



To all ISMF stakeholders

Villanova M.vì, 31 January 2017

Dear Sirs

The episode of last week during the second ISMF World Cup individual race, finished with the disqualification of three athletes and the various positions that were written against the decision taken, gives the ISMF the occasion to invite all the people who freely wrote their ideas to reflect on some key points:

1. The Rules

When it was decided that ski mountaineering had to become a competitive sport and not only a leisure activity, it was necessary to write the rules as in all the other sports. Some of them were written to solve security problems, to avoid accidents (as the weight of the skies and boots, the use of crampons, the use of the rope...), others to reduce the risk of some too much competitive behaviour of the athletes, others to improve the quality of the races and others to protect the health of the athletes and increase the fight against the doping and, above all, to ensure equal conditions for all competitors.

The rules are the result of a long process that starts with a working group that, at the end of each year, analyzes what has happened during the season and proposes changes on that subject. These changes, in the end, are approved by the association members of the ISMF. In this democratic process, athletes are present because they have direct representation in the management bodies of the ISMF and in the working group that studies the proposals.

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The sporting rules are the law for an athlete or a coach; they have been written for the athletes and not against them.... and so they must be respected for the credibility of our sport.

2. The Referees

The ISMF Referees are a group of people with great skill and experience, who have attended the ISMF Referee Courses and Meetings and who train to maintain always a good level of professionalism, to serve at the best our sport.

The referees have the great responsibility to study the rules, to learn and to apply them in all the difficult and always competitive situations of a race, so their decisions must be respected. In any case if an athlete doesn't agree with the decision of a referee can make an appeal following the rules that are written and must be respected, as must be respected the referees who sometimes have to take unpopular decisions. This happens in all sports and if everybody has a look to a weekend of races can observe that.

3. The conclusion

The ISMF and our sport are in a very delicate moment. The decision of the PA to aspire to make our sport part of the most important sporting events in the world requires to all of us great concentration and attention to many aspects and the respect of the rules is one of them. The sad episode of last Saturday should not be repeated...

On the other hand ISMF is always working, through the committee and its members, on the improvement and on the assessment of the system: the Federation is also open to any discussion resulting from a responsible and fair confrontation and not from protest which is never carried out in the sport's sake.

THE ISMF