

## 2024 Snow Sport NZ Alpine Forum Minutes

*Date: 3/11/24 - 1pm, hosted online*

**Attendees:** Jono Howson (JH), Erin McNary (minutes), Nic Cavanagh, Rob Sweet, Jesse Teat, Toby Arnott, Margy Pohl & Pedro Jackson (M/P), Patrick O'Reilly, Paul Lockey, Elle Coberger, Carl Nelson, Pete Wakefield, Celine Arnold, Flick Wallace, Chris Mosead, Andrew Liu, Jane Patterson, Erika Harris, Adrian Farnworth, Duane Barakat

**Apologies:** Dave Grogan, Hannah Hazeldine

Topic	Minutes
1 Meeting opened - ASC Chair	
2 Minutes of the online Alpine Forum held 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2023.	JH- provided summary of 2023 Alpine Minutes Moved by: Jesse Teat Seconded by: Patrick O'Reilly
3 Report from Alpine Sports Committee (ASC) Chair	Report included below– Jono Howson
4 2025 Draft Calendar	Jesse Teat – concern re: space between ANC Thredbo and National Chaps- 24hrs not enough time for athletes M/P and Paul agree, JH acknowledges concern and notes this is still in discussion
5 Strategy & Constitution 5.1 SSNZ Alpine Strategy 2032 5.2 SSNZ Constitutional changes 5.2.1 New Sport Committee TOR 5.3 Upcoming Sport Committee Elections	Item 5.1 has been given leave by board to proceed since Dec 2023. -In Feb 2024, key stakeholders met to discuss, and initial strategy competed in July -1 <sup>st</sup> consultation during season with key stakeholders -2 <sup>nd</sup> consultation now is occurring to previous key stakeholders as well as those who have indicated they would like to discuss this current version updates and comments from board feedback (will end Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup> ) -3 <sup>rd</sup> will go to wider membership and professionals Item 5.2- structural changes to make the strategy possible. This is due to address alpine structure and required incorporated societies requirements -at 2024 AGM, new structure was moved and approved in the Constitution Currently undertaking consultation for new technical committee, Alpine Technical Committee (ATC) and ASComm as a governance group will be established and replace the current Alpine Sports Committee (ASC). These will work with the SSNZ board.

	<p>Alpine members can expect to vote on an elected member to join the ATC.</p> <p>Action JH: Send strategy to: Paul Lockey, Pete Wakefield, Andrew Liu, Jane Patterson, Carl Nelson</p>
<p>6 2024 Rule Proposals</p> <p>6.1 U-14_U16 (3x)</p> <p>6.2 TD Expenses</p> <p>6.3 TD mandatory at JI</p>	<p>Item 6.1 - Patrick O'Reilly &amp; Elle Coberger: U14-U16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NYC, single run- Shared summary of how to improve youth skiing experience for athletes and parents at youth champs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Good discussion and supported by Pete, Flick, Paul, Margy, Pedro, Carl</li> </ul> </li> <li>- NYC/NP races to 2 days- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Flick noted concern that the calendar is too busy for postponement days, could we have billets for travellers?</li> <li>o Pete agrees that weekend races could help with cost</li> <li>o M/P note they like the cost reduction, but they have found longer races give opportunity to outlast bad weather and not travel to not race</li> <li>o Andrew likes the idea of the host mountain opening doors to visiting racer</li> <li>o Duane – asks SSNZ could we set up a working group about reducing cost barriers?</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Drop Super G from National Points Series- (note change during call that there could still be a SG race, but wants it pulled from NYC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o M/P note that we don't have SG FIS races, less required equipment saves money, but we have good pitches/speed camps are great</li> <li>o Duane agrees cost/safety is a barrier, but likes idea of optional SG camp</li> <li>o Pete- wants more training/safety requirements</li> <li>o Paul and Erika note that we can't just think only of cost</li> <li>o Discussion about the Youth Squad selection and the value of international FIS Children's races</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>TD Mandatory at Junior Interfields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elle, concerned we may be making them more technical and complex and with the level of kids races, we should be simplifying</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ M/P and Patrick – agree w/ Elle</li> <li>○ Flick- notes the value of having a TD to support the ROC</li> <li>- Jesse- note this rule is heavily based on the want to promote safety, could we increase training for ROCs on safety requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Toby notes the TDs had to do a lot of work on safety issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Chris- conscious we don't want to add costs to the event and notes these races typically have very experienced people</li> <li>- Margy notes that SSNZ/ROCs could add more training for volunteers and mtn staff</li> </ul> <p>TD Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Toby- it's a struggle to get new TD's involved, they need to take the day off work to support. It typically costs TDs money to be on mountain (travel, annual leave, lunch). Noting most TD's do not have children in the sport anymore</li> <li>- TD's have a lot of pressure on them for race day, so this would give small incentive</li> </ul> <p>Chris/Elle/ M/P/Pete, concern that this will add additional cost</p>
Any other business	<p>Pedro- one of the biggest stakeholders is athletes, keen to get them more involved in the forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JH - athlete voice is part of strategy and athletes are part of membership already invited to forum, but will look to see how we can encourage their attendance at meetings</li> </ul>
Next Meeting - TBC	Tentative 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2025

### **Report from Alpine Sports Committee (ASC) Chair (Jono Howson) for Alpine Forum 3 Nov 2024:**

*Good afternoon and thank you for attending the 2024 Alpine Forum. This report from the ASC is tabled at a time when there is real discussion about Mount Hutt re-opening in November. As with last year our unreliable winter weather has been a significant factor shaping the season we had – which can best be described as difficult. We had early snow and the promise of a good winter and then nothing until later in September. Regardless our resorts blew and pushed tons of snow to keep us all racing and with a great deal of shuffling around we got most of our calendar off.*

*On that note we'll start with a few thank you notes. First, to our domestic commercial ski areas that make it possible to put gates in the ground and cede space for racing and all*



*the work they do to prepare and make safe our training lanes and racetracks. I'd like to make a special mention to our SSNZ Alpine resort partner, NZSki Coronet Peak, who support our National Championships and ski racing in general through our NZSki Lane Agreement.*

*Next, I'd like to thank our Race Organizing Committees drawn from our domestic Alpine clubs and the enormous group of wonderful volunteers that make it possible to hold and run races – with a special mention to the ROCs from Wanaka Snowsports Club, Mount Hutt Ski Club and the Queenstown Alpine Ski Club. These are big, well run ROCS that operate with a high degree of professionalism in support of our athlete community.*

*Our cohort of national timers is growing providing arguably the vital service to our industry – increasingly more professional and dedicated to managing a complex technical activity in an unpredictable outdoor environment.*

*Our professional Programme Directors and the coaches they employ through their clubs both here and often in camps overseas are the cornerstone of technical and athlete development. They have a difficult job - they are teachers, role models, uber organisers and diplomats.*

*We also would like to thank and acknowledge the work of our National and FIS TD Commissions who guide us along with SSNZ and the FIS to support and lead races that are safe and fair in accordance with the rules of the sport.*

*And finally, an important thank you to our athlete parents who support the hopes and ambitions of our young athletes in a challenging sport (on many levels) and without whom progress is almost impossible.*

*Ours is a big complex and multifaceted community that must and largely does integrate well to come together on race day for what is still considered a niche sport in New Zealand.*

*There have been two significant developments outside of the usual give and take of the racing calendar and these are the implementation of Peak Respect/ Snow Pact and the progress with the SSNZ Alpine Strategy 2032.*

*Peak Respect is now fully integrated into the fabric of our sport, and it has been brilliant to see how our clubs have taken it on board and shared it within their communities. It has provided us with a platform for shared values in sport to support our young athletes.*

*The SSNZ Alpine Strategy 2032 is now in the second stage of consultation following revisions of the SSNZ constitution at the 2024 SSNZ AGM. This now allows for changes to Sport Committee Terms of Reference in each discipline, to establish a more professional technical body overseeing the sport and for a closer engagement with the SSNZ Board on Alpine strategy and development.*



*As of today, our New Zealand Ski Team athletes have been selected and most are travelling. This won't be news to anyone as we all watched Alice Robinson's great start to the 24/25 season at Soelden. The Ski Team is the largest we have had in a very long time as well as our active FIS Community. There is strong evidence that it will be even larger by the start of our 2025 Southern Hemisphere winter.*

*In closing we are looking forward to a busy Northern Hemisphere season, hoping for better more consistent weather for our own winter, an uptick in the numbers our National Points athletes coming from our clubs, and finally progress and implementation of a national strategy that sees SSNZ lead in the support and development of NZL alpine athletes on the competitive pathway.*