Minutes Cableski World Council Meeting

Schloss Dankern / Germany, 24.9.2014 & Shanghai / China 04.10.2014

Participants:

Marie-Anne Persoons (MAP)
Elena Kunert (EK)
Maoz Tal (MT)
Martin Graw (MG)

Apologies from Stuart Marston (SM) – athlete’s representative

1. World Council

Colin Ellison has announced his retirement from the World Cableski Council and thus a new person from the Oceania Region needs to be found. MAP will contact Russel Morris to find a new member. With the fast growing development of Cableski in the Asian region the group finds it important to also have a member from Asia in our council. Paul Fong will be contacted to find a representative from Asia for our Council. As there is very little activity from the ‘named’ Panam members of our Council, we will look for new persons, Peter Person and Jose Antonio will be contacted to find members from Panam for our Council.

At the skiers meeting on Friday 26 September, Stuart Marston was re-elected as the Athletes Representative for our World Cableski Council.

1. World Cup – Cableski

The first World Cup Cableski will take place in Shanghai, China on October 3-5, 2014. This is the first World Cup and we do hope more will follow. Discussions were held with Uwe Goldstein, Cable Development Committee and Kuno Ritschard, IWWF President, to see what is needed in order to be able to convince potential World Cup organizers to add one or more of the events of 3-event Cableski into their World Cup stops.

Although we represent 3-event Cableski, it is not a requirement to have all three events organized in a World Cup stop. In Shanghai only Slalom and Jump will be organized. It is also no problem for us to have World Cups together with Cable Wakeboard, combining Cable Wakeboard with one or more events of 3-event Cableski is certainly possible and we believe it would create extra value to the competition.

The Council has explained to Uwe what the requirements are in order to be able to have 3-event Cableski organized. With our extra rules for competitions on all type cables, we have a lot more flexibility and it becomes a lot easier to have a cable set up for our events.

Discussions then started on what is needed or what can be done on a 2-pylon cable. Rules for competitions on 2-pylon cables exist and it would be great to see them happening, even if the first competition on a 2-pylon cable would be a World Cup stop. It is believed that 2-pylon cables can bring the sport much closer to the public, especially when the cable is in front of the beach as it is in Shanghai.

MG has been appointed as the spokesperson and first contact for our council for all World Cup matters.

The first World Cup in Shanghai was a good learning point in order to find out what is needed in terms of officials and what the better number of athletes should be. With a total of 10 officials (Chief Judge, Homologator, Calculator, Technical Officer, 3 Judges, Cable Operator, Speaker/press media person and a Technical person) we should be able to manage the competition. With this group we may do duplication of functions, but this is acceptable. As in the Shanghai stop, a total of 35 to 40 skiers for two events is perfectly manageable, we should aim for 12 to 16 skiers per category and event in the qualification rounds, saying one hour of competition per category and event. The finals with 6 women and 8 men, seems to be a good number. This way, including the presentation of the finalists, a final (women plus men) in one event does not take longer than 90 minutes.

1. Future of Cable

Lead by Thomas Bauer, a group of skiers, has made a presentation, called “Future Of Cableski” (FOC), with a forum on facebook where skiers could make comments. Unfortunately some skiers felt necessary to blame the council in a very impolite way for anything that does not goes the way they wanted. This is not in favor of the sport and will certainly not help the future of cableski.

In his presentation Thomas would like to change some of the formats of our competition, saying that this will save the future of 3-event Cableski. A lot of the changes that are proposed are already in our rules, but were never tried out. We really hope that with this movement, these changes will be tried out at future competitions. Though the changes proposed will not change the main issue, 3-event Cableski is facing. The issue is that for slalom or jump the cable needs to go at higher speeds and is not always liked or even allowed by the owners and the fact that again for slalom and jump, the cable runs for just one skier at the time, instead of multiple skiers when doing wakeboard or trick skiing or just the ‘tourists’. One skier at the time means lower income for the owner and thus not interesting for the owner. The 2-pylon system, once it works OK for slalom and jump will be the solution for this as on a 2-pylon system it is always just one skier at the time.

Thomas Bauer organized a meeting at the Cableski World Championships in order to explain his ideas. At this meeting is became clear that he focusses mainly on how we can organize more World Cups or say ‘start a Cableski Cash Prize Tour’. The Council is happy to see initiatives coming from the skiers, as this certainly make it easier to implement them. Working together in a positive way can only help our sport move forward and grow.

As the meeting was more a plenary session, it was felt not to be the place to make real decisions, and therefore the Council has invited Thomas to come with a smaller group (say 5 people) to come to the E&A Council meeting in November in Portugal, to further discuss the proposals and see what can be decided. It is felt that the E&A Council can deal with this also for World matters as all current World Council members are also member of the E&A Council.

1. Who-beats-who Ranking List (WBW RL)

After some years of working on an excel file to simulate a WBW RL, Manu Lion has now three proposals made for a WBW RL. Each of the three work on a slightly different calculation system. The WBW RL principle is that an athlete receives points according his placement in the competition and who he has beaten in that competition. The WBW RL does not need an homologation and thus placement at a competition with 4 slalom buoys can be compared to placement at a competition with 6 slalom buoys or placement at a slalom competition with just 2 pylons. With this type of RL, we can rank the skiers regardless the type of installation on which the competition was held and we can become more flexible with homologations. One proposal adds a weight for the competition into the calculation, so that e.g. a titled event will become more important than a small local competition. For all WBW RL systems it does count on who you beat in the competition, if you beat a lot of good, high level (ranked) skiers you will get more points, than when you beat just some starting skiers.

The aim is to have this WBW RL as “the” RL for cable and to have it on a 12 month rolling system. In addition to the WBW RL system itself we also need to decide the number of competitions that should be counted. We should not go too low in number of competitions as we want to encourage the athletes to take part in competitions.

1. Cableski World Championships 2016

Till last year Israel was the candidate to organize the 2016 Cableski Championships, though a change in the rules for funding for these competitions, makes it much less plausible. In order to get financial support from the government for a World titled event in Israel, a minimum of 20 countries participating is needed. This is difficult to get for Cableski as we do not have that many really active 3-event Cableski countries and it will not be easy to convince an ‘outsider’ to travel all the way to Israel to participate in this competition.

Best is to work on finding another organizer. The council will work with Uwe and Kuno to find an organizer for the 2016 Cableski World Championships.

Due to the side activities and the World Cup, this meeting was held in multiple stages.

Marie-Anne Persoons

President IWWF Cableski Council