

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION

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Oberhofen, 07.10.2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**FIS MEDIA INFO****FIS establishes a new expert working group for Alpine technical equipment**

The International Ski Federation (FIS) is pleased to announce the establishment of a new working group for Alpine technical equipment. The working group was set up to act as an independent expert body to closely follow the evolution of alpine equipment which directly influences the evolution of alpine ski racing. It will act in an advisory capacity for the FIS decision-makers and as a source of new initiatives and ideas. Specifically the group will be focused on the impact of equipment on the safety of alpine ski racing.

With a high calibre membership, the new working group represents more than 150 years of recent practical experience in alpine ski racing, both from active competition and coaching. The working group consists of Pernilla Wiberg (SWE), Kjetil Andre Aamodt (NOR), Marco Büchel (LIE), Karl Frehsner (SUI), Charly Weibel (GER), and Toni Giger (AUT). Following an inaugural meeting of the group during the FIS Autumn Meetings in Zürich last week, the members decided that the group will be initially led by Toni Giger until their scope of work is fully defined.

In January 2006, FIS launched the FIS Injury Surveillance System (FIS ISS) in cooperation with the Oslo Sports Trauma Research Center (OSTRC) and with generous support from DJO (www.djo.eu), a global specialist in rehabilitation and regeneration products for the non-operative orthopaedic, spine and vascular markets. During the last four seasons, the FIS ISS has collected detailed statistics concerning the number and type of injuries at the highest level of FIS competition across FIS disciplines. Beginning with the 2009/2010 season, the FIS ISS has been augmented by an additional special research project being conducted by the University of Salzburg over a three-year period.

The expert working group for Alpine technical equipment will be working closely with the Steering Committee for the FIS ISS, chaired by Dr. Hubert Hörterer, also chairman of the FIS Medical Commission, and will coordinate with the Alpine Executive Board that is led by Bernhard Russi, Chairman of the FIS Alpine Committee.

Bernhard Russi commented: "We are very pleased to have the chance to leverage the collective experience of this new working group on issues related to the development of our sport, especially when it comes to safety matters and the equipment. The group represents an excellent mixture between science and practice, between experience and theory, and will surely serve as a valuable source of new ideas and advice for us in the future."

“The continuously high number of injuries in alpine ski racing remains a great concern for FIS. The new expert group will be an important counterweight to the scientific work already underway and will be able to help us with both short-term solutions and long-term strategies,” added Atle Skaardal, FIS Chief Race Director for the ladies Audi FIS Ski World Cup series.

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About FIS

Founded in 1924 during the first Olympic Games in Chamonix, France, the International Ski Federation (FIS) aims to promote the sport of skiing and snowboarding and directs the development of all ski and snowboarding activities world-wide. FIS succeeded the International Ski Commission (CIS) that was established during the first International Ski Congress held on 18th February 1910 in Christiania (later Oslo), Norway. 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of international skiing and sees the sport embarking into its second century.

FIS administers the Olympic disciplines of Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding, including setting the international competition rules. With the help of its 110 member nations (one currently suspended), it stages more than 6'000 ski and snowboard competitions annually. FIS also makes recommendations for recreational skiing and snowboarding in the interest of all and promotes play in the snow as a healthy leisure activity for children and the youth. For more information, please visit www.fis-ski.com.

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Additional information:

April 16, 2010: FIS ISS identifies strategies to reduce ACL injuries

http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/news/fisnews/fisnews.html?actu_id_444=3099&actu_page_444=1

Jan 22, 2010: FIS Injury Surveillance System: Special Project with University of Salzburg

<http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/news/pressreleases/press-releases-2010/fis-iss-specialproject-s.html>

Jan 13, 2010: FIS Injury Surveillance System: Next steps

http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/news/fisnews/fisnews.html?actu_id_444=2694&actu_page_444=1

Dec 11, 2009: FIS carefully following injury situation in Alpine Skiing

<http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/news/pressreleases/press-releases-2009/injuries.html>

FIS Injury Surveillance System 2006-2009 – Report

<http://www.fis-ski.com/data/document/fis-iss-report-2009.pdf>