

Update information 2025 On-Snow WCh/WM Røros Norway

Dear Members,

Council and I see an urgent need to give you the FACTS regarding the 2025 On-Snow WCh/WM Røros Norway since there have been rumors spread and emails circulating by an ex. Council member.

The main focus and the most important task for Council is to make sure that the championships that are approved will be organized well, safe and secure for both dogs and athletes and that the RGO follow and comply with all the IFSS Race Rules and regulations.

If we as an organization start to compromise and accept exemptions, it will end up in a big disaster. IFSS Rules and regulations have been approved by you, our Members. Therefore the Council will do all we can to live up to the trust we have been given by you.

Here is a short recap of what happened since the signatures were written on the contract January 27th 2024 between IFSS and NHF (Norwegian Federation) for the 2025 On-Snow World Championship and World Masters.

January: Contract signed and Council now looks forward to a great event and starts planning for the WCh/WM.

April: RGO asks for a change of date – this was approved and accepted by Council.

June 18th a letter with the request of an exemption for the mandatory rabies vaccination was submitted to the Council by the NHF president Frode Flathagen.

Council discussed at the July meeting and voted to NOT accept the exemption based on the fact that thousands of dogs from all over the world will be gathering in a very small area. Council also asked for comments from Animal Health and Welfare committee to weigh in on the decision made.

To be noted: Femundløpet AS requires mandatory Kennel Cough vaccination but not Rabies vaccination! All dogs have to be KC vaccinated to be able to start.

Rabies is a deadly virus for both humans and dogs! Cases occur in Europe and worldwide.

Rabies is NOT an animal welfare topic, but a HUMAN WELFARE topic. The dogs are only the zoonotic vectors of this always-fatal human disease!

September: Summer months go by and NHF Norwegian Federation did not respect and accept the decision from Council, instead they kept on pushing for the exemption to be accepted.

Council discussed and voted once again to stand by their decision NOT to accept any exemptions from the mandatory rabies vaccination.

October: NHF still does not respect the Council decision and they keep on asking for the exemption. They state that the Norwegian law is above the IFSS Rules and regulations and that the Norwegian law/regulation shall prevail. Council majority does not approve.

October 26th: NHF states in an email to IFSS that they consider the “case closed” and announces on social platforms and on Femundløpet website that NO rabies vaccination will be needed for dogs who reside permanently in Norway, Sweden or dogs who fly in from the UK . This is done without approval from IFSS.

November: Council meeting on Wednesday 6th and 7th. Hours of discussion and hardest pushing for accepting the exemption is Hernan Maqueira. One thing he forgot to inform you, the Members, is that he has close family hired by the NHF Norwegian Federation working for the 2025 On-Snow

WCh/WM project. This has made several of Council members to ask Hernan to step down from being part of the discussion regarding On-Snow WCh/WM due to conflict of interest and a possible breach of the Code of Ethics*. But Hernan did not consent to this, instead, he kept arguing and pushing for the Council to comply and accept the requests from Norwegian Federation.

*Note; November 12 I received confirmation from Legal Commission that the acting of Hernan was indeed a conflict of interest. It was a breach of the Code of Ethics that he has signed.

November 6 - 7th: After hours of discussion, Council decided to make a new offer to NHF. This document was presented to President Frode Flathagen and the NHF board, but the offer from IFSS was denied.

Friday November 8: Council receives an email with a request from Hernan Maquieira to accept his resignation from VP Development position.

Additional topics still not solved between IFSS and Technical Organization/NHF:

To make the situation even more confusing NHF/Femundløpet has continuously been posting news/information on social platforms/Femundløpet website without approval of IFSS, even though a mutual approval has been agreed on.

The F200 (Femundløpet) is NOT an IFSS Championship class and needs to be approved by both parties. This has not been done. F200 will have 60 entries and are already scheduled to start in the middle of the WCh program.

Femundløpet AS has been charging extra fees for those mushers who wanted a better starting position. This is totally against what IFSS stands for, you can't buy a better starting position in a World Championship!

Conclusion: Council is working hard to make this championship happen so that the event can take place following the Rules and Regulations decided by the Members of IFSS. An Event that athletes can join knowing that it is safe and secure for both humans and dogs.

Sincerely



Helen Lundberg
IFSS President
On behalf of IFSS Council

November 15, 2024