



The uniqueness of the IFSI

The uniqueness of the IFSI, the International Federation of Snowsport Instructors, becomes apparent with just one look at its statutes.

Statutes

Snow sport instructors teach within existing bodies (clubs, associations, institutions).

The mutual bond between snow sport instructors and their learners result in characteristic tasks which are not interchangeable. The activity of the instructor is usually not a professional one in the sense of a career.

The training of snow sport instructors concentrates on snow sports; it is supplemented by training in the fields of recreational pedagogics and health education.

Snow sport instructors fulfil their task in society in a co-operative partnership with professional snow sport-instructors and teachers in schools, as well as through their constructive collaboration within the International Association for Snow Sports Instruction.

§ 1 Name and registered office

The federation bears the name:

**Internationaler Verband der Schneesport-Instruktoren IVSI
(International Federation of Snow Sport Instructors IFSI).**

It shall be recorded in the register of associations. After the registration it bears the addition "e. V."

The federation is a member of the International Association for Snow Sports Instruction (Interski-International).

The registered office of the federation is Munich.



§ 2 Objective

1. The federation exclusively and directly serves public non-profit purposes in the sense of the section “tax privileges” of the German tax code of 1977 (AO 1977).
2. The objective of the federation is the promotion of the common good in the field of sports, particularly of snow sports.
3. The International Federation of Snow Sport Instructors represents the interests of snow sport instructors working for clubs, associations and institutions on the international level.
4. The statutory object is realised by:
 - a) the exchange of experiences in methodology, techniques, training science, organisation, protection of nature and the environment, safety in snow sports;
 - b) imparting new findings in recreational pedagogical, community-building and health-educational matters;
 - c) exchange of expert reports, expert papers and films;
 - d) organising international working group meetings and congresses.

This makes the IFSI one of the leading pillars in Interski.

The working areas outlined in the statutes describe our specific focuses. We view these focuses specifically as a supplement to those of the other two Interski pillars, the ISIA and the IVSS. Our aim is close cooperation between all three areas in the interest of snowsports.

Rivalry and competition are two definitely invigorating and necessary elements in free markets, of course, and this certainly applies to those engaged in snowsport instruction as well.

However, any thinking and action in these categories must always be guided by the interests of snowsports as a whole. So, if we think beyond the boundaries of our own association, we soon see other rivals entering the picture. Players in snowsports then find themselves in competition with a whole host of other sporting and leisure activities.

This being so, we view promotion of snowsport in its entirety as a higher-ranking aim than our own specific focuses.



The main projects in recent years

With this in mind, we have geared our work in recent years toward adapting the training, examining and further education of snowsport instructors not only to meet rising international expectations, but also toward creating internationally comparable standards. At this point I wish to explicitly thank the commission for training and examinations, headed by our German colleague Norbert Schied, which is doing an outstanding work. With a lot of questions to all our memberships he is working for a better transparency in volume and quality of education in snowsports.

This work is reflected in the new version of the framework guidelines and examination guidelines from which I wish to cite a few passages.

BASIC GUIDELINES

for the training; examination and further training of snow sport instructors

Ski instructors, snowboard instructors and instructors in other snow sports are teaching according to the standing rules of the International Federation of Snow Sport Instructors (IFSI) within existing bodies (clubs, associations, organisations). In the following, the term "instructors" refers to "trained and certified instructors in the disciplines alpine skiing, snowboarding, ski touring, telemarking, Nordic skiing and other snow sports".

The mutual bond between instructors and their learners result in characteristic tasks which are not interchangeable. Instructors must at all times be aware of the responsibility they assume and of serving as a role model.

The training of instructors concentrates on snow sports; it is supplemented by training in the fields of recreational pedagogics, community-building and health education.

PRÜFUNGSRICHTLINIEN

für IVSI Schneesportinstruktoren

Die Kandidaten die zur Schneesportinstruktorenausbildung antreten, müssen sehr gute sportliche und praktische Fertigkeiten verfügen und sowohl auf präparierten wie unpräparierten Pisten die jeweiligen Geräten beherrschen.

Die Prüfungsergebnisse sollen den Rahmenrichtlinien des IVSI Instructors und damit den internationalen Standards entsprechen.



Die individuellen Prüfungen und Tests sollen vergleichbar systematisch durchgängig gegliedert mit klaren Aufgabenstellungen versehen sein und sich an der Tätigkeit von IVSI Instruktoren orientieren.

With this new version of our framework guidelines and examination guidelines, we have significantly raised the level of our snowsport instructors. Account has also been taken of new social developments, for example sports and the environment, and of new findings in methods and didactics.

We are of the opinion that our training is now also on a par with the training schemes of other organizations.

Aims for coming years

At the recent IFSI congresses in Lech/Arlberg in 2005 and in Matraszentivan/ Ungarn in 2009, we adopted our new guiding principles, which outline our aims for work in coming years.

Guidelines

1. Information IFSI

- 1.1 - Keeps itself and its members informed about the latest standard of knowledge about technical, pedagogical and organisational developments in snow sport education
- 1.2 - Assists international exchange of experience through periodically arranged congresses
- 1.3 - Informs its members actively about current events influencing their organisation

2. Coordination IFSI

- 2.1 - Unites as a politically independent organisation all institutions who focus on non commercial education in snow sports
- 2.2 - Considers the interests of its members and their cultural characteristics



- 2.3 - Supports deliberately nations whose snow sport education is not integrated nationally and internationally

3. Education and Training IFSI

- 3.1 - Offers education and training in technical, pedagogical and organisational questions of snow sports
- 3.2 - Defines standards for education and examination of snow sport instructors
- 3.3 - Campaigns for high level safety standards in snow sports

4. Representation IFSI

- 4.1 - Represents internationally the interest of its members
- 4.2 - Takes influence on general conditions
- 4.3 - Comments from the view of snow sport on social, political and economical developments

5. Sustainability IFSI

- 5.1 - Pays specific attention to sport and nature
- 5.2 - Is bound to the values of a democratic society and takes responsibility for future generations
- 5.3 - Supports actively sympathy and acceptance for the practise of snow sports

At this point I would like to ask not only the Presidium and the Commission of the IFSI, but also all members and friends of the IFSI to play an active role in filling these guiding principles with life.



Der Präsident

Organization chart:

INTERNATIONALER VERBAND DER SCHNEESPORT-INSTRUKTOREN (IVSI)
 INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SNOWSPORT-INSTRUCTORS (IFSI)
 FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES INSTRUCTEURS DE SPORT DE NEIGE (FIIS)



Eine Nation kann nur durch einen Mitgliedsverband vertreten sein (siehe § 3 Statuten)

Delegiertenversammlung stimmberechtigt ist nur der Delegationsleiter jeder Nation (siehe § 9 Statuten)												
Mitglieder			Präsidium		Kassaprüfer		Kommission Ausbildung und Prüfung					
Belgien	Korea	Polen	Ehren-Präsident A. Siegert (DE)		K.Egri (HU)		Vorsitzender N.Schied (DE)					
Deutschland	Kroatien	Schweden	Präsident N. Barthle (DE)		M. Hendrickx (BE)		NN (AT)					
Dänemark	Liechtenstein	Schweiz	Vizepräsident H.P. Kunz (AT)				J. V. Gestel (BE)					
England	Montenegro	Serbien	Vizepräsident T.Fukuoka (JP)				Schweiz (CH)					
Frankreich	Niederlande	Slowenien	Ländervertreter JM .Villemain (F)				M.Seemann (S)					
Irland	Norwegen	Tschechien	Ländervertreter J. Kaliski (PL)				J. M. Villemain (FR)					
Japan	Österreich	Ungarn					NN (HU)					
							K. Zieba (PL)					
							Slowenien (SL)					
							Chris Exall (UK)					
							NN (DE)					

The situation...

It is not only the mild winters so far in the Central European area – without the last few years -that confirms our assumption that we have now been going through a phase of growing climatic warming for three decades already.



The glaciers in the Alps – as can be seen with the naked eye – are suffering considerable shrinkage. If this development continues, there will be hardly any glaciers left there in just a few years.

The situation for snowsport regions below 1,000 m is even more dramatic. Chronic lack of snow and temperatures that are too high even for any mechanical production of snow could be the scenario in the years to come. I don't believe that the very good situation we had in the last three years will be the normal case.

The most varied of theories exist about the causes of this trend. I do not propose to go into this discussion, therefore. Nor will I venture any predictions. The facts are there for all to see, however.

If snowsports are to go on having a good future, creativity and joint action are called for from all of us. In the Alpine area certainly, things could become more difficult. The solution cannot and must not lie in denial, but in moving closer together...

This is a major challenge for all snow sportspeople in Europe at least.

I see a further challenge for the countries of Europe in their demographic developments. Our societies are ageing, and there are fewer and fewer young people coming up. This results in ever-keener competition for young sportspeople. For snowsports, it is becoming more and more difficult to convince youngsters of their fascination. We can only tackle this trend by taking joint action.

Developments in tourism have long since started to reflect these changes. Anyone visiting a tourism fair today finds vacation offers that were unattainable or unaffordable just a few years ago, and subject to conditions that are in fierce competition with the offerings of our snowsport destinations. Especially for families, there are often completely new issues to be taken into account in holiday planning.

If you live in a "normal" family with two child, you must have a good deposit on your home bank for planning winter holidays. A lot of people are not able to do this. And if you are planning a competition sports career for your son or your daughter, you have to reserve 10 000 \$ every year as a minimum.

Will snow sports remain an activity for the many or revert to being an elitist sport for the few, as it was in the middle of the last century?

About these questions I would like to have an exchange of the best ideas with you.



This chain of questions could certainly be continued at ease and examined in greater depth. Still, I do not intend to spoil our good mood, but prefer to take an optimistic look into the future. We snow sportspeople live for the world's finest sport and find fulfilment in passing on its fascination. This is such a strong and unifying tie that we may confidently rely on its binding power.

We snow sportspeople are all in the same boat. Working against one another is not the way forward. Only by acting together can we master the challenges of the future.

Of course, every nation and every institution have their own interests and there specific themes. The teacher in professional ski school works in another way than his colleague in the university or in a ski club. But we all are only successful, if we develop snow sport to a further increasing discipline in a dramatically changing world.

And this is a part of our responsibility as ski teachers all over the world...

Thank you for listening