't viable to put the closures in place for this level of participation.	
DB: who makes up the current ASC? When is an election due?	
JH: There was due to be a change to the constitution which would have affected what the ASC's function is and how that groupis decided upon.	
JH Thanks everyone for their welcome and valuable contributions to the sport and to this forum. Meeting was closed at 11:53am	