

To all members of FIPS



For the upcoming 24<sup>th</sup> FIPS World Congress at Riksgränsen, Sweden in April 2024 there are two issues we would like to highlight, as well as providing an update on the Congress program.

### **Congress date changed by one day**

This World Congress dates have had to be moved by one day and are now Sunday-to-Sunday (21-28 April 2024) as there are no Kiruna flights on Saturdays.

### **Congress Registration Process**

We assume that the primary reason you are coming to Riksgränsen is to take an active part in the congress program which does include some skiing. If not, then the FIPS congress is probably not for you.

Currently FIPS have 130 beds for the congress. There will be an initial block of beds available for patrollers. A separate block of beds will be held for the nominated delegate and associated nominated patrollers (official representatives) from National and Associate members but only until 30 September when all unallocated beds will be made available to all.

FIPS expects that all official representatives as well as patrollers will take part in all FIPS presentations and activities as well as being involved with the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). When registering please advise which SIG groups in which you will be participating.

Registration will open shortly. If you are an official representative, you will need your status to be confirmed by your patrol organisation.

### **Congress Program**

FIPS has the following SIGs: medical, avalanche, technology, risk management, disability, rescue dogs and FIS for collaboration with the International Ski Federation (FIS). As part of the congress program every SIG will have a specific time allotment to focus on their specialty.

The Medical SIG will focus on cardiac arrest and the latest in AEDs, the latest research on spinal motion restriction and psychological stress, the Avalanche SIG will have a full day of avalanche related activities and the Risk Management SIG will consider the theoretical and practical side of risks in the resort. The Rescue Dog SIG are looking to have some rescue dogs and their handlers and at Riksgränsen. The other SIGs are currently working on their programs.

We are inviting a number of specialist speakers from external organisation. There will be indoor presentations as well as practical workshops out on the mountain. On one day we will travel to Norway to ski in Narvik, just 40km from Riksgränsen by the Atlantic Ocean.

Any National members who would like to host a social evening during the congress should contact the FIPS Secretary to reserve a night.

FIPS looks forward to seeing you at the top of Sweden

Marie Nordgren  
President FIPS  
July 2023