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FIS MEDIA INFO

FIS Appeals Commission rejects appeal from French Ski Association against Sweden in Men's 4 x 10km Olympic relay

Pragelato, 22nd Feb, 2006/ -- The FIS Cross-Country Skiing Appeals Commission today rejected the appeal from the French Ski Association against the decision of the Cross-Country Skiing Jury that rejected a protest by France against Sweden in the men's Cross-Country Skiing 4 x 10km relay race on February 19th, 2006.

France, the 4th place finisher, had submitted a protest following the race against Sweden, the 3rd place finisher, claiming a failure by the 4th skier on the Swedish relay team to ski the entire marked course as required by Article 340.1.1 of the FIS International Ski Competition Rules (ICR, edition 2004) and asking the jury to disqualify Sweden as per Article 392.3.

The Cross-Country Skiing Jury met to review the evidence and discuss the merits of the French protest immediately after the race, and decided unanimously against the protest. The Jury decision was based on Article 223.3.3 stating that a competitor shall only be disqualified if his mistake would result in an advantage for him with regard to the end result.

On 20th February, 2006, France decided to appeal the decision of the Cross-Country Skiing Jury. According to the FIS Rules, the French appeal was handled by the FIS Cross-Country Skiing Appeals Commission, consisting for this case of Christian Egli (Commission Chairman - SUI), Uros Ponikvar (SLO) and Al Maddox (CAN). Based on a review of the documentation and the audiovisual evidence for the case, the Appeals Commission today upheld the Jury decision from 19th February. The rationale for the Commission's decision relative to ICR 223.1.3 and 223.3.3 was based on the following points:

- no advantage was gained, and in fact a disadvantage resulted since the athlete skied a longer distance due to his mistake;
- it was not intentional and the result of the competition was not affected by the mistake;
- no interference with other competitors resulted.

Based on this decision, the results of the men's 4 x 10km Olympic relay race in Pragelato Plan on 19th February, 2006, will stand.

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