

## Questions for the working groups

### 1) **Ski sport for youngsters – school for life?**

- High-level sport is one of the best ways to teach discipline, goal setting and achieving, punctuality, commitment, dedication, personal management, organisation, respect for your opponent. These are things that are not part of traditional education but are vital qualities for working life.
- Skiing is special in so far as there is travelling involved with exposure to other regions or countries, languages, cultures much earlier than for normal students. However it is essential to use these opportunities and life experiences wisely.
- Studies show that youngsters have better social characteristics, are better than average in school and the qualities learnt in sport make them better employees – in many countries this is recognised positively in job applications

### 2) **Balancing demands of school and competitive sports?**

- Parents insist on youngsters schooling – rightly!
- Ski academies are an ideal solution, but such possibilities don't exist everywhere.
- In many countries schools will not give 'special treatment' to talented youngsters. However it can be possible to try and build up relations with the school for their support by enabling schoolwork to be done when the youngster is away training or racing. Support from the club or national association is essential.
- On-line learning is developing fast and will become an important element in the future.

### 3) **Limits for youngsters (e.g. how much training and how many competitions)?**

- Technical base is essential but competition is an important element to incorporate into training
- Coaches need to be committed to control the number of competitions youngsters and the amount of training that is relevant to the youngster (growth, personal development, schooling, etc.)
- Limits (FIS) help to keep racing 'special'

#### **4) Financing of Ski sport for youngsters**

- Financing is a challenge and the largest contribution comes from parents
- Personal enterprise is important to try to obtain local support from business, newspapers for publicity
- National Ski Associations should be encouraged that main sponsors of top athletes/teams are required to support youth activities (ask Pascal, Liechtenstein!)
- Sponsor events for charity and youth activities
- Former racers or personalities can assist with events and contacts to sponsors, business, etc.
- National Ski Association financial support can be used for financing youth activities – fight for it in your own association!