

ALPINE

COMPETITION GUIDE



2013



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2013 USSA ALPINE COMPETITION GUIDE

On The Cover

U.S. Ski Team member Bode Miller

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Visit the USSA at www.ussa.org and FIS at www.fisski.com for current calendar information.

USSA KEY CONTACT DIRECTORY

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USSA Websites	www.ussa.org	
www.ussskiteam.com / www.usssnowboarding.com /		www.usfreeskiing.com
Sprint Snow News Hotline	435.649.6666	

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24-hour Travel Service	800.TEAM.SKI	worldtek@ussa.org
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Alpine Field Contacts

Field offices and contacts are the closest service point for all USSA members. Contact them for information on local and divisional/state and regional alpine programs.

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USSA National Office

USSA

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1 Victory Lane

Park City UT 84060

ALPINE IMPORTANT DATES

April 15	Deadline for FIS injury protection application (no exceptions are possible)
June 15	Deadline for corrections to USSA points and USSA injury protection application
Aug. 15	FIS Inscription - late fee applies after this date
Oct. 15	USSA membership renewal - late fee applies after this date
Dec. 31	Schedule agreements due - late fee applies after this date

2012-13 Alpine Points List Dates

FIS			USSA	
	Close	Valid	Close	Valid
1	June 28	July 1	Aug. 1	Aug. 1
2	Aug. 28	Aug. 30	Sept. 2	Sept. 6
3	Oct. 14	Oct. 18	Oct. 21	Oct. 25
4	Nov. 4	Nov. 8	Nov. 11	Nov. 15
5	Nov. 25	Nov. 29	Dec. 2	Dec. 6
6	Dec. 16	Dec. 20	Dec. 23	Dec. 28
7	Jan. 6	Jan. 10	Jan. 13	Jan. 17
8	Jan. 27	Jan. 31	Feb. 3	Feb. 7
9	Feb. 17	Feb. 21	Feb. 24	Feb. 28
10	Mar. 10	Mar. 14	Mar. 17	Mar. 21
11	Mar. 31	Apr. 4	Apr. 7	Apr. 11
12	Apr. 21	Apr. 25	Apr. 28	May 2
13	May 12	May 16	May 19	May 23
14			May 31	July 1

Important information on list dates and registrations

To assure that your membership is processed before any list, your membership materials must be received by USSA at least seven days prior to any closing date. Registrations are not considered received until they are complete. USSA is not responsible for late, lost or misdirected mail. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that his or her USSA and/or FIS membership/registration is received; you can contact USSA member services to check the status of your application 435.647.2666 or membership@ussa.org.

Athletes with a valid USSA competitor membership may register with USSA for FIS at any time during the season. A fee of \$70 will be added to the FIS registration fee for any registration received after Aug. 15 of the competition season. Athletes will appear on the next available FIS list after their registration is received and processed.

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 2013

CHAPTER 1 GETTING STARTED



The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) is an Olympic sports organization and parent body for the U.S. Ski Team, U.S. Snowboarding and U.S. Freeskiing. It is driven by a vision to be best in the world in Olympic skiing and snowboarding with an emphasis on building character through personal values. The USSA's mission is to provide strong leadership that establishes and supports athletic excellence in accordance with the USSA core values.

Thank you for your participation in USSA programs. The USSA provides opportunities for athletes to develop their skiing or snowboarding skills in a competitive and educational environment. Use this guide as a roadmap to USSA programs, rules and rankings.

The USSA's programs provide education, skill development and competition opportunities for young athletes with grassroots USSA club programs up through national teams and the Olympic Winter Games.

The USSA supports athletic programs in skiing, snowboarding and freeskiing disciplines. Local USSA clubs make up over 425 professional coaching outlets for athletes and logistical support for competitions. USSA clubs, with both professional staffs and local volunteers, comprised of about 30,000 members, are the backbone of the USSA supporting individual athletes and managing most of the USSA's over 4,500 domestic competitions. In the 2011 season, our resort partners, clubs, officials and volunteers hosted over 4,500 domestic competitions where more than 150,000 athletes went out of the start.

Services provided by the USSA are based around the three "R's": rules, races and rankings. Rules are established to ensure a consistent and fair playing field for all athletes. Races, or competitions, are the backbone of the USSA's programs, providing competitive programs for athletes. Rankings are a means of evaluating performance in competitions to determine advancement on the USSA's athlete development pipeline, or to assist in determining start positions in specific competitions.

The USSA provides educational resources to key constituent groups through the USSA's Center of Excellence, the national training and education facility. Education is provided to athletes, parents, officials, coaches and clubs in areas such as sport technique, fitness and exercise, sport science and sports medicine.

USSA regions and divisions/states are volunteer-run programs which implement USSA programs within small, multi-state geographic areas, including scheduling of divisional competitions, selection of divisional teams and training of competition officials.

Athletic Advancement

Now that you're a USSA member, you have access to compete in sports both in your home area and nationally. The following are steps you can take to make the most out of your competitive skiing or snowboarding experience.

Join a USSA Club - Linking up with a USSA club will allow you access to the best professional coaching and logistical support. A complete club directory is available at www.ussa.org.

Compete - Pick the proper competition programs for your age and ability. Contact the event organizer or your local USSA club for entry information. The USSA's programs offer both introductory non-scored events for youth athletes to promote skill development and fun and scored competitions to improve ranking.

USSA Ranking - Compete in USSA scored competitions to gain a USSA ranking, which will be used for advancement up the USSA athlete development pipeline. You can monitor your USSA ranking at www.ussa.org.

FIS Competition - As you advance up the pipeline with your USSA ranking, you may be eligible for ranking on the International Ski Federation (FIS) ranking list. Check with your club coach or divisional contact for more information. FIS registration is managed through the USSA. You can monitor your FIS ranking or print a FIS registration form at www.ussa.org.

Team Selection - As you continue to advance, your USSA ranking may qualify you

for a regional/state or divisional team. This includes the Junior Championships, U.S. Championships and all the way up to the U.S. Team.

In addition to these tips towards advancement, each of the USSA's sports has a specific development pipeline with defined action tips designed to educate athletes in every age group as they progress in their sport. Please see the development pipeline for your particular sport by logging on to www.ussa.org and selecting your sport.

Where to Find More Information

As you continue competitive skiing or snowboarding, you might have questions along the way. The following are helpful resources to guide you on your path to success.

USSA Website - www.ussa.org is the best source of member information. Simply click on your sport on the home page. There you will find contact information, criteria and advancement protocol on your sport as well as the latest in national news from your sport.

USSA Competition Guide - This handbook is a guide for athletes, parents, coaches and officials that provides a roadmap to USSA programs. Here you can find information on rules and rankings for your sport.

Local USSA Club - Over 425 USSA clubs are the heart of the sport. These organizations have the background and knowledge to help answer most of your questions. Check your local USSA club for information on schedules and qualifying procedures within your division or state.

Regional/Divisional/State Contact - Each region, division and state for your sport has a contact person who can help you answer questions. Your divisional contact appears in the front of this Competition Guide and may also be found at www.ussa.org.

USSA National Office - Every USSA sport has full-time staff in the USSA national office in Park City, UT. Contact the office at 435.647.2666 with national membership or ranking questions. For a quicker response, please send an email to the contact links found at www.ussa.org.

Magazines - USSA members, depending upon their membership type, can receive a subscription to Ski Racing Magazine, SkiTrax, Snowboarding Magazine, or Freeskier Magazine, to stay informed on sport news.

USSA Membership Categories

The USSA offers a variety of membership opportunities depending on your area of interest. Take a look at the options below to select the best fit for you.

USSA Youth - An entry-level, non-scored membership designed for athletes 13 years old and younger (based on Dec. 31 age). USSA Youth membership allows participation in selected divisional or state competitions but is not scored on the USSA ranking lists.

USSA Student - The USSA Student membership offers athletes 14 and older (based on Dec. 31 age) entry into a wide range of USSA competitions but does not include scoring on the USSA ranking lists.

USSA Competitor - The primary USSA membership for athletes 12 and older (based on Dec. 31 age) to gain entry into the full range of USSA competitions and scoring on USSA ranking lists. This membership is required for athletic advancement in this age group.

USSA Masters - For athletes 21 years of age and older who are no longer racing for points but still want to compete. Complete information on Masters, including membership requirements, can be found in the Alpine Masters Competition Guide or at www.ussa.org.

Volunteers - The USSA club system exists because of the help and dedication of volunteers including parents of competitive athletes. Opportunities for young athletes are available because of the volunteerism of parents and other dedicated individuals. You can become a volunteer by getting involved with your local club. The USSA also provides membership for officials and professional coaches, plus a low-cost associate membership for parents,

volunteers, and other supporters exists to allow continued support even after your competitive career is over.

Code of Conduct

A condition of USSA membership is the agreement to abide by the USSA Code of Conduct including provisions regarding drug testing. The Code of Conduct can be found in the chapter USSA Alpine Competition Regulations.

PARENTS

Your son or daughter is on their way to growing their career in skiing or snowboarding. Supporting them in their endeavors is the number one way to help them achieve success. However, there are other ways to participate along the way to enhance the experience of competitive skiing and snowboarding.

Become a volunteer - A great way to be a part of the team is to become an official. Parents may attend officials clinics and work out of town competitions so that they will be better able to help with races at their own competition venues.

Another way to be involved is to serve on steering committees and competition committees for a sport. Contact your USSA athletic sport director for more information.

Education - The USSA provides a variety of educational opportunities for parents. Through www.ussa.org, local clubs and USSA produced educational resources, parents can gather information to help support their child in their quest towards victory. The Successful Sports Parenting DVD, produced in partnership with USA Swimming, featuring Deborah Phelps, mother of Olympic and World Champion swimmer Michael Phelps, is a suggested guide to lead you through tips to support the development and success of young athletes. Find more information at educationshop.ussa.org.

Stay involved in your child's club - Ask questions to club leaders, look at annual reports and attend orientation if offered. These activities will help you better understand your child's club and the USSA development pipeline.

USSA INSURANCE COVERAGE

USSA requires Members to have valid and sufficient primary medical/accident insurance coverage and to accept full responsibility for understanding the provisions of such coverage as a condition of becoming a USSA member and participating in official USSA training and competition. Such primary coverage must be in effect for the entire term of the membership year in order for the member to have coverage under USSA's excess accident medical policy. Members must carry proof of primary insurance and such proof must be available at each event so that prompt medical/hospital care can be authorized, if needed. USSA provides properly registered members with excess accident medical coverage, as follows:

Excess Accident Medical Insurance for Members of Non-Gold Member Clubs

Current USSA Members and USSA temporary registrants of a non-Gold Member club have excess accident medical coverage during sanctioned or registered events including official training (as defined by the policy) at such events. Please see http://www.amerspec.com/ussa_cov/ for a detailed description of coverage.

Excess Accident Medical Insurance for Members of Gold Member Club

Current USSA Members, USSA trial participants and USSA temporary registrants of a USSA Gold Member Club have excess accident medical coverage during skiing and snowboarding competition, while training to compete and conditioning to compete in ski and snowboard competition that is supervised by a USSA representative and/or representative of a USSA Gold Member Club, and during club activities that are supervised by a representative

of a USSA Gold Member Club. Please see http://www.amerspec.com/ussa_cov/ for a detailed description of coverage including activities that are excluded from the policy.

Liability Insurance

- USSA will provide liability coverage for:
- Event Organizers with respect to their ordinary negligence if such is alleged to have arisen in connection with competition in or conduct of sanctioned events (meaning a Schedule Agreement has been executed) and/or activities conducted or approved by USSA (including official training at such event as defined by the policy). Please see http://www.amerspec.com/ussa_cov/ for a detailed description of coverage.
 - Gold Member Clubs and the members and supervisory staff of such clubs and USSA member coaches and USSA member officials while acting in their capacity as such on behalf of Gold Member Clubs. Such coverage applies during (1) ski and snowboard competition; (2) while training to compete and conditioning to compete in ski and snowboard competition that is supervised by a USSA representative and/or representative of a USSA Gold Member Club; and (3) during club activities that are supervised by a representative of a USSA Gold Member Club. Please see http://www.amerspec.com/ussa_cov/ for a detailed description of coverage.
- Note: This summary provides a general overview of insurance coverage that applies for USSA members. It is not a complete explanation of all policy provisions or specifics of the policy benefits. No coverage is extended, and no representations are made, other than what is stated in the actual insurance policies.

ALPINE PROGRAM INFORMATION

USSA alpine competitions are organized into general program categories based on the needs of racers at every level. Programs may overlap or be identified differently in some divisions. Details on these programs are found in the Regional, Divisional and State Programs chapter and at www.ussa.org, as well as in regional, divisional and state handbooks.

Competition Categories

Masters Racing	Ages 21 and up*
FIS Competitor (scored to USSA and to FIS)	Ages 16 and older
Competitor (scored to USSA)	Ages 12 and older
Student (non-scored)	Ages 14 and older
Youth (non-scored)	Ages 13 and younger

* A racer born 1990 or earlier may compete in either masters or seeded competition or both, depending on the rules of a specific region. He or she must have a competitor and a masters membership in order to participate in both programs.

Age Classes

SR	Ages 21 and older (born 1991 or earlier)
U21	Ages 18-20 (born 1992, 1993 or 1994)
U18	Ages 16 and 17 (born 1995 or 1996)
U16	Ages 14 and 15 (born 1997 or 1998)
U14	Ages 12 and 13 (born 1999 or 2000)
U12	Ages 10 and 11 (born 2001 or 2002))
U10	Ages 8 and 9 (born 2003 or 2004)
U8	Ages 7 and younger (born 2005 and later)

NOTE: Racers should check with their local program, or with their local office regarding details or exceptions that may apply. Some regions, divisions or states may recognize other age categories below the U8 class.

Regional and Divisional/State Rules and Procedures

Each region and division/state has additional rules and procedures that apply in its respective geographic area. An introduction to those areas can be found in the Regional, Divisional and State Programs chapter and at www.ussa.org. More detailed information is available in regional, divisional and state handbooks, at www.ussa.org and on regional, divisional and state websites. Particularly note membership requirements in divisional or state organizations and participation requirements for selection to regional, divisional and state teams and quotas.

Alpine Ski Racing Disciplines

In the early days of alpine ski racing, athletes competed in only two events: downhill and slalom. Giant slalom was added to the lineup in 1950 and super G in 1983. Downhill and super G are generally grouped together as “speed” events, with slalom and giant slalom grouped as “technical” events. Skiers generally compete in either speed events or technical events, although the trend among U.S. coaches is to develop skiers on a broader base, skiing all disciplines. All race courses must meet strict standards established and monitored by officials of the FIS and USSA.

Following is a brief outline of the alpine ski racing events. For complete and specific rules on each, please obtain a FIS ICR (rule book) from USSA Membership Customer Service, or see the rules chapter of this guide.

Slalom (SL): Slalom is a timed event requiring the execution of many short, quick turns through two different courses. Slalom is staged in two runs with times added together to determine the final finish order. Often times the top of the first-run finish order is reversed in seeding for the second run, including World Cup competition. The vertical drop of the course determines the number of gates in a GS course. The competitors are required to pass between all the gates, alternate red/blue pairs of poles. The course is made up of various gate combinations designed to test a skier’s skill and strategy. The vertical drop on World Cup SL courses is 180-220 m for men and 140-200 m for women.

Giant Slalom (GS): Giant Slalom is characterized as the discipline that requires the most technical skill; skiers race down the mountain through a faster and more open course than in SL. As in SL, skiers often are seeded in the first run start order by their points ranking. The vertical drop of the course determines the number of gates in a GS course. The FIS World Cup requires that all GS races be run on courses with vertical drops of 300-450 m for men and 300-400 m for women. Giant slalom is staged in two runs with the times added together to determine the final finish order.

Downhill (DH): Perhaps the most exciting event in alpine ski racing is the DH. Racers attempt to record the fastest time during a single run on a course with a minimum number of control gates. Speeds in DH often exceed 70 mph. The FIS World Cup requires that men’s and women’s courses have minimum vertical drops of 800 m and 500 m respectively.

Super G (SG): Super G is the newest of the alpine disciplines combining the elements of speed as in DH while integrating high-speed technical turns as in GS. Super G is contested in a single run format; courses are set utilizing terrain variations with the number of gates being a function of a specific percentage of the vertical drop. Both men’s and women’s SG courses must have a vertical drop of at least 400 m.

Combined (K): At some events, a combined competition is held. The combined event involves the addition of times from designated SL and DH races.

TAKING PART IN A RACE

In order to participate in USSA non-FIS sanctioned competitions, a racer must be a member of USSA and be eligible for competition as defined by FIS and USSA. To participate in a USSA FIS competition, a racer must be eligible for competition as defined by FIS and USSA and either be a member of USSA and FIS or be a member of a foreign federation and FIS. USSA membership applications are available from any USSA alpine office and from many key volunteers. Applications can also be downloaded from www.ussa.org.

Possession of the USSA membership card, or other proof of membership from USSA, is essential to compete.

The sanction of races (official calendaring by FIS and/or USSA) is the only assurance that events will be run according to the rules of FIS and USSA.

The responsibility for confirming the race organizer's acceptance of an entry belongs to the entrant. USSA strongly encourages, but does not require, race organizers to notify racers whose entries have not been accepted.

Many alpine events require qualification criteria that must be achieved for entry eligibility. Refer to specific national, regional and divisional or state rules.

Race Entry Procedure

Entry Materials

Entry to all scored USSA races should be made according to the race organizer's specific instructions or on a copy of the USSA entry card, printed in the back of this competition guide. These entry cards should be copied and used throughout the season.

Note: Increasingly, competition organizers prepare entry and registration materials online. Some of these organizers may not use the USSA entry card, but may ask for registration in an alternate form specific to their needs, such as team roster.

When filling out the entry cards, write clearly with pen. Be sure that all the information you provide is readable. Be especially careful with your USSA number. This is the seven-digit number that appears on your membership card. It is the key to your identification for points and seeding; use all seven digits. If your number doesn't have seven digits, it's the wrong number. Check your card.

Send the completed entry information to the address listed under race contact for that event in the schedule chapter prior to the entry deadline and with the entry fee.

Entry Fees

Entry fees must accompany all entries. Entry fees for scored competitions include a head tax, which is collected on behalf of USSA and forwarded by the race organizers.

Entry Limits, Conditions and Invitational Events

In order to control and organize the sport, USSA, regional, and divisional or state competition committees may impose entry restrictions and requirements on various events. Please see the Series section later in this Guide for more information. Race organizers and competition juries may also limit the number of entries in the interest of fairness, as is provided for in the rules.

Foreign Competitors in USA Races

FIS Races

According to the FIS rules governing competitor license (FIS ICR), a competitor may represent only one country – that of his or her citizenship (or primary residence, in the case of those with dual citizenship). Therefore, foreign competitors living in or attending school in the U.S. and racing here must be licensed with their own nation.

These competitors may participate in FIS races in the USA to the degree permitted by their license (different licenses allow for different access), subject to FIS rules on quotas, point

cutoffs, and entry procedures, and subject to written notification by their own federation. Foreign racers entering FIS events in the USA must make arrangements with their own national federation for proper entry into such events as the U.S. Alpine Championships, NorAms and Junior Championships. Suitable documents must be on file with USSA in the national office authorizing entry into other USA FIS races, if managed by the team coach or other designated person.

USSA Races

The entry of foreign racers participating in USA programs into non-FIS USSA events is subject to approval by USSA, regional, divisional or state, and local organizations and may be on an individual or quota basis, or as special guests.

These foreign racers must be members of USSA, to compete in non-FIS USSA events. Submission of all items and payment is the responsibility of the athlete, not of USSA.

In order to properly seed foreign athletes in USSA scored competitions, USSA will assign foreign athletes an 'X-number'. Foreign athletes with an 'X-number' and a valid USSA Competitor membership, shall be given initial USSA points equal to their points on the valid FIS points list. Athletes who do not appear on the FIS points list shall be assigned maximum USSA points.

At a USSA Scored race, foreign athletes who are not current with USSA may have their FIS points used for seeding and to determine the race penalty as long as all USSA membership requirements have been met (the athlete must join as an Alpine Competitor), including membership form, proof of insurance, signature(s) and payment of money due.

Foreign competitors who have current USSA points, and either appear on the current USSA points list, or have been given a USSA points confirmation from the USSA rankings manager, must be seeded with those USSA points and those USSA points must be used in the penalty calculation.

All foreign athletes must join USSA as 'X-number' members. This categorizes them as foreign. USSA 'X-number' members are subject to all rules and procedures of USSA, its regions, divisions and states.

Note: No competitor may enter FIS events on an international license or represent a nation other than USA and also enter USSA races on a non-"x-number" USSA competitor membership.

Foreign National Team Status - Waiver of Fees

Competitors entering FIS events in the USA as members of national teams must be prepared to show evidence of such membership; a valid international license does not automatically give national team status and privilege. USSA reserves the right to allow organizers to charge entry fees and lift tickets to foreign athletes in both USSA and FIS races in the USA subject to minimum personal qualifications based on FIS points and/or rankings.

Generally, members of foreign national teams who are properly entered by their national federation, and who are ranked in the top 350 in the world in one of the disciplines being contested should be provided with complimentary lifts and entries.

Regardless of national affiliation or national team status, athletes ranked in the top 100 in the world in one of the disciplines being contested will be provided with complimentary lifts and entries; no head tax will be due for these athletes.

USA Athletes Competing in Another Country

According to the FIS ICR, to be eligible to enter and compete in international ski events, a competitor must have a specific 'license' issued by his or her own national association. In the USA, this is referred to as an 'international license.'

Except for U.S. Ski Team athletes, USA racers must make advance application and be approved for international licensing and entry to FIS races outside of North America. Itineraries are approved to avoid conflicts. Athletes or coaches interested in foreign projects should contact USSA at jweinman@ussa.org and/or their respective regional competition director and provide a list of athletes and proposed itinerary.

Participation in international competitions outside the United States of America is a privilege of USSA and FIS membership, subject to athletic achievement and consideration of current and future appropriateness of an individual's representation of the USA in such competition(s).

USA competitors without a valid international license who enter, or attempt to enter, events under conditions where USSA requires such license are subject to disciplinary sanction including revocation of USSA membership and forfeiture of results for points scoring, ranking for team selection, etc. Further, such competitors will not be registered by USSA with the FIS for a period of one full season.

These rules and procedures will be reviewed and approved by the Alpine Sport Executive Committee after this book went to print. Any changes will be published to the USSA website.

Eligibility Procedures and Considerations

Access & Eligibility

- By virtue of team status, officially named U.S. Ski Team A, B, C and D athletes are 'internationally licensed' and have protected status in all international competitions, they can race whenever and wherever they want. No athlete ranked higher than 1,000 may replace an athlete ranked under 350 in the discipline being contested.
- Athletes must be USSA alpine competitor members in good standing.
- Athletes must be FIS inscribed and appear on the valid FIS list during the period of selection and competition.
- Entries for Olympic Winter Games, World Ski Championships, World Junior Ski Championships, World University Games, World Cup, Europa Cup and World Junior Championships are managed by the U.S. Ski Team and are exempt from these procedures.

Procedures

- Itineraries and athlete rosters are controlled through USSA. Itineraries and rosters must be received by USSA 28 days in advance of the first team captains meeting in the itinerary.
- USSA will make every effort to communicate with groups competing outside of the USA to keep them informed of conflicts and changes to protected projects.
- Itineraries will be approved based on avoiding conflicts.
- Itineraries are approved based on anticipated available slots.
- In the case that an event is over-subscribed, priority is based on the following:
 1. All USST A, B, C and D team members start per U.S. Ski Team coaches' discretion
 2. Remaining slots are allocated by:
 - a. 50% by FIS points in discipline
 - b. 50% in order of priority
 - 1) U.S. Ski Team "special invitees"
 - 2) National Development System (NDS) projects or discretion
 - 3) Regional development projects (RDP)
 - 4) Club/academy projects

Note: If there are an odd number of remaining spots available, then the extra start will go to FIS points.

- Typically USSA will directly enter USA athletes in foreign competitions. In some circumstances USSA may write an authorization letter allowing someone else to make the entry on behalf of USSA.
- Entries for Continental Cup and National Championship events will be made by USSA. Entries subject to Continental Cup rules.
- FIS quotas for the USA will be expanded only at authority of USSA.
- USA competitors residing in Europe can also apply for approved itineraries, in which case they may receive protected status. If those athletes do not apply, they will have secondary status for entry access when teams and projects on approved itineraries are in attendance.
- USSA's Alpine Director (AD) may make modifications to these procedures based on circumstances that effect USST D team or 'high potential' athletes where such modifications favor a long-range development strategy of USSA. Under extraordinary conditions the AD may exercise discretionary placement or replacement of up to 10% of any quota.
- NDS will be allocated protected status for NDS projects in international competitions in up to two series in a FIS calendar year.
- USA Team Captains will be assigned based on the level of project attending (USST, NDS, RDP, Club/Academy). This team captain will facilitate above procedures. USST/USSA staff acting in the capacity of team captains may use discretionary entry designation for up to 10% of any quota for any team or group member (other than USST A, B, C and D who are otherwise described). Additionally, team captains may agree on alternative methods if they have unanimous consent of the attending USA coaches.

Canadian FIS Competitions

For FIS races in Canada, international licensing is deemed to be in order when USSA or properly named team captains make entries, and this license is limited to the specific races entered. Although the specific application for international license is not required at this time, all requests for entry to Canadian FIS races must be made through the alpine offices at least 28 days prior to the first team captains meeting.

Projects will be managed for USSA athlete development; selection of interested athletes will be both objective and subjective.

Note: Refer to the Series and Selections chapter in this book for more information.

By agreement with Alpine Canada Alpine (ACA), certain events and series will be subject to minimum individual qualifications. This may mean circumstances where the respective quotas are not completely utilized. Development selections by USSA national and regional staff may be possible per the agreement with ACA.

Selections are done using an NTSM of FIS points in the discipline(s) to be contested.

Certain guidelines and requirements apply to entry into these events. Details and instructions are available from regional or divisional offices.

Thank You

to the following partners of the
U.S. Ski Team, U.S. Snowboarding and U.S. Freeskiing.



COMPETITION GUIDE



CHAPTER 2 POINTS AND RANKINGS



POINTS AND THE POINTS LISTS

Ski racers are: 1) scored by total points for each seeded competition in which they finish without disqualification, 2) ranked nationally and internationally according to their earned total points, and 3) seeded in subsequent competitions according to their total points earned in previous events. Thus, in ski racing, things are done 'by the numbers'.

Points are used in ski racing because of the unique character of the sport: there is no precisely defined standard field, track, or course for the competition. To compensate for courses of different length, on widely varying terrain, and on snow surfaces that can differ considerably, the FIS legislated 1) guidelines, such as minimum vertical drop, minimum and maximum number of gates, and gate dimensions, for the setting of courses, and 2) formulas for assigning points by relating a racer's time to the winner's time.

FIS (International) & USSA (National) Points Systems

There are actually two related systems used to 'score' alpine races, rank competitors, and establish start orders. The FIS maintains a system that includes racers registered internationally and competing in FIS-calendared events. The FIS points lists show all racers who are properly registered prior to the deadline for that list, and assigns the top World Cup skiers to the first places on the FIS lists, adjusting all other competitors accordingly. Only FIS calendared events are scored to the FIS list.

The USSA points list ranks athletes with a valid USSA competitor membership who compete in any USSA event that is scored in the system. These events include most races for ages 13 and up. The USSA and the FIS points systems are based on the same formula for scoring. The top racers in USSA will be ranked as the top USA racers in the FIS lists, as well. However, the two point lists differ. The lists are produced on different schedules, resulting in slight differences during the season. The most important difference is that the FIS system integrates the World Cup rankings. Nonetheless, in both systems lower points reflect better results.

Competitors who should be concerned with FIS (International) points are those who will be competing in a significant number of FIS events in the current season. For these racers, progress on the FIS points list is important. For racers who are not yet ranked at the top of their age group in their geographic region, FIS points mean little more than USSA points. In either system, the good ski racer will show points progress parallel to achievement, while the less-accomplished competitor can only progress points-wise with the development of improved skiing skills.

How Points are Scored

Race Points + Penalty = Racer's Result

While the winner of any seeded race is given zero (0.00) 'race points,' a penalty is calculated for every event and added to each racer's points to produce the racer's results for that event. The magnitude of the penalty depends upon: 1) the seed points of the best five racers who start, 2) the seed points of the best five racers among the top ten finishers and 3) whether the times of those five racers are clustered near the winner's time or relatively widely dispersed (for FIS races only, a factor is added [or subtracted] to adjust the penalty according to the rules for the Integrated List, incorporating FIS and World Cup points/rankings).

This procedure allows the scoring of different races on different slopes and different days, each with different levels of competition, to be based on a common scale. In theory, every racer in a seeded event can compare themselves against Lindsey Vonn or Ted Ligety and against the best racer in the state, as well as other competitors in a given event. For FIS races, the "Z" factor adjustment of the penalty up (or down) maintains relative value among the different FIS race categories of World Cups, Continental Cups, National Championships, and FIS races.

The average of a racer’s two best results in each of the scored disciplines becomes the basis for that racer’s ranking among other racers. Published lists of such rankings, ‘seed lists’, provide the data by which race organizers and race juries can seed or establish the start order for subsequent events. Thus, the circle continues: from seed list to race result to seed list; with one aim being lower points, and better start positions, and better results.

Of course, in order to gain better start positions by lower seeding points, competitors also must improve their skills, strength and tactics and then prove this on the hill. It is a basic concept of the sport that skiers must ski well to improve their points.

Calculation of ‘Race points’

The FIS point system of scoring the results of ski races was developed in order to recognize the better performance of finishing fourth in one race with a time one second behind the winner, as opposed to finishing second in another race with a time two seconds behind the winner.

Race points are determined by comparing the winner’s time and the individual racer’s time. The formula for points makes this comparison and produces points in each discipline according to the ratio of the racer’s time to the winner’s time.

The formulas for the determination of points can be worked easily on a calculator. The formulas incorporate changes in the CM values (constants based on the average spread of race results, excluding ‘stragglers’) in order to make the points earned in the various disciplines more equal for purposes of combined event scoring and team selections.

In its simplest form, the formula can be stated as follows:

$$P = ((Tr / Tw) - 1) \times F$$

Where:

- P is race points
- Tr is the racer’s time, in seconds
- Tw is the winner’s time, in seconds
- F is a constant, different for each discipline, based on the CM according to the equation: $F = 60 / (CM - 1)$

‘F’ values as set by FIS are as follows:

Downhill - 1370	Super G - 1050	Giant Slalom - 890
Slalom - 620	Super Combined - 1070	

For example, if the winning time in SL (F = 620) were 98.36 seconds (Tw), a racer with a time of 102.58 seconds (Tr) would receive 26.60 race points (P). These same times produce race points of 58.78 in DH, 38.18 in GS, 45.05 in SG and 45.91 in SC.

Calculation of ‘Penalty Points’

In calculating penalty points for a race, the results (times) are listed in ascending order for everyone of the same sex who competed on the same race course. Even if competitors of different ability or age classes participated, ranking of race results must always be used to calculate FIS and/or USSA race points and penalty points. Penalty points are calculated for each race as follows:

- 1. Using the most recent seed list, (either FIS or USSA as is appropriate for the event) determine which five racers who started the race have the best seed points in the particular discipline. Add the seed points of these five racers (see “B” below).

Best five at the start from current points list	Seed Points	Race Result
CHODOUNSKY, David	4.57	DNF2
KASPER, Nolan	4.83	DNF1
BRANDENBURG, Will	7.05	DNF2
FORD, Tommy	10.32	2
GREGORAK, Will	10.35	6
	37.12 = B	

- Again using the most recent seed list, determine which five of the top ten placing racers have the best points in the discipline. Add the seed points of these five racers (see “A” below). Add together the race points of these five racers then subtract the best points of those racers finishing in the top ten (see “C” below).

Best ten finishers	Seed points current list	Best five seed points	Race points of these five
1. GRANSTROM, Colby	10.88	10.88	0.00
2. FORD, Tommy	10.32	10.32	7.90
3. STIEGLER, Seppi	14.32	14.32	9.68
4. ANKENY, Michael	17.20		
5. JITLOFF, Tim	15.57	15.57	11.11
6. GREGORAK, Will	10.35	10.35	12.89
7. TRIENDL, Armin	20.49		
8. PENTTINEN, Juho-Pekka	17.94		
9. TARBERRY, Ace	22.93		
10. WUNSCH, Taylor	20.16		

$$61.44 = A$$

$$41.58 = C$$

- Add the total of A and B, then subtract C; divide the result by ten, rounding to 100th of a point (0-4 down, 5-9 up) - $(A + B - C) / 10 = \text{Penalty}$

So, in this example... $(61.44 + 37.12 - 41.58) / 10 = 5.698$; the race penalty = 5.70.

FIS Penalty Calculation

To this point, the penalty calculation for a FIS race is identical to the calculation for a USSA race. However, for FIS races of all categories the penalty is then adjusted by the addition (or possibly subtraction) of a value to reflect returning the best point holder to 0.00 points, the integration of the top World Cup-ranked into the top FIS list positions, and the application of category adders/minimums. This “Z” value is calculated by the FIS for each sex/discipline with each FIS points list and is published with the list.

A complete explanation is printed in the ‘Rules of the FIS Points’ available from USSA Member Services for a fee.

Rules for USSA Race Penalty Calculations

The following rules apply to the calculation of USSA race penalties under particular circumstances.

Fewer than Ten Racers Finishing

When fewer than ten racers finish a USSA sanctioned event and their results are submitted for scoring, the minimum race penalty shall be DH - 180 points, SG - 135, GS - 110, SL - 80 or SC - 125, regardless of the mathematically calculated penalty. Example: a DH with eight finishers and a calculated penalty of 142.17 would have an official penalty - 180.00.

Racers in First Five have USSA Points in Excess of Discipline Max

When at least five racers finish and have valid USSA points, but one or more of the five best racers by USSA points has points over the maximum (DH - 820, SG - 660, GS - 530, SL - 360, SC - 660), first determine the racers with the five best (lowest) valid USSA points. Then assign points at the maximum for the discipline to all of those racers whose points exceed the maximum. Next calculate the penalty according to the formula using these values.

Fewer than Five Racers Finish

When fewer than five racers finish a USSA sanctioned event and their results are submitted for scoring, the race penalty shall be calculated as follows:

- Insert ‘ghost’ racers as necessary to bring the total of actual finishers and ‘ghost’ racers to 5.

2. Assign each 'ghost' racer seed points of DH - 820, SG - 660, GS - 530, SL - 360, SC - 660.
3. Assign each 'ghost' racer race points equal to those of the lowest ranked (worst time) finisher.
4. Calculate the penalty according to the formula using these assigned values.
5. No race penalty can be calculated when there are fewer than three finishers.

Fewer than Five Racers in First Ten with Valid Seed Points

When there are fewer than five racers with valid points who finish in the first ten - or in the first nine, eight, etc. when there are nine, eight, etc. finishers - the race penalty shall be calculated as follows:

1. Assign points of DH - 820, SG - 660, GS - 530, SL - 360, SC - 660, to the worst ranked competitor(s), finishing in the first ten - or nine, eight, etc., in order to bring the total of racers with points to five including both those with valid points and those with assigned points.
2. Calculate the penalty according to the formula using these values.

Two or more Competitors are Ranked 10th

In the event where two or more competitors are ranked 10th in the race, they shall all be taken into consideration for the penalty calculation, as long as they are included in the five with the best points.

Two or more Competitors have the Fifth best Points

If two or more competitors have the fifth best points, which should be taken into consideration for the penalty calculation, the competitor with the higher race points will be considered for the penalty calculation. Reason: Better penalty.

USSA Application of Vertical Drop, Minimum Time and Minimum Penalty

When a USSA sanctioned event is submitted for scoring:

- A. The minimum penalty for a non-FIS USSA race is 15.00. If the calculated penalty is lower than 15.00 the applied penalty shall be 15.00,
- B. If the minimum vertical drop requirement is met, then the minimum time requirement does not apply,
- C. If the minimum vertical drop requirement is not met, then the greater of the calculated or minimum penalty of 30.00 shall be applied,
- D. If the minimum vertical drop requirement is not met, but the minimum time requirement is, the greater of the calculated or minimum penalty shall be applied,
- E. If the minimum vertical drop requirement and the minimum time requirement are not met, then the greater of the calculated penalty plus the additional penalty or the minimum penalty shall be applied.

Data by Discipline

Event	Min VD	Alternate Minimum Time	Add Penalty
DH	400 m	60 seconds combined/max 2 runs (3.1.6.2.2)	26.00
SL	100 m	50 seconds combined for 2 runs (3.2.1.1.3)	12.00
GS	250 m	50 seconds combined for 2 runs (3.3.1.1.3)	17.00
SG	300 m	40 seconds for 1 run (3.4.1.1.3)	21.00

Examples

1. A GS meets VD requirements, has a total time of 49.98 seconds, and has a calculated penalty of 4.35, the applied penalty is 15.00 (minimum penalty).
2. A GS does not meet VD requirements, has a total time of 65.28 seconds, and has a calculated penalty of 43.90: the applied penalty is 43.90 (calculated penalty).
3. A SG does not meet VD requirements, has a total time of 38.12 seconds, and a calculated penalty of 45.45: the applied penalty is 66.45 (calculated penalty plus additional SG penalty for races that meet neither VD nor total time).
4. A DH does not meet VD requirements, has a 2 run total time of 64.98 seconds, and a

calculated penalty of 18.95: the applied penalty is 30.00 (minimum penalty for races not meeting VD requirement).

Technical standards must be entered accurately in the electronic version of the results submitted to USSA to ensure that races are scored properly.

Penalty Manipulation

Any competitor, official or coach clearly involved in artificially affecting penalty points may, on the recommendation of the technical delegate/jury and following review by regional/national offices and staff, Classification Working Group and perhaps the Alpine Sport Committee, be disqualified or sanctioned. Competition staff can withhold from scoring any race results that have the appearance of deliberate distortion. The USSA Ranking Manager shall be notified and such races held for review and action by the Classification Working Group at the annual meeting. Coaches and Officials may be sanctioned by their respective organizations.

Points List

The basic purposes of the points list are:

1. Measure the relative performances of all competitors in the classification system
2. Serve as a tool to seed (organize) the start order of a race
3. Provide a method of team selection.

As noted earlier, there are two seeding lists that concern USSA racers, the USSA Points Lists and the FIS Points Lists. The USSA Points List is published regularly during the season (see schedule earlier in this Guide). All valid USSA Youth, Student and Competitor members appear on the USSA points list. Only Competitor members are eligible for USSA points and for FIS points (with the addition of a FIS license). An athlete is listed with 990.00 until they earn of better (lower) points.

In the Eastern region, 13 year-old skiers do not earn points, and 14 year-old skiers can only earn points at specific events.

How the Points List Works

In most cases, the average of the best two results in the current season, in each scored discipline constitute the seed list points. As previously stated, the total points of a race are figured by adding the race points of the racer to the penalty points for the race.

The periods for evaluation are: Nov. 15 - Apr. 30 for Northern Hemisphere and July 1 - Oct. 15 for Southern Hemisphere for FIS, and Nov. 15 - Apr. 30 for USSA.

The points, as published in the Summer List (Summer points) are used as a competitor's current seed points (or as one of his or her best results) until two races produce average points lower than the Summer points. When this happens, Summer points are no longer used to calculate current seed points.

In the case of a new competitor with no Summer points, a double penalty is added to the first result to arrive at current seed points. For example, a new competitor earns a first result of 193.00 points in a GS race. The penalty in this case is 20 points, doubled is 40 points. 193.00 points plus 40.00 points gives current seed points of 233.00. When a second result is obtained the average of the two (with the penalty removed) will then appear as the current points even if the average is greater than the best result plus penalty.

“Base Points”

There are five calculations to determine the points at the end of the season: 1) if there are at least two results, the two best results from the season are averaged; or 2) if there is one result, a double penalty is added to that result; or 3) if there are no results, a double penalty is added to the previous Summer points; or 4) points per 1, 2, and 3 are compared to select the better of ‘normally’ calculated points, or, previous Summer points plus double penalty, or 5) a competitor is credited with the better of their FIS or USSA points for USSA ranking,

even when individual FIS race results have not been submitted for scoring to the USSA point system.

These become the new base points. Base points, plus penalties, are used only when there are no current season results, as will be the case at the beginning of the following season, on the 1st USSA points lists of the new season.

Zeroing of USSA lists to FIS

The USSA lists are 'zeroed' each summer to bring them in line with the FIS points list - so that FIS and USSA points for a competitor appearing on both lists will be roughly equivalent. This is done by comparing the FIS and USSA points of the top USA-FIS racers in each sex/discipline. The zeroing factors shall be such that the average of the USSA points of these representative competitors, after the factors have been added, approaches the average of the FIS points of these competitors. The adders are applied to every USSA racer's points.

Results of Non-USA Races

Results of non-USA FIS races are entered into the USSA Athlete Points System with the release of each FIS list.

PENALIZATION OF POINTS

“Non-activity” Adders and Point Penalization

There is no such thing as a 'point freeze.' The rules of the FIS and USSA points apply adders or penalties on 'old' points regardless of injury situations, calendar opportunities, etc., so that rankings do not remain static when point holders do not compete and thereby protect or do not 'expose' their points to others.

The rules for FIS and for USSA are different. For the specific rules relating to FIS see the FIS Rules of the Points found at www.fisski.com. The USSA rules are explained here.

There are different levels of adders with single penalization applicable in case of injury or other specific situations when athletes have been prevented from competing; or double penalization when no such situation exists.

Single or Double Penalties

At the end of the season, the points earned from a single result in a discipline are subject to a double penalty, unless a single penalty is requested and approved. Likewise, in the absence of any results in a discipline, a double penalty is applied to previous base or Summer points, unless a single penalty is requested and approved.

Formula for Determining Penalty Adders

The formula for determining the single adder (or 'non-activity' penalty) is based on a set percentage of the previous points, with minimum and maximum adders according to disciplines. Except for single penalties, this adder is then doubled.

Discipline	Minimum	Percentage	Maximum
Downhill	4	22%	26
Slalom	4	22%	14
Giant Slalom	4	22%	20
Super G	4	22%	20
Super Combined	4	22%	18

Examples of 'double penalties':

1. Single result of 45.00 points, 22% of 45.00, twice, equals 64.80
2. Base points of 12.57, plus minimum of 4.00, twice, equals 20.57
3. Base GS points of 123.45, plus 20.00 (maximum adder) twice, equals 163.45

Single Penalization Situations (sickness, injury, other obligations)

Competitors who are unable to compete in sufficient scored events to maintain their seed points because of injury or illness, studies, military obligations, or church commitments may protect their points through single penalization. Single penalization cannot be requested for lack of calendar opportunities.

USSA and FIS membership must be renewed every year in order to maintain points, even when an athlete has single penalty protection for sickness, injury or other obligations. FIS membership must be renewed by June 1 to appear on the first FIS list and maintain FIS points.

Injury or Illness

Single penalization for USSA and FIS is determined at the end of the season. Documentation of injury with inability to compete information should be submitted immediately to the USSA assistant national competition director.

In order for a competitor to obtain a single penalization on a points list, he or she must submit the FIS and/or the USSA Single Penalty Request forms, which include:

1. Name and address of the injured.
2. Time/Date and place of the accident.
3. Type of injury.
4. Athletes signature with date.

A separate Medical Certificate from the athlete's physician detailing the injury and length of inability to compete is also required. This letter must include the date of the injury.

Inability to compete for more than one year, due to injury or illness, will result in a single penalty each year if requested by the athlete. Single penalization will be in addition to any general zeroing adders or other adjustments to the total list, and will be predicated on upkeep of USSA competitor membership and FIS registration. FIS and/or USSA membership must be maintained each year to retain points. Medical certificates must be submitted by April 15 for FIS (no exceptions are possible) and by June 15 for USSA.

Professional, Educational, Military, or Religious Obligations

Applications for single penalization due to professional obligations must be submitted prior to the beginning of the period indicated. Later applications will not be considered.

Single Penalization for injury - Special Rules (USSA only)

When a racer is injured and out of racing for the season prior to the closing deadline for the second USSA list and has only one valid result in a discipline, points on the Spring USSA List shall be the better of:

1. That single result with a single penalty added, or
2. The previous Summer list points with the single penalty added. Racers must submit documented requests for single penalty prior to the June 15 deadline.

Approval of Single Penalty Requests (USSA only)

Single penalty applications are not automatically approved. Approval depends on timing of injury or illness, duration of inability to compete, the number of results and/or starts actually made - two finishes or three starts in DH or SG or five starts in SL or GS normally disqualify single penalty requests.

Consideration and approval of USSA single penalty requests and forwarding of FIS requests is the responsibility of the national alpine competition manager, whose decisions are subject to appeal in writing to the chairman of the Alpine Classification Working Group.

POINTS LIST DISTRIBUTION

Schedule

The schedule of list closing and valid dates is located earlier in this guide.

General Information

Both FIS and USSA lists are available for download from www.ussa.org. Individual points records may be viewed and ranking lists may be requested by various parameters including divisional affiliation and year of birth on the website as well.

Lists are posted as soon as possible generally one to two days prior to the valid date.

Race Organizers and the Points Lists

Results and the USSA List Closing Dates

Every effort will be made to include all possible races on the points list, up to and including those run on the closing date, however, USSA must receive complete and valid results to be able to include them.

Results must be postmarked within five business days of event completion or a \$50 per race per gender fine will be assessed to the race organizer.

Results must be submitted electronically in the FIS/USSA approved XML format or a \$50 per race per gender fine will be assessed to the race organizer.

Results must be submitted by email in the approved XML format and by hard copy mailed to USSA for processing.

Results received after the deadline, and results that cannot be promptly processed because they are illegible, missing information, etc., will be processed as time permits and may not be included in the new list. Any results not included will be scored and reflected only in the next list published after completion of the result package and input processing.

Results and the FIS List Closing Dates

Race organizers are responsible to ensure that results and signed TD reports are received at the FIS office in Europe before the closing date.

Late results will be included in the next published list.

Racers who register with FIS through USSA will be inscribed to the next list, and results after registration will be credited to the next published list.

ALTERNATE SEEDING SYSTEMS

Instead of using the USSA or FIS ranking list, USSA Non-Scored and some USSA Scored races are seeded using approved Alternate Seeding Systems. These alternate systems must be presented to and approved by the Alpine Sport Committee on a quadrennial basis.

Approved systems include, but are not limited to: random, team seeding, TRS, Golden Rule, eastern modified bibbo and the Turton system.

PLACE POINT SCALES

World Cup & Continental Cup Points Scale

World Cup points are referred to frequently in ranking/selection procedures. According to the scale adopted by the FIS, points are awarded by place to the first thirty finishers according to the following scale.

In case of a tie (identical times), each tied racer receives the points for that place, according to the schedule. Following racers receive points according to their place.

Note: Ties will result in one, or more, vacant place(s). For example, a two-way tie for third means no 4th place points are awarded; next points go to fifth place. A three-way tie for first would mean next place points awarded are for fourth place.

There may be departures from this point scale, but following the same general principles.

Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1st	100	11th	24	21st	10
2nd	80	12th	22	22nd	9
3rd	60	13th	20	23rd	8
4th	50	14th	18	24th	7
5th	45	15th	16	25th	6
6th	40	16th	15	26th	5
7th	36	17th	14	27th	4
8th	32	18th	13	28th	3
9th	29	19th	12	29th	2
10th	26	20th	11	30th	1

Regional FIS Races and Other Designated Series

Also referred to as the 'old' World Cup points scale, the scale operates similarly to the 'new' World Cup scale, except that points from 25 down to 1 are awarded by place from the winner to 15th as follows:

Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1st	25	6th	10	11th	5
2nd	20	7th	9	12th	4
3rd	15	8th	8	13th	3
4th	12	9th	7	14th	2
5th	11	10th	6	15th	1

COMMON SELECTION SYSTEMS

Selection boards will not be re-ranked to reflect athletes purged due to scratches, illness, injury, etc.

National Team Selection Method (NTSM)

Names of competitors in contention are organized by appropriate points or rankings, FIS or USSA, but not mixed, in each discipline of the meet or series for which a team is to be selected (or according to national/regional/divisional/state policies). Each discipline is ranked in a separate vertical column, lowest points or best ranking on top to higher points on bottom. Duplications of the same athlete in more than one column are listed.

Selection is accomplished by proceeding across each horizontal row, choosing the lowest points/ranking in the first row, second lowest points/ranking in that row, third and fourth, if appropriate, before moving down all columns to the next row. As racers are selected in one column they are crossed out in all columns; however, lower listed racers do not move up in their columns when duplicated names are crossed out. Example, for three-event selection, using points in DH, SL and GS:

DH	SL	GS	NTSM Ranking
A - 2.50	B - 17.12	C - 5.21	A
C - 23.40	C - 23.75	A - 17.12	C
B - 24.87	D - 28.95	E - 25.93	B
F - 25.33	A - 42.74	A - 26.66	E
D - 32.00	G - 43.14	D - 30.04	D
E - 35.70	F - 44.00	G - 32.75	F
G - 38.95	H - 46.55	H - 33.40	G

If the selections were for SL and GS only, then the ranking order would be: C, B, A, E, D, G, F. Or if for GS and DH only, then: A, C, B, E, F, D, G. If selections included SG, then a SG column would be included in the same fashion.

International Team Selection (ITS)

ITS differs slightly from NTSM in that the order of selection from each row is fixed, determined by the order of columns, rather than according to lower/lowest points or ranking in the row.

The order of each event is arranged into separate vertical columns, best on top, last on the bottom. The columns are arranged normally from left to right: DH, SL, GS, SG. Selection is accomplished by taking the top row of names (DH, SL, GS, SG) then going to the second person in the first column. Continue on across columns. If a name comes up a second (or more times) it is skipped. Always skip across from left to right, not down for repeats.

DH	SL	GS	SG	ITS Ranking
A	E	D	C	A
B	A	B	B	E
C	B	C	A	D
D	C	E	E	C
E	D	A	D	B

International Team Selection Method can be expanded to columns ordered by points, by discipline ranking, and by combination of results and points and/or ranking, as well (see Regional Selection Board Method following).

Regional Selection Board Method

The Regional Selection Board Method is similar to NTSM and ITS methods, except that it uses both place points and seeding points to build its selection tables. Details may vary for each team or series entry selection.

Rocky Mountain Division and Western Region use this general method to fill quotas for major events.

Setting up the Boards

Two selection boards are used, as follows:

1. One board is composed of ranking by place points earned in specified races/series in each discipline involved. A column is established in each discipline with the ranking racer in that discipline at the top of the column. The columns shall be arranged as prescribed by the policy for each event, division or region.
2. The second board is composed from the valid points list, FIS or USSA. A column is established for each discipline with the low point athlete in that discipline at the top of that column. The columns shall be arranged as prescribed by the policy for each event, division, or region, and considered in order.

Selection Procedures

Selection will be made by going across both boards choosing the best ranked racer in every column of each row of both boards before moving on to the next row. When a competitor appears who has already been selected in a previous row, selection continues across the same row, but skipping that competitor, until the end of the row is reached, before moving to the next row. For example:

Downhill standings in order:	A, G, R, T
Slalom standings:	B, D, Z, Q
Giant slalom standings:	E, Q, D, B
Super G standings:	D, E, Q, M
Downhill points:	A, F, Z, T
Slalom Points:	X, E, M, D
Giant slalom points:	D, X, Q, L
Super G points:	C, Z, D, Q

World Cup Point Board				Seed Point Board			
DH	SL	GS	SG	DH	SL	GS	SG
A	B	E	D	A	X	D	C
G	D	Q	E	F	E	X	Z
R	Z	D	Q	Z	M	Q	D
T	Q	B	M	T	D	L	Q

Selection for a 12 person, four-event team would be:

A, B, E, D, X, C, G, Q, F, Z, R, M, T, L

Selection for a SL, GS Team would be:

B, E, X, D, Q, Z, M, L

More information on specific selection procedures used in your region, division or state appears in the Regional and Divisional Programs section of the Guide or in your regional, divisional or state handbook.

Thank You

to the following partners of the
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COMPETITION GUIDE



CHAPTER 3 SERIES AND SELECTIONS



This supplement to the USSA Skiing Competition Guide provides general information on the major events and series, many of which are invitational or only open to skiers qualifying by previous race record.

More details on the programs organized below the international and championship level may be found in the regional section of the Competition Guide or on regional, divisional and state websites.

For events and series where particular qualifications apply, the entry criteria, field size and design of the programs themselves have been carefully developed within USSA to provide programs to encourage involvement by many skiers and to provide opportunities for talented racers to reach their full athletic potential in alpine ski racing. Coaches and competitors are advised to check regional, divisional and state rules.

OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

The Olympic Winter Games will be held Feb. 7-23, 2014 in Sochi, Russia. Information can be found on the Sochi website www.sochi2014.com. Selection criteria will be available at www.ussa.org in the Fall of 2013.

ALPINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The FIS Alpine World Ski Championships are held every odd-numbered year. The 2013 Championships will be held in February in Schladming, Austria. Selection criteria will be available at www.ussa.org in the Fall of 2012.

ALPINE WORLD CUP

In contrast to the many sports where an Olympic medal serves as the only symbol of achievement, international alpine ski racers also look to the FIS Alpine World Cup as the measure for determining the best over a full season of racing.

World Cup winners are named at the end of every season and are determined by the number of points accumulated in World Cup events in all alpine disciplines and combined.

In addition to overall and discipline awards, a Nations' Cup is awarded to the national team that accumulates the most points over the course of the season, counting individual point totals of all team members.

Schedule information for the FIS Alpine World Cup can be found at www.fisski.com.

NORAM CUP

The NorAm Cup is the most prestigious and important North American race series. The 'original' Continental Cup and parallel to the European Cup, only a notch below the competition of the World Cup circuit, this series has proven to be an excellent training and testing ground for both top national racers and for developing U.S. and Canadian athletes.

The U.S. and Canadian Ski Teams are represented at all NorAm events. Foreign racers, including World Cup contenders, often compete in these events raising the level of competition even more. The remainder of the participants are the best competitors from the regions and colleges of Canada and the U.S.

NorAm Cup winners are named in each of the individual disciplines based on points accumulated over the season according to the World Cup point scale. The overall winners are determined by adding the points scored in all disciplines. Discipline winners become individually qualified for World Cup participation in that discipline in the following season and are entitled to special start positions in other Continental Cup races in discipline.

Current NorAm calendars can be found at www.fisski.com.

Eligibility

For consideration to NorAms, racers must be registered to appear on the FIS points list and must be current USSA competitor members in good standing with USSA and their home region. For the December NorAm technical events, men must have 80.00 or fewer FIS points in any discipline and women must have 100.00 or fewer FIS points in any discipline; for all other NorAm events, athletes must have 120.00 or fewer FIS points in any discipline in order to apply for selection. Development nominations are exempt from these limitations.

Quotas

The USA has a quota of 50 women and 50 men for all NorAm tech competitions, 30 women and 30 men for speed competitions in CAN, and 70 men and 70 women for speed competitions in the USA. If either the USA or CAN does not fill its national quota, the other nation may use those unfilled spots; quotas are not always filled.

Selection Procedures

1. Intent: Athletes wishing to compete in NorAm competitions must submit online intent at least 28 days prior to the first team captains meeting, and must confirm participation at least 14 days prior to the first team captains meeting, for the competition series in question.
2. Ranking: All athletes submitted will be ranked by NTSM in the discipline(s) to be contested (except SC), using the most current FIS points list at the intent deadline.
3. Selection: according to the specific steps outlined below.
3. Canadian and other foreign entries: Foreign competitors, properly entered by their own national federations, may compete in the NorAm Cup according to the FIS rules for Continental Cups. The national federations must make entries to NorAm Cup races directly.
4. FIS field size limits and international quotas: Should the official entry list for any USA NorAm Cup event exceed the FIS maximum of 140 racers, the competition jury and USSA staff, shall select those U.S. racers who shall not be drawn to start, in order to reduce the field to the limit of 140 as necessary. In this case, the minimum USA entry quota is 30 and the maximum is 50, even if there should be unfilled Canadian quota slots.
5. Development quota: Athletes may be invited by the Regional Development Director to be entered on the development quota. Objective rankings, advancement history, other discretionary evaluation and athlete management factors will all be considered. The development quota is to be used primarily for junior athletes. The development quota is not intended to compensate for inflexible or inadequate regional procedures.

Loveland and Aspen tech series and Panorama (USA quota 50)

	Men	Women
1. USST	20	20
2. Seniors (21 and older) and U21 collegiate athletes from NTSM	10	10
3. NTSM of place points from November junior qualification races	20	20
4. If the quota is not filled above, additional athletes will be selected in order from the NTSM.		

* The Copper speed series will include the U.S. National Championships for DH and will contain the same USA athletes as qualified and entered in the Copper NorAm speed series.

USA speed series (USA quota 70)

	Men	Women
1. USST	20	20
2. Seniors (21 and older) NTSM	10	10
3. Juniors (20 and younger) NTSM	10	10
4. Development	10	10
4. The remainder of the quota will be selected in order from the NTSM.		

* The Copper speed series will include the U.S. National Championships for DH and will contain the same USA athletes as qualified and entered in the Copper NorAm speed series.

Canadian speed series (USA quota 30)

	Men	Women
1. USST	20	20
2. NTSM	5	5
3. Development	5	5
4. The remainder of the quota will be selected in order from the NTSM.		

Remaining NorAms (USA quota 50)

	Men	Women
1. USST	20	20
2. Seniors from NTSM	10	10
3. Juniors from NTSM	10	10
4. Development	10	10
5. If the quota is not filled above, additional athletes will be selected in order from the NTSM.		

U.S. ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The U.S. Alpine Championships have long been a premier event on the calendar of alpine ski racing events. The entire U.S. Ski Team participates, and the events can attract top-level racers from Canada and Europe as well as the best regional and collegiate skiers.

The 2012 championships were conducted at Winter Park, CO. The 2013 championships will be at Squaw Valley, CA from Mar. 17-23 for SG, GS and SL. A special DH championship will be held in conjunction with the Copper Mtn. NorAm speed series in December.

An exciting feature begun at the 1990 championships is the Regions' Cup, awarded to the regional team earning the greatest total number of World Cup points in all of the national championship races and combined. In 2005 the Regions Cup was renamed the Tom Garner Cup in memory of Tom Garner, former Rocky/Central Director and long time supporter of alpine ski racing. Only USA skiers participate on regional teams. USST members score points for their home region. USA collegiate athletes score points for the region in which the school exists.

In addition to individual titles in all disciplines, a combined champion is identified using the sum of times from SG and SL. National Junior Champions (16-20 years-old) are recognized for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in all disciplines and combined.

Coaching staffs from each region are limited to ten individuals (not including USSA regional coaches).

USA Quotas (in order)

	Men	Women
	SL/GS/SG	SL/GS/SG
USST	All	All
Collegiate ¹ & ³	13	5
Western ¹	13	10
Rocky/Central ¹	13	10
Eastern ¹	13	10

Top three performers per event per gender at U18 Championships

Development ² X X

1 Maximum total team size, all disciplines: 18 men, 15 women

2 Up to 12 per gender to accommodate development nominations. Development quota should not be used to add events for specialists.

3 The top combined U.S. male and female athletes from the NCAA and USCSA National Championships will be selected to the technical events at the U.S. National Alpine Championships. NCAA athletes are selected by accumulated race points in SL plus GS. Ties will be broken by taking the best individual finish place in either SL or GS. The USCSA athletes are selected by purging foreign athletes from results then assigning new World Cup Points (100 to 1) for each event. The athlete with the greatest number of accumulated points will be selected. In the case of a tie, the skier with the lowest USSA points result in either the SL or GS, foreign athletes removed prior to penalty calculations, will be selected. If an athlete declines their position, the selection will revert to the NTSM of collegiate intents. These athletes will take the first positions on the college quota; the college quota is not expanded from previous rules. These athletes are not subject to the top 100 national ranking nor the 28-day intent provision as outlined in the college section of this guide.

All USA athletes must be registered to appear on the FIS Points Lists in order to be entered in the U.S. Alpine Championships.

Note: When circumstances warrant, the USSA Alpine Sport Committee, on recommendation of USSA staff, may apply objective qualification standards, or may otherwise further limit entry quotas, for the DH and SG events of the U.S. Alpine Championships, due to organizational and safety considerations. Such additional restrictions will consider athlete opportunities, performance in other disciplines, combined scoring, and other factors, and will be announced through the regions as much in advance as possible.

Foreign Entries

Up to 25 foreign competitors per race may enter. All foreign entries, including those for athletes attending USA colleges, universities, schools and academies, must be properly made by the athlete's national federation directly to USSA.

Regional Selection Procedures

Each USSA region fills its entry quota according to its own rules, which are available on the respective websites.

Regional racers entered on development quota shall represent their regions and function as part of their regional group; they shall not be counted against their region's quota.

College Quota

Team-roster varsity collegiate athletes according to procedures established by the USSA Collegiate Skiing Working Group fill the college quota. Athletes must apply through their respective regional office for access to the college quota. If selected, the college athlete will be entered by the respective regional office.

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The annual FIS World Junior Alpine Championships provide a unique opportunity for the best 16-20 year-olds of the skiing world to compete together. The 2013 World Junior Championships will be held in Quebec, Canada, Feb. 18-28. The World Junior Championships are important competitions in the development of future World Cup contenders, and World Cup skiers are usually found on the official entry lists.

Team Selection Criteria

Selection criteria is available at www.ussa.org.

FIS-UNIVERSITY RACES

Additional opportunities for international collegiate competition are available through FIS-U events. Although these events are university competitions, the rules provide for limited non-university participation. The qualification as an university student (FISU art 128.02.-03), as well as the age determine the eligibility. The competitor must be older than 17 and less than 28 years.

Quotas and Entries

The USSA Collegiate Working Group and the Alpine Sport Committee have established entry priorities in order to hold the field size for FIS-U races to that allowed by the FIS rules and organizational considerations.

1. Varsity teams as defined by the hosting college conference, (EISA, RMISA)
2. Foreign nations have a maximum quota 12 women and 12 men (unless previously expanded), which includes a maximum of 4 women and 4 men who are not students.
3. If the maximum number of participants (140 men or women) is not reached the organizing nation (USA) can fill up the starting list with its own students or non-students up to the maximum of allowed 140 participants or to the field size established for organizational considerations.
 - a. FIS-U events calendared in the USA must include a quota of at least 10 men and 10 women who are selected through quota priority 3 above.
 - b. Athletes wishing to compete in FIS-U competitions must submit online intent at least 28 days prior to the first team captains meeting, and must confirm participation at least 14 days prior to the first team captains meeting, for the competition series in question.
 - c. Athletes who have expressed interest will be ranked using an NTSM of FIS points in the discipline(s) to be contested.
 - d. Up to 20% of the USA quota may be used for development to be managed by the regional development director.
 - e. Athletes to be entered will be announced two weeks in advance of the first date of competition.

FIS-University Series Rules

The FIS-U series use a modified Continental Cup starting order as described in the FIS-U rules.

4.2.5 The following rule is only valid for FIS-Uni races in the USA:

4.2.5.1 Starting Order

4.2.5.1.1 First Group (1-15)

The first group (1-15) will be determined on the basis of the respective FIS-Uni Start List points. There are two separate USA FIS-Uni Start Lists, one in the Eastern USA and one in the Western USA. In the case of a points tie for 7th (SL/GS) or 15th place (all events) the group will be appropriately expanded. If there are not 15 competitors with respective FIS-Uni Start List points, then the first group comprises only the competitors with respective FIS-Uni Start List points.

4.2.5.1.2 Choice of Starting Numbers/Draw

GS/SL: 1st group (1-15)

The first group is sub-divided into two groups: (1-7) and (8-15). The start numbers are then drawn by double-draw from within these groups.

4.2.5.1.3 Validity of the USA FIS-Uni Start List points

The final event ranking in the respective USA FIS-Uni Start List is used as race result with a validity defined in art 4.2.5.1.3 in the next season. The first ranked has 100 points, the 30th ranked has 1 point. This ranking determines the first 30 competitors for the first race of the season. For the first race, if there are not 30 competitors present who appear on the basic list, the missing places will be filled up by continuation of the previous season's final event standings. The respective USA FIS-Uni Start List points achieved from the first race onwards in each event will be added to the basic list to determine the new ranking.

4.2.5.1.4 Validity of the Basic List

After the second race in that event in the current season the basic list will be deleted

4.2.5.2 After the first group

After the 1st group the competitors with the lowest 5 FIS points in that event may start. The next 15 competitors start according to the respective USA FIS-Uni Start List event standing, unless they are within one of the two above mentioned groups.

4.2.5.3 Size of the field

The start field will be comprised (according to International FIS-Uni rule) by collegiate and non-collegiate FIS registered skiers up to the 140 starters with respect to the National Quota rule.

REGIONAL FIS SERIES

In addition to the major national events like the NorAms, U.S. Alpine Championships, and the USSA Junior Championships, USSA conducts local races.

Each region structures its series within the framework of FIS and USSA policy. Most events are open to racers from other regions and divisions per quotas and also are open to foreign skiers, depending on the particular entry rules. In order to control the size of the fields in these events, the regional competition committees establish quotas and selection procedures per USSA ASC policies. Most regions incorporate the results of these circuits into their selection procedures for higher-level competitions.

Consult each regional website and rules for details of the various regional FIS race series’.

Regional FIS Quotas, Selections, Entries

Quotas

U.S. Ski Team	All
Foreign entries	Per FIS ICR
Visiting regions	10 men/10 women per region
Host region	70
Development	5 men/5 women

The concerned regions may agree on additional quotas for specific events.

Racers wishing to enter FIS events out of their own region must have fewer than 120.00 USSA points in any discipline to be considered (except Alaska men and women and Northern women). Host regions may relax the above quotas or points level requirements. Athletes must be entered by their home regional office.

In order to insure that out-of-division racers are competitive in the field that they are entering, the regional director may use discretion to further restrict the entry of racers from their region into out-of-division events, especially when there is no defined qualification procedure.

Athletes wishing to compete in out-of-division or out-of-region competitions must submit online intent at least 28 days prior to the first team captains meeting, and must confirm participation at least 14 days prior to the first team captains meeting, for the competition series in question. Official entries will be due 48 hours prior to the first seed meeting.

Regional/divisional offices may establish procedures to collect appropriate funds from the individual competitors entered by that region. In the event of mitigating circumstances, ‘force majeure’, the USSA regional director will determine if and how any exceptions to these policies should be allowed, on a case-by-case basis.

If all divisions and regions are within quota(s) and a Regional FIS race is oversubscribed, all USA athletes in the race are subject to being pulled from the seeding board. The USA athletes who will be pulled are those with the highest seeding points in the race until the subscription limit is reached. Eastern region has its own procedure when a race is oversubscribed. No USA athlete will be pulled from a second race in an event/series until all USA athletes have been pulled from one race in the event/series.

For events where the field size must be restricted to a total of fewer than 140, for example, events with men’s and women’s DHs on the same venue, the host region determines the acceptable field size, reducing the host region entries accordingly. (Any necessary reduction below this announced ‘target’ field would be made as in the preceding paragraph.)

Racers who enter out-of-division events and fail to attend or to formally withdraw their entries via the USSA alpine office serving the location of race, should expect disciplinary sanction from their own region and may be barred from future entry to out-of-division events including NorAms, U.S. Alpine Championships, FIS races, and USSA Junior Championships. Entries should be withdrawn as soon as racers are aware of their change of plans.

MARRIOTT JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

USSA, in cooperation with the regions and sites, has organized the Marriott Junior Championships into a highly competitive event in all of our USSA snow sports.

The alpine Marriott Junior Championships will include 6 events providing a championship incentive for junior athletes from 12-17 years of age. These events are organized on a regional basis for the younger racers and on a national basis for the older juniors.

Eligibility

Event	USSA	FIS
U18	Competitor membership	Registered
U16	Competitor membership	NA
U14	Competitor or Youth membership	NA

Quotas

Each USSA region fills its entry quota according to its own rules, subject to national guidelines. Please consult the regional chapter and handbooks for more information.

Procedures

Athletes are eligible to compete only in the Marriott Junior Championships event in their Region. Athletes are not entitled to compete in more than one Junior Championships event.

The U16 and U14 Marriott Junior Championships are limited to athletes who qualify through regional procedures.

Contacts

Contact your respective regional staff for more information on the Marriott Junior Championship program.

U18 Championships (ages 16-17, YOB 1995 and 1996)

Athletes will be selected to the U18 National Championships by membership on the USST or by their home region. This event will help focus development efforts on the top 16 and 17 years-olds in an effort to ensure sustained performance at the World Junior Championships.

The U18 Championships includes a regions cup. This regions cup will be calculated like the FIS World Junior Championship nations cup where the top 10 finishers in each event are awarded place points. The region with the highest total place points at the end of the Championship will be awarded the regions cup.

The accredited coaching and staff delegation from each region will not exceed 15 individuals.

Quotas

1. USST automatic
2. World Junior Championship Team automatic
3. 15 women and 20 men per region
4. 15 women and 20 men reserved for development. Development considerations should include first year U18 athletes as appropriate.

U16 Championships (ages 14-15, YOB 1997 and 1998)

The Marriott Junior Championships for USSA member athletes age 14 and 15 is produced as three separate regional championships.

Each USSA region fills its entry quota according to its own rules. The various procedures used by each region are elaborated in the respective regional chapter and handbooks. Please consult these for further details.

U14 Festivals (ages 12-13, YOB 1999 and 2000)

At this level the focus is on skill development and the opportunity to ski with their peer group rivals from other states and divisions. The respective regions manage quotas for the U14 Festivals. More information is available on the regional websites.

CANADIAN EVENTS

Alpine Canada Alpin (ACA) and its provincial components organize a program of competitions annually including national championships and regional FIS competitions. USSA does not encourage travel to Canadian events as a matter of common practice.

A calendar of Canadian events can be found at www.fisski.com.

Access for U.S. athletes to Canadian events is through the regional offices for provincial events and the national office for national events. Special international licenses are not required for U.S. racers competing in Canada, but current FIS registration is mandatory. All entries are made by USSA.

Access to Canadian FIS race projects will be managed for USSA athlete development; selection of interested athletes will be both objective and subjective.

Additional guidelines and requirements apply to entry into these events. Complete details and instructions are available from your regional/divisional offices. As a general rule, the U.S. may claim a quota of up to 15 women and 15 men in Canadian competitions, FIS and national, subject to the approval of the Canadian officials involved. By agreement with ACA, certain FIS events in each country may be subject to specific, more rigorous, objective qualifications even if this results in quota slots not being fully utilized. Development selections by USSA national and regional directors may be possible per the agreement with ACA. In general, athletes who have not qualified for a series in their own country will not be eligible to participate in the equivalent series across the border if these events have been identified for higher objective qualification standards. (Examples: USA and Canadian spring series).

Should more USA racers wish to enter a Canadian FIS competition than can be accommodated, racers will be ranked as follows:

1. U.S. Ski Teams,
2. By NTSM of FIS point rankings in the contested disciplines
3. 20% of the available slots may be reserved for development selections.

In order to enter FIS events in Canada, USSA competitors must be registered to appear on the FIS points lists and have 120.00 FIS points or better in any discipline; or they must be participating in a nationally or regionally-approved development activity. Athletes wishing to compete in Canadian competitions must submit online intent at least 28 days prior to the first team captains meeting (including for development consideration), and must confirm participation at least 14 days prior to the first team captains meeting, for the competition series in question. The regional director must approve all Canadian entry requests. Guidelines and forms will be provided on request to the regional offices.

The USSA Eastern office will coordinate and confirm entries for races in Eastern Canada. The USSA Western office will coordinate and confirm entries for races in Western Canada. The USSA Central office will coordinate and confirm entries for races in Ontario. Entries are only to be made by these offices or the USSA national office.

Racers entered in Canadian FIS competitions must be properly represented at all team captains' meetings, or otherwise accounted for according to the FIS ICR, or they will be pulled from the board. Racers entered in Canadian FIS competitions who fail to withdraw in

a timely manner, and/or who fail to start in races to which they have been entered, are subject to sanction/discipline including prohibition from entry into future Canadian FIS events.

FIS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S RACING

The USSA will not field any teams, nor will it authorize any individual athletes to compete, in FIS international children's competitions.

U.S. ALPINE SKI TEAM

The U.S. Ski Team represents the highest level of competition in the USA. The Team is comprised of the best skiers who compete annually in races around the globe. Top athletes from the Team take part in Olympic and World Championship competition.

The Team consists of athletes who all had their start years ago in local ski programs. They have advanced through local races to divisional/state and regional junior competitions, to international events in North America and then overseas and, ultimately, qualifying through published criteria for the Team.

The Team trains and fields athletes in international competitions to achieve sustained international excellence. The Team's successes are gauged by Olympic and World Championship medals, top three places in World Cup races, and season-long World Cup titles. Success in these events is the focus and primary goal of the Team.

Criteria for nomination to the Team is reviewed yearly. The nominating criteria looks at success in international competitions and how the athletes are ranked against all other athletes in the world.

Nomination criteria for the U.S. Alpine Ski Team is available at www.ussa.org.

U.S. ADAPTIVE SKI TEAM

Adaptive racing is managed through the U.S. Olympic Committee. More information on adaptive racing including event and team criteria can be found at www.usparalympics.org.

COMPETITION GUIDE



CHAPTER 4 REGIONAL AND DIVISIONAL/STATE PROGRAMS



This chapter of the USSA Alpine Competition Guide provides information on alpine competition programs within each USSA region and division/state. Contact information for USSA's alpine field staff is in the front of the guide. A complete listing of regional and divisional/state committees is in the USSA Directory which can be found on USSA's website.

EASTERN REGION

USSA alpine competition programs in the Eastern Region are conducted within the framework of USSA programs, rules and procedures, as modified by the regional alpine competition committee and its technical subcommittees. Within the USSA Eastern Region, state racing associations offer programs in conjunction with USSA to provide training situations and race series for all levels.

Contact information for eastern regional staff is at the front of this guide and on the Eastern Region website - www.ussaeast.com.

USSA Eastern Region Alpine Pipeline

The USSA alpine competition program in the Eastern Region is organized under three general categories: junior development, seeded competition, and masters competition. Appropriate USSA membership fees are required for all eastern programs.

All competitors must carry their membership card at every race.

Eastern Region Rules and Procedures

The following modifications and definitions of FIS and USSA rules and procedures have been adopted in the USSA Eastern Region.

Membership

Appropriate membership in USSA is mandatory for all participants in the alpine programs of the Eastern Region. Eastern U16 athletes are required to hold a USSA competitor membership to participate in races used as qualifying events leading to state championships and Junior Championship events. Competitors must carry their membership card to every race. New and renewal memberships can be done online at www.ussa.org.

Valid and sufficient medical/accident insurance is mandatory. Proof of insurance must be carried with the racer and available at each race.

Membership in a state racing association is required. A competitor may only belong to one state association. A racer shall race for the state and region in which he/she resides or in which they are attending school and/or training on a long-term basis. The decision, which must be made at the start of the season, must be based on where the racer spends the greatest part of his/her ski training and it must be abided by for the entire season, unless there are extraordinary circumstances. Competitors must join their state associations by December.

Race Entries

The standard deadline for fully paid entries for all USSA races to be received by the race organizer is five days prior to the start of the first event or official training. Entries received after the deadline and/or not accompanied by payment of full entry fee, can be considered late entries. Late entries may be charged up to 150% of the entry fee. Competitors may withdraw entries without forfeiture of any entry fees paid until 5:00 p.m. two days before the race or the start of official training. After that time, the race organizer is obligated to refund entry fees only if the entrant can prove that his or her inability to compete was due to force majeure (circumstances beyond the racer's control).

For any USSA Eastern Region competition in which the field is composed in part or wholly of quotas of various competition organizations, the competition organization must enter its complete quota prior to the established entry deadline. Competitors entered under an eastern,

state, or foreign quotas are not required to pay entry fees until the race registration and cannot be charged a late entry fee.

For eastern regional FIS events, competitors qualifying through a regional, state, or development quota must confirm or deny their participation in the event with the eastern USSA staff and their state chairperson, prior to the entry deadline. The field will be finalized at a published team captain's meeting at which all athletes must be represented. **Once the confirmation process is complete, failure to attend the event, for reasons other than force majeure, may result in revocation of the right to compete at the FIS level on a USA quota for specified future events.**

Out of Region Travel

As a member of a team named by USSA eastern, for designated out-of-division races which are organized and staffed by the Eastern Region office, staff may arrange for all ground transportation, lodging, entries and coaching. In most cases, competitors will be required to make their own airline reservations. Each competitor may be charged a package price, payable before departure.

USSA U14s are not eligible to earn USSA points out of region. Eastern U16s and U14s may race out of region with permission of the eastern regional staff. Any eastern U14 who does race out of region will not be credited with USSA points from these races. The eastern office makes all out of region entries.

For out-of-division regional FIS series, the east usually has a quota of 10 men and 10 women. Qualified competitors who wish to be considered for entry into an event on the eastern quota must submit a request via online forms to the Eastern Region office **received no later than 28 days prior to the first seed meeting of the first event in the schedule.** USSA regional staff will make selections. Individual FIS series may be designated for development purposes in lieu of standard selection procedure and requirements.

It is the competitor's responsibility to confirm their place on an eastern quota. Likewise, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the eastern office immediately if they wish to be withdrawn from the quota.

For out-of-region USSA races, contact the Eastern Region staff for authorization and coordination of entry.

For Canadian races, the U.S. usually has a quota of 15 men and 15 women. The USSA Eastern Region competition manager must approve regional, divisional and/or local club entries into Canadian FIS races in advance, in writing. **Names for Canadian competitions must be submitted to the eastern office 28 days in advance via online entry forms at www.ussaintentsonline.com for entries to be considered. Inclusion on the valid FIS list is required for entry into Canadian FIS races.**

While the regional office will authorize and submit the official entries, every racer is responsible for their own arrangements. Do not send payment to the office unless specifically instructed to do so; **be prepared to pay organizers directly in cash (Canadian) or some other form of guaranteed funds.**

Selections and Standings

For information on selection to regional events, eastern regional team, updated standings, and camp information, go to www.ussaeast.com.

EASTERN STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Much of the lower level of Eastern competition is organized through state racing associations. Membership in one state association is required. See the Eastern Regional Rules and Procedures for more details. State associations may set rules, require membership, develop schedules and series, and fill quotas subject to USSA approval. All racers are responsible for being properly registered to compete and qualify for events.

Competitors must be members in good standing with their respective state association in order to be eligible for the following state association programs: qualifying series, quota-based invitational and Eastern region events, state teams and Junior Championship, scored series, and state awards.

Racers and coaches should be familiar with their state's program. Many state associations publish newsletters or guides of their own which explain in detail their specific programs. The following list of state associations each provides key contacts if you need more information.

New Jersey Ski Racing Association - NJSRA

NJSRA membership renewals are automatically invoiced through USSA. New NJSRA members should indicate New Jersey as their state affiliation and enclose the appropriate NJSRA dues along with their USSA fees. The New Jersey Ski Racing Association organizes alpine competition in New Jersey, selects racers to represent the state in regional competition. The organization runs and governs all local State Championship race events, and selects State Team members based on their results in Championship Qualifying races. Races are scheduled for all racers, SR through U10, and we support and promote a Masters race schedule as well.

The NJSRA membership fee is \$30 for racers and \$15 for coaches. Members are to renew and/or join NJSRA with their USSA membership. Renewing members are to sign up no later than Oct. 15 to avoid USSA and NJSRA late fees. Following Oct. 15 NJSRA membership fees will be \$50 for athletes and \$35 for coaches. For additional membership information and a New Jersey Competition Guide, contact New Jersey Ski Racing Association, Box 265, McAfee NJ 07428, or go to www.njsra.org.

Maine Alpine Racing Association - MARA

MARA membership renewals are automatically invoiced through USSA. New MARA members should indicate Maine as their state affiliation and enclose the appropriate MARA dues along with their USSA fees. Foreign competitors may indicate their affiliation with Maine and include MARA dues with USSA dues for processing, or, may send MARA dues directly to MARA, 3012 Brackett Brook Rd, Carrabassett Valley ME 04947.

The MARA membership fee is \$40 for coach, competitor, student and youth members through U14 and it is \$20 for youth members U10 and younger. Renewing MARA members (except U10s and younger) should add a \$20 late fee for renewals postmarked after Oct. 15. Active TD's receive complimentary MARA membership. MARA welcomes contributions from officials, parents, and other supporters of alpine racing in Maine.

For further information, visit MARA at www.skimara.org - or write to MARA, Laurel Lashar, 3012 Brackett Brook Rd, Carrabassett Valley ME 04947, tel. 207.807.3147 fax. 207.237.3026 or llashar@sugarloaf.com.

New Hampshire Alpine Racing Association - NHARA

Membership in the New Hampshire Alpine Racing Association is open to competitors of all ages and abilities and to coaches, officials, parents, and supporters with an interest in alpine ski racing. The state program is outlined in the NHARA Handbook. NHARA membership applications must be submitted by Dec. 1 of the competition season to avoid a late fee. Schedules and qualifying information will be mailed to all members and NHARA clubs in the fall. For information and membership applications contact: Laurie Stevens, NHARA, Box 1402, Campton NH 03223, tel. 603.726.7578 email lauriestevens@roadrunner.com or Emily Crane, 1892 River Rd, Plymouth NH 03264, tel. 603.968.4429 email etcrane@metrocast.net or visit NHARA at www.nhalpine.org.

New York State Ski Racing Association - NYSSRA

The New York State Ski Racing Association welcomes all people interested in the sport of alpine ski racing. Membership application forms are available at www.nyssra.org. Applications must be submitted by Oct. 15 of the competition season to avoid a late fee.

The New York Alpine Competition Manual is mailed available to the families of all competitors, coaches and races officials when they join each year. An online manual is also available at www.nyssra.org.

For additional information contact Connie Webster at conniew@nyssra.org.

Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association - PARA

The Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association is open to competitors of all ages and abilities, coaches, officials, parents, and supporters with an interest in alpine ski racing. Membership applications, programs, rules, qualification procedures, race schedules, and links to online race registration may be found at www.paracing.org.

The PARA individual membership fee is \$35 for racers and members-at-large; it is \$5 for coaches and alpine officials. Membership renewals must be received no later than Oct. 15 of the competition season to avoid late fees.

For additional information and membership applications visit PARA at www.paracing.org or contact PARA Membership Chair Sheila Nickle tel. 908.850.1130 email membership@paracing.org.

Southern Alpine Racing Association - SARA

The Southern Alpine Racing Association is open to all residents of Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, Georgia and people in surrounding areas who enjoy skiing in our area. SARA welcomes any person with an interest in the sport of alpine ski racing. Parents of racers and volunteers are also encouraged to join. For more information about SARA and to apply for membership, visit our website at www.skisara.org. You may also contact John Patrick email skierjohnp@charter.net, tel. 423.863.1890.

Tri-State Alpine Racing Association (MA, CT, RI)

The Tri-State Alpine Racing Programs are open to all residents of MA, CT and RI according to regional rules. For more information regarding Tri-State membership, programs, rules and qualifying procedures, contact Laura Sullivan, Tri-State Administrator, PO Box 239, Cummington MA 01026, email laurasullivan@tristateskiracing.org or visit Tri-State at www.tristateskiracing.org. Membership fees are: SR through U14 - \$25; U12 and younger - \$10; coaches and officials - \$15; parent or sponsor membership \$15.

Vermont Alpine Racing Association (VARA)

The Vermont Alpine Racing Association is open to persons of all ages and abilities. Competitors, coaches, Vermont clubs/programs/academies and alpine officials are required to join VARA. Parents and volunteers are encouraged to join VARA as supporting members. New applicants and renewals may request membership forms from VARA, PO Box 82, Cavendish VT 05142, tel. 802.236.4695 fax 802.226.7117. Please visit www.vara.org for more information.

Eastern Amateur Ski Educational Foundation

The Eastern Amateur Ski Educational Foundation (EASEF) is a fund that has been established to benefit the development of competitive skiing. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports alpine, cross country, jumping, freestyle and snowboard development programs in the Eastern Region. A special alpine account has been set up to benefit our eastern athletes. Specifically, funds raised for alpine are spent to directly reduce the costs to the athletes, by supporting competitor travel to national and international events, and to training camps and similar opportunities.

EASEF relies entirely on contributions for the support it provides our athletes and programs. If you want to help Eastern alpine competitors, we guarantee that any contribution earmarked "Alpine" will do just that.

Eastern skiers need your help more than ever. EASEF can make a difference for those who have the ability to ski, not necessarily the ability to pay. From U16s to Junior Championship and NorAm racers, our skiers need financial support. Make your tax deductible contribution to: EASEF, PO Box 1720 Station A, Rutland VT 05701.

ROCKY/CENTRAL REGION

The USSA Rocky Mountain/Central Region is comprised of the Rocky Mountain and Central divisions. The Rocky/Central Alpine Competition Committee (ACC) is the governing body for the region. Regional selection procedures, championship events, regional development programs, and regional scheduling are designed and approved by the Rocky/Central ACC. Regional development programs are designed to assist the top athletes in the region at each age level.

Rocky/Central Regional Staff

Rocky Manager - Darlene Nolting, dnolting@ussa.org, tel. 435.640.8510

Central Manager - Brewster McVicker, bmcvicker@ussa.org, tel. 435.714.9243

Regional Coach - Frank Keble, fkeble@ussa.org

Rocky/Central Alpine Competition Committee

Pat Callahan - Chair	Rocky
Tom Barnes	Central
Bob Dart	Rocky
Darryl Landstrom	Central
Chelsea Lynch	Rocky
Joe Paul	Central
Roger Perricone	Rocky
Bill Slattery	Central
Dave Waller	Central
Anje Worrell	Rocky

For comprehensive information on Rocky/Central Regional policies and procedures and other regional information such as: selection procedures, forms, race calendars and teams, please see the Regional website via the links on the USSA website, www.ussa.org.

ROCKY/CENTRAL DIVISIONS

Central Division

The Central Division of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) is part of the Rocky/Central Region. The mission of USSA Central is to provide the highest quality racing and training opportunities for Central athletes that will help them achieve their highest potential as individuals and ski racers. The Central Division supports the vision of the USSA to become the best in the world in ski racing. USSA Central will achieve its mission by creating and maintaining comprehensive athlete development programs to support clubs with their emerging athletes, and by organizing world-class events with recognition for achievement and participation.

Membership Requirements

Central Division racers must first complete their USSA membership and designate Central on the registration form. Forms may be obtained from the USSA Membership office by calling 435.647.2666 or register online at www.ussa.org. Central athletes must also register with their respective regions (see below). Regional registration materials will be sent by the regional offices to returning members in the fall. New members must contact their regional administrator for information.

Central Division Boundaries

Central Division alpine racing program is divided into four local regions. They are:

Region 1: Minnesota; North and South Dakota; Iowa west of Route 63

Region 2: Upper Peninsula of Michigan west of Route 77; Wisconsin; Iowa east of Route 63; Illinois and Missouri

Region 3: Lower Peninsula of Michigan; Upper Peninsula of Michigan east of Route 77

Region 4: Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky

Athletes must compete in the region where they reside and train. If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent an athlete from competing in the region in which they reside and train, that athlete must petition the division for change in regional affiliation.

Regional Contacts

Region 1

Caryn Jones
8051 Prairie Trail
Rockford MN 55373
T: (651) 321-4918
cussa_region1@yahoo.com
www.skifast.com

Region 3

Cathy Janowiak
PO Box 435
Manistee MI 49660
T: 231.723.8772
cathy@region3cussa.org
www.region3cussa.org

Region 2

Gary Hutchins
5610 Tall Oaks Rd
Waunakee WI 53597
T: 608.575.2586
race.admin@region2cussa.com
www.region2cussa.com

Region 4

Lisa Pranchk
8025 Balmoral Ct
Dublin OH 43017
T: 614.764.3888
pranchk@hotmail.com
www.region4cussa.org

For information on governance, schedules, rules and regulations visit Central Division at www.ussacentral.org.

Rocky Mountain Division

The purpose of the USSA Rocky Mountain program is to provide the best opportunities possible for all competitors to ski race and pursue personal athletic goals. One of USSA Rocky's main objectives as a division includes improving the quality of competition in the USA and the Rocky Mountain region. The program is structured to allow flexible administration of competitions and competitors with special consideration given to race location, travel, education coordination, ability and age classifications and economics.

For comprehensive information on the Rocky Mountain Division policies and procedures and other divisional information such as selection procedures, forms, race calendars and teams, refer to the Rocky Mountain Division website at www.ussarocky.com.

WESTERN REGION

The USSA Western Region is one of three USSA regions established under the authority of the Alpine Sport Committee and responsible for the regulation of the sport of alpine ski competition within the geographical area of the western United States. It consists of five western divisions: Alaska, Far West, Intermountain, Northern and Pacific Northwest. The Western Region Alpine Competition Committee establishes the regional policies, procedures and operating rules for the Western Region. The region schedules all FIS races and Junior Championship competitions in the West for each season, fields teams for NorAms, the U.S. Alpine Championships, and other events, conducts a series of development projects for regional and divisional athletes, and names a Regional Team, the Western Elite Ski Team (W.E.S.T.) for who's members the region assists in their development within the athletic pipeline of USSA and the National Development System.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Western Region ACC is to:

1. Promote elite level alpine competition within the boundaries of the Western Region, recognizing the region's role at the elite level and the division's roles at the entry level and club levels of the sport.
2. Coordinate the efforts of the five divisions within the Western Region in areas of common interest, concern, and responsibility.
3. Promote the development of elite athletes from the five divisions of the Western Region.
4. Maintain a governance structure that provides for the collective needs of the five western divisions, and represents the five western divisions to the Alpine Sport Committee for Alpine as a subcommittee of that committee.

Western Website

The complete policies and procedures for Western Region programs are available at www.ussawest.com. Included are sections on:

- Western Region Governance
- Officers and Alpine Sport Committee Members
- Operational Rules
- Western Region Appeals Committee
- Regional Programs
- Western Region Team
- Western Race Events
- Western Quotas and Selection Procedures
- Junior Championship Procedures
- Regional Awards

- Regional Automatics
- Project information and registration forms
- All Regional Forms such as Intent to Compete Declaration, Medical Release, Team Agreement, etc.
- FIS and JC series results

For more Information

Staff

Regional Development Director - Dr. Lester Keller, lkeller@ussa.org tel. 435.647.2035

Regional Manager - Gwynn Watkins, gwatkins@ussa.org tel. 435.647.2070

Regional Coach - Karin Harjo, kharjo@ussa.org tel. 435.714.3567

Officers

Chair - Karen Korfanta, kkorfanta@pcski.com

Vice Chair - Todd Kelly, tk@squaw.com

Treasurer - Bill Gunesch, bgunesch@centurytel.net

Secretary - Lucy Schram, lucy@fwskiing.org

Past Chair - Craig Krueger, craigw@bresnan.net

WESTERN DIVISIONS

Alaska Division

Ski competition within the Alaska Division is administered by the Alaska Alpine Competition Committee (ACC), which is comprised of representatives from each USSA member club. The ACC coordinates race schedules and development programs, establishes competition guidelines, and makes team selections for regional and national events.

Divisional Rules and Procedures

Membership: All athletes are required to be current members of USSA and hold a current USSA alpine competitor, youth, or student membership in order to compete in USSA scored or non-scored races. Youth or student memberships are recommended for skier competing in non-scored events only. U14 skiers can purchase a competitor membership. All Alaska USSA members must pay Alaska Division dues.

Out-of-Division Travel

Athletes wishing to travel to any out of division races must notify the coaches working group chair, via their club coach, a minimum of 30 days before the event. Only these athletes will appear on the NTS board, which will be used to make the selections 25 days before the event. Selected athletes will have 48 hours to accept their selection, at which time a \$250 deposit is due. This deposit is non-refundable except in the event of injury or illness. The balance of the cost is due before the start of the event. The division will be responsible for collecting the cost of the trip from athletes. Athletes not in good standing with Alaska as of travel day of all divisional quota events are subject to immediate sanctioning. Good standing is defined as current USSA and Alaska Division membership and no outstanding debts owed the division. Send a check for the cost of the trip to the divisional administrator.

Contact

Natalie Osborne, ACC Administrator, PO Box 752, Girdwood AK 99587 T: 907 223 0858
E: admin@ussaak.org W: www.ussaak.org.

Finances

An athlete's divisional and national financial obligations must be paid prior to the athlete's departure for out-of-division or championship competition.

Far West Division

Alpine ski competition in the Far West, including California, Nevada and Hawaii is organized and conducted by Far West Skiing (FWS). Far West competitors are subject to the guidelines of the USSA and FIS.

FWS originally developed out of the need for uniformity in all phases of alpine ski racing: the eligibility and qualification of racers, standards and certification for coaches and officials, and clinics and training programs. As a division of USSA and the USSA Western Region, FWS plays a key role in U.S. alpine competition. FWS competition programs are the first step for local racers to national and international alpine ski competition.

Divisional Rules and Procedures

Membership in USSA is a requirement for participation in all Far West races. An additional FWS membership is required of all athletes, coaches and officials in Far West and is available for \$35 except for SR-U16 competitors in which dues are \$50. After Oct. 15 the fee is \$60 except for SR-U16 competitors which is \$75.

The complete rules and procedures governing the conduct of USSA Far West program is in the current Far West Skiing Alpine Competition Manual published by FWS annually and available through the FWS office. The FWS Manual is posted at www.fwskiing.us.

Administration

The administration of alpine competition in the Far West is the responsibility of the Far West Skiing Alpine Competition Committee (FWS ACC), which in turn is responsible to the Far West Skiing board of directors (FWS BOD). Various subcommittees of the FWS ACC, each headed by a chairperson, actively oversee the different competition areas. The subcommittees work out proposals and new policies, which are discussed and fine-tuned by the FWS ACC and presented to the FWS BOD for approval.

FWS maintains a divisional office to support the needs of Far West competitors, coaches, officials, volunteers and clubs. The office disseminates important information regarding race schedules, racer qualification, selection to traveling teams, coaches and officials clinics, etc. All pertinent information, including schedules, selection lists and the manual, are posted on the website at www.fwskiing.us and facebook.com/farwestskiing. For questions or further information, please see the Far West website or contact the FWS administrator Lucy Schram email lucy@fwskiing.org tel. 530.559.4130.

Intermountain Division

The Intermountain Division (IMD) of the USSA involves alpine teams or programs from Utah, southern Idaho and southwestern Wyoming. IMD is structured into the Northern Section, teams from Idaho and Wyoming, and the Southern Section, teams from Utah. Within the two sections, junior racing events may differ in age group involvement, access, and quota selections for IMD wide events. This structure allows for more local racing at the grass roots level and divisional events for the more competitive levels. IMD fields single quotas to Western Regional events including Junior Championship and FIS competitions.

Access to USSA IMD races for out of division athletes and access for IMD athletes to USSA out of division races, beyond those where an IMD quota is selected, requires permission of the IMD Director and the governing USSA body in the other region, division, or state. Athletes wishing to access out of division FIS races, that IMD does not have a quota for must adhere to the policies of the Western Region.

IMD is organized and conducted by the IMD Alpine Competition Committee and the Intermountain Director, in conjunction with the Western Region of USSA and the USSA Sport Committee. IMD competitors are subject to the applicable rules and guidelines of the USSA and the FIS.

Intermountain maintains a divisional office to support the needs of divisional membership. For questions regarding IMD policies, programs and general information refer to the IMD Handbook posted on the at www.ussa-imd.org or contact the Divisional Director, Carma Q. Burnett at carma@ussa-imd.org tel. 208.412.8565 or contact Jesse Hunt IMD ACC Chairman at jesse.hunt@parkcityskiteam.org tel. 435.649.8749. The USSA/IMD office mailing address is: 1775 W State St #343, Boise ID 83702.

Membership Requirements

Membership in USSA is required for participation in all IMD races. A USSA alpine competitor membership is required for participation in USSA scored races. A youth membership is available for ages 13 and under, participating in non-scored races. A student membership is available for ages 14 and over not participating in scored races. In addition to a USSA membership, an IMD membership is required for all IMD athletes who wish to participate in IMD sanctioned events. USSA and IMD membership applications are available through the USSA Member Services at tel. 435.647.2666 or at info@ussa.org.

IMD Membership Fees

Class	Until Oct. 15	After Oct. 15
Alpine Youth	\$20	\$20
Alpine Student	\$25	\$40
Alpine Competitor	\$50	\$65

Northern Division

Alpine competition in Montana, Yellowstone National Park, and in the northern Wyoming counties of Park, Hot Springs, Big Horn, Washakie, Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook, Weston, Converse, and South Dakota west of the Missouri River is organized by USSA Northern Division within the framework of USSA, FIS and Western Region programs, procedures and rules. The USSA Northern Division board of directors, through its Alpine Competition Committee, coordinates and supervises activities in the area. For the name of the ski program in your area visit the Northern Division at www.northernussa.org.

For questions contact the Northern Division Manager at the telephone number listed below and on the Northern Division website. Volunteers working with USSA staff in the Western Regional office conduct USSA Northern programs. Information and rules on Northern Division can be found at www.northernussa.org.

Questions regarding Northern Division can be directed to the Northern Division President, Rick Duncan rduncan@pchs.dl.k12.mt.us or Sherri Hale nodivmanager@centurytel.net.

Membership

Membership in USSA is a requirement for participation in all Northern Division Races. A USSA alpine competition membership is required for all competitors participating in USSA scored races. Racers must have a USSA membership before they will be able to purchase a Northern membership.

Membership applications are available from the Northern Alpine Competition Committee or on the USSA website at www.ussa.org.

USSA Northern Membership Fees

Class	Until Oct. 15	After Oct. 15
Alpine Competitor	\$30	\$50
Alpine Student	\$25	\$40
Alpine Youth	\$22	\$37

The complete rules and procedures governing the conduct of USSA Northern Division programs are in the Northern Division Handbook available on the Northern Division website.

Northern Division Administrator

Sherri Hale tel. 406.871.7429 email nodivmanager@centurytel.net.

Pacific Northwest Division

Ski competition in the Pacific Northwest area of the USA, including Oregon, Washington and Northern Idaho is organized and conducted by the Pacific Northwest Division (PNSA) under the guidelines of FIS, USSA and Western Region programs, policies and procedures.

PNSA divisional rules apply to all PNSA members. For more specific information about PNSA rules, procedures, and policies, please refer to the PNSA Alpine Competition Manual which can be found, along with more information, at www.pnsa.org (also linkable through the USSA website).

Questions regarding PNSA can be directed to the Executive Director, Paul Mahre, email pnsa@pnsa.org.

Membership

Membership in USSA is a requirement for participation in all PNSA races. In addition to USSA membership, the PNSA membership fee is \$35 for Competitors, \$20 for Masters and \$15 for Youth and Students. PNSA membership is not required for coaches and officials.

Out of Division Racers in PNSA Events

Racers from other divisions are welcome to compete in PNSA races to the extent compatible with field size restrictions. Western Region racers should contact their divisional office at least two weeks prior to the race. Racers from outside the Western Region will need the permission of their regional director and the Western Region director at least three weeks (21 days) before contacting PNSA. The racer must meet qualifications of the PNSA race series being entered.

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COMPETITION GUIDE



CHAPTER 5 COLLEGIATE, MASTERS AND ADAPTIVE RACING



COLLEGIATE COMPETITION

Collegiate ski competition is an important part of the sport in the USA and has made great contributions to the development of and participation of athletes in alpine skiing. Top international racers have emerged from various collegiate programs. College competition remains a viable part of the USSA athlete development pipeline. Collegiate team skiing provides tremendous opportunities for USSA junior competitors to continue ski racing while pursuing goals in education.

College circuits have been as competitive as major USSA events, in some years rivaling even national championships for public attention. There are two national collegiate programs: the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the U.S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association (USCSA). Both intertwine with USSA working through its USSA Collegiate Skiing Committee.

The NCAA offers the traditional college carnival circuit in the East (EISA-Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association) and in the Rocky's (RMISA-Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association) leading to the NCAA Skiing Championships. NCAA skiing has long been tied to USSA regional/divisional programs, and top NCAA athletes are among the top racers in their regions and in the country as a whole.

The USCSA offers programs from full-varsity teams to club sports teams. Organized into 11 conferences, the USCSA provides opportunities for athletes to qualify to one of the five regional championships leading to the USCSA Championships.

College athletes who are competitor members, have access to the USSA points list, and many college meets are scored for USSA points. Some college meets are organized as FIS-University events, where FIS points and international rankings may be achieved.

The various college leagues are independent organizations, running ski races under their own authority and organization. In order to coordinate activities, representatives of college and school groups have been invited to join the policy-making process of USSA at many levels.

USSA Scoring

Collegiate events can be scored to the USSA points list. To be scored to that list, they must follow the same procedures as any other USSA event, including calendaring, calendar fees, head tax, and result submission. Colleges wishing to have races scored should contact the respective USSA alpine office.

College Quota

USSA provides special opportunities for top collegiate skiers to participate in major USSA events such as the NorAms, and the U.S. Alpine Championships. The field for these races includes a college quota.

The college quota is available only to athletes on an official collegiate team roster, recognized by NCAA, USCSA and USSA, with a valid USSA competitor membership. FIS registration is required for NorAms and the U.S. Alpine Championships. Athletes must be ranked in the top-100 USA athletes on the FIS points lists used for the selection in the discipline(s) to be contested.

An athlete in the top-100 in SL is eligible for both SL and GS. An athlete in the top-100 in GS is eligible for SL, GS and SG. An athlete in the top-100 in SG is eligible for GS, SG and DH. An athlete in the top-100 in DH is eligible for DH and SG.

College skiers who are interested in these opportunities must express this interest to the respective regional staff at least 28 days prior to the event. Selections for each event will be made according to procedures established by the USSA Collegiate Skiing Committee.

The top combined U.S. male and female athletes from both the USCSA and the

NCAA National Championships will be automatic to the technical events at the U.S. National Alpine Championships. The selection procedure for these athletes is outlined in chapter 3 in the section U.S. Alpine Championships.

FIS-University Quotas, Entries, Calendar

Information on quotas, entries and calendars for the FIS-University series of events is now located in the Series and Selection chapter. USA racers eligible according to FIS-U rules may compete in events in Europe. These competitions are listed on the FIS calendar and are scored for FIS points.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

The NCAA's purpose is to initiate, stimulate and improve intercollegiate athletics programs for students and to promote and develop educational leadership, physical fitness, athletic excellence and athletic participation as a recreational pursuit, and to cooperate with other amateur athletic organizations in promoting and conducting national and international athletic events.

The NCAA Championships are held annually. Eight events are currently contested in each NCAA meet, four for men and four for women. The two alpine events are SL and GS while cross country skiers compete in an individual skating and mass start classical race. The points earned by both the male and female skiers are combined to determine the order of team finish. This makes the male and female skiers equal, a rare occurrence in sports today. This season's NCAA championships will be hosted at the Middlebury College Snowbowl, Mar. 6-9, 2013 in Middlebury, VT.

Team skiing is emphasized in NCAA meets with a school's best three (out of three) racers counting for team points. However, qualifying for the NCAA Championships is done on an individual basis by earning top result in ones respective Eastern or Western collegiate circuit.

All NCAA ski teams are varsity level sports sponsored by each school's respective athletic department. Many teams provide scholarship aid to their athletes, a budget that pays for travel expenses, and the highest level of professional coaching. Most NCAA coaches are members of, and have received education through USSA. All NCAA events are scored for USSA points and these events traditionally have USSA point penalties second only to the U.S. Alpine Championships and NorAms.

For athletes planning on attending school it is very important to be aware of NCAA eligibility rules. For more info on NCAA eligibility and requirements contact any college coach, the NCAA rules compliance officer at most colleges and universities, call the NCAA Eligibility Hotline at 800.638.3731, or check out www.ncaa.org.

U.S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association (USCSA)

The United States Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association is the sports federation for collegiate team ski racing and snowboarding in America. You can be part of a team at any college in the United States. The USCSA has an alpine, cross country or snowboard collegiate competition program for you. If your college does not have a team, we can assist you in getting one started.

The USCSA assures that student/athletes of all levels and abilities have access to a quality and exciting venue of competition. The USCSA also recognizes, that for athletes to be truly successful individuals, academics should take priority over skisport competition. To help foster this, the USCSA stresses education first and offers a variety of academic based awards.

In excess of 178 colleges from coast to coast, field some 4,700 men and women, alpine, cross country and snowboarding athletes in over 200 race events annually. Competition takes place across three progressive tiers. Conference qualifiers determine the participants at the six USCSA Regional Championships. The Regionals are the last step on the road to the annual

U.S. Collegiate Skiing and Snowboard Championships, the showcase event in college ski and snowboard competition. The U.S. Collegiate Skiing Championships and the U.S. Collegiate Snowboard Championships. The 2013 Championships had not been finalized at press time.

Team performance is emphasized within the USCSA, a departure from the typical individual or world cup scoring format in skiing. Teams field five racers with the top three performances being used for the team score. Most former USCSA athletes agree that the USCSA's team orientation has been the seed for developing and nurturing a team approach in other aspects of their lives and careers.

The USCSA actively promotes the development of new collegiate programs. If your school does not have a competition program, the USCSA will assist you in developing one at your school. For a free brochure and college directory, contact the USCSA National Office.

Collegiate Contacts

To access more information on collegiate programs visit the following websites:

www.ncaa.org

www.uscsa.com

www.eisaskiing.org

MASTERS SKI RACING

USSA's alpine masters program is ski racing's next step. After the pipeline, when the urge to compete is still alive, masters make racing a social experience. Athletes with a Competitor or Student membership, who are 18 to 24 years old, may participate in masters events; however, they are not eligible for masters regional or national championships. Athletes with a Coaches membership who are 39 and younger may participate in local masters competitions; to compete in the Regional and National Championships, they must hold a Masters membership. Athletes who are 21 and older, and who hold a Masters membership, may participate in those championship events.

Masters compete in regional programs across the nation, for divisional and national titles. Masters class 1 allows racers 21 to 29 to compete as a group, those 30 and over divide themselves into five-year categories through class 14 for racers 90 and over. Masters is the largest organized body for adult competition in the country, competing at the highest level available. There are over 230 masters races held annually.

Masters racing is a social gathering on the race hill. Competitors come from diverse backgrounds, with a common interest: ski racing. Masters racing offers the opportunity to compete against pioneers and players in the ski industry, former world cup, national team, and Olympic racers, college athletes, captains of industry, and seasoned expert skiers, all looking to reach the pinnacle of skiing success.

Each master racer brings his or her own goals and initiative to the slopes. Many ski areas have extensive programs surrounding the masters, including regular training, and club activities. Those new to the program find the exceptional abilities of the participants disconcerting. Class four and five, representing racers between 40 and 50 years old, frequently earn the best times, with no handicapping!

USSA organizes masters programs through an invaluable network of committed volunteers across the country who manage regional masters competition programs. In house, USSA supports a full-time, year-round masters service department for the benefit of its members. USSA processes memberships, basic fulfillment, specific program endorsement, bodies of rules, coordination of competition sanctioning, provision of liability insurance for organizers and officials, and the generation of information and communication.

Competitors receive regular newsletters, a competition guide, special offers from suppliers, and the opportunity to become involved in ski racing as a coach or official.

Masters compete within designated regions, although USSA membership allows

participation in other regions. Masters also have the opportunity to compete in international events as a part of the FIS International Masters Cup.

The 2013 USSA Alpine Masters National Championships for DH, SG, GS and SL will be held Mar. 18-23 at Big Sky, MT.

Individuals interested in masters ski racing may contact USSA at www.ussa.org, or call masters racing manager Bill Skinner at 435.647.2633 for more information.

ADAPTIVE SKI RACING

Adaptive skiing started in pre-World War II Europe and is now highly developed throughout the world. Adaptive skiing involves persons with mobility impairments, including, amputees, paraplegics, post-polio, and individuals with visual impairments, even total blindness.

Adaptive skiing began as a rehabilitation/recreation program that evolved into well-organized national and international competitions with corresponding organizations to administer the sport. Elite level racing for adaptive skiers has existed in the states since 1972 and internationally since 1974.

Adaptive skiing was an exhibition sport in the 1984 and 1988 Winter Olympic Games. Today the major events internationally are the World Championships and the Paralympic Winter Games

Today adaptive ski racing in the U.S. is managed by the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC). Information on events, teams and more can be found at www.usparalympics.org.



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COMPETITION GUIDE



CHAPTER 6 OFFICIALS AND COACHES EDUCATION



USSA competition programs provide aspiring athletes with an opportunity for fun, excitement and a chance to achieve a dream. The success of athletes is enhanced by the manner in which those competitions are conducted, and the training and support athletes receive from coaches and officials.

Education of coaches, athletes, competition officials, and parents is of utmost importance to the future success of U.S. athletes. This chapter of the USSA Alpine Competition Guide takes a brief look at USSA officials, coaches' education, programs and sport science program.

ALPINE OFFICIALS' PROGRAM

Ski race officiating is a service function, benefiting the general program, the ski club and the individual competitors. The rewards are similar to those of other volunteer groups, the satisfaction of accomplishment and a feeling of well being from having added to a program that would not exist without the dedicated help of hundreds and thousands of volunteer officials.

Certification of an alpine official by FIS or USSA implies that an official is qualified, thoughtful, and conscientious. The listing of an alpine official at the more advanced levels does not constitute a progression through proficiency tests or merit badges, but rather it represents recognition of proven judgment, ability and service.

New officials will have no designation until promoted by the USSA Alpine Officials Committee or its representatives. Some divisions/states of USSA require additional membership fees. These fees help defray the costs of additional services provided to officials and race organizers in those regions, according to the programs established by the divisional AO committees.

Code of Conduct

Alpine ski race officials are generally volunteers, giving freely of their time, often at personal expense. Nonetheless, high standards of judgment and competence are expected of certified officials whose actions set an example for others in the sport.

The hallmarks of good officials are promptness, fairness and justice, tempered by tact and consideration. All actions and behavior will reflect on the entire sport.

Technical delegates and referees are charged with seeing that the rules are followed. They must exercise reasonable judgment and discretion, insisting upon compliance with major issues, especially those concerning competitor protection.

Alpine officials should use restraint; suggest rather than order, use tact and persuasion rather than force. Knowledge and experience should support the position of the official.

Alpine officials represent all levels of USSA to the ski area, the sponsoring organization, the racers, coaches, parents and the public. Their words and behavior should be tempered to create the best possible impression of fairness, competence and knowledge, thereby assuring a rewarding and enjoyable competition for all.

USSA officials, like athletes and coaches, should know and understand the USSA Code of Conduct, which may be found later in this Guide.

Race Organization

The organizing committee of the sponsoring club or association is responsible for the overall conduct of an event. For high-level events, the FIS ICR (rule book) notes that the organizing committee should have a chairman, a secretary and various subcommittees, each in charge of a particular aspect of the meet. Finances, board and lodging, traffic control, press relations, ceremony and prizes, medical service and police are some of the non-technical areas of concern at a major FIS event. These functions are often combined and handled as a matter of course at races below the FIS calendar level. Actual race functions are the responsibility of the race committee.

All events shall have the most qualified officials available. For scored events, at least one member of the Race Jury must be certified as Level 3 or above.

Please consult the FIS ICR for the specific description of the relationships among the FIS (for FIS competitions), the national federation, and the local organizing committee.

Race Committee

The actual running of the race is the function covered by the race committee, whose chief or chairman would be a part of the organizing committee. Note that the race committee is very different from the race jury.

Start and finish referees are appointed by the race committee and are non-voting jury advisors. The race committee appoints other chief officials, assistants and crews. The race committee, subject to approval of the team captains and race jury, if not previously assigned by FIS or USSA, may nominate course setters.

The technical delegate, chief of course, course setters, referee, and assistant referee must be members of USSA.

- Chief of Race (also a Jury Member)
- Chief of Timing and Calculations
- Race Administrator
- Finish Referee*
- Chief of Course
- Chief Gate Judge
- Start Referee*
- * Non-voting Jury advisors

Other members as designated by the club or sponsoring organization

Race Jury

The jury is responsible for all decisions pertaining to the race, for the arbitration of protests, and for upholding the rules. The jury and technical delegate must collaborate closely with the race committee through the chief of race. Other members of the race committee, such as the chief of course, chief gate judge or the chief of timing, may be called upon to present information to the race jury, but they are not Jury members. For non-FIS events, jury members must be members of USSA. For FIS events, jury members must be members of USSA or another national skiing federation that is a member of the FIS.

- Technical Delegate (Chairman of the Race Jury)
- Referee
- Assistant Referee (speed events only*)
- Chief of Race (also on Race Committee)

* Assistant Referee can be appointed as a non-voting Jury member at USSA technical events for training.

Officials' Manual

The USSA Alpine Officials Education Working Group has assembled a comprehensive manual for alpine officials (AO's). The manual is available on the USSA website. This manual is a guide to race organization, the rules, and duties of officials, timing and calculations, and other subject areas important to Alpine Officials throughout the country.

It is intended to be as thorough as possible with updates and revisions produced as necessary. However, it is not meant to be a step-by-step 'cookbook' with definitive procedures for every race situation.

Gate Judge Video

USSA, in cooperation with the Salt Lake Organizing Committee produced a revised gate judge video that became available fall 2001. The video can be downloaded at www.ussa.org.

Alpine Officials Certification

A comprehensive certification program has been developed by the USSA AO Working Group and is in place on a nationwide basis. The program recognizes officials at six different levels and in a variety of specialty areas.

The program is handled on a divisional/state basis according to nationally established guidelines. With the exception of USSA TD, certification at Level 4 is based on divisional/state nomination and national AO Education Working Group approval. USSA TD divisional/state nomination is required for both Level 3 and Level 4 TD and is subject to USSA TD Working Group approval. FIS technical delegates are certified only by FIS after national federation nomination and successful completion of the FIS examination and training program.

New officials, without certification credentials, but with USSA AO membership, will appear on the roster with no designation.

A USSA alpine official membership does not assume certification. Rosters of officials are available through the alpine department at USSA and at www.ussa.org. Rosters are managed by Divisional/State Chairs and submitted to USSA for update in the USSA database.

Certification Levels

The Alpine Officials Working Group has reviewed and modified the criteria for Alpine Officials advancement; the criteria is competency based. This new criteria can be found on the USSA website by going to www.ussa.org > alpine > officials > certification and seminars.

NOTE: See Technical Delegate and FIS Technical Delegate sections

USSA Alpine Officials who are certified as Technical Delegate, Referee, Jury Advisor, Chief or Race, Chief of Course, Timing and Calculations and Race Administration are required to attend a Continuing Education clinic at least every two years to maintain certification.

- If an official has missed a Continuing Education clinic for two years, he or she may be reinstated to the previous level by attending a recognized Continuing Education clinic.
- If an official has missed a Continuing Education clinic for three or more years, he or she may be reinstated by passing the appropriate examination, i.e. Level 1 or 2 must pass the Level 1 exam, Level 3 or 4 must pass the Level 3 exam.
- An official may not violate the Continuing Education rule for a second time and maintain certification.

Alpine Officials Specialty Areas

Officials are recognized in eight specialty areas, reflecting different responsibilities, abilities and experience:

• Technical Delegate	TD
• Referee	RF
• Chief of Race	CR
• Chief of Course	CC
• Chief of Timing and Calculations	TC
• Race Administrator	RA
• Jury Advisor	JA (for Start and Finish Referees)
• Competition Official	CO
• Data Management	DM

Some USSA divisions may not recognize all categories at all levels, according to their own needs and circumstances. All officials should attend an annual refresher clinic and work at least four days per year at USSA sanctioned events.

Officials Clinic Program

A variety of clinics for alpine officials are held annually in each geographic division of USSA. Clinics range from those designed as mandatory refresher for FIS-certified technical delegates and other senior officials to introductory sessions for those officials with little or no experience. Topics may include timing and calculation, rules, gate judging, course preparation, paperwork and the race secretariat, press relations and data management. There is an emphasis on fairness, competitor protection and respect for the rules in all courses. Attendance at recognized clinics may be required for certification and for maintaining certification. Certification exams are offered at many clinics, according to divisional/state needs; exams are generally 'open-book' but must be taken at a clinic. Retesting of a failed Alpine Officials exam may only occur after a revision of the applicable exam become available. Exams shall be revised annually.

Clinic schedules are published on regional and divisional/state websites which can be found through www.ussa.org.

Technical Delegates

Technical Delegates (TDs) are the 'senior' officials in ski racing. FIS and USSA assign them to alpine ski competitions, and they act as representatives of the sanctioning bodies of ski racing at these competitions. While the actual conduct of the race remains the responsibility of the sponsoring race organization, the TDs are expected to be valued and positive contributors to the event, drawing on both their knowledge and experience. They consult race organizers on procedures and rule interpretation. The TD chairs the competition jury, and has primary authority in matters of competitor protection.

The USSA AO Committee has reaffirmed its long-standing policy that, under normal circumstances, TDs will only be assigned to races where there can be no question as to their independence from the organizing committee and the host ski area. The expenses of the TD are the responsibility of the organizing group, including room and board at the competition and transportation to and from the race site.

The position of TD requires knowledge and experience in all phases of ski competition, and competency in on-hill as well as off-hill functions. Skiing ability, good judgment and a sound knowledge of courses are also necessary.

Certification of USSA Technical Delegates

The USSA TD Working Group has specified certification procedures for USSA TDs:

1. To be certified as a Level 1 TD, an official must first be certified as a Level 2 Referee and have knowledge of timing and calculations evidenced by one of the following: Level 1 or higher timing and calculation certification or attendance at a Timing and Calculation clinic and/or passing grade on the USSA Timing examination. It is strongly recommended that an official also be certified as Chief of Race and/or Chief of Course. They must also pass the Level 1 TD Exam with a grade of 75% or better.
2. It is recommended that a minimum of two shadow assignments - one tech and one speed - as an 'aspirant' under the supervision of a Level 3 or higher TD be completed prior to completion of one assignment as a 'candidate' under the supervision of a Level 3 or higher TD. The supervising TD's must submit written evaluations of the candidate's knowledge and performance, and the 'aspirant/candidate' must submit race result packets as required by the state/division AO Committee. Favorable written evaluations and submittal of required packets are required prior to certification as a Level 1 TD. This service does not count towards the ten-day requirement for advancement to Level 2.
3. Clinic attendance: every USSA division is urged to conduct annual clinics for TDs.
 - a. Level 1 and 2: attendance per divisional requirement
 - b. Level 3 and 4: annual attendance at a TD clinic per division

- c. All: annual attendance at a Continuing Education clinic every two years in order to maintain certification.
 - 1) If a TD has missed a Continuing Education clinic for two years, he or she may be reinstated to the previous level by attending a recognized a Continuing Education clinic.
 - 2) If a TD has missed a Continuing Education clinic for three or more years, he or she may be reinstated by passing the appropriate examination, i.e. Level 1 or 2 must pass the Level 1 exam, Level 3 or 4 must pass the Level 3 exam.
 - 3) A TD may not violate the Continuing Education clinic rule for a second time and maintain TD certification.
4. Advancement: at each level, the approval of the applicable Alpine Officials Committee is required, plus:
 - a. Level 1 to Level 2: 10 workdays as a TD and favorable written recommendations from two higher level TDs.
 - b. Level 2 to Level 3: should work an additional ten days as a TD (events should be scored events) plus two additional written recommendations/evaluations. Pass Level 3 TD exam with a score of 80% or higher. Also requires approval of the USSA TD Working Group and the Alpine Officials Committee.
 - c. Level 3 to Level 4: a minimum of five years outstanding service as a TD. Also requires approval of the USSA TD Working Group.
5. A USSA TD should work as an assigned TD a minimum of two days every season and must work as an assigned TD at least once every two years in order to maintain certification.

FIS Technical Delegate

FIS certified Technical Delegates are named by the FIS after the USA FIS-TD Working Group has nominated those qualified individuals. Those individuals must successfully complete the FIS entrance examination and the apprentice phase of on-hill assignments before they are nominated. All current FIS TDs and candidates are expected to attend the annual a Continuing Education clinic. This mandatory clinic is a requirement for maintaining the TD certification. Likewise, every FIS TD is expected to perform at least one FIS assignment annually in addition to assisting the USSA officials program.

FIS TDs are responsible for proper overall conduct of the competition, with particular emphasis on competitor protection. They are responsible for ensuring fair racing conditions for all competitors. TDs must inspire teamwork and cooperation between the organizers, team leaders and other officials. They must be managers who lead by example, effectively helping others.

Nominees successfully passing the FIS entrance examination are considered as candidates. Understudy assignments as candidate TDs must be performed at three FIS calendared events, encompassing three different disciplines including downhill.

General Criteria for Selection of FIS TD Candidates

1. Candidates should be a USSA Level 3 or 4 TD and should have performed satisfactorily as a Level 3 or 4 TD for approximately five years. If candidate is a coach or an ex-coach, referee Level 3 credentials with at least Level 2 coaching credentials for a similar period of time is required.
2. The candidate shall have maintained active membership in USSA for this same five year period (extenuating circumstances may apply) and shall be a member in good standing at the time of nomination.
3. Language fluency in German or French is highly desirable and, while not an international requirement, may be a 'tie-breaker' should there be otherwise equal candidates.
4. Candidates should not have any physical limitations which would preclude active work on

the hill during adverse conditions.

5. Candidates should ideally possess strong leadership and diplomatic skills. A candidate must have consistently demonstrated sound judgment and dependability.
6. While candidate selection is not age-discriminatory, relative youth in candidates is much sought after.
7. An individual who meets the above criteria may be nominated for FIS TD candidacy either through the USA FIS TD Working Group (WG) or the USSA TD WG.
 - a. The FIS TD WG requires that candidates demonstrate active participation in clinics and out-of-division competitions. Individuals who have these credentials and who are recommended as candidates must have a nomination and two seconds on the prescribed nomination forms from current FIS TD's (members of the USA FIS TD WG are excluded). At least one of these must be from outside of the prospective candidate's division. One second from a Canadian or European TD is acceptable. Complete documentation of nominations and seconds must be in the national office by Apr. 1 of the appropriate year. Nominations will not be accepted after Apr. 1.
 - b. To be nominated through the USSA TD WG, the individual must be nominated by his/her divisional or regional AO chairperson or committee. The nomination must be accompanied by a resume which should include (but is not necessarily limited to) current USSA official's credentials, documentation of officiating experience with particular emphasis on the past three years, additional skiing, racing, coaching and leadership experience. The nomination of the individual must be seconded by two current Level 4 or 6 TD's (members of the USA FIS TD WG are excluded). The current FIS TD nomination forms must be used by the nominator and seconders. Forms are available from the U.S. alpine office. All of the documents will be sent by the division to the Alpine Official's Coordinator no later than April 1. When these documents have been received, the forms will be circulated to the USSA TD WG members for comment and/or confirmation. If the USSA TD WG favors the nomination of an individual as a candidate, the individual's name and supporting documentation will be forwarded to the USA FIS TD WG for its consideration.
8. The nominating papers, whether originating from the USSA TD WG or the USA FIS TD WG, request specific information on the prospective candidate's background and performance. This includes current USSA official's credentials, documentation of officiating experience as a national TD (or referee, if a coach) and in other positions; documentation of clinic participation as attendee or trainer; evaluation of candidate's knowledge and demonstrated application of FIS rules for all disciplines; and evaluation of the candidate's skiing ability. Personal factors evaluated included dependability, ability to get along with people, enthusiasm for officiating ski racing and judgment under pressure.
9. When the nominating documents have been received by the chairman of the USA FIS TD WG or the USSA TD WG and the national office the forms will be circulated to the WG members for comment and/or confirmation. If the USA FIS TD WG approves the selection of an individual as a candidate, the individual will be notified and will be required to attend one of the two FIS Continuing Education clinics offered in October/November and take the FIS entrance examination before he/she is accepted as a candidate.
10. For officials accepted as FIS TD candidates, an understudy assignment phase will begin with the current season. It generally takes two seasons to complete the candidacy process. Please contact the USA FIS TD WG for more information on the understudy assignment phase.

SPORT EDUCATION

USSA Sport Education is committed to providing coaches high quality and relevant opportunities to learn and grow their abilities as a coach. For alpine coaches, the primary delivery of content is through our coaching clinics. USSA also hosts or participates in several national and regional coaching conferences and symposiums, offers live and recorded web conferences, and offers the USSA National Coaches Academies to upper level coaches. USSA member coaches are encouraged to pursue continuous professional development and have their achievement recognized through USSA's coaching certification program. To participate as a coach in National Development System (NDS) training and competition projects, coaches must be at least a Level 100 certified coach. Starting in the 2012/13 season, all USSA member coaches who are not currently certified at Level 100 or higher will be required to take the online Fast Start Coaching Course before their membership will be active. This course provides fundamental ski coaching information and resources.

Clinics and educational materials are built around the USSA Alpine Training System, which outlines the long-term athlete development progression for ski racers. The Alpine Training System was developed by USSA club leaders, national team coaches, and USSA sport science staff. Coaches, parents, and athletes are encouraged to learn more about the Alpine Training System at <http://trainingsystem.ussa.org>.

The USSA coaches certification program recognizes and rewards the education, experience, and performance of coaches. Through coaching clinics and academies, as well as demonstration of competence through assessments, coaches can work through a five level certification program. Minimum levels of certification may be required for various state, divisional, regional or national coaching projects, course setting, and other responsibilities. Certified coaches must keep current by attending continuing education events every two years.

A wealth of information for coaches is available at the USSA website at <http://alpine.usskiteam.com/alpine/coaches>. Coaches can follow USSA Sport Education on Facebook and Twitter to get updated on Education events and to network and share ideas.

For additional information about the alpine coaches education program, call 435.647.2050 or email education@ussa.org.

COMPETITION GUIDE



CHAPTER 7 USSA ALPINE COMPETITION REGULATIONS



The following rules and regulations for USSA alpine competition (ACR) capture the specific rules for competition events that are scheduled and sanctioned by USSA as the national governing body for ski sport as identified by the United States Olympic Committee. The FIS International Competition Regulations (ICR) and adjuncts shall govern any and all issues not addressed herein.

For all events scheduled by USSA as FIS events, the rules of the FIS apply. The sport specific rules for FIS events are available through the USSA Membership Department or through your local alpine officials' chair. The FIS rule books are referred to as the ICR.

In cases where regulations that are not addressed by the USSA Competition Regulations for USSA events or by the FIS International Competition Regulations for FIS events, or in cases where the rules must be interpreted, the authority for making decisions will be the responsibility of the technical delegate and competition jury.

The USSA ACR has been organized so that the numbers match those in the FIS ICR. A similar rule will have the same number regardless of which book. As an example, the rules for making a protest are now in section 640 of both books. There may be some difference in language between the two books (from FIS to USSA) but the intent of the rule is the same. When a FIS rule does not apply to USSA, it was left out, so the number of the rules might go 650.1 followed by 650.3. Where there is no corresponding FIS rule, a 'U' is placed at the beginning of the rule number to identify this as unique to USSA.

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USSA Alpine Competition Regulations

Section 1: Joint Regulations for all Competitions

200 Joint Regulations for all Competitions

- 200.1 All events in the USSA Calendar must be held under the applicable USSA rules.
- 200.3 Participation
Competitions listed in the USSA Ski Calendar are only open to competitors who hold a valid USSA participant membership.
- 200.5 Control
All competitions listed in the USSA Ski Calendar must be supervised by a USSA Technical Delegate.

201 Types of Competitions

- 201.1 Competitions with limited participation may be held under special competition rules as approved by USSA. Any such rules must be published in the announcement.
- U201.1.1 USSA may sanction organizers who, through their own fault, prepare competitions so poorly that they have to be canceled by the Jury or the TD.
- U201.1.2 Organizers who hold competitions involving competitors not qualified under articles 203-204.1.7 have violated the USSA Competition Rules and measures are to be taken against them by USSA.
- 201.6 Types of Competitions
USSA Alpine Ski Competitions consist of:
- 201.6.2 Downhill (DH), Slalom (SL), Giant Slalom (GS), Super G (SG), Super Combined (SC), Dual (DU), Kinder Kombi (KK) and Team Competitions.

202 USSA Ski Calendar

- 202.1.2.3 Homologations
All USSA alpine competitions that appear in the USSA Calendar may only take place on competition courses homologated or registered by USSA or FIS for those

events.

The homologation certificate number must be indicated when applying for the inclusion of an alpine competition in the USSA Calendar.

202.1.2.4 USSA will publish the Ski Calendar annually on the USSA website www.ussa.org.

U202.2 A maximum of two scored DH or SG races, or one scored SL or GS race, per gender, may be calendared per day by an organizer.

U202.2.1 In cases of 'force majeure', where more than two DH or SG races, or more than one SL or GS race, per gender, is conducted in one day and in one place, then the official Program showing inspection times, start times, course reset/redress times and start intervals for both races must be included with the race results packet submitted to USSA.

U202.2.2 By signature on the Technical Delegate Report, the Technical Delegate confirms that the rules were followed in the execution of this procedure.

202.5 Calendar Fees

202.5.1 USSA fixes a calendar fee for each event in the Ski Calendar.

202.5.2 The actual scale of fees is published by USSA.

203 USSA Membership

203.1 The USSA membership year begins on July 1 and finishes on June 30 of the following year.

203.2 To be eligible for participation in USSA events, all participants (Jury members, Start Referee, Finish Referee, Chief of Course, Chief of Timing, Course Setters, Competitors, Forerunners, Coaches) must have a valid USSA membership. The validity of a membership can be limited to participation in one or more specific events.

For USSA-sanctioned FIS events, when a foreign FIS Federation lists a coach on their entry form, that Federation is certifying that the coach has the knowledge and ability to fulfill the duties of a Team Captain: e.g. serve as a Jury member or set a course.

The USSA membership will only be issued to individuals who have personally signed the USSA Release, in the actual form approved by USSA. All forms from under-age applicants must be counter-signed by their legal guardians.

All Coaches and Officials who apply for a USSA membership will be required to pass a background screening process prior to that membership being approved. Any Coach or Official who is shown as "pending" or not current on the USSA website must not serve as Jury members, Start Referee, Finish Referee, Chief of Course, Course Setters, Competitors, Forerunners, etc.

204 Qualification of Competitors

204.1 USSA shall not support or recognize within its structure, nor shall it issue a membership to any competitor who:

204.1.1 has been guilty of improper or unsportsmanlike conduct or has not respected or conformed to all aspects of the USSA Code of Conduct,

204.1.2 accepts or has accepted, directly or indirectly, any money payments in a way that does not conform to the rules for participation in a competition,

204.1.3 accepts or has accepted a prize of a higher value than allowed by USSA,

204.1.6 has not signed the USSA Waiver,

204.1.7 is under suspension.

205 Competitor Obligations and Rights

Competitors are prohibited from betting on the outcome of competitions in which they are participating.

- 205.1 The competitors are obliged to make themselves familiar with the appropriate USSA Rules and must comply with the additional instructions of the Organizing Committee and the Jury.
- 205.2 Competitors are not permitted to compete while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- 205.3 Competitors must follow the USSA rules and regulations and instructions of the Jury.
- 205.4 Competitors who do not attend the prize-giving ceremonies without excuse lose their claim to any prize.
- 205.5 Competitors must behave in a correct and sportsmanlike manner toward members of the Organizing Committee, officials and the public.

210 Organization of Competition

211 The Organization

211.1 The Organizer

211.1.1 The organizer of a USSA ski competition is the person or group who makes the necessary preparations and directly carries out the running of the competition.

211.1.3 The Organizer must ensure that accredited persons accept the regulations regarding the competition rules and Jury decisions, and is obliged to obtain the signature of all persons who do not have a valid USSA season accreditation on an "Acceptance of Responsibility" form to this effect.

211.2 The Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee consists of those members (physical or legal) who are delegated by the organizer and by USSA. It carries the rights, duties and obligations of the organizer.

212 Insurance

Information on USSA insurance can be found in Chapter 1 of this Guide.

213 Program

A program must be published by the organizers for each competition listed in the USSA Ski Calendar, which must contain:

- 213.1 date and place of the competitions, information on the competition sites and the best ways to reach them,
- 213.2 technical data on the individual competitions and conditions for participation,
- 213.3 names of principal officials,
- 213.4 time and place for the first team captains meeting and draw,
- 213.5 timetable for the beginning of official training and the start times,
- 213.6 location of the official notice board,
- 213.7 time and place for the prize giving,
- 213.8 final date of entry and address for entries, including telephone and fax numbers and email address,
- U213.9 entry fees.

214 Announcements

- 214.1 The Organizing Committee must publish an announcement for the event. It must contain the information required by article 213.
- 214.2 Organizers are bound by the rules and decisions of USSA in limiting the number of entries. Reduction in entries is possible provided it is made clear in the announcement.
- 214.3 Postponements or cancellations of competitions and program alterations must be communicated to the USSA Office, all invited clubs/divisions and the appointed TD.

215 Entries

- 215.1 All entries must be sent so that the Organizing Committee receives them before the final date of entry. The organizers must have a final and complete list not later than 24 hours before the first draw.
- 215.2 Competitors are not permitted to enter in more than one competition calendared by more than one race organizing committee on the same date.
- 215.3 Every entry should include:
 - 215.3.1 USSA number, last name, first name, year-of-birth, club,
 - 215.3.2 an exact definition of the discipline for which the entry is made,
 - U215.3.3 the entry fee.

216 Team Captains Meetings

- 216.1 The time and location of the first team captains meeting and of the draw must be shown in the program. The invitations for all other meetings have to be announced to the team captains at their first meeting. Emergency meetings must be announced in good time.
- 216.2 Representation by a substitute during discussions at team captains' meetings is not allowed.
- 216.3 The team captains and trainers must be accredited by the organizers according to quota.
- 216.4 Team captains and trainers must obey the ACR and the decisions of the Jury and must behave in a proper and sportsmanlike manner.

217 Draw

- 217.1 Competitor starting order for each event is decided according to a specific formula by draw and/or point order.
- 217.3 If competitors are not represented at the team captains meeting by a team captain or trainer, they will only be drawn if it is confirmed by telephone or fax by the beginning of the meeting that they will participate.
- 217.4 Competitors who were drawn but were not present during the competition, must be named by the TD in his report, indicating if possible the reasons for absence.
- 217.5 Representatives of all competitors taking part must be invited to the draw.
- 217.6 If a competition has to be postponed by at least one day, the draw must be done again.

218 Publication of Results

- 218.1 The unofficial and official results will be published in accordance with the rules for the specific event.

221 Doping

Doping is forbidden.

222 Competition Equipment

- 222.1 A competitor may only take part in a USSA competition with equipment that conforms to USSA Regulations. Competitors are responsible for the equipment they use (skis, bindings, ski boots, suit, etc). It is their duty to check that the equipment conforms to the USSA specifications and general safety requirements and is in working order. More information regarding the specific regulations can be found in the supplemental rules later in this book.
- 222.2 The term competition equipment encompasses all items of equipment which the competitor uses in competition. This includes clothing as well as apparatus with technical functions. The entire competition equipment forms a functional unit.
- 222.3 All new developments in the field of competition equipment must be approved in principle by USSA. USSA does not take any responsibility for the approval of new

technical developments, which at the time of introduction may contain unknown dangers to the health or cause an increase in the risk of accidents.

223 Sanctions

223.1 General Conditions

223.1.1 An offense for which a sanction may apply and a penalty be imposed is defined as conduct that:

- is in violation or non-observance of competition rules, or
- constitutes non-compliance with directives of the Jury or individual members of the Jury in accordance with 224.2, or
- is unsportsmanlike.

223.1.2 The following conduct shall also be considered an offense:

- attempting to commit an offense
- causing or facilitating others to commit an offense
- counseling others to commit an offense.

223.1.3 In determining whether conduct constitutes an offense consideration should be given to:

- whether the conduct was intentional or unintentional,
- whether the conduct arose from circumstances of an emergency.

223.1.4 All USSA-affiliated associations, including their members registered for accreditation, shall accept and acknowledge these rules and all sanctions imposed, subject only to the right of appeal pursuant to USSA statutes.

223.2 Applicability

223.2.1 Persons

These sanction apply to:

- all persons who are accredited either by USSA or the Organizer for an event published in the USSA calendar, both within and without the confines of the competition area and any location connected with the competition, and
- all persons who are not accredited, within the confines of the competition area.

223.3 Penalties

223.3.1 The commission of an offense may subject a person to the following penalties:

- Reprimand - written or verbal
- Withdrawal of accreditation
- Denial of accreditation

223.3.2 All competing competitors may be subject to the following penalties:

- Disqualification
- Impairment of their starting position (no limit)
- Forfeiture of prizes and benefits in favor of the organizer
- Suspension from USSA events
- The accumulation of penalties is permissible

223.3.3 A competitor shall only be disqualified if his mistake would result in an advantage for him with regard to the end result, unless the rules state otherwise in an individual case.

223.4 A jury may impose the penalties provided in 223.3.1 and 223.3.2, however they may not impose a monetary fine or suspend a competitor beyond the USSA event at which the offense occurred.

223.5 The following Penalty decisions may be given verbally:

- reprimands

- the withdrawal of accreditation for the current event from persons who had not been registered with the organizer through their USSA affiliated organization.
- the withdrawal of the accreditation for the current event from USSA - accredited persons
- the denial of accreditation to the current event from persons who are within the confines of the competition area or any other location connected with the competition.

223.6 The following Penalty decisions shall be in writing:

- disqualifications
- impaired starting position
- competition suspensions
- withdrawal of accreditation from persons who had been registered through their USSA affiliated organization
- withdrawal of accreditation of USSA - accredited persons,

223.7 Written Penalty decisions must be sent to the offender (if it is not a competitor), the offender's organization and the USSA Office.

223.8 All disqualifications shall be recorded in the Referee's and/or the TD's Report.

223.9 All penalties shall be recorded in the TD Report.

224 Procedural Guidelines

224.1 Competence of Jury

The Jury at the event has the right to impose sanctions according to the above rules by majority vote. In the case of a tie, the chairman of the Jury has the deciding vote.

224.2 Within the location, especially during training and the competition period, each voting Jury member is authorized to issue oral reprimands and withdraw the accreditation which is issued for the current event.

224.3 Collective Offenses

If several persons commit the same offense at the same time and under the same circumstances, the Jury's decision as to one offender may be considered binding upon all offenders. The written decision shall include the names of all offenders concerned and the scope of the penalty to be assessed upon each of them. The decision will be delivered to each offender.

224.4 Limitation

A person must not be sanctioned if proceedings to invoke such sanction have not been commenced against that person within 72 hours following the offense.

224.5 Each person who is a witness to an alleged offense is required to testify at any hearing called by the Jury, and the Jury is required to consider all relevant evidence.

224.6 The Jury may confiscate objects that are suspected of being used in the violation of equipment guidelines.

224.7 Prior to the imposition of a penalty (except in cases of reprimands and withdrawal of accreditation according to 223.5 and 224.2), the person accused of an offense shall be given the opportunity to present a defense at a hearing, orally or in writing.

224.8 All Jury decisions shall be recorded in writing and shall include:

224.8.1 The offense alleged to have been committed.

224.8.2 The evidence of the offense

224.8.3 The rule(s) or Jury directives that have been violated

224.8.4 The penalty imposed.

224.9 The penalty shall be appropriate to the offense. The scope of any penalty imposed by the Jury must consider any mitigating and aggravating circumstances.

- 224.9.1 The signatures of each individual jury member, with each individual vote on decisions recorded.
- 224.10 Remedies
- 224.10.1 Except as provided for in 224.11, a penalty decision of the Jury may be appealed in accordance with the provisions in the ACR.
- 224.10.2 If an appeal is not filed within the deadline established in the ACR, the penalty decision of the Jury becomes final.
- 224.11 The following decisions of the Jury are not subject to appeal:
- 224.11.1 Oral penalties imposed under 223.5 and 224.2.
- 224.12 In case of suspensions exceeding one week for all events published in the USSA calendar (including supplementary races), the USSA Alpine Judicial Committee is the only source of appeal.
- 224.13 In all remaining cases, appeals are to be directed to the appropriate appeals committee under rule 1.6 in accordance with rule 647.
- 224.14 The Jury shall have the right to submit to the USSA Alpine Judicial Committee recommendations for suspensions beyond the event in which the offense occurred.
- 224.15 Costs of Proceedings
- Fees and cash expenses, including travel expenses (costs of the proceedings) are to be calculated comparable to costs paid to TDs and are to be paid by the offender. In the case of a reversal of Jury decisions, in whole or in part, the USSA covers all costs.

225 USSA Alpine Judicial Committee

USSA has established procedures and committees for appeals against Jury decisions, disciplinary actions (including Code of Conduct violations) and start rights. See the USSA Rules for Grievances, Suspensions and Appeals in Article IX of the USSA Bylaws.

226 Violation of Sanctions

Where there is a violation of a sanction that has been imposed, the USSA Alpine Judicial Committee may impose such further and other sanctions that it considers appropriate.

In such cases, some or all of the following sanctions may apply:

- 226.1 Sanctions against individuals involved:
- a written reprimand, and/or
 - a competition or project suspension at the next level of sanction - for example, if a three-month suspension for a doping offense was imposed, a violation of the suspension will cause a two-year suspension; if a two-year suspension for a doping offense was imposed, a violation of the suspension will cause a lifetime suspension, and/or
 - withdrawal of accreditation from individuals involved.

Section 2 Rules Common to Alpine Events

600 Organization

Reference is made to article 211.

601 Organizing Committee

601.1 Composition

The Organizing Committee consists of those members (physical or legal) who are delegated by the organizer and USSA. It carries the rights, duties and obligations of the organizer.

- 601.2 Appointments by USSA
USSA appoints the Technical Delegate for all competitions.
- 601.2.3 The Technical Delegate appoints
- the Referee and
 - for DH, and SG the Assistant Referee
- 601.2.4 By these appointments the above persons become members of the Organizing Committee.
- U601.2.5 An Assistant Referee may be assigned at USSA technical events (SL/GS) for training purposes only. At these events, the Assistant Referee will have neither voice nor vote in Jury Meetings and their names will not appear on official documents.
- 601.3 Appointments by the organizer
The organizer appoints all other members of the Organizing Committee. The chair or their representative represents the committee in public, leads the meetings and makes decisions concerning all matters that are not made by other persons or groups. Before, during and after the competition(s) the chair works closely with USSA and its appointed officials. The chair takes on all other duties that are necessary for carrying out the competition.
The following officials must be appointed by the organizer:
- 601.3.1 The Chief of Race
The Chief of Race directs all preparation of the competition and supervises the activities in the technical area. The Chief of Race summons meetings for consideration of technical questions and leads the team captains meetings after consultation with the Technical Delegate.
- 601.3.2 The Chief of Course (Section Chief)
The Chief of Course is responsible for the preparation of the courses in accordance with the directives and decisions of the Jury. The Chief of Course must be familiar with local snow conditions on the terrain concerned.
- 601.3.3 The Start Referee
The Start Referee must remain at the start from the beginning of the official inspection time until the end of a training/event,
- make sure that the regulations for the start and the start organization are properly observed,
 - determine late and false starts,
 - must be able to communicate with the Jury at all times (see 705.5),
 - report to the Referee the names of competitors who did not start and informs the Jury of all infringements against the rules, such as false or late starts or violations against the rules for equipment,
 - ensure that reserve bibs are available at the start.
- 601.3.4 The Finish Referee
The Finish Referee must remain at the finish from the beginning of the official inspection time until the end of a training/event,
- make sure that all regulations for the organization of the finish and the finish in-run and out-run are properly observed,
 - supervise the finish controller, the timing and the crowd control in the finish area,
 - must be able to communicate immediately with the Jury at all times,
 - report the names of the competitors who did not finish to the Referee and informs the Jury of all infringements against the rules.
- 601.3.5 The Chief Gate Judge

The Chief Gate Judge:

- organizes and supervises the work of the gate judges,
- designates the gates each will supervise and places them in position,
- at the end of the first run and the end of the race collects the gate judge control cards and delivers them to the Referee,
- distributes, in good time, to each gate judge, the material they need (control card, pencil, start list, etc.),
- is prepared to offer assistance either to help keep spectators off the course or to help maintain the course, etc.
- makes sure that the numbering and the marking of the gates is completed within the required time.

601.3.6 The Chief of Timing and Calculations

The chief of timing and calculations is responsible for the coordination of officials at the start and finish, including timing and calculations. In SL, he or a special assistant will decide the interval between starts. The following officials are under his direction:

- starter
- assistant starter
- start recorder
- chief timekeeper
- assistant timekeepers
- finish controller
- chief of calculations and his assistants

601.3.7 The Race Secretary

The race secretary is responsible for all secretarial work for the technical aspects of the competition and amongst others for the preparation of the draw. Additionally, the Race Secretary:

- ensures that the official results contain the information required by article 617.3.4,
- is responsible for the minutes of the technical officials, the Jury and team captains meetings,
- ensures that all forms for start, finish, timing, calculations and gate-judging are well prepared, and handed over to the officials concerned in good order at the proper time,
- receives official protests and gives them to those concerned,
- facilitates the calculation of results by appropriate preparation and ensures that they are duplicated and published as quickly as possible after the completion of the competition.

601.3.8 The Chief of Medical and Rescue Services

The Chief of Medical and Rescue Services is responsible for organizing adequate first aid and medical coverage during the official training periods and the actual competition. The Chief of Medical must work closely with the Jury and particularly the Technical Delegate, keeping them informed as to the nature and disposition of any injury.

601.3.9.4 The organizer is authorized to include other officials within the Organizing Committee.

601.4 The Jury

The following members of the Jury, who are members of the Organizing Committee are responsible for technical matters within the closed competition areas:

- the Technical Delegate
 - the Referee
 - the Chief of Race
 - the Assistant Referee for DH and SG
- 601.4.2 Appointment of the Jury for USSA races.
- 601.4.2.1 USSA appoints the Technical Delegate.
- 601.4.2.2 The TD appoints
- the Referee
 - and for DH and SG, the Assistant Referee
 - substitute Jury members in case of force majeure
- 601.4.2.3 The jury of a ladies' race should, where possible, include a lady.
- 601.4.2.4 The Chief of Race must have current membership with USSA.
- 601.4.3 Exclusions
- 601.4.3.1 A competitor cannot be a member of the Jury.
- 601.4.4 Tenure of the Jury
- 601.4.4.1 The appointed Jury members gather for their first meeting prior to the first team captains meeting.
- 601.4.4.2 The active duty of the Jury begins with its first meeting and ends, if no protest is submitted, at the expiration of the protest deadline, otherwise after dealing with all submitted protests.
- 601.4.5 Franchise and Voting
- The TD is the chair of the Jury. He conducts the meetings. Each of the following has one vote in the Jury:
- 601.4.5.2 The TD, Chief of Race, Referee and in the case of DH and SG, the Assistant Referee.
- 601.4.5.3 Decisions are made by simple majority vote of members present and voting (exception article 646.3).
- 601.4.5.4 In the case of a tie, the TD has the casting vote.
- 601.4.5.5 Minutes must be kept of all meetings and decisions of the Jury and signed by each individual member of the Jury, with each individual vote on decisions recorded, as per article 601.3.7.
- 601.4.5.7 In cases where an immediate decision must be made and it is not possible to convene the entire Jury, each member of the Jury has the right, prior to or during the race, to make decisions which according to the rules per se are reserved to the Jury as a whole; but only provisionally with the obligation to have the decision confirmed by the Jury as soon as possible.
- 601.4.6 Duties of the Jury
- The Jury monitors the adherence to the rules throughout the entire race, including the official training.
- 601.4.6.1 From a technical standpoint particularly by:
- Checking the race-course and the set courses
 - Checking the snow conditions
 - Checking the preparation of the course
 - Approving the use of snow compactors and other chemicals.
 - Checking the crowd control systems
 - Checking the start, the finish area and the run-out from the finish
 - Checking the first aid service
 - Appointing the course setters.

- Fixing the time of course setting
- Overseeing the work of the course setters
- Spot-checking of the gate flags
- Opening or closing the race courses for training in consideration of the technical preparations and the prevailing weather conditions
- Determining the method of the competitors course inspection
- Jury inspection of the course before the race
- Determining the number of forerunners for each run and setting the start order of the forerunners
- Debriefing the forerunners as necessary
- Changing the start order in consideration of course conditions and in extraordinary conditions
- Changing the start intervals
- Giving instructions to and obtaining information from the gate judges.

For DH:

- Arrangement of an additional competitor's inspection in unusual weather conditions
- Shortening the official training
- Positioning of yellow zones
- Checking on the setting of gates
- Changing the position and distance of the gates or adding extra gates as indicated by the experience gained in the training runs. Following significant changes, the competitors must be allowed at least one more training run on the course.

601.4.6.2 From an organizational viewpoint particularly by:

- Ranking of the competitors for the draw
- Division of the competitors without points into groups according to some determined basis
- Granting of re-runs
- Cancellation of the race (beforehand) if snow conditions are unsuitable
- if the recommendations of the Technical Advisor's report have not been carried out
- if the first aid and medical service are inadequate or missing
- if the crowd control is insufficient
- Shortening the course, if snow or weather conditions make this appear necessary
- Interruption of the race if the prerequisites of article 624 are present,
- Termination of the race if the prerequisites of article 625 are present.

601.4.6.3 From a disciplinary viewpoint particularly by:

- Decision on a proposal of the Technical Delegate or a Jury member to exclude a competitor for lack of physical and technical ability
- Decisions on limitation of quotas for officials, technicians and medical personnel for admission to the race-course
- Imposition of sanctions
- Decisions on protests
- Issue of particular directives throughout the entire event

601.4.7 Questions not Covered by Rules

In general, the Jury makes decisions on all questions not clarified by the USSA Alpine Competition Regulations.

601.4.8 Radios

At all competitions published in the USSA Ski Calendar, the Jury members plus start and finish referee must be equipped with radios. These must function on a single reserved frequency and be free of interference.

601.4.9 Duties of the TD for all events

601.4.9.1 Before the race

The TD

- Reviews the homologation file and consults the organizer about the possible existence of a special authorization.

If he establishes that no homologation exists, the Jury must cancel the race (see 650).

He reads the TD reports about previous events at the site and checks whether the improvements proposed in these reports have been carried out.

- Inspects the competition and training courses.
- Supervises the compliance with article 704 and U1003.2 concerning the official training.
- Spot checks the gate flags.
- Collaborates in the administrative and technical preparations.
- Checks the official entry lists, including seed points.
- Checks on the presence of sufficient radios for all members of the Jury (with separate frequencies).
- Takes note of the accreditation and the authorization for entry to the course.
- Checks over the race courses with regard to preparation, marking, crowd control, as well as the layout of start and finish areas.
- Supervises the course setting together with the Jury.
- Checks on the location of the television towers and sees they are adequately protected if necessary.
- Supervises the locations of the first aid service along the course as well as the organization of the medical care.
- Checks on all technical installations such as timekeeping, hand timing, communications, transport of people, etc.
- Is present in the race area during all official training.
- Takes part in all meetings of the Jury and of the team captains.
- Works closely together with the officials of the Organizing Committee.
- Is the chair of the Jury with a casting vote in case of a tie.
- If necessary, appoints members to the Jury.
- Has the right, if a SL or GS cannot be carried out on the homologated course because of “force majeure”, to move the race to a “substitute course” proposed by the organizer. This is on the explicit condition that the necessary homologation measures can be fulfilled. For DH and SG there is only the possibility of shortening the run on a homologated course. The minimum prescribed vertical drops must, however, be observed in any case.

601.4.9.2 During the race

The TD

- Must be present in the course area.
- Works closely with the Jury, the team captains and the coaches.
- Observes that the valid rules and directives are obeyed in regard to race equipment.
- Supervises the technical and organizational conduct of the event.
- Advises the organization concerning the observance of the USSA rules and regulations and directives of the Jury.

601.4.9.3 After the race

The TD

- Helps with the compilation of the Referee's report.
- Calculates the race and penalty points for the individual races. If the points are calculated by computer, it is the TD's duty to re-check the points and confirm their accuracy with his personal signature. Above all, he checks the correct use of the corresponding F value for each discipline.
- Presents properly submitted protests to the Jury for decision.
- Signs the official result lists established by the race secretary and gives the authorization for the award ceremony.
- Completes the TD report, including any supplementary reports and is responsible for their dispatch within three days to the USSA Office and the other appropriate recipients.
- Presents to the USSA Office, any applicable proposals for changes in the competition rules on the basis of practical experience at the event in question.

601.4.9.4 In general

The TD

- Decides on questions not covered or insufficiently covered by the USSA Alpine Competition Regulations, in so far as these have not already been decided by the Jury and do not fall within the scope of other authorities.
- Works closely with the Referee and Assistant Referee.
- Has the right to propose to the Jury the exclusion of competitors from participating in the race.
- Has the right to obtain support from the Organizing Committee and all officials under its jurisdiction in all matters necessary to the fulfillment of his duties.

601.4.10 Duties and rights of the Referee

- The referee at USSA Scored events must be a current USSA Coach or Official member and must have a current referee certification.
- Supervises Drawing of the start numbers
- Inspects the course immediately after it is set, alone or accompanied by members of the Jury.
- The referee has the right to change the course by taking out or adding gates. If the Referee inspects the course alone his decision is final. The course setter must be informed of such changes if he was not present at this inspection.
- At the end of the first run, and again at the end of the race, the Referee will receive the Start and Finish Referees' reports, and any other official reports regarding breach of rules and disqualification..
- Checks, signs and posts the Referee's Report on the official notice board at the end of each run, and at the end of the race, including a list of disqualified competitors, the gate numbers where the faults occurred, the name of the relevant gate judge of judges, and the exact time of posting.
- Sends a report to USSA should unusual circumstances arise or in the event of a difference of opinion among the Jury members or in the case of severe injury to a competitor.

601.4.10.1 Collaboration with the TD

The Referee and the Assistant Referee must work very closely with the TD.

601.4.11 The Technical Advisor

To support the Jury, USSA can appoint technical advisors for all categories of

racers. The technical advisor has the right to express his opinion within the Jury without the right to vote.

601.5 USSA can impose sanctions against a Jury or individual Jury members.

602 The Technical Delegate (TD)

602.1 Definition

602.1.1 The primary duties of the TD

- to make sure that the rules and directions of USSA are followed
- to see that the event runs smoothly
- to advise the organizers within the scope of their duties
- to be the official representative of USSA

602.1.2 Responsibility

The TD structure comes under the responsibility of the Alpine Sports Committee. The Alpine Technical Delegate Working Group exercises this authority.

602.1.3 Prerequisites

The TD must hold a valid USSA Alpine Officials membership and TD certification (exception see article 602.3).

602.1.4 Development

602.1.4.1 The development for a TD is:

- Applicant - Nomination and two seconds from a level 3 or higher TD.
- Approval of Divisional Alpine Officials Committee.
- Written entrance examination with a passing grade of 75% or better.
- Successful completion of candidacy under a senior TD.
- TD.

602.1.4.2 Each division is responsible for the identification and education of aspiring TD's.

602.1.5 Training

602.1.5.1 The basic training of the applicant is the responsibility of the sponsoring division.

602.1.5.2 To be certified as a Level 1 TD, an official must be certified as a Level 2 Referee and Level 1 Timing and Calculations.

- In the alternative, an official must be certified as a Level 1 Timing and Calculations, Level 1 Chief of Race and Level 2 Jury Advisor.
- In the alternative, an official must be certified as a Level 1 Timing and Calculations, a level 2 Chief of Race and Level 1 Jury Advisor.

U602.1.5.10 It is strongly recommended that the applicant also maintain Alpine Officials certification as Chief of Race.

U602.1.5.11 Advancement of certification level.

- Level 1 to Level 2 - 10 workdays as a TD and favorable written recommendation from two higher level TDs.
- Level 2 to Level 3 - should work an additional minimum 10 work days as a TD, shadow USSA Level 3 or higher or FIS TD at one speed event and receive favorable recommendation, receive two written recommendations/evaluations, pass the USSA Level 3 Technical Delegate exam with a score of 80% or higher and be approved by the USSA Divisional AO Committee, the USSA TD Working Group, the USSA Rules and Technical Subcommittee and the USSA ASC.
- Level 3 to Level 4 - a minimum of five years of outstanding service as a Technical Delegate, and approval of the USSA TD Working Group, the USSA Rules and Technical Subcommittee and the USSA ASC.

U602.1.8 Participation

U602.1.8.1 A USSA Technical Delegate should work as an assigned TD a minimum of two

- days every season and must work as an assigned TD at least once every two years.
- U602.1.8.2 USSA TDs are urged to attend a USSA approved seminar or update annually, and required to attend a USSA approved seminar at least biannually.
- U602.1.8.3 Failure to meet the above participation requirements will result in loss of TD certification status.
- U602.1.8.4 If a TD misses an update for 2-years, the TD may be reinstated to the previous level by attending a recognized update.
- U602.1.8.5 If a TD misses an update for three or more years, the TD may be reinstated by passing the appropriate examination, i.e. Level 1 or 2 must pass the Level 1 exam, Level 3 or 4 must pass the Level 3 exam.
- U602.1.8.6 A TD may not violate the update rule for a second time and maintain TD certification.
- 602.2 Appointment
- 602.2.2 For all events the appointment is made by USSA or its designate.
- 602.2.4 A TD cannot be a member of the local organizing association.
- 602.3 TD replacement
- 602.3.4 If the TD is unable to serve, a deputy for the absent TD is to be named on the spot by the team captains. The replacement must likewise meet the requirements of article 602.1.3.
- In an emergency, a TD may also be named who does not meet these requirements, but is competent to ensure the conduct (continuation) of the race. In the choice of this person, stringent criteria are to be used.
- 602.3.5 The replacement TD has the same rights and duties as the TD originally appointed.
- 602.4 Organization of the Assignment
- 602.4.1 The organizer must establish early contact with the TD.
- 602.4.2 Cancellations or postponements of events must be announced to the TD and to the USSA Office immediately, taking into account any applicable deadlines.
- 602.4.3 For DH and SG, the TD should arrive at the competition site at least 48 hours before the draw for the first training. In all other events, this should be at least 24 hours before the draw for the event concerned.
- 602.5 Expense Accounts
- The TD has a right to reimbursement for:
- Automobile mileage to the event at IRS guidelines per mile, or in the case of air travel, the cost of coach air fare.
 - Lodging, the cost of a single room for the time period from the first team captains meeting to the end of the event. If organizers provide appropriate volunteer housing, the TD must use it.
 - Meals that are accompanied by invoices. If organizer provides meals, the TD must utilize these.
 - Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses (i.e. postage, telephone, etc.).
- U602.6 Sanctions
- Sanctions can be imposed against TDs.
- 603 Course Setter**
- 603.1 Prerequisites
- U603.1.1 Course setters at USSA Scored and Non-Scored events must be a current USSA Coach or Official member and must have a current referee certification.
- 603.1.3 For DH, the course setter must be acquainted with the particular race course.
- 603.2 Appointment

- 603.2.3 The appointment is made by the Jury. For competitions in two runs, each run is to be set by a different course setter. One of the two course setters can be named by the organizer.
- 603.3 Supervision of the Course Setters
- 603.3.1 The work of the course setters is supervised by the Jury.
- 603.4 Organization of the assignment
The assignment is managed by the Jury.
- 603.5 Replacement of Course Setters
- 603.5.2 The Jury names a replacement course setter.
- 603.5.3 The replacement course setter should have the same qualifications as the original course setter.
- 603.6 Rights of the Course Setter
- 603.6.1 To recommend the introduction of changes in the competition terrain and in the safety measures.
- 603.6.2 Availability of a sufficient number of helpers for the setting of the course, so that the course setter can concentrate solely on setting the course.
- 603.6.3 Provision of all necessary materials by the chief of course equipment.
- 603.6.4 Immediate completion of the finishing touches to the race course.
- 603.7 Duties of the Course Setter
- 603.7.1 In order to set the course appropriately, respecting the terrain, the snow cover and the ability of the participating competitors, the course setter conducts a pre-inspection of the race terrain in the presence of the TD, Referee, Chief of Race and Chief of Course.
- 603.7.2 The course setter sets the race course respecting existing course protection measures and course preparation. The course setter must take speed control into consideration.
- 603.7.3 For all events, the course setter has to set gates according to the respective rules.
- 603.7.4 The courses must be set and ready in time so that the competitors are not disturbed during course inspection.
- 603.7.5 The course setters should take care that the difference between the winning times of each run of SL and GS will not be too great.
- 603.7.6 The course setting is a task of the course setter alone. He is responsible for adhering to the rules of the USSA Alpine Competition Regulations and may be advised by members of the Jury, and by the technical advisor in DH and SG, if present.
- 603.7.7 The course setter must participate in all team captains meetings at which a report is to be made about their course.

604.2 Rights and Duties of the Team Captains and Trainers

The team captains and trainers must be accredited by the organizers according to quota. The accreditation gives the following rights and duties:

- to be a member of the Jury,
- to be nominated as a course setter if these have not been appointed by USSA or if the appointed person is not present,
- to be issued with a pass or armband during the training or competition (or reimbursement for costs if a lift pass has not been provided),
- to be issued with a pass or armband stating the function or marked Course.

- 604.2.1 Team captains and trainers must obey the USSA rules and the decisions of the Jury, and must behave in a proper and sportsmanlike manner.
- 604.2.2 A team captain or trainer must fulfill the duties he has accepted as a member of the Jury, or as a course setter.

- 604.3 In accordance with ACR 213.4 and 216 the time and location of the first team captain's meeting and of the draw must be shown in the program. An actual meeting, attended in person by team captains, jury, and race officials is an inseparable part of the competition and is important for communication of jury instructions, support of the OC, OC requests and information as well as a critical element for risk management and liability related matters. ACR 216 and 217 apply in all cases.

605 Forerunners

- 605.1 The organizer is obliged to provide at least three forerunners who meet all regulations of USSA, including participant membership. The forerunner is a member of the organizing committee. In DH, the forerunners should participate in all training runs.

In extraordinary conditions, the Jury may increase the number of forerunners. The Jury may designate different forerunners for each run.

- 605.2 The forerunners must wear forerunner start numbers (bibs).

- 605.3 The nominated forerunners should have the skiing ability to ski the course in a racing manner.

- 605.4 Forerunners are not permitted to start in the competition.

- 605.5 The Jury determines the forerunners and their start order. After an interruption of the race, additional forerunners may be authorized as necessary.

- 605.6 The times of the forerunners should not be published.

- 605.7 Upon request, the forerunners must report to members of the Jury regarding the snow conditions, the visibility and the race line, as the case requires.

606 Competitor Outfits

- 606.1 Start numbers (Bibs)

Shape, size, lettering and attachment method must not be altered. The figure must be at least 12 cm high and easily legible. The individual letters may not surpass a height of 10 cm.

- 606.3 Ski brakes

For competitions and official training, only skis with ski brakes may be used. Competitors without ski brakes are not allowed to start.

- 606.4 Helmets

In all events, all competitors and forerunners are obliged to wear crash helmets that conform to the equipment rules. See specifications as an addendum later in this chapter. In all events, helmet cameras may not be worn.

- 606.5 Equipment Rules

See specifications as an addendum later in this chapter.

607 Age Limits

- 607.1 The competition year is July 1 - June 30 of the following year. A competitor's class is determined by their age on December 31 of the competition year.

- 607.3 Classification of USSA competitors:

- SR 21 years of age or older
- U21 18, 19, or 20
- U18 16 or 17
- U16 14 or 15
- U14 12 or 13
- U12 10 or 11
- U10 8 or 9

- U8 7 and younger

- U607.4 Regions, divisions and state associations may define additional classes for competitors age 6 or younger.
- U607.5 Regions, divisions and state associations may establish procedures that allow competitors to compete:
- as a member of a higher level class than that of their chronological age, and/or
 - in races that are conducted on courses that exceed the specifications for their class.
- U607.5.1 These procedures must be based on either:
- objective evidence that the competitor can compete successfully within the higher class, or
 - careful screening by a disinterested, knowledgeable group that determines that the competitor can compete successfully within the higher class.
- U607.5.2 The procedures must require that the competitor and his parents complete and sign the USSA Ski Up Waiver.

610 Start, Finish, Timing and Calculations

611 Technical Installations

611.1 Communications and Cabling

In all competitions, it is highly recommended that there be multiple communication (telephone or radios, etc.) between the start and finish. Voice communication between starter and finish must be assured by fixed wire connection or radio. In case of radio, this must be a separate channel from that used by any other function of the ROC.

611.2 Timing Equipment

- For all events in the USSA Scored events calendar, electronic timers, start gates, and photocells homologated by the FIS must be used. A list of these approved devices will be published on the FIS website. Races using timing equipment other than those on the homologated FIS list will not be considered for scoring to the USSA points list.
- For USSA non-scored competitions, it is allowed to use expired (previously FIS homologated) timing devices, with the exclusion of championship events. Devices should be replaced by the 2012-13 season and must be replaced by 2013-14 season.
- A Timing and Data Technical Report form must be completed for each scored competition, and for each non-scored championship competition, and submitted with the results to USSA.

611.2.1 Electric Timing

For all competitions that are scored to the USSA points list, two synchronized electronically isolated systems operating in time-of-day must be used. One system will be designated System A (main system), the other System B (back-up system) prior to the beginning of the race.

All time of day times must be immediately and automatically sequentially recorded on printed strips to at least the 1/1000th (0.001) precision. Both systems must allow for the calculation of net times by the mathematical comparison of each racer's start time to finish time. The final result is then expressed to 1/100th (0.01) precision by truncating the calculated net time on course.

All times used for the final result must come from System A. If there is a failure of System A, a calculated net time from System B must be used following the same procedure set out in 611.3.2.1. It is not permitted to substitute Time-of-Day times from System B for use with System A for the purpose of net time calculations.

For all events, System A must be connected to its respective start gate contact.

System B must be separately connected to another electronically isolated start gate contact.

Refer to the FIS Timing Booklet for more details regarding cabling and complete wiring descriptions, diagrams and start gate installations.

All timing equipment and technical installations should be set up or protected in such a way that danger to the competitor is avoided where possible.

Synchronization of the timing systems must occur within 60 minutes of the Start of each run and must be maintained throughout each run. Timers must not be re-synchronized during any run.

611.2.1.1 Start Gate

The starting gate should consist of two wooden posts approximately 60 cm apart and extending approximately 60 cm from the surface of the snow. The wooden posts should be 7-10 cm in diameter if they are round or 5-8 cm across if they are square. The start gate must have separate electronically isolated switch contacts for triggering the start inputs of both system A & B. If a start gate or start wand requires replacement during a run, it must be replaced with identical equipment in the same position.

For non-scored events only, non-homologated start gates (e.g. spring-return or “auto-return” mechanisms with single-output contacts) are permitted. These non-FIS models must be produced by manufacturers that exist on the most current list of FIS-homologated start gates. Industrial limit switches are not permitted.

611.2.1.2 Photocells

For all scored events, there must be two photocell system(s) homologated by the FIS installed at the finish line. One is connected to System A. The other is connected to System B.

[Procedures and regulations for start gates and photocells are found in the FIS Timing Booklet.]

611.2.1.3 Start Clock

For fixed interval races, the use of a start clock that provides at least an acoustic countdown signal on the fixed start interval as prescribed by the Jury should be used as an aid to race management.

611.2.2 Hand Timing

Manual (hand) timing, completely separate and independent of the electronic timing, must be used for all competitions listed in the USSA calendar. Stopwatches or hand-operated, battery-powered, timers that are installed at both the start and the finish and capable of expressing times to at least 1/100th (0.01) precision qualify as proper hand timing devices. They must be synchronized prior to the start of each run, preferably with the same time of day as System A and System B. Printed records, either automatic or handwritten, of recorded hand times must be immediately available at the start and at the finish.

611.2.3 Presentation of Times

Organizers shall provide appropriate facilities for continuous presentation of all registered times of all competitors.

611.2.4 Timing without Cable

For non-championship scored races it is permitted to use homologated timing equipment in such a way that hill cable connection between start and finish is not required. Refer to the FIS Timing Booklet for a detailed discussion of how this is possible.

For non-scored races, start times or impulses can be transmitted to a timer at the

finish operating in time-of-day mode, or printed instantly at the start. Net times should be calculated in a timely manner.

611.3 Timing

611.3.1 With electronic timing, the time is taken when a competitor crosses the finish line and triggers the beam between the photo cells.

In case of a fall at the finish where the competitor does not come to a full stop, the time can be taken without both of the competitor's feet having crossed the finish line.

For the registered time to become valid, the competitor must immediately completely cross the finish line with or without skis. With hand timing the time will be taken when any part of the competitor crosses the finish line.

The finish controller determines the correctness of passage across the finish line.

611.3.2 In the case of a failure of the main electronic timing system (system A), the results of the electronic back-up system (system B) will be valid as per art. 611.2.1.

In case of a failure in the lines of the timing system between start and finish, this back-up system will allow the calculation of the times to 1/100ths of a second.

In the case that calculated net times from either system A or system B are not available for a competitor, the calculated net manual time as per art. 611.3.2.1 will be considered valid.

611.3.2.1 Utilization of times taken by hand

Hand times may be used in the official results after a correction has been calculated.

Calculation of the correction

Calculate the difference between the times taken by hand and the electronic times of the five competitors starting before the missing time and the five starting after or if necessary the 10 nearest competitors.

The sum of the 10 time differences is divided by 10 and rounded up or down to give the correction, which must be applied to the hand time of the competitor without an electronic time.

611.3.3 The official timing strips from the printer will be given to the Technical Delegate for review. They will be kept by the Race Organizer until the official approval of the race or after any appeal dealing with timing or race results.

A Timing Technical Report Form as prescribed by USSA must accompany the race results and must be reviewed and signed by the Chief of Timing and reviewed and signed by the TD as his approval of the race.

All printed records from System A, System B and hand timing must be retained by the ROC for a period of three (3) months after the competition or after any appeal dealing with timing or race results.

611.3.4 When the official printing timer allows manual input or correction of a time, some type of indication (star, asterisk or other) concerning any effected change must be printed on all timing documentation.

611.3.5 Computer software calculating net times must use the precision of the time of day as used in the timing device.

611.4 Private Timing and Speed Measurement Equipment of the Teams

Any request to install such equipment has to be made to the Jury by the team captain concerned and the Jury decides concerning approval of the installation.

612 Start and Finish Officials

612.1 The Starter

The Starter must synchronize his watch with those of the assistant starter and by telephone or radio with the chief timekeeper within ten minutes of the start. The

starter is responsible for the warning signal and the start command as well as for the accuracy of the intervals between these signals. He assigns the supervision of the competitors to the assistant starter.

612.2 The Assistant Starter

The assistant starter is responsible for calling the competitors to the start in their correct order.

612.3 The Start Recorder

The start recorder is responsible for recording the actual start times of all competitors.

612.4 The Chief Timekeeper

The chief timekeeper is responsible for the accuracy of the timing. He synchronizes the watches with the starter as shortly before and after the race as is possible. He must publish unofficial times as quickly as possible (on the score-board, etc.). If the electric timing fails, the chief timekeeper must communicate immediately with the start referee and the TD.

612.5 The Assistant Timekeeper

Two assistant timekeepers operate stopwatches according to article 611.2.2.

One assistant timekeeper maintains a complete record with the registered times of all competitors.

612.6 The Finish Controller

The finish controller has the following duties:

- Supervision of the section between the last gate and the finish.
- Supervision of the proper crossing of the finish line.
- Recording of the order of finishing of all racers who complete the course.

612.7 The Chief of Calculations

The chief of calculations is responsible for quick and accurate calculation of results. He supervises the immediate duplication of unofficial results and the publication of official results after expiration of the protest interval, or after any protests have been dealt with.

613 The Start

613.1 The Start Area

The Start Area must be closed off to everyone except the starting competitor, accompanied by only one trainer and the start officials.

The start area must be protected appropriately against inclement weather. A special roped off area must be provided for trainers, team captains, service personnel, etc., in which they may take care of the waiting competitors without being interrupted by the public. An adequate shelter must be prepared for the competitors waiting for the call to start.

The competitor enters the defined start hut with both skis attached without any covers on them.

613.2 The Start Ramp

The Start Ramp shall be prepared in such a way that the competitors can stand relaxed on the starting line and can quickly reach full speed after leaving the start.

613.3 Start Procedure

No official or attendant who could possibly give an advantage to or disturb the starting competitor may be behind him. All outside help is forbidden. By order of the starter, the competitor must plant his poles in front of the start line, or where indicated. The starter must not touch the competitor at the start. Pushing off from the start posts or other aids is forbidden and the competitor must start only with the

help of his ski poles.

613.4 Start Signals

10 seconds before the start, the starter will tell each competitor “10 seconds”. Five seconds before the start, he shall count “5, 4, 3, 2, 1” and then give the start command “Go”.

(For SL see 805.3).

If possible, an automatic audible signal is to be used. The starter will let the competitor see the start clock.

613.5 Start Timing

The start timing must measure the exact time the competitor crosses the start line with his leg below the knee.

613.6 Delayed Start

A competitor who is not ready to start on time will be sanctioned. The start referee may however excuse such a delay if, in his opinion the delay is due to “force majeure”.

For example, breakdown of a competitor’s personal equipment, or minor sickness of a competitor, does not constitute “force majeure”. In case of doubt, the Jury may allow the start provisionally.

613.6.1 The start referee makes the decisions after consultation with the Jury (according to 613.6.2 and 613.6.3) and must record the start numbers and names of competitors who were not allowed to start because of late appearance, or who were allowed to start in spite of late appearance, or who were allowed to start provisionally.

613.6.2 In the case of fixed start intervals, the delayed competitors may start at the fixed interval after he has reported to the start referee, in accordance with the decision of the Jury. The start referee informs the Jury as to when (after which start number) a delayed competitor is starting.

613.6.3 In the case of irregular start intervals, the delayed competitor will start according to article 805.3. The start referee informs the Jury as to when (after which start number) a delayed competitor is starting.

613.7 Valid and False Starts

In competitions with a fixed start interval the competitor must start on the start signal. The start time is valid if it occurs within the following limits: 5 seconds before and 5 seconds after the official start time. A competitor who does not start within that space of time will be disqualified.

The start referee must inform the Referee of the start numbers and names of the competitors who made a false start or have contravened the starting rules.

614 Course and Competition

614.1 Course

614.1.1 Technical Parts of a Competition Course

Start and finish installations, television towers, measuring equipment, sponsor advertising equipment, etc. are necessary items for a competition.

614.1.2 Course Setting

614.1.2.1 Assistance

Assistance must be provided for the course setter, at a time to be fixed by the Jury, so that he can concentrate on the actual course setting and not be distracted by fetching poles, etc.

The chief of course equipment must provide enough of the following:

- enough blue and red slalom poles

- a corresponding number of flags, divided by colors
- hammers, drills, gate-keys, wedges etc.
- enough gate numbers
- coloring substance for marking the position of the poles.

614.1.2.2 Marking of the gates

The positions of the gate poles may be marked with an easily recognizable coloring substance which remains visible throughout the entire race.

614.1.2.3 Numbering the gates

The gates must be numbered from top to bottom of the course. Start and finish are not counted.

614.1.2.4 Marking of the course and terrain

In DH and in SG the course should be marked using:

- on the inside and/or outside of the racing line before and after the gate
- small pine needles or similar material spread on the course and/or
- colored dye used vertically from gate to gate as well as horizontally across the course or the inside and/or outside of the racing line before and after the gate notably on the approaches indicating changes in terrain, jumps, etc.

614.1.2.5 Spare Poles

The chief of course equipment is responsible for the availability and correct placing of enough spare poles. The poles are to be placed so that the competitors are not misled by them.

614.1.3 Warm-up slope

Appropriate warm-up slopes should be made available.

614.1.4 Closing and modification of the course

A course is closed from the time that the course setting begins. Nobody except for the Jury is permitted to change gates, gate flags, markings, etc. or modify the course structure (jumps, bumps, etc.) on a closed course.

Competitors are not permitted to enter a closed competition course.

Trainers, servicemen etc., who are allowed on a closed competition course are to be decided by the Jury.

Photographers and camera teams are allowed into the closed course area for the necessary documentation of the competition. Their total number can be limited by the Jury. They will be located by the Jury where possible and may only remain in this area.

The Jury or the Organizing Committee may close a course or sections of a course to competitors, trainers, media and service personnel outside of the actual competition or training times for preparation and maintenance purposes.

614.1.5 Non-essential changes

In cases of immediate non-essential but necessary changes on the course, such as small relocation of gates, an additional inspection or training run is not necessary. Details must be communicated to all team-captains and competitors must be informed by the referee at the start.

614.2 Competition

614.2.1 Passage of the Gates

A gate must be passed according to article 661.4.1.

614.2.2 Interdiction to Continue after a Gate Fault

If a competitor misses a gate, he must no longer continue through further gates.

- 614.2.3 **Interdiction to Continue after a competitor stops**
If a competitor comes to a complete stop (e.g. after a fall), he must no longer continue through previous or further gates. This interdiction is valid in all events with a fixed start interval (DH, SG, GS). Only exception is for SL (Art. 661.4.1) and for non-scored GS, as long as the competitor does not interfere with the run of the following competitor or has been passed by a competitor.
- 614.3 **Inspection**
- 614.3.1 **Jury inspection**
On race day, the Jury inspects the course and has to confirm the FIS program for the day. Team Captains may accompany the Jury.
- 614.3.2 **Competitor inspection**
The competitor inspection is held after Jury inspection and after the Jury has opened the course and is normally inspected, from top to bottom of the course. The course must be in racing condition from the time the competitor's inspection starts and the competitors must not be disturbed during the inspection by workers on the course or similar. The competitors are authorized to study the final setting of the course by either skiing down at the side of the course at low speed, or side slipping through the gates (inspection). Skiing through gates or making practice turns parallel to those required by gates on the course is not allowed. Competitors must carry their start numbers. Fenced, roped or blocked off sections of the course or gates must be respected. By the end of the inspection time, Competitors have to be outside the race course. Racers are not permitted to enter the course on foot without skis.
- 614.3.3 **Jury decision**
The time and duration of the Competitors inspection is determined by the Jury and scheduled at the team captains meeting. If necessary (e.g. because of special weather conditions), the Jury may decide on special methods of competitors inspection.

615 The Finish

- 615.1 **The Finish Area**
- 615.1.1 The finish area should be plainly visible to competitors approaching the finish. It must be wide with a gently sloped smooth run out.
- 615.1.2 In setting the course with gates particular attention should be paid to directing competitors across the finish on a natural line adapted to the terrain.
- 615.1.3 The finish area is to be fenced in. Any unauthorized entry is not allowed.
- 615.1.4 Finish installations and closures should be set up or secured through suitable protection measures.
- 615.1.7 The competitor must leave the finish area through the official exit with all the competition equipment used in the race.
- 615.2 **The Finish Line and its Markings**
The finish line is marked by two posts or vertical banners which may be connected by a horizontal banner. In DH and SG races, the finish must be not less than 15 m wide and in SL and GS not less than 10 m wide. In exceptional cases, the Jury may decrease this distance on the spot for technical reasons or because of the terrain. The width of the finish is considered to be the distance between the two finish posts or banners. The supports used to mount the timing devices must also be at least this far apart.
The timing supports can usually be placed behind the finish posts or banners, on the downhill side. The finish line must be clearly marked horizontally with coloring substance.

- 615.3 Crossing of the finish line and recording of the times
The finish line must be crossed:
- on both skis, or
 - on one ski, or
 - with both feet in case of a fall between the last gate and the finish line. In this case the time is taken when any part of the competitor's body or equipment stops the timekeeping system.

- 615.4 Report
The finish referee must make a report to the Referee immediately after the race or the official training.

617 Calculation and Announcement of Results

617.1 Unofficial Times

Times taken by the timekeepers shall be considered unofficial times. They should be posted on a score-board that shall be readily visible from the area provided for the competitors who have finished, and from the press area. Whenever possible, unofficial times should be announced to the public over loud-speakers.

617.2. Announcement of Unofficial Times and Disqualifications

- 617.2.1 As soon as possible after completion of the race, unofficial times and disqualifications must be published on the official notice board and also at the finish.

The time limit for protest is counted from the moment of this announcement.

- 617.2.2 The announcement of unofficial times at the finish and start, together with written and oral announcement of disqualifications, may replace the publication on the official notice board. In this case, it can be decided that protests can be delivered verbally to the Referee at the finish immediately or, at the latest, within 15 minutes after the announcement of the disqualification and that protests submitted after this are considered null and void. The team captains must be informed beforehand.

617.3 Official Results

- 617.3.1 Results are determined from the official times of those competitors who have been officially classified.

- 617.3.2 Combined results are calculated by adding together the race times obtained in each event of the combined event (or by adding the race points).

- 617.3.3 If two or more competitors have the same time or the same number of points, the racer with the higher start number must be listed first on the official list of results.

- 617.3.4 The official result list must contain:

- the name of the organizing club or association
- the name of the competition, the site, event and category (men or ladies)
- the date of the race
- all technical data such as the name of the course, altitude at start and finish, vertical drop, homologation number and, for DH and SG, the length of the course
- the names and affiliations of the members of the Jury
- for each run, the names and affiliations of the course setter and the forerunners, the number of gates (SL, GS & SG between brackets number of direction changes) and the start time
- the weather, the snow conditions on the course and the air temperature at start and finish recorded at the time of race start.
- all details concerning the competitors, finish order, start number, code number, name and first name, affiliation, time and race points
- the start number, code number, name, first name and affiliation of those

competitors who were not at the start, did not finish or were disqualified in each run

- the names of the official service companies, e.g. timing company, computer service etc.
- the codex and F value
- the penalty calculation sheet
- the signature of the Technical Delegate.

U617.3.5 The result lists (official and unofficial) as well as the start lists must be printed on white paper:

619 Award Ceremony

The award ceremony may not be held before the completion of the race and not before the Technical Delegate has authorized it.

The organizer has the right to present the probable winners before this time. This presentation is unofficial and is organized at a place different from that of the official award ceremony.

620 Start Order

621 Group Draw and Start Order

621.1 The classification of competitors who are present is made by the Jury

U621.2 Except for events for which USSA has approved an alternate method, seed points shall be used for the classification of competitors. If a competitor does not appear in the last valid seed points list, he shall be assigned to that group of competitors without points.

621.3 The starting order of the competitors in all alpine competitions is determined by their seed points (DH, SL, GS and SG). A first group of maximum the 15 best competitors present regardless of affiliation will be drawn.

The group may be increased if two or more competitors share the 15th rank.

All remaining competitors start in order of their seed points. All competitors without seed points will be drawn in the last group. If in the first 15 competitors present, the point difference between one and the following competitor is too great, the Jury will decide the number of competitors in the first group. The rest will start in the order of their seed points.

U621.3.1 Adaptive athletes competing in regularly calendared USSA competitions with 160 points or less in the discipline, will be seeded in special groups with start order: 16-20... 36-40... 56-60 ... etc. or by seed points, whichever is most favorable. (Placement within groups is by USSA point ranking.)

621.3.3 Starting order Super Combined

If the SL run takes place before the DH or SG, competitors who are shown as DNS, DNF or DSQ will start the DH or SG run with their original bib after the last qualified competitor in the SL run.

621.4 If the number without seed points is too great, the Jury must divide them into several groups. In this case, each team announces the groups to which it wishes its competitors to belong. Each group is then drawn separately. The Jury should whenever possible, take into account the observations made during the official DH training and must divide the competitors from several teams fairly between the groups without seed points. As a rule, each team who has entered competitors without seed points puts one competitor into the first group of competitors without seed points.

621.5 The Jury has the right to change the starting order if they consider the condition of the course warrants it.

621.6 The draw must take place on the day before the race. For night races, the draw must

- take place at the latest before noon on the race day.
- 621.7 The first group, and the groups without seed points, in DH training must be drawn every day.
- 621.8 The draw (first group and groups without seed points) must be held in a team captains' meeting.
A double draw is recommended with a simultaneous draw of the start number and the name of the competitor.
- 621.9 The Jury may allow a computer assisted draw. A representative of each team is required to sign the team entry at the team captains' meeting before the draw is conducted by computer.
- 621.10 Starting Order in Extraordinary Conditions (Snow Seed)
In extraordinary conditions, the Jury may change the starting order of a DH race, a GS or a SG (when snowing, etc.). A group of at least six competitors, nominated in advance, start before start number 1. These six competitors are drawn from among the last 20% of the start list. They will start in reverse order of their start numbers.
- 621.11 Starting Order for the 2nd Run
- U621.11.1 Except for events for which USSA has approved an alternate method, in competitions with two runs, the starting order for the second run is determined by the result list of the first run except for the first 30 places.
- 621.11.2 For the first 30 places the starting order is as follows:
- the 30th in the result list starts 1st
 - the 29th in the result list starts 2nd
 - the 28th in the result list starts 3rd
 - the 27th in the result list starts 4th
 - the 1st in the result list starts 30th
 - from the 31st onward according to the result list of the first run.
- If more than one competitor is ranked 30th, the competitor with the lowest start number will start first.
- U621.11.3 Starting Order for the 2nd Run at USSA Races
The Jury has the right to decide no later than one hour before the start of the first run whether the reversed order shall be reduced to the first 15 placed competitors from the first run.
- U621.11.3.1 Adaptive athletes who qualify for special seeding in the first run (U621.3.1) will be seeded in special groups with start order: 16-20... 36-40... 56-60... etc. or according to 621.10.2, whichever is most favorable. (Placement within groups will be by the result list of the first run.)
In the case of a Flip 30 2nd run, the special group starts in the 31st position or in the position immediately following the first run leader when the flip is other than 30.
- 621.11.4 A start list for the second run must be published in good time and made available to the officials at the start for the second run.
- U621.13 Alternate Classification Methods
- U621.13.1 In certain races where both runs are used for scoring purposes, the second run order may be determined by special procedures.
- U621.13.2 In non-scored races other rules for determining start order may apply. These must be noted in the race announcement.
- U621.13.3 There are some scored events on the USSA calendar in which modifications to the start order procedures are used. These procedures must be approved in advance by USSA and the divisions involved, and announced in advance. Examples include:

- U621.13.3.1 College and high school team races, where seeding is done on a team basis.
- U621.13.3.2 Certain U21, U18, U16 and U14 events where minimum and maximum representation by seed group are stipulated.

622 Start Intervals

622.1 Regular intervals

In DH, GS and SG, competitors will normally start at regular intervals of 60 seconds; for SL see article 805.1. The Jury may fix different intervals.

622.2 Special Start Intervals

The start intervals in DH, SG and if necessary, GS may be changed under the following conditions:

622.2.2 The start interval is determined by the Jury.

622.2.3 The start interval may not be less than 40 seconds in DH and SG and 30 seconds in GS.

623 Re-runs

623.1 Prerequisites

623.1.1 A competitor who is obstructed while racing must stop immediately after the incident takes place and report to the nearest gate judge. He may apply to any member of the Jury for a re-run. This claim can also be made by the team captain of the obstructed competitor. The competitor should make his way to the finish along the side of the course.

623.1.2 In special situations (e.g. in case of missing gates or other technical failures), the Jury may order a re-run.

623.1.3 If a competitor is stopped by a yellow flag, he has the right to a re-run, under the condition that the Jury considers this possible from an organizational point of view. The Jury should ensure that the competitor's re-run takes place before the last competitor on the start list of the race, or training run in the case of DH (see 705.2, 705.3).

623.2 Grounds for Interference

623.2.1 Blocking of the course by an official, a spectator, an animal or other obstruction.

623.2.2 Blocking of the course by a fallen competitor who did not clear the course quickly enough.

623.2.3 Objects in the course such as a lost ski pole or the ski of a previous competitor.

623.2.4 Activities of the first aid service which obstruct the racer.

623.2.5 Absence of a gate knocked down by a previous competitor that has not been promptly replaced.

623.2.6 Other similar incidents beyond the will and control of the competitor, which cause significant loss of speed or a lengthening of the racing line and, consequently, affect the competitors time.

623.2.7 Interruption by an official in a "yellow zone" (see 623.1.3).

623.3 Validity of a Re-run

623.3.1 In case the Referee or another Jury member is unable to question the appropriate officials immediately or to judge the justification for the re-run he may grant a provisional re-run, to avoid delay for the competitor. This re-run will be valid only if it is subsequently confirmed by the Jury.

623.3.2 If the competitor was already disqualified before the incident entitling him to a re-run, the re-run is not valid.

623.3.3 The provisional or subsequently approved run remains valid even if it proves slower than the obstructed one.

- 623.4 Start Time of the Re-run
- 623.4.1 In the case of fixed start intervals, the competitor must start at the fixed interval after he has reported to the Start Referee in accordance with the decision of the Start Referee.
- 623.4.2 With non-fixed start intervals, the procedure is in accordance with the provisions of article 805.3.

624 Interruption of the Run or Training

If an interrupted run cannot be finished on the same day, it is to be treated as a terminated run.

- 624.1 By the Jury
- 624.1.1 to allow course maintenance or to allow a fairer and more consistent course for all competitors.
- 624.1.2 for unfavorable or inconsistent weather and snow conditions
- 624.1.2.1 The race is to be restarted as soon as the work on the course has finished and if the weather and snow conditions have so changed that a fair competition can be assured.
- 624.1.2.2 A repeated interruption of the race ordered for the same reason should lead to a termination. A DH, a SG, as well as one run of SL or GS may not last longer than four hours.
- 624.2 Brief interruption
- Each member of the Jury is entitled to order a brief interruption of the run, including at the request of a gate judge.

625 Termination of a Competition and Report

- 625.1 by the Jury
- if the competitors are significantly affected by outside disturbing influences
 - if conditions arise that interfere with the fairness, or if the proper conduct of the race may no longer be guaranteed.
- U625.2 by the Technical Delegate
- in the case of extraordinary circumstances

626 Report

For all interruption or termination of a competition (Art. 624 and 625), a fully detailed report is to be made by the TD to the USSA. The report must contain a well-founded recommendation whether the terminated competition is to be taken into consideration for USSA points or not.

627 Not permitted to Start

A competitor will not be permitted to start in any USSA competition who:

- 627.1 wears obscene names and/or symbols on clothing and equipment or behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner in the start area (205.5, 223.1.1),
- 627.2 violates the USSA rules in regard to equipment (222),
- 627.4 trains on a course closed for competitors (614.4),
- 627.5 in training for DH has not participated in at least one timed training run (704.8.3),
- 627.6 does not wear a helmet that conforms to the competition equipment specifications (606.4, 707, 807, 907, 1007), or does not have ski brakes on his/her skis (606.3),
- 627.7 was disqualified (DSQ), did not start (DNS) or did not finish (DNF) in the first run. SC races are exempt from this rule. A competitor who was DSQ, DNS or DNF in the SL can start the speed event. If the speed event precedes the SL run the exemption does not apply. (621.3.3)
- U627.8 If a competitor has actually started in a competition and is later determined by the

Jury to have been in violation of these rules the Jury must sanction the competitor.

628 Penalties

A penalty will be assessed by the Jury especially where the competitor:

- U628.1 violates the rules regarding obscene names and/or symbols on clothing and equipment (207.1)
- 628.2 alters the start number in a way that is not allowed (606.1),
- 628.3 does not wear or carry the official start number according to the rules. (704.6, 804.1, 904, 1004.1),
- 628.4 skis through a gate or practices turns parallel to those required by gates on the course or otherwise violates the rules of Competitors inspection (614.3),
- 628.5 is not ready to start on time or makes a false start (613.6, 613.7, 805.3.1, 805.4),
- 628.6 violates rules of the start or starts in a manner than is not permitted by the rules (613.3),
- 628.7 requests a re-run which proves not to be valid (623.3.2),
- 628.8 continues to race after committing a gate fault (614.2.2),
- 628.9 fails to pass the finish correctly (615.3),
- 628.11 does not leave the finish area through the official exit with all the competition equipment used in the race (615.1.7),
- 628.13 receives outside help during a competition (661.3),
- U628.14 continues on a DH, SG or USSA scored GS course during a training run or race after a fall, stopping, or being overtaken. Continues on course after being passed on a SL course.

- U628.15 continues on a course after losing a ski except as allowed by article U629.4.

629 Disqualifications

A competitor will be disqualified if he/she:

- 629.1 participates in the race under false pretenses,
- 629.2 jeopardizes the security of persons or property or causes actual injury or damage
- 629.3 does not pass through a gate correctly (661.4), or does not start within the time limits defined by article 613.7.
- U629.4 loses a ski more than two gates above the finish in SL, GS or SG or more than one gate above the finish in DH.

This shall be considered a clear disqualification. The competitor may not continue on the course.

640 Protests

- U640.1 A Jury may only accept a protest if it is based upon physical evidence or eyewitness testimony.
- 640.2 A Jury is only permitted to re-evaluate its previous opinions where new evidence exists that relates to the original jury opinion.
- 640.3 All Jury decisions are final except those that may be protested under 641. Appeals can be made as per 647.1.1.

641 Types of Protests

- 641.1 Against admittance of competitors or their competition equipment,
- 641.2 Against the course or its condition,
- 641.3 Against a competitor or against an official during the race,
- 641.4 Against disqualifications,
- 641.5 Against timekeeping,
- 641.6 Against instructions of the Jury,

642 Place of Submittal

The various protests are to be submitted as follows:

- 642.1 Protests according to the article 641.1 - 641.6 at the location designated on the official notice board or at a place announced at a team captains' meeting.
- U642.2 Protest according to the article 624 with the appropriate level appeals committee for Jury decisions.

643 Deadlines for Submittal

- 643.1 Against the admittance of a competitor:
 - before the draw.
- 643.2 Against the course or its condition:
 - not later than 60 minutes before the beginning of the race.
- 643.3 Against a competitor or competitor's equipment or against an official because of irregular behavior during the competition:
 - within 15 minutes after the last competitor has passed the finish.
- 643.4 Against disqualification:
 - within 15 minutes after the posting or announcement of the disqualification.
- 643.5 Against the timekeeping:
 - within 15 minutes after the posting of the unofficial result list.
- 643.6 Against all instructions of the Jury:
 - immediately and no later than the deadlines for submittal of protest according to the article 643.4.

644 Form of Protests

- 644.1 Protests are to be submitted in writing.
- 644.2 As exceptions, protests according to the article 641.3, 641.4 and 641.5 can be made verbally (617.2.2).
- 644.3 Protests must be substantiated in detail. Proof must be submitted and any evidence must be included.
- U644.4 \$50 must be deposited with the submittal of the protest; \$100 if the protest is against equipment. This deposit will be returned if the protest is upheld; otherwise it goes to the account of the organizer or to USSA.
- U644.4.1 The Jury may set a lesser protest fee.
- 644.5 A protest may be withdrawn by the protesting party before the publication of a decision by the Jury.

In this case, the money deposit must be returned. A withdrawal of the protest is not possible when the Jury or a member of the Jury takes, an intermediate decision for reasons of time, e.g. a decision "with reserve".
- 644.6 Protests not submitted on time or submitted without the protest fee are not to be considered.

645 Authorization

The following are authorized to submit protests:

- participating organizations
- trainers
- team captains.

646 Settlement of Protests by the Jury

- 646.1 The Jury meets to deal with the protests at a predetermined place and time fixed and announced by it.
- 646.2 In dealing with a protest against disqualification (661.4), the gate judge and, if needed, also the gate judge of the adjacent gate combinations or other involved

officials, the competitor in question and the protesting team captain or trainer must be invited by the TD or Referee.

In addition any other requested evidence such as videotape, photos, and films should be checked.

- 646.3 At the vote on the protest, only the Jury members are to be present. The TD chairs the proceedings. Minutes of the proceedings are to be kept and signed by all voting members of the Jury. The decision requires a majority of all voting members of the Jury, not just of those present. In case of a tie, the TD's vote is decisive.

The principle of a free evaluation of the evidence is maintained. The rules on which the decision is to be based must be applied and interpreted in such a way that fair proceedings, taking into account the maintenance of discipline, are guaranteed.

- 646.4 The decision is to be made public immediately after the proceedings by posting on the official notice board with the publication time stated.

647 Right of Appeal

- 647.1 The Appeal

- U647.1.1 Can be made:

- against the decisions of the Jury,
- against the decision of the Jury to terminate a race (625),
- against the recommendation of the Jury that a terminated competition should count for USSA points,
- against the official result lists. This appeal has to be directed exclusively against an obvious and proved calculation mistake.

- U647.1.2 Appeals must be submitted to the appropriate level Jury decision appeals committee (642.2).

- 647.1.3 Deadlines

- U647.1.3.1 Appeals against the decisions of the Jury are to be submitted within 24 hours of their publication.

- U647.1.3.2 Appeals against the official results are to be submitted to USSA within 30 days, including the day of the race.

- 647.1.4 The decision concerning appeals are taken by:

- the appropriate Jury decision appeals Committee

- 647.2 Postponing effect

The evidence submitted (protest, appeal) will not cause a postponement of the appeal.

- 647.3 Submission

All appeals must be in writing to be substantiated. Proof and evidence are to be included. Evidence submitted too late, will be declined by the appropriate Appeals Committee.

650 Rules about the Homologation of the Courses

- U650.1 General

All USSA sanctioned events (DH, SG, GS and SL) both scored and non-scored, including Masters, must be run on courses that have been approved by USSA or by FIS. Courses not meeting the minimum vertical drops requirements will be registered, and an inspection certificate provided. Registered courses are subject to all rules pertaining to homologated courses.

- U650.1.1 All FIS-homologated trails are automatically accepted as meeting USSA course approval standards.

- U650.1.2 Courses for night competitions

All courses used for night competitions must be homologated for use with artificial light. The courses must meet the illumination standards of the National Ski Areas Association. The inspection of these courses must be made on snow at night.

U650.2 Initial Request (application)

The initial request for the homologation or rehomologation of a course is to be directed to the USSA Alpine Courses Working Group by submitting the application form and appropriate fee to the working group chair.

U650.3 Completed report package (inspector's report and accompanying documentation)

The completed report requesting homologation must be submitted to the working group chair and shall include the documents listed below in 650.4 in approved digital format(s).

U650.3.1 Following review and approval, the chair of the Alpine Courses Working Group will provide signed digital copies of the report and documentation (PDF book) and digital copies of the official certificate to:

U650.3.1.1 The USSA office

U650.3.1.2 The organizing club or ski area

U650.3.1.2.1 The original certificate will be sent to the postal address as indicated on the inspector's report

U650.3.1.3 The inspector in charge of the examination

U650.4 Documents

The request for the homologation of a course must be accompanied by the following six documents or equivalents to the satisfaction of the inspector and the working group chair (individual documents may be combined, provided that all of the required information is included):

U650.4.1 A description of the course, containing:

- the name of the course
- the geographical location of the course
- the start point expressed in meters above sea level
- the finish point expressed in meters above sea level
- the vertical drop expressed in meters
- the surface length (inclined length) of the course expressed in meters
- the average, maximum and minimum gradients (in percentages)
- evacuation arrangements for injured competitors
- possible water supply
- artificial snowmaking installations
- a description of access to the start and finish areas - the uphill transport with hourly capacity, (persons)
- a description of the places requiring nets or other protective installations
- evacuation distance to the nearest hospital in kilometers
- Contact address with telephone, fax number, postal and email address.

U650.4.2 A map in suitable scale, with contour lines and the course drawn on it, and start and finish locations indicated.

U650.4.3 A profile indicating the vertical drop and length of the course, approximately in the same scale as the topographical map 650.4.2. (Vertical to horizontal ratio of the profile preferred to be approximately 1:1).

U650.4.4 A photograph with adequate resolution on which the course is marked. It must be a genuine photograph, preferably digital, and not a graphic representation from a prospectus. The photograph should be provided for a normal size of 8"x10" when

printed. The photograph should be taken preferably from an opposite slope. If that is not possible, then an oblique aerial photograph will be acceptable. Appropriate images from online sources are acceptable.

- 650.4.5 A sketch of the entire course in suitable scale with all details and data indicated, such as lift towers, groups of trees, snowmaking hydrants, snow fences, steep sections, curves, trail intersections, etc. and information on elevations, section and resort names. The purpose of the sketch is primarily to provide the inspector with condensed information on the actual state of the course, any improvements planned and also the location of protective installations (nets, etc.).

U650.5 Appointment of an Inspector

The chair of the USSA Alpine Courses Working Group will review the homologation application and appoint an inspector to examine the course.

The inspector for DH courses must not belong to the organization requesting a first homologation, or be from the same state.

The courses proposed for homologation must comply with the technical requirements of articles 701, 801, 901 and 1001 (and/or according to the valid rules for registered courses not meeting minimum vertical drop according to these articles).

Sufficient space must be provided on DH, GS and SG courses, or on an emergency track or road or on the competition course itself, for the evacuation of competitors injured during the competition or training.

650.6 Homologation Procedure

U650.6.1 The Applicant

The applicant club or organizer will send the application requesting homologation to the chair of the USSA Alpine Courses Working Group.

The homologation fee, according to the listing later in this chapter under Course Approvals, course should be submitted with the application. This sum covers the administrative costs. The inspector's daily per diem, travel and living expenses must be paid to him directly by the applicant (club or ski area).

- U650.6.2 Refer to 650.6.6.1 and 650.6.6.2 regarding duration of validity of homologations according to event.

U650.6.3 The Inspector

After the request for homologation has been received by the chair of the USSA Alpine Courses Working Group, the chair will appoint an inspector. The inspector promptly contacts the applicant about the time for the inspection. The inspector will request a copy of the required documentation part of the inspection package. After the inspection, he/she writes the inspection report, noting any required improvements, marking these on the course plan. After checking all other documents, he/she sends the complete set of documents to the chair of the USSA Alpine Courses Working Group. The latter will examine and ratify them and send a copy and a certificate to each of the following:

- the USSA office
- the applicant
- the inspector

Normally, initial inspections of a course should be done in the summer or fall. It is left to the discretion of the inspector to decide whether, in addition to the summer inspection, a second inspection in winter will be necessary in consideration of different conditions in winter. This applies especially to protection recommendations and the placing of nets and other devices. Rehomologations,

when there are no changes made, may be done on-snow.

U650.6.3.1 Ratification of the inspection report and documentation

The chair of the USSA Alpine Courses Working Group will ratify the inspection report and attached documentation by signature and date. The chair may require correction of any errors or request clarification or additional documentation by the inspector or place prior to ratification.

U650.6.4 Issue of the USSA Homologation Certificate

If the inspection report is affirmative and no further work is needed, the chair of the USSA Alpine Courses Working Group will send the original of the homologation certificate to the applicant and a digital copy to the USSA Office.

The homologation certificate itself sets out the name and type of the course and its technical data.

For all courses, the expiry date is indicated.

The homologation certificate will only be issued if all fees, including inspector expenses, are paid.

650.6.5 Expiration of the Application

If work requested has not been completed within five years after the inspection is carried out and the homologation cannot be granted, the site (course) in question will be deleted from the list of pending homologation applications. For further consideration a new application, with fee, is required.

650.6.6 Validity of the Homologation Certificate

U650.6.6.1 For DH and SG courses (both approved and registered) the certificate is valid for five years from the date of issue. After that a new application for re-homologation must be made.

U650.6.6.2 For GS and SL courses (both approved and registered) the certificate is valid for ten years from the date of issue. After that a new application for re-homologation must be made.

650.6.6.3 For all Disciplines

Homologation certificates are valid (within periods in article 650.6.6.1) as long as no natural or artificial changes or changes in the regulations or technical requirements have occurred.

Natural changes can consist of:

- erosion, landslides or the terrain becoming overgrown.

Artificial changes are:

- the construction of buildings, lifts,
- the construction of shelters, parks, roads or tracks etc.,
- the installation of snowmaking hydrants, snow retention fences or other significant hardware.

U650.6.7 Compulsory Report

The applicant must report to the inspector and to the USSA Alpine Courses Working Group chair when required improvements have been carried out.

Supplementary Reports

USSA Technical Delegates should submit the Supplementary Report of the TD to indicate that reinspection may be needed in cases of changes per 650.6.6.3. This report is to be submitted directly to the working group chair copy to the organizing club (only).

U650.6.8 Publication

The USSA Office publishes the official list of all homologated and registered

courses.

U650.6.9 Relationship Between Homologation, Snow and Weather as well as Special Conditions

An organizer should not depend entirely on the homologation of a course by USSA, but also take note of the prevailing snow and weather conditions (e.g. a DH course homologated by USSA may be unsuitable for holding DH races when there is insufficient snow depth, unfavorable surface snow conditions, dense fog, heavy snow fall, storm or rain).

660 Gate Judge Instructions

661 Control of Passage (Explanation) - see diagram next page

661.1 Every gate judge must receive a check card along with weatherproof covering where necessary, for each run that will show:

- name of the gate judge
- number(s) of the gate(s) for which he is responsible and
- designation of the run (1st or 2nd)

661.2 If a competitor does not pass a gate (or gate marker) correctly according to article 661.4 the gate judge must immediately record the competitor's bib number and the gate number(s) where the fault occurred.

661.2.1 A drawing of the fault committed is essential.

661.3 Should a competitor receive outside help, for instance after a fall, the Gate Judge must record this on his check card (628.1.3).

661.4 Correct Passage

661.4.1 A gate has been passed correctly when both the competitors' ski tips and both feet have passed across the gate line. If a competitor loses a ski without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a SL pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must have passed the gate line.

This rule is also applies when a competitor has to climb back up to a gate.

661.4.1.1 The gate line in DH, GS and SG, where a gate consists of two pairs of poles holding gate flags between them, is the shortest imaginary line between the turning pole and outside gate at snow level (661, fig. A).

661.4.1.2 The gate line in SL is the imaginary shortest line between the turning pole and the outside pole.

661.4.1.3 If a competitor removes a pole from its vertical position before both the competitor's ski tips and both feet have passed the gate line, the ski tips and feet must still pass the original gate line (marks in the snow). This is also valid in the case of a missing turning pole (or gate).

661.4.2 In Parallel SL, the passage is correct when both ski tips and both feet have passed outside the gate marker in the direction of the turn (661, fig B).

662 Importance of the Task of the Gate Judge

662.1 Each gate judge should have a thorough knowledge of the competition rules.

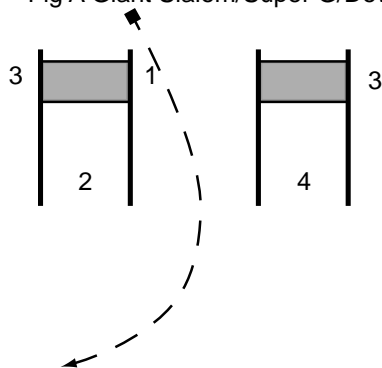
662.2 The gate judge is required to follow instructions from the Jury.

662.3 The decision handed down by the gate judge must be clear and unbiased. The gate judge must declare a fault only when he is convinced that a fault has been committed.

662.4 The gate judge can consult the adjacent gate judge in order to confirm his opinion. He can even demand via a member of the Jury that the race be briefly interrupted, so that a check can be made of the tracks on the course.

662.5 When an adjacent gate judge, a member of the Jury, or an official video controller makes a report concerning a competitor which differs from the notes of the gate

Fig A Giant Slalom/Super G/Downhill



1. Turning Pole
2. Turning Gate
3. Outside Pole
4. Outside Gate

Fig B Parallel

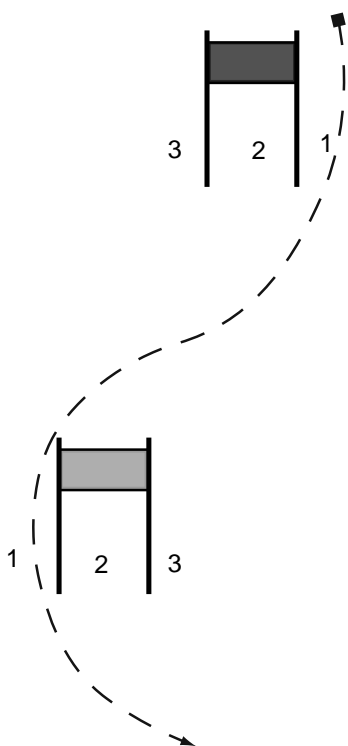
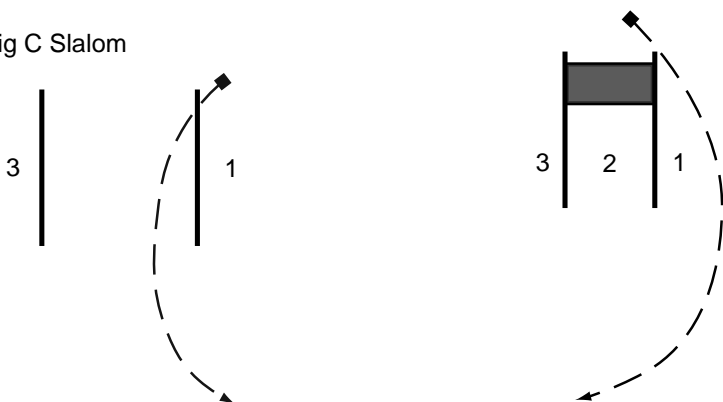


Fig C Slalom



judge in question, the Jury may freely interpret these notes in view of a possible disqualification of a competitor or of a decision concerning a protest.

663 Giving Information to a Competitor

663.1 A competitor, in the case of an error or a fall, is permitted to ask the gate judge if a fault was committed, and the gate judge, if asked, must inform a competitor if he has committed a fault that would lead to disqualification.

U663.1.1 In either case with a clear, decisive voice, the gate judge answers the competitor's question or informs him with one of the following words:

U663.1.2 "Go!" if the competitor should expect no disqualification, since the gate judge has ruled the gate passage as correct,

U663.1.3 "Back!" if the competitor may expect disqualification.

663.2 The competitor himself is fully responsible for his action and, he cannot hold the gate judge responsible.

664 Immediate Announcement of Disqualifying Faults

664.1 The Jury may decide that the gate judge will signal a disqualifying fault immediately by raising a flag of a particular color, by a sound or signal, or by other means as provided by the organizers (670 video control).

664.2 The gate judge must record all infringements on his check card regardless of immediate announcements.

664.3 The gate judge is required to give information to the Jury members on request.

665 Duties of the Gate Judge on completion of the 1st and 2nd run

665.1 The chief gate judge (or his assistant) is required to collect all the check cards immediately after each run and to pass them on to the Referee in the finish.

666 Duties of the Gate Judge at the Conclusion of the Race

666.1 Each gate judge who has recorded a disqualifying fault or who has been witness to an incident leading to a re-run must be available to the Jury until after the settlement of any protests.

666.2 It is the responsibility of the Technical Delegate to dismiss a gate judge who is waiting to be called by the Jury.

667 Supplemental Duties of the Gate Judge

667.1 The gate judge may be asked to perform other duties after he performs his required function, including the replacement of gate poles and torn or missing flags.

667.2 He should assist in keeping the course clear and removing any markings made on the course by competitor or third parties.

667.3 A competitor who is obstructed during his run must stop immediately and report this to the nearest gate judge. The gate judge must enter the details of the incident on his check card and have the card available for the Jury at the end of the 1st or 2nd run. The competitor may apply to any member of the Jury for a re-run.

668 Location and Support of the Gate Judge

668.1 The gate judge must be so placed that he can properly observe the terrain, gates and course sections which he is responsible. He should be near enough to be able to take prompt action, but distant enough not to hinder the competitor.

668.2 Organizers are obliged to outfit the gate judges so that they are readily identifiable. Identification or clothing should be of a color that will not be confused with a gate flag.

668.3 The gate judge must be in their location well before the start of the run. Organizers should provide gate judges with protective clothing against adverse weather where necessary and should provide some form of nourishment during the run.

668.4 Any equipment necessary to permit the gate judge to perform his assigned duties should be provided.

669 Number of Gate Judges

669.1 The organizer is responsible for having a sufficient number of competent gate judges available.

669.2 The organizer must inform the Jury of the number of gate judges available for the training and particularly for the race.

670 Video control

When the organizer has equipment for official video control, the Jury will appoint an official video controller. The duties of the video controller are to observe the competitors passage on the course.

680 Poles

All poles used in the alpine disciplines are described as slalom poles and are either rigid poles or flex poles.

680.1 Rigid Poles

Must be round, uniform poles with a diameter between a minimum of 20 mm and a maximum of 32 mm without joints. They must be of such a length that when set, they project about 1.80 m out of the snow and they must be made of a non-splintering material (plastic, plasticized bamboo or material with similar properties).

680.2 Flex poles

Flex poles are fitted with a spring loaded hinge. They must conform to FIS specifications.

680.2.1 Use of Flex poles

Flex poles must be used for all alpine competitions except DH. The use of flex-poles may be requested by the Jury for DH.

680.2.1.1 SL

The slalom poles must be colored red or blue. The turning pole must be a flex-pole.

680.2.1.2 GS and SG

In GS and SG two pairs of slalom poles are used, each pair carrying a gate flag. The flags should be fixed or tied so they should tear or break away from one pole. The turning pole(s) must be flex-pole(s).

680.2.2 FIS Specifications for Flex Poles

All further details in regard to construction and functioning of the flex poles are regulated in the valid FIS Specifications for flex poles

Section 3 Particular Rules for the different Disciplines

700 Downhill (DH)

U700.1 For scored and non-scored competitions that include U16 and U14 athletes, refer to art. U1253 and to the “Children’s Course Setting Specifications Matrix” later in this chapter for vertical drop, course setting and other information including specific exceptions and modifications to this section.

U700.2 Only athletes U14 and older can participate in DH competitions.

701 Technical Data

701.1 Vertical Drop for scored competitions

- 400 m - 700 m

701.2 Course Length

The course length has to be measured by a measuring tape, wheel or GPS and printed on the start and the results list.

701.3 Gates

701.3.1 A DH gate consists of four slalom poles and two flags.

701.3.1.1 Courses are marked with red or blue gates (701.3.2).

701.3.1.2 If men and women use the same course, the additional gates for women must be blue.

701.3.2 For flags rectangular cloth panels are to be used, approximately 0.75 m wide by

0.5 m high. They are to be fastened on the poles, so that they can be recognized as easily as possible by the competitors. In place of red cloth a luminous orange color may be used. In the event that the safety netting is the same color as the gate flags (usually red or blue), where the gates cannot be seen properly against the backdrop of the safety netting, an alternative color for the gate flags (usually blue or red) may be used on those gates.

701.3.3 The width of the gates must be at least 8 m.

702 The Courses

702.1 Joint Regulations for DH Courses

702.2 General Characteristics of the Courses

A DH is characterized by the six components of technique, courage, speed, risk, condition and judgement. It must be possible to ski the DH course from the start to the finish with different speeds. The athlete adapts speed and performance to his ski technical skills and to his individual self-responsible judgement.

702.3 Particular Regulations for the Course Layout

Courses should normally be approximately 30 m wide. The inspector assigned for course homologation decides whether this width is sufficient and if necessary may order widening. He can also permit a width of less than 30 m depending on the line and terrain requirements, as long as the areas of the course before and after the narrow part permits this. Fall zones should be planned, where necessary, on the outside of curves. Possibilities to control speed should be made specifically for the approach to lips, drop offs and jumps.

Not all parts of the course need necessarily to be skied at full speed.

Surfaces may be left in their natural state.

Obstacles against which competitors may be thrown by leaving the course should be as well protected as possible with high safety nets, safety fences, pads or similar means if necessary, together with slip-sheets.

The function of safety installations must withstand weather conditions typical for alpine skiing.

702.4 Means of Transport

Access to the start must be provided by lifts or shuttle service.

703 Course Setting

703.1 Setting of the Gates

703.1.1 Gates shall be set to delineate the desired racing line.

703.1.2 Before difficult jumps and difficult passages the speed should be controlled by appropriate course setting where possible.

703.1.3 At places where the outside gate must be removed, in exceptional cases decided by the Jury, the turning gate serves as a gate.

703.2 Preparation and Inspection of the Course

703.2.1 For all DH competitions listed in the USSA calendar, the race course should be completely prepared and race-ready before the first Jury inspection. It should be available with all of the installations as set out in the technical advisor's or homologation report, or as agreed between the organizer and TD prior to the arrival of the teams.

703.2.2 Before the start of the training on the first official training day, there must be an inspection by the Jury with the technical advisor, if present and generally also in the presence of the team captains or trainers.

703.2.3 Before the start of the first official training the competitors shall conduct a complete inspection of the course.

- 703.2.4 The members of the Jury shall be available at the finish to receive requests and suggestions regarding the course, training, etc. from the competitors and trainers.

704 Official Training

704.1 Obligation to Participate

The official training forms an integral part of the competition. The competitors are required to participate in the training.

All qualified competitors entered for the competition must have been entered and drawn in all official training runs. This is also valid where substitutes are authorized by special rules.

704.2 Duration

Three days should be scheduled for the inspection and official training.

704.2.1 A reduction in the number of training days, or at least one training run, may be decided on by the Jury.

704.2.2 The official training need not necessarily be on consecutive days.

704.3 Race-ready Preparation

The entire facilities (start, course, and finish area) must be completely prepared as for racing by the first official training day.

704.3.1 All crowd control barriers must be completed.

704.4 First Aid and Medical Service

The first aid and medical services must be completely operational during all training times.

704.6 Training Numbers

Competitors must wear training numbers (bibs) for all official training.

704.7 Starting Order

The Start Referee, or an official appointed by the Jury, must verify from a start list that the competitors start training in the order of the training start list, and that start intervals are maintained.

704.8 Timed Training

704.8.1 During at least one of the last two training days the times must be taken.

704.8.2 The recorded times for the different runs of a training day must be announced by the publication of training result lists or by loud speaker. The scoreboard can be put to use. The times however, must be given to the team captains at the latest at the team captains meeting.

704.8.3 A competitor must participate in at least one timed training run.

704.8.4 In case of a fall, or stopping, or being overtaken during a training run, the competitor must leave the race course. Continuing on the DH course during the current training is not permitted. He may, however, move along the edge of the course to the finish.

704.8.5 In case of atmospheric changes (snowfall etc.) between the last training day and the day of the race, an inspection of the course can be organized for the competitors on the day of the race accompanied by the members of the Jury.

704.8.6 Whenever possible, one training should take place at the same time as that scheduled for the race.

705 Yellow Zones

705.1 Inspection

The Jury may establish yellow zones for the training and for the race if required. These must be equipped with yellow or yellow/black flags that can be waved to alert the following competitor. The zones must be designated before the first

inspection and should be recognizable by the competitors.

705.2 Training

When a competitor is stopped in training within the yellow zone, he has the right to re-start from the point where he has been stopped.

At the request of the competitor, a Jury member may allow him a re-run if this is possible from the point of view of the organization and any delay resulting there from. If a re-run is approved it is the responsibility of the competitor to present himself to the start referee before the last competitor has started, otherwise this approval will be withdrawn.

705.3 Race

When a competitor is stopped during the race he has the right to a re-run under the condition that the Jury considers it possible from an organizational point of view. The Jury should ensure that the competitor's re-run takes place before the last competitor on the start list of the race.

U705.3.1 In case of being stopped, a fall, or being overtaken (in either a race or a training run), the competitor must leave the race course. Continuing on the course is not permitted. The competitor should move along the edge of the course to the first available exit.

705.4 Obligation

When a competitor is waved down by a yellow flag he must stop immediately.

705.5 Commands

On the command "start stop!" or "start stop, yellow flag" the Start Referee must close the start. He must respond immediately via radio confirming that the start is closed, and state the start number of the last competitor to have started as well of the start number of the competitor held at the start ("start stop confirmed, number 23 on course, number 24 at the start").

The Jury member who called the "start stop" is also responsible for requesting yellow flag(s) that are necessary to stop competitor(s) on course.

706 Execution of the Downhill

706.1 Downhill in One Run

A DH will be carried out in one run.

706.2 Downhill in Two Runs

706.2.1 If the topography of a region does not permit a DH with the required vertical drop, a DH in two runs can be organized.

U706.2.1.1 The combined time of the two runs must be a minimum of 60 seconds.

706.2.2 The result will be determined by the addition of the two runs.

The rule "Starting order for the 2nd run" (621.10) will be used.

706.2.3 All the rules for the DH are valid for the race in two runs. The Jury will rule in case of problems caused by the course, the training and the two runs.

706.2.4 The two runs should be run on the same day.

U706.2.6 In instances where the vertical drop requirements cannot be met, but the total time is sufficient for scoring, the TD must indicate in the report and on the race transmittal sheet that the race should be scored despite the vertical drop deficiency.

707 Helmets

All competitors and forerunners must wear a helmet for official training as well as for the race that meets the Equipment Specifications. See information later in the chapter under "Additional USSA and FIS Regulations - Helmets".

Soft ear protection is only permitted for helmets used in SL.

Helmet mounted cameras are not allowed.

800 Slalom (SL)

- U800.1 For scored and non-scored competitions that include U16 and younger athletes, refer to art. U1254 and to the “Children’s Course Setting Specifications Matrix” later in this chapter for vertical drop, course setting and other information including specific exceptions and modifications to this section.

801 Technical Data

- 801.1 Vertical Drop

- 801.1.1 Men’s Courses

- 100-220 m

- 801.1.2 Ladies’ Courses

- 100-200 m

- U801.1.3 If the topography of a region does not permit a SL with the required vertical drop, a shorter course may be used. The combined time of the two runs must be a minimum of 50 seconds.

- U801.1.4 In instances where the vertical drop requirements cannot be met, but the total time is sufficient for scoring, the TD must indicate in the report and on the race transmittal sheet that the race should be scored despite the vertical drop deficiency.

- 801.2 Gates

- 801.2.1 A slalom gate consists of two poles (art. 680) or where there is no outside pole the gate will consist of a turning pole.

- 801.2.2 Consecutive gates must alternate in blue and red.

- 801.2.3 A gate must have a minimum width of 4 m and a maximum of 6 m.

The distance from turning pole to turning pole of successive gates must not be less than 6 m and not more than 13 m.

The distance between gate combinations (hairpin or vertical) must not be less than 0.75 m and not more than 1 m. The gates in hairpin or vertical combinations must be set in a straight line. Delayed gates must have a minimum distance of 12 m and a maximum distance of 18 m from turning pole to turning pole. The distance from turning pole to the top of a delay must be a minimum of 6 m.

- 801.2.4 Number of Direction Changes:

30% to 35% of the vertical drop, +/- 3 direction changes

802 The Courses

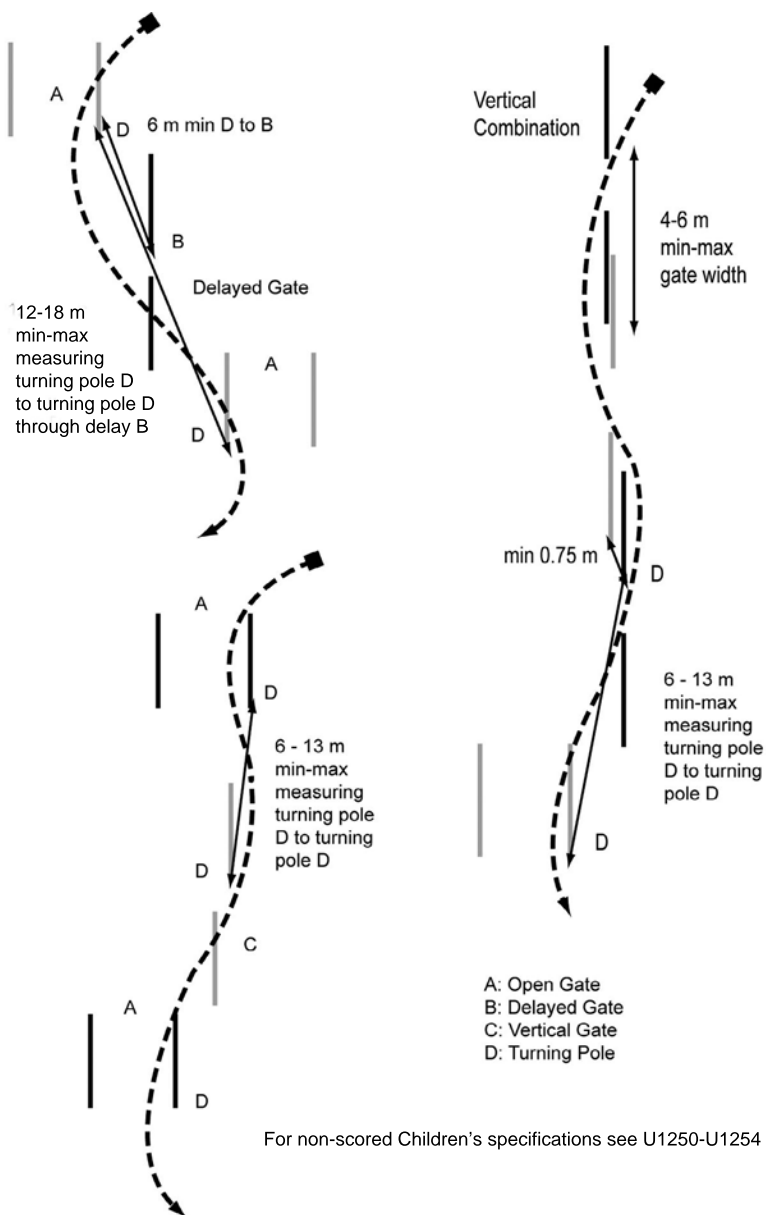
- 802.1 General Characteristics of the Course

- 802.1.1 The course must be set on slopes with a gradient of approximately 33% to 45%. It may even be below approximately 33%, but may exceed approximately 52% only in very short parts of the course.

- 802.1.2 The ideal SL course, taking into consideration the drop and the gradient specified above, must include a series of turns designed to allow the competitors to combine speed with neat execution and precision of turns.

- 802.1.3 The SL should permit the rapid completion of all turns. The course should not require acrobatics incompatible with normal ski technique. It should be a technically clever composition of figures suited to the terrain, linked by single and multiple gates, allowing a fluent run, but testing the widest variety of ski technique, including changes of direction with very different radii. Gates should never be set only down the fall line, but so that some full turns are required, interspersed with traverses.

- 802.1.4 Preparation of the Course



SL competitions must be raced on a course surface that is as hard as possible. If snow falls during the race, the chief of course must ensure that it is stamped or, if possible, removed from the course.

802.2

Width

The course should normally be approximately 40 m wide, if two runs are set on the same slope.

803 Course Setting

803.1 Course Setters

803.1.1 Pre-inspection

This inspection must be carried out by the course setter before he sets the course. The SL should correspond to the average ability of the first 30 competitors.

803.2 Number of Gates and Combinations of Gates

A SL must contain horizontal (open) and vertical (closed) gates as well as a minimum of one and a maximum of three vertical combinations consisting of three to four gates and at least three hairpin-combinations. It must also contain a minimum of one and a maximum of three delay combinations.

The course should have no special technical difficulties. Flex poles must be light poles (25 – 28.9 mm).

803.3 Gates and Combinations of Gates - see image next page

The most important types of gates and combinations of gates are: horizontal (open) gates, vertical (closed) gates, vertical combinations, hairpin-combinations and delay gate combinations.

803.4 Setting

In setting a SL the following principles should be observed:

803.4.1 Avoidance of monotonous series of standardized combinations of gates.

803.4.2 Gates, which impose on competitors too sudden sharp braking, should be avoided, as they spoil the fluency of the run without increasing the difficulties a modern SL should have.

803.4.3 It is advisable before difficult combinations of gates to set at least one gate that allows the competitor to ski through the difficult combination under control.

803.4.4 It is not advisable to set difficult gate passages either right at the beginning or end of the course. The last gates should be rather fast, so that the competitor passes the finish at a good speed.

803.4.5 Where possible, the last gate should not be too close to the finish. It should direct competitors toward the middle part of the finish. If the width of the slope necessitates it, the last gate can be common to both courses, provided the prescribed alternation of blue and red gates is maintained.

803.4.6 The slalom poles should be fixed (screwed) in by the chief of course or his assistants immediately after they have been set, so that the course setter can supervise the operation.

803.5 Checking the SL Course

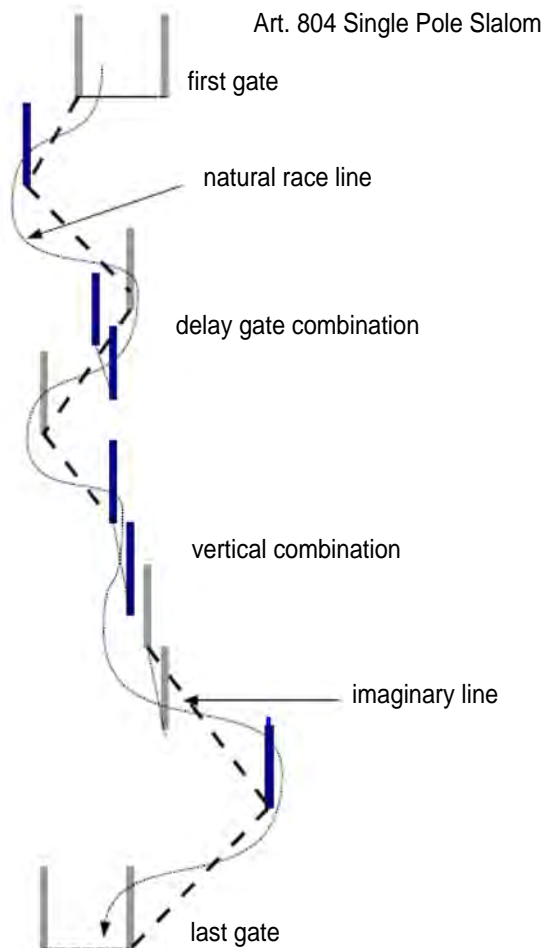
The Jury must check that the course is ready for racing once the course setter has set it, paying special attention that:

- The slalom poles are firmly fixed (screwed) in.
- The gates are in the right color order.
- If necessary, the position of the poles is marked.
- The numbers are in the right order on the outside poles.
- The poles are high enough above the snow.
- The two SL courses are far enough from each other to avoid misleading the competitors.
- The reserve poles are correctly placed not to mislead the competitors.
- Start and finish are in accordance with article 613 and 615.

804 Single Pole Slalom

All rules of the ACR are valid, except as follows:

- 804.1 Single pole SL is permitted in USSA competitions.
- 804.2 A single pole SL has no outside pole, except for the first and the last gate, delay gates and combinations (hairpin vertical).
- 804.3 Where there is no outside pole, both feet and ski tips must have passed the turning pole on the same side, following the normal race line of the SL crossing the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole. If a competitor loses a ski, without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must meet both requirements. If the racer has not correctly passed the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole and does not follow the normal race line, then he has to climb back up and pass around the missed turning pole. Where there is an outside pole (first and last gate, delay gate and combinations - hairpin, vertical) art. 661.4.1 is valid. (see also U629.4)



805 The Start

805.1 Start Intervals

The start takes place at irregular intervals in SL. The chief of timing and calculations

or his assistant tells the starter when each competitor should start, in agreement with the Jury. The competitor on the course need not have passed the finish line before the next competitor starts.

805.2 Starting Order

805.2.1 In the first run in sequence the start numbers.

805.2.2 For the second run see art. 621.11.

805.3 Start Signal

As soon as the starter has received the order for the next start, he gives the competitor the warning “Ready” and a few seconds later the start signal “Go!”. The competitor must start within about 10 seconds after this order.

805.3.1 A competitor must appear at latest one minute after being called by the official. Early start times caused by the non-arrival of preceding competitors have to be taken into account. The start referee may however, permit a delay that in his opinion is due to “force majeure”. In doubtful cases he may allow the competitor a provisional start, inserted in the normal starting order. The start referee will make the necessary decisions.

805.4 Valid Start and False Start

Each competitor must start according to the article 805.3, otherwise he will be disqualified.

806 Execution of the Slalom

806.1 Two runs

A SL must always be decided by two runs on two different courses. Both courses must be used one after the other in the order decided by the Jury. Division of the competitors into two groups starting simultaneously on both courses is not permitted. Whenever possible, both runs should be held on the same day.

806.2 Limitations in the Second Run

Only in USSA collegiate events may the Jury reduce the number of competitors in the second run to half, provided that notice was given in the invitation or on the official notice board before the race started, and at the team captains’ meeting before the draw.

806.3 Video and Film Control

A video or film control is recommended.

807 Helmets

All competitors and forerunners must wear a helmet for official training as well as for the race that meets the Equipment Specifications. See information later in the chapter under “Additional USSA and FIS Regulations - Helmets”.

Soft ear protection is only permitted for helmets used in SL.

Helmet mounted cameras are not allowed.

900 Giant Slalom (GS)

U900.1 For scored and non-scored competitions that include U16 and younger athletes, refer to art. U1255 and to the “Children’s Course Setting Specifications Matrix” later in this chapter for vertical drop, course setting and other information including specific exceptions and modifications to this section.

901 Technical Data

901.1 Vertical Drop

901.1.1 Men’s Courses

- 250-450 m

901.1.2 Ladies' Courses

- 250-400 m

U901.1.3 If the topography of a region does not permit a GS with the required vertical drop, a shorter course may be used. The combined time of the two runs must be a minimum of 50 seconds.

U901.1.4 In instances where the vertical drop requirements cannot be met, but the total time is sufficient for scoring, the TD must indicate in the report and on the race transmittal sheet that the race should be scored despite the vertical drop deficiency.

901.2 The Gates

901.2.1 A GS gate consists of four slalom poles (690) and two flags.

901.2.2 The gates must be alternately red and blue. The gate flags are to be approximately 75 cm wide and approximately 50 cm high. They are fastened between the poles so that the lower edge of the flag is approximately 1 m above the snow and should be capable of tearing or breaking away from the pole. (also 690)

901.2.3 The gates must be at least 4 m and at most 8 m wide. The distance between the nearest poles of two successive gates must not be less than 10 m.

901.2.4 The GS has to be set as follows:

- 11-15% of the vertical drop in meters = number of direction changes by rounding up or down of the decimals.

The minimum number of gates counts only those requiring change of direction.

902 The Courses

902.1 General Characteristics of the Courses

The terrain should preferably be undulating and hilly. The course should normally have a width of approximately 40 m.

The inspector authorized to homologate the course decides whether this width is adequate and if necessary can order it to be widened. He can also permit a width of less than approximately 40 m depending on the line and terrain requirements, as long as the areas of the course before and after the narrow part enable this.

902.2 Preparation of the Course

The course must be prepared as for the DH race. The parts of the course where gates are set and where competitors have to turn must be prepared as for a SL.

903 Course Setting

903.1 Setting

In setting a GS the following principles should be observed:

903.1.1 Both runs can be set on the same course but the second run must be re-set.

903.1.2 The skilful use of the ground when setting a GS is, in most cases, even more important than for a SL, since combinations play a less important role owing to the prescribed width of the gates and the greater distances between them. It is therefore better to set mainly single gates, while exploiting the ground to the utmost. Combinations can be set, but mainly on uninteresting terrain.

903.1.3 A GS consists of a variety of long, medium and short turns. The competitor should be free to choose his own line between the gates. The full width of a hill should be used wherever possible. At places where the outside gate must be removed, in exceptional cases decided by the Jury, the turning gate serves as a gate.

904 Single Gate Giant Slalom

All rules of the ACR are valid, except as follows:

904.1 Single gate GS is permitted.

904.2 A single gate GS has no outside gate, except for the first and the last gate and delay

gates.

- 904.3 Where there is no outside gate, both feet and ski tips must have passed the turning pole of the turning gate on the same side, following the natural race line of the GS. If a competitor loses a ski, without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must have passed the natural gate line. If the racer has not correctly passed the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole and does not follow the natural race line, then he has to climb back up and pass around the missed turning gate. Where there is an outside gate (first and last gate, delayed gate) art. 661.4.1 is valid. (see also U629.4)
- 904.4 All rules and regulations dealing with the width of the course should be considered, as if there is an imaginary outside gate.

905 The Start

- 905.1 In the first run according to the start numbers (621.3 and 622).
- 905.2 Starting order for the second run see article 621.10.

906 Execution of the Giant Slalom

- 906.1 A GS must always be decided by two runs (men and ladies). The second run may be held on the same course, but the gates must be reset. Whenever possible, both runs should be held on the same day.
- 906.2 Limitations in the Second Run
Only in USSA collegiate events may the Jury reduce the number of competitors in the second run to half, provided that notice was given in the invitation or on the official notice board before the race started, and at the team captains' meeting before the draw.
- 906.3 Video Control
Article 806.3 is applied - if possible - also for GS.

907 Helmets

All competitors and forerunners must wear a helmet for official training as well as for the race that meets the Equipment Specifications. See information later in the chapter under "Additional USSA and FIS Regulations - Helmets".
Soft ear protection is only permitted for helmets used in SL.
Helmet mounted cameras are not allowed.

1000 Super G (SG)

- U1000.1 For scored and non-scored competitions that include U16, U14 and U12 athletes, refer to art. U1256 and to the "Children's Course Setting Specifications Matrix" later in this chapter for vertical drop, course setting and other information including specific exceptions and modifications to this section.
- U1000.2 Only athletes U12 and older can participate in SG competitions.
- ## **1001 Technical Data**
- 1001.1 Vertical Drop
- 1001.1.1 Men's Courses
- 300-650 m
- 1001.1.2 Ladies' Courses
- 300-600 m
- U1001.1.3 If the topography of a region does not permit a SG with the required vertical drop, a shorter course may be used. The time of the run must be a minimum of 40 seconds.
- 1001.2 Length of the Course
The length of the course must be measured with either a measuring tape, wheel or

GPS and has to be published on the start list and the results.

1001.3 Gates

1001.3.1 A SG gate consists of four slalom poles (690) and two flags.

1001.3.2 The gates must be alternately red and blue. The gate flags are to be approximately 75 cm wide and approximately 50 cm high. They are fastened between the poles so that the lower edge of the flags is approximately 1 m above the snow and should be capable of tearing or breaking away.

1001.3.3 The gates must be at least 6 m and at most 8 m wide for open gates and at least 8 m and at most 12 m for vertical gates. The gate flags are fastened in such a way so they should tear or break away. (also 690)

U1001.3.4 The SG has to be set as follows:

Seven percent (7%) of the vertical drop equals the minimum number of direction changes.

The distance between the turning poles of two successive gates must be at least 25 m (exception: 1003.1.1).

1002 The Courses

1002.1 General Characteristics of the Courses

The terrain should be undulating and hilly if possible. The course should normally have a width of approximately 30 m.

The inspector authorized to homologate the course decides whether this width is adequate and if necessary can order it to be widened. He can also permit a width of less than approximately 30 m depending on the line and terrain requirements, as long as the areas of the course before and after the narrow part enable this.

1002.2 Preparation of the Course

The course must be prepared like a DH course. The course sections on which there are gates and where the competitors alter their directions must be prepared like in SL.

1002.3 Free-skiing on the Competition Hill

The competitor should be given the opportunity to free ski on the closed competition hill before the course is set if possible.

1003 Course Setting

1003.1 Setting

In setting a SG the following principles should be observed:

1003.1.1 It is recommended to set the gates to make the best use of the terrain. Gate combinations according to article 803.3 are allowed only in small numbers. The distance between the successive turning poles can in this case be less than 25 m, but must be at least 15 m.

1003.1.2 A SG should contain a variety of long and medium turns. The competitor should be absolutely free to choose his own line between the gates. It is not permitted to set only down the fall-line of the slope.

1003.1.2.1 At places where the outside gate must be removed, in exceptional cases decided by the Jury, the turning gate serves as a gate.

1003.1.3 Where the terrain allows it, jumps may be set.

1003.1.4 Children's SG should be carried out in a form of varied run. The basic form should consist of jumps and gliding elements. The choice of course and course setting has to follow the speed and the children's level of skill. The children should learn controlled speed and gliding.

U1003.2 Official Training

- U1003.2.1 Courses that involve jumps should be preceded by at least one run on a training course set on the course used for the actual competition. The training course should be similar to the intended race course.
- U1003.2.2 The jury may waive this training requirement if conditions warrant; for example if there is a DH immediately preceding on the same course in which all competitors participate.
- 1005 Start**
Starting order and start intervals according to article 621.3 and 622.
- 1006 Execution of the Super G**
A SG will be carried out in one run.
- 1007 Helmets**
All competitors and forerunners must wear a helmet for official training as well as for the race that meets the Equipment Specifications. See information later in the chapter under “Additional USSA and FIS Regulations - Helmets”.
Soft ear protection is only permitted for helmets used in SL.
Helmet mounted cameras are not allowed.
- 1008 Yellow Zones**
Article 705 also applies.
- 1100 Combined**
- 1100.1 Common Rules
Based Art. 201.6.2 and Art. 201.6.9 Alpine Combined competitions may be held according to the technical regulations of the events and special regulations approved by FIS.
- U1100.2 Combined competitions may be held at all levels. When special rules apply, these rules are considered an integral part of the ACR.
- 1100.3 The following possibilities of Combined events are possible:
- Super Combined (SC)
 - Classical Combined (K)
- 1100.4 Combined competitions may be held as Single or Team events.
- 1100.5 Starting numbers given to the competitors for the first run remain the same for all runs.
- 1100.6 The results of a Combined competition are only counted if the competitor takes part in each event of the Combined and appears in the intermediate results.
- 1100.7 The Combined results are calculated by adding the race times of the single events or runs. Special forms of Combined events (Art. 1103) can be calculated according to other regulations.
- 1100.8 The Organizing Committee must state in the invitation how many competitors are qualified for the second and any subsequent runs. The Jury may change this number.
- 1100.9 The start order is determined for each event according to Art. 621.
- 1100.10 Only interim results may be published for those events or runs already completed. The official results are only published when all events or runs have been completed.
- 1100.11 The sequence of the different races to be combined may be decided by the Organizers and must be announced in the race notice and the program. Changes may be made by the Jury.
- 1101 Super Combined (SC)**
- 1101.1 Is the result of a DH or SG run and a single SL run held according to the technical regulations for SL and those for DH or SG. The SC event consists of two runs.

- 1101.2 DH and SG events of SC must be held on courses specifically homologated or registered for DH or SG respectively. The SL may be held on these courses.
- 1101.3 If possible both runs should be held on one day (exceptions can only be decided by the Jury).
- 1102 Classical Combined (K)**
- 1102.1 Is the result of a DH and a SL. Each event is to be considered separately.

Section 4 Special Rules

U1200 Competitions under Artificial Light

- U1200.1 The running of competitions under artificial lights is permitted.
- U1200.2 The lighting must meet the following specifications. Competitions under artificial light must only be run on courses that are homologated for night competition.
- U1200.2.1 Courses must meet the lightning standards of the National Ski Areas Association. Lighting should be as uniform as possible so that excessively bright and dark areas may be avoided.
- U1200.2.2 The lights must be placed so that the light does not alter the topography of the course. The light must show the competitor the exact picture of the terrain and must not alter the depth perception and precision.
- U1200.2.3 The lights should not cast the competitor's shadow into the racing line and should not blind the competitor by glare.
- U1200.3 The TD together with the Jury must check ahead of time that the lighting conforms to the rules.
- U1200.4 The TD must submit a supplementary report on the quality of the lighting.

U1220 Team Competitions

- U1220.1 The staging of team competitions is permitted.

U1250 Children's Competitions

U1251 General Regulations

- U1252 Regulations for Organization
- U1252.1 In the choice of courses, attention must be given that one is dealing with competitors who are children in their growing years during their physical development and these factors must be given appropriate importance.
- U1252.2 The course setter in setting the course should take particular consideration of the physical ability of the competitors.
- U1252.3 Flex poles shall have a maximum diameter of 27 mm.
- U1252.4 U12 and younger SL events should use flex poles of 25-27 mm with a minimum gate height of 54 inches from the snow surface to the top of the pole.

U1253 U14 and Older Downhill (DH)

- U1253.1 Only U14 and older athletes may take part in DH.
- U1253.2 Vertical Drop and Course Setting
For vertical drop and course setting specifications, refer to the course setting specification matrix later in this chapter.
- U1253.3 Except as specifically modified, the rules for DH (700) also apply to non-scored DH for U14s.

U1254 U16 and Younger Slalom (SL)

- U1254.1 The course should have no special technical difficulties. The SL is conducted in one or two runs.
- U1254.2 Vertical Drop and Course Setting

For vertical drop and course setting specifications, refer to the course setting specification matrix later in this chapter.

U1254.3 When using flex poles, protective clothing is recommended.

U1254.4 Except as specifically modified, the rules for SL (800) also apply to non-scored SL for U16s and younger.

U1255 U16 and younger Giant Slalom (GS)

U1255.1 GS for children may be conducted in one or two runs.

U1255.2 Vertical Drop and Course Setting

For vertical drop and course setting specifications, refer to the course setting specification matrix later in this chapter.

U1255.3 Except as specifically modified, the rules for GS (900) also apply to GS for U16 and younger.

U1256 U12 and Older Super G (SG)

U1256.1 Only U12 and older athletes may take part in SG.

U1256.2 Vertical Drop and Course Setting

For vertical drop and course setting specifications, refer to the course setting specification matrix later in this chapter.

U1256.3 For SG, based upon hill topography and field ability, the Jury may increase the gates to a maximum of 14% of vertical drop (counting only those requiring change of direction).

U1256.4 Official training for children's SG should include at least one SG training run prior to the first competition. Training times are not to be posted.

U1256.5 Except as specifically modified, the rules for SG (1000) also apply to non-scored U12 and older SG.

U1257 Starting Order

U1257.1 Regions, divisions and state associations may use the procedures of article 621 or they may adopt special rules for determining the start order for the first run in these competitions.

U1258 Starting Order for the 2nd Run

In the second run, the thirty best finishers of the first run start in reverse order, the remaining competitors in the order of their first run placing. Art. 621.11.3 applies.

U1258.1 Regions, divisions and state associations may adopt special rules for determining the start order of the second run in lieu of 1258.

U1259 Children's Kombi

The children's Kombi consists of a mixture of standard turns and gates. The event meets developmental needs for this age group, creating a tactical awareness by blending sections of different gates in a flowing, rhythmical, constantly changing pattern. Results may be determined by combined times of each run, or each run may be classified separately. The Jury must indicate the method in advance.

U1259.1 Course Setting

U1259.1.2 The Course Setter and Jury are to provide an interesting but safe course.

U1259.1.3 The racer's speed must be controlled when transitioning from one section to a different section and the course setting should allow skiers a smooth transition from jumps or waves back into the course.

U1259.1.4 Common course characteristics and recommendations

- The course should test the skier's ability to react and adapt to an ever changing rhythm and radius, but allow the competitors smooth transition between the various sections of gates.

- Building terrain is optional but not necessary as the course itself should apply enough demand. Use creativity with available terrain.
- Include a minimum of one jump.
- Avoid gates that cause sudden braking and deceleration.
- Use the entire slope and natural terrain and skiing across the fall line as often as possible.
- The first and last gates should lead the skier comfortably.
- Forerunners or course testers should be available for course setting.

U1259.1.5 Gates

- Gates may consist of one or two poles. If outside gate is used, it must be the same type as turning gate (stubbie gate with stubbie gate, SL gate with SL gate, GS panel with GS panel).
- Consecutive gates must alternate in red and blue.

U1259.2 Kombi Design

There can be two different forms of the Kombi:

- SL/GS format (technical orientation) - setting with stubbies, SL gates and GS gates or colored ground indicators, and
- GS/SG format (speed orientation) - setting with GS and SG gates or colored ground indicators.

The selected race style must be announced on the race notice prior to the race and again at the first team captains meeting.

U1259.3 SL/GS Kombi: Technical Data

SL skis are recommended to be used for SL/GS Kombi.

U1259.3.1 Vertical Drop and Course Setting

For vertical drop and course setting specifications, refer to the course setting specification matrix later in this chapter.

U1259.3.2 Course characteristics and recommendations:

- Recommended minimum of 30 turns.
- Recommended to have a minimum of five different sections.
- It is recommended to use only a single pole for vertical combinations.
- There should be at least one section of stubby gates.

U1259.4 GS/SG Kombi: Technical Data

GS skis are recommended to be used for GS/SG Kombi.

U1259.4.1 Vertical Drop and Course Setting

For vertical drop and course setting specifications, refer to the course setting specification matrix later in this chapter.

U1259.4.2 Course characteristics and recommendations:

- Recommended to have 3-5 different sections.

U1259.5 Kombi Inspection

A normal one run inspection, with a set inspection time is suggested. The concept is to test reaction and adaptability from a standard amount of inspection time.

U1259.6 Number of runs

The Jury should decide on the number of runs by the first team captains meeting. Depending on weather and course conditions it is recommended that entries up to 140 competitors should be two runs and entries over 140 competitors should be one run.

U1259.7 Rules

The ACR SL and GS rules apply for running of the Kombi race except as modified in U1259.

U1259.8 Starting order

See U1257.

U1260 USSA Race Points

U1260.1 The formula for the calculation of the race points permits the translation into points of the time differences between the winner and all other classified competitors.

U1260.2 The formula for the calculation of the race points is the following:

$$P = ((F \times Tr) / Tw) - F \text{ or } P = ((Tr / Tw) - 1) \times F$$

P: Race points

F: A constant, different for each discipline, based on the CM according to the equation: $F = 60 / (CM - 1)$

Tr: Time of the classified competitors in seconds

Tw: Time of the winner in seconds

U1260.3 The F values of the different events (DH, SL, GS, SG, SC) are published by USSA for the actual season.

U1260.4 The race points are needed to establish the ranking for a race in connection with the USSA points of the competitors, for determining the race penalty.

U1270 USSA Points

U1270.1 The USSA points of the competitors registered with USSA are established according to the rules laid down by the Alpine Classification Working Group.

U1270.2 The USSA points lists based on these rules form the basis for the division of the competitors according to points. The corresponding commentary (Rules of the USSA Points) is part of these competition rules and will be renewed annually.

U1270.3 Use of the USSA Points

The USSA points are used particularly for:

- establishing the quotas at competitions
- as a basis for the grouping and draw of the competitors at races and in training
- establishing the race penalty (in connection with the race points)
- establishing the penalties for injury status and because of professional obligations etc.
- establishing the qualifications for the existing competition categories.

Additional USSA and FIS Regulations

FIS Starts for 16 year olds

First year age eligible FIS athletes are limited to a maximum of 25 FIS starts in SL and GS for the competition year (July 1 - June 30). This regulation is not valid for season 2013 but will be beginning in season 2014.

FIS Registration

All athletes wishing to compete in FIS events, must be inscribed to the FIS points list. Registrations will be made on the list closing date (see calendar of important dates at the beginning of this book) with FIS numbers available on the valid date.

Meet Financial Obligations

Competitors who have outstanding debts with USSA may be subject to disciplinary sanction, including exclusion from competitions. Outstanding debts, as established by law, to competition organizations, ski areas, food and lodging establishments, retail shops, etc. may be considered as violations of the Code of Conduct as well as being subject to civil and criminal actions.

Geographic Affiliation/Designation

A racer shall race in the region/division/state in which he/she resides, or in which he/she is attending school and/or training on a long-term basis. The choice (designation) should be based on where the racer spends the greatest part of his/her ski season. The designation must be made at the start of the season, and must be abided by the racer, for the entire season. Any conflicts must be resolved before participation; contact the regional office.

Requests for in-season changes of affiliation must be made in writing to the national competition director. Such in-season changes may result in loss or default of regional/divisional/state qualifying status.

Helmets

Helmets designed and manufactured for the particular discipline of ski racing being contested are required for all competitors and forerunners in all USSA events and official training. Helmets must bear a CE mark and conform to recognized and appropriate standards such as CEH.Din 1077, ASTM F2040, SNELL S98 or RS 98.

Helmets must cover the head and ears. Helmets with spoilers or edges that stick out are not permitted. Protective features integral to the discipline being contested, such as chin guards on slalom helmets are permitted. Soft ear protection is only permitted for helmets used in slalom. Helmet mounted cameras are not allowed.

USSA does not specify nor recommend nor make any warranties as to the fitness for use of any particular ski helmet design or brand name. USSA undertakes no responsibility, liability or duties to any competitor in connection with the requirement that helmets be utilized. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to select an appropriate helmet for accident protection in ski racing.

Caution: Age and use affect the protective qualities of all safety helmets. Some older helmets and any helmets that have been damaged either in a racing fall or from other impact may no longer provide sufficient protection – even if there are no visible indications of damage.

Ski Brakes

Regardless of standheight within these limits, ski brakes which are functional with the actual ski/plate/binding in use are required and are the responsibility of the respective producers and the athletes. Any and all ski brakes used by competitors in all events, including master's events, must be functional and comply with all related FIS requirements.

Flex Poles

USSA FIS and USSA Scored events must use homologated flex poles. Poles for children's races (U14 and younger non-scored) are limited to type B (≥ 28.9 mm) poles. For U12 and younger SL, flex poles must be 25-27 mm in diameter and have a minimum gate height of 54 inches from the snow surface to the top of the pole. Stubbies and children's poles may be used for non-scored children's competition.

Gate Flags

All FIS competitions must use currently certified (homologated) gate flags; there will be no exceptions. Gate flags for USSA races may be required to be certified in the future and are recommended for use now.

Course Setting Specifications for Scored Events

		Sr, U21 & U18	U16
DH Downhill (700)	Women - VD DC Men - VD	400 m - 700 m as required 400 m - 700 m	450 m max as required 450 m max
SL Slalom (800)	Women - VD DC Men - VD	100 m - 200 m 30% - 35% (+3) 100 m - 220 m	160 m max 30% - 35% (+3) 160 m max
GS Giant Slalom (900)	Women - VD DC Men - VD	250 m - 400 m 11% - 15% 250 m - 450 m	350 m max 11% - 15% 350 m max
SG Super G (1000)	Women - VD DC Men - VD	300 m - 600 m 7% min 300 m - 650 m	450 m max 8% - 12% 450 m max

VD = Vertical Drop DC = Direction Changes

Children's Course Setting Specifications Matrix

Course Setting Specifications for U16 and Younger (Scored and Non-Scored)				
	U10	U12	U14	U16
Train to Race Ratio (strongly recommended)	6:1 (days)	6:1 (days)	5:1 (days)	5:1 (days)
GS/SL Race Days ¹ (recommended)	Max. 10 Division/State organized, all events	Max. 12 Division/State organized, all events	Max. 14 Division/State organized, all events	Max. 18 Division/State organized, all events
Downhill (DH) U1253	X	X	50 m max. 350 m max 8% of vertical drop	As required 450 m max As required
Slalom (SL) U1254	Combination 4-5 m; Open 5-9 m; Delay max. 15 m; distance to delay gate min. 4 m	Combination 4-6 m; Open 6-10 m; Delay max. 15 m	Combination 4-6 m; Open 6-10 m; Delay max. 15 m	Combination 4-6 m; Open 6-12 m; Delay max 18 m
	Max. 100 m	Max. 120 m	Max. 140 m	Max. 160 m
	Max. 3 hairpins; max. 1 vertical combination; max. 1 delay gate	2-3 hairpins; 1 vertical combination; max. 1 delay gate	3-5 hairpins; 1-2 vertical combinations; min. 1 delay gate	3-5 hairpins; 1-2 vertical combinations;
Distance between gates	Open 15-22 m; Delay max. 30 m	Open 15-22 m; Delay max. 30 m	Open 15-25 m; Delay max. 35 m	Open 15-27 m; Delay max. 35 m
Vertical drop	Max. 200 m	Max. 250 m	Max. 300 m	Max. 350 m
Additional requirements	Min. of 1 delay Variety of terrain suggested	Min. of 1 delay Variety of terrain suggested	Min. of 1 delay Variety of terrain suggested	Min. of 1 delay Variety in terrain is suggested
Super G (SG) U1256		22-35 m	25-40 m	25-45 m
		Max. 300 m	Max. 350 m	Max. 450 m
		Min. 12% of vertical drop	8-12% of vertical drop ²	8-12% of vertical drop
Distance between gates		Training run recommended Variety of terrain suggested	Training unrecommended (U1256.4) Variety of terrain suggested	Training run recommended (U1003.2.1) Variety of terrain suggested
Direction changes			Min. of 1 jump	Min. of 1 jump
Additional requirements				
Parallel	Distance between gates	10-15 m	15-20 m	15-20 m
	Maximum vertical drop	60 m	100 m	100 m
Kombi - SL/GS U1259	SL 6-10 m, GS 12-20 m 150 m	SL 6-10 m, GS 12-20 m 180 m (SL skis recommended)	SL 6-10 m, GS 12-20 m 200 m (SL skis recommended)	SL 6-10 m, GS 12-20 m 200 m (SL skis recommended)
Kombi - GS/SG U1259	Distance between gates	GS 12-20 m, SG 18-28 m	GS 12-20 m, SG 18-28 m	GS 12-20 m, SG 18-28 m
	Maximum vertical drop	250 m (GS skis recommended)	250 m (GS skis recommended)	250 m (GS skis recommended)
Other Events	All of above plus SkillsQuest events	All of above plus SkillsQuest events	All of above plus SkillsQuest events	All of the above plus combined and SkillsQuest events
	1 pair - Multi-event Length - skill/size appropriate	2 pair - SL, GS Length - skill/size appropriate	3 pair - SL, GS, SG Length - skill/size appropriate	SL, GS, SG, DH
Ski Recommendation - Maximum (strongly recommended)				

¹ Gate distances correspond to distance between turning gates, with the exception of SL combination distance, which refers to gate width.

² Per USSA ACR U1256.2, based upon hill topography and field ability, the Jury may increase the gates to a maximum of 14% of vertical drop (counting only those requiring change of direction).

³ Does not include Regional or National Championships.

** Crossover between age categories for SL, GS, Kombi and SkillsQuest events is encouraged. In races where multiple age classes are competing, course setting guidelines will be based on the guidelines for one class older than the youngest class (for example, race has U10, U12 and U14 racers, should use U12 guidelines). NOTE: This does not apply for speed events - rules for youngest age will be used.

Competition Equipment Rules

Alpine FIS and USSA Equipment Rules 2012-13 Final

Alpine FIS and USSA Equipment Rules 2012-13 Final										World Ski Championships, World Cup, Europa Cup and FIS Junior World Ski Championships		NorAm Cup, Far East Cup, Australia/New Zealand Cup, and South America Cup		FIS/ENL and USSA scored racing for U18 (16 years old) and older		USSA U16 (15 years old) and younger		Masters *	
										Men Women		Men Women		Men Women		Boys & Girls		Men & Women	
Minimum Ski Length	DH	218 cm		210 cm		215 cm		210 cm		210 cm		205 cm USSA - may use SG skis		no rule		see note below			
	SG	210 cm		205 cm		205 cm		200 cm		200 cm		195 cm							
	GS	195 cm		188 cm		185 cm		180 cm		165 cm (155 cm for U18 men)		175 cm							
	SL	165 cm		155 cm		165 cm		155 cm		155 cm									
Minimum Ski Radius	DH	50 m		40 m		45 m		33 m		45 m		33 m		no rule		see note below			
	SG	45 m		30 m		27 m		23 m		45 m		21 m *							
	GS	35 m		no rule		no rule		no rule		no rule		no rule							
	SL	no rule		no rule		no rule		no rule		no rule		no rule							
Profile Width Under Binding	DH	<= 65 mm		>= 67 mm		>= 65 mm		60 mm *		no rule		see note below							
	SG	<= 65 mm		>= 67 mm		>= 65 mm		60 mm *		no rule		see note below							
	GS	<= 65 mm		>= 67 mm		>= 65 mm		60 mm *		no rule		see note below							
	SL	<= 65 mm		>= 67 mm		>= 65 mm		60 mm *		no rule		see note below							
Maximum Binding Stack Height <i>Measurement includes ski + plate + binding</i>	50 mm		50 mm		50 mm		50 mm		50 mm		50 mm		50 mm		50 mm				
	43 mm		43 mm		43 mm		43 mm		43 mm		43 mm		43 mm		45 mm				
<i>Measurement from sole to top of foot bed</i>																			

* Rules for minimum GS ski radius and all of the minimum ski waist widths are specific to USSA, FIS and ENL must meet the same requirements as NorAm Cup, as listed in the second set of columns, for these specific rules.

** USSA Masters rules conform to the FIS Masters equipment rules: USSA recommends that competitors in USSA Masters events compete on equipment designed for the particular discipline (DH, SL, GS, SG), but does not make any recommendations in regards to ski length, radius or profile width.

** For FIS Masters Competitions, equipment rules in regard to ski length (except Super G), radius and profile width are recommendations. The minimum ski length for Super G skis is compulsory for MAs races. No length, width or ski radius restriction for ladies above 55 and men above 65 years of age. The FIS recommendations for ski length, ski radius and profile width can be found in the current FIS Specifications for Competition Equipment.

ADAPTIVE COMPETITION RULES

Complete adaptive competition rules, including classes for competitors and factors are available at www.usparalympic.org.

The “Golden Rule”

In order to encourage adaptive athlete participation in regular-calendared USSA competitions, the USSA Alpine Competition Committee has adopted a special seeding rule applying to adaptive competitors participating in regular sanctioned alpine races. The “Golden Rule”, so called because Adaptive World Champion Diana Golden first proposed it to USSA on behalf of adaptive alpine ski racers, authorizes a special start order for athletes with USSA points within the normal USSA seed and draw as follows:

1st Run: Seeding in special groups with start order: 16-20... 36-40... 56-60..., etc. or by USSA points, whichever is more favorable. Placement within groups by USDST ranking among the impaired athletes entered.

2nd Run: Seeding in the same special groups or by normal Bibbo order, whichever is more favorable. Placement within groups according to first run finish order among impaired athletes.

2nd Run Bibbo other than 15: In the case of a “flip-30” 2nd run, the special group starts in the 31st position or in the position immediately following the first run leader when the flip is other than 30.

Note: Entry requirements and eligibility criteria are based on published rules for all competitor members. In addition, individual race organizers and the responsible regional, divisional and state committee may invite physically impaired athletes to USSA events for which these racers otherwise might not be eligible.

Handicap Factor System

This system for comparing the various handicapped classes ‘on par’ applies to adaptive competitions only. It is not applied to adaptive competitors participating in ‘able-bodied’ races. Except for the specific application of the Golden Rule, adaptive competitors participating in able-bodied races do so according to the rules, procedures and scoring of those races.

To find your factored time take your real time, look up your adaptive factor on the factor sheet published. Multiply raw time by your disability factor to get your “unofficial factored time”.

Racer	1st Run			Disability 1st Run	
	Class	Real Time	X	Factor	Time
J. Doe	L2	56.38	X	.9175758 =	51.73
J. Doe	L4	56.39	X	.9820047 =	55.37

Second run start order is calculated using factored times with first 15 racers reversed.

Disability factors will be updated annually. They include results from World Championships, World Cups, Paralympics and major North American races. Factor sheets and other information can be obtained from at www.usparalympic.org.

HOMOLOGATED TIMING EQUIPMENT

The current list of homologated timers, startgates and photocells tested by the FIS timing working group and approved by the FIS rules committee can be found on the FIS website www.fisski.com.

COURSE APPROVALS

Ski areas and race organizers interested in pursuing homologation should review the information on the USSA website at www.ussa.org > alpine > officials > homologations, and complete and submit the application found at the link located on that page, or from any USSA alpine office, or from USSA Alpine Courses Working Group chair Bruce Crane or Jeff Weinman at the USSA national office.

FIS Course Homologation

All requests for FIS course homologation or rehomologation shall be made by submitting the application to the alpine courses working group chair no later than July 15 each year – and preferably prior to May 15. Completed reports with appropriate payment should be submitted to the chair by September 15 each year.

All FIS races must be held on a FIS homologated trail, inspected and approved in advance of calendaring by members of the FIS Alpine Courses Committee. U.S. members of that committee are Bruce Crane, Bob Calderwood, Ted Sutton, Paul Mahre and Tom Winters.

The homologation process for FIS trails involves assembling a report on the technical aspects of the course prior to inspection by the FIS representative. (For new DHs a qualified person from outside the U.S. must make the inspection.)

FIS DH and SG courses must be re-inspected every five years, FIS SL and GS courses every ten years, or sooner if major alterations are made in the course or related facilities, and to assure that they meet standards, according to FIS competition regulations and as set forth in the inspection report.

The purpose of the homologation and inspection is four-fold:

- the inspection indicates that the course involved meets FIS standards - when properly prepared and with 'protection' in place according to the instructions of the inspector and, in some cases, a FIS technical advisor.
- the inspection confirms that the course meets the technical requirements as described in the report.
- the report itself provides valuable data to the FIS and is used to confirm that calendared races do, in fact, meet the required standards.
- finally, but certainly not least important, the inspection offers the opportunity for an expert to make suggestions to the ski area operator and race organizer regarding preparation and use of the facility.

Information on the intended use of the trail, ski area/race organizer relations and current stage of development will be requested in order to assure that homologation can be carried out in a well-coordinated manner.

The necessary forms and other information, including information on costs involved, will be provided. On receipt of a completed application and the corresponding fees by the chairman, an inspector will be assigned and appointments made for the inspection. Following a satisfactory inspection, the USA representatives to the FIS Alpine Courses Subcommittee will transmit the completed report and required documentation to the FIS.

USSA Course Approval

All scored USSA calendared (sanctioned) alpine events must be conducted on USSA (or FIS) homologated courses. 'Protective' measures and course setting must conform to the inspection report, parallel to FIS requirements.

All USSA scored events must be conducted on a homologated course and meet minimum vertical drop requirements. (Exception: registered courses with penalty adjustments – additional and minimum penalties).

Non-scored USSA events must be conducted on a homologated course or on a registered

course. A registered course is one that does not meet the vertical drop requirements but does comply with course setting and other regulations. Application, inspection and report are required for the approval process for registered courses as well as for homologated courses.

All FIS-homologated trails are automatically accepted as meeting USSA course approval standards specific to the event provided that reinspections are current.

USSA schedule agreements are not to be executed in the absence of a FIS or USSA homologation, or USSA registration, for that course and event, subject to waiver for courses for which homologation applications have been submitted.

Requests for USSA course homologation, registration or rehomologation/registration shall be made by submitting the application to the alpine courses working group chair no later than August 15 each year – and preferably prior to May 15. Completed reports with appropriate payment should be submitted to the chair by October 15 each year.

Homologation and Course Approval Maintenance

All homologated DH and SG courses, FIS and USSA (both approved and registered) must be re-inspected and re-homologated/re-approved/registered every five years.

All homologated GS and SL courses, FIS and USSA (both homologated and registered) must be re-inspected and re-homologated/re-approved/registered every ten years.

FIS and USSA courses not re-inspected by the end of the 5-year, or 10-year interval are dropped from FIS and USSA listings of approved courses.

The re-inspection process requires an on-site inspection and completion of the appropriate inspection form, FIS or USSA. The inspector will determine whether improvements are necessary.

Homologation and registration are event specific. For example, the setting of a SG course on many existing DH trails may require additional technical and safety considerations. In some situations it may not be possible to establish a SG course on an existing DH trail that cannot be altered to fit the technical requirements of the SG (i.e. turning gates).

Homologation Fees and Inspectors' Expenses

- FIS homologation or re-homologation \$250 per event/discipline
(Covers USSA homologation, same event/discipline same course)
- USSA homologation, registration or re-homologation \$150 per event/discipline
Exception: USSA GS and SL on same trail, single report \$150 per course
- Replacement copy of FIS or USSA homologation files \$25 per file/course
- Artificial light inspection \$150 per course

Men's and women's courses for the same event/discipline on one trail are to be homologated on the same report; a single fee applies.

USSA GS and SL on one trail can be homologated on a single report, and a single fee applies. Data and other information for each of GS and SL must be reported, and separate numbers and certificates will be issued.

All fees for both FIS and USSA homologation are payable to 'USSA - Alpine Course Approvals' and should be submitted with the application when forwarded to the chairman.

Inspectors' Expenses - FIS and USSA

Course inspectors' expenses, for both FIS and USSA homologation and re-homologation, are reimbursed directly by the requesting or responsible area, club or race organization, as indicated on the application requesting homologation, to the inspector upon presentation of an expense statement and/or voucher. In addition to expenses (travel, meals, etc.) inspectors are paid a daily rate of \$100 per day for FIS inspections and \$50 per day for USSA inspections. Inspectors are paid for travel days as well as inspection days.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Membership in the United States Ski and Snowboard Association is a privilege, not a right. All USSA members (athletes, coaches, and officials) when participating in any USSA activity must agree to conduct themselves according to USSA's core values of Team, Loyalty, Integrity, Respect, Perseverance, and Accountability and abide by the spirit and dictates of this Code of Conduct. All members must agree to comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, and are responsible for their actions while attending or participating in all USSA activities (including but not limited to camps, competitions, and projects).

Sportsmanlike conduct is defined as, but is not limited to: respect for competition officials, resort employees, and the skiing and snowboarding public, respect for facilities, privileges and operating procedures, the use of courtesy and good manners, acting responsibly and maturely, refraining from the use of profane or abusive language, and abstinence from illegal or immoderate use of alcohol and use of illegal or banned drugs.

While participating in any USSA activity:

1. USSA members shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the International Ski Federation Statutes, the United States Olympic Committee Bylaws, the USSA Bylaws, and the USSA Code of Conduct.
2. USSA members shall conduct themselves at all times and in all places as befits worthy representatives of the United States of America, the United States Olympic Committee, USSA, their region, division, state or club and in accordance with the best traditions of national and international competition.
3. USSA members are responsible for knowledge of and adherence to competition rules and procedures. Members are also responsible for knowledge of and adherence to the rules and procedures of the USSA national teams, camps or other projects when participating in such.
4. USSA members shall maintain high standards of moral and ethical conduct, which includes self-control and responsible behavior, consideration for the physical and emotional well-being of others, and courtesy and good manners.
5. USSA members shall abide by USSA rules and procedures while traveling to and from and participating in official USSA activities.
6. USSA members shall abstain from illegal and/or immoderate consumption of alcohol. Absolutely no consumption of alcohol is permitted for those individuals under the age of 21. Members under 21 years of age shall not participate in gatherings involving consumption of alcohol unless it is an official USSA or event organizer function.
7. No USSA member shall violate the customs, travel or currency regulations of a country while traveling with a USSA group or on a USSA ticket.
8. No USSA member shall commit a criminal act.
9. No USSA member shall engage in any conduct that could be perceived as harassment based upon gender, age, race, religion or disability.
10. USSA members will avoid profane or abusive language and disruptive behavior.
11. USSA members agree to abide by anti-doping rules and procedures established by WADA, USADA, and/or FIS.

Failure to comply with any of the above provisions may lead to disciplinary action by the appropriate team or competition leader. Disciplinary action may include:

- Removal from the team trip or training camp.
- Suspension from training and/or competition.
- Elimination of coaching, travel, and other benefits.
- Forfeiture of USSA membership.

USSA is committed to principles of fairness, due process and equal opportunity. Members are entitled to be treated fairly and in compliance with USSA's Bylaws, policies and procedures. Members are entitled to notice and an opportunity for a hearing before being prevented from participating in protected competition as that term is defined by the USOC Bylaws. Information on the processes for grievances, suspensions and appeals is available at www.ussa.org.

Nothing in this Code shall be deemed to restrict the individual freedom of a USSA member in matters not involving activities in which one could not be perceived as representing USSA. In choices of appearance, lifestyle, behavior and speech while not representing USSA, competitors shall have complete freedom, provided their statements and actions do not adversely affect the name and reputation of the USSA. However, in those events where one is representing or could be perceived as representing USSA, USSA demands that its members understand and agree to behave in a manner consistent with the best traditions of sportsmanship and USSA's core values.

Last revised May 18, 2008

NOTES:

NOTES: _____

Thank You

to the following partners of the
U.S. Ski Team, U.S. Snowboarding and U.S. Freeskiing.



USSA ALPINE ENTRY CARD							
Last Name		First Name		USSA #			
Sex		Date of Birth		Age Class		Club (if any)	
M F							
Mailing Address		City		State		Zip	
Telephone				Email			
Date of Race		Name of Race		Location		Discipline(s) (circle)	
						DH SL GS SG SC/K	
For organizer use							
Fee Paid \$		Date Rec'd		Comments			

USSA ALPINE ENTRY CARD				
Last Name		First Name		USSA #
Sex	Date of Birth	Age Class	Club (if any)	
M F				
Mailing Address		City	State	Zip
Telephone		Email		
Date of Race	Name of Race	Location	Discipline(s) (circle)	
			DH SL GS SG SC/K	
For organizer use				
Fee Paid \$ _____		Date Rec'd _____	Comments _____	



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CONCUSSION CHECKLIST

Signs and Symptoms

Athletes who experience one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body may have a concussion.

Signs Observed by Coaches / Officials	Symptoms Reported by Athlete
Appears dazed or stunned	Headache or "pressure" in head
Moves clumsily	Nausea or vomiting
Answers questions slowly	Balance problems or dizziness
Loses consciousness (even briefly)	Double or blurry vision
Shows behavior, or personality changes	Sensitivity to light or noise
Can't recall events prior to hit or fall	Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy
Can't recall events after hit or fall	Concentration or memory problems
	Does not "feel right"
	Confusion

Action Plan

If you suspect that an athlete has a concussion

1. Remove the athlete from training and competition.
2. Provide athlete/family with USSA concussion parent information and medical evaluation forms.
3. Notify the USSA of suspected concussion - jweinman@ussa.org.
4. The athlete will be placed on USSA medical hold until the completed medical evaluation form is received with the signature of a medical professional who has been trained in concussion management within the past three years.

More Information

www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports



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2011-2012 U.S. Ski Team (entire team is not pictured)



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¹ Wright RW, Magnusson RA, Dunn WR, Spindler KP. Ipsilateral Graft and Contralateral ACL Rupture at Five Years of Motion Following ACL Reconstruction. *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, Am.* 2011;93:1159-1165

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