



SEASON 2021 UPDATE & REVIEW: CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR ALPINE OFFICIALS

U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR) for domestic alpine ski racing are adopted from the FIS International Competition Rules (ICR) but are specific to U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitions. The competition regulations are updated annually, are published in the current [Alpine Competition Guide](#), and are available at usskiandsnowboard.org.

It is the responsibility of every official, coach and competitor to *know, understand, and abide by* the rules for the sport. Coaches, Program Directors, and other club officers are encouraged to provide the time and opportunity to instruct their athletes on the rules for the sport. These rules include, but are not limited to, current editions and "Precisions" of the FIS ICR, U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR, and the appropriate supplemental rules, such as Rules of the FIS Points, and Rules for the Alpine Continental Cups. The following pages contain an overview of major rule changes; a review and clarification of existing U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS rules are also included. *This update and review, however, does not contain all rule changes.*

For all events scheduled by U.S. Ski & Snowboard as FIS events, applicable rules of the FIS must be considered and applied. In cases that are not addressed by the ACR for U.S. Ski & Snowboard events or by the ICR for FIS events, or in cases where the rules must be interpreted, the authority for making such decisions will rest with the Competition Jury.

The COVID-19 pandemic may require ski area management to implement procedures to protect the wellbeing of their employees and guests. These procedures may vary from venue to venue, county to county, and state to state. Procedures which impact your event operations and programs must be relayed to all event officials, Team Captains, and competitors. The procedures must – without question – be respected and observed.

In addition to ski area management procedures, all event operations must follow local health authority guidelines. During the pandemic, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will maintain a COVID-19 resource page with recommended protocols (usskiandsnowboard.org/covid-19). Alpine Officials' information is available in a separate education folder entitled "COVID-19 Best Practices Guidelines".

"COVID-19 Best Practices Guidelines" (PowerPoint presentation) must be reviewed at all U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Officials' Clinics.

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD COMPETITION CONTINUING EDUCATION (UPDATE) SEASON 2021:

1. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

- **Introduction to Avalanches Course** is required for all members including those who will turn 18 years of age during the season.
- **Short-Term Athlete** is restricted to athletes 17 and younger prior to December 31 of the current competition season. Only one (1) Short-Term membership may be issued per applicant.
- **Short-Term Athlete Foreign** is restricted to foreign-nation athletes 18 and over prior to December 31 of the current competition season who plan on competing in a specific event in the United States. Only one (1) Short-Term membership may be issued per applicant.
- **Alpine Junior Coach** must also complete the Coaches Fundamentals Course. Requirements implemented for previous season will remain in place.

2. SAFESPORT TRAINING

U.S. Federal Law requires that adults who have regular contact with, or are in positions of authority over athletes, must receive consistent education on prevention and reporting of all allegations of sexual misconduct, bullying, hazing, and abuse of all forms.

A comprehensive training program is required the first year, with annual refresher training required in subsequent years. Season 2021 requires SafeSport Training Version 3. If membership is completed prior to the availability of Version 3,

member will be notified of requirement to update training; failure to comply will inactivate membership, and member's status will be changed to "pending".

3. CHANGES & RECOMMENDATIONS: U16 and Older Age Groups

In addition to recommending ability-matched calendaring of regional races and head-to-head competition for regional selections, the U16 and Older Working Group approved the following:

- To reduce Giant Slalom minimum vertical drop requirement to 200 m
- To prohibit racing in the Southern Hemisphere for first-year FIS athletes
- To recommend the following start limitations for Season 2021

YOB 2005 and 2006: 25 SL and GS starts

YOB 2004: 35 SL and GS starts

4. CHANGES & RECOMMENDATIONS: U12 and U14 Age Groups

- U12 and under competitors are only allowed to use one (1) pair of skis in the race arena (inspections and competition)
- Wax benches are not allowed in U14 and younger race arenas
- Wax application is not allowed at U14 a competition venue. A "competition venue" is defined as the "ski resort property"

5. DEFINITION OF 'RACE ARENA': (Applies to both non-FIS and FIS Events)

The "race arena" is defined as being within (the side-to-side fencing) and without (the start area and the finish arena) the confines of the competition area. *Warmup slopes are not under the control of the Jury, are not part of the "race arena", and are not governed by the ICR. [223.2.1, 614.1.3; Precisions]*

6. FLUORINATED WAX

U.S. Ski & Snowboard has prohibited wax products containing fluorocarbons from use in all sanctioned competitions.

7. TIMING & DATA TECHNICAL REPORT (TDTR) – non-FIS Events:

A Timing Data Technical Report (TDTR) is required for all levels of competition. FIS TDTR software is preferred for preparing and submitting the report. The Chief of Timing & Calculations is responsible for submitting the report in XML format to tdtr@usskiandsnowboard.org. PDF copy must still be printed and signed as noted in instructions for preparing event document packets located in the Master Packet of Forms (MPF). *If an event requires calculation of a replacement time (EET), copies of all calculations must be included with the PDF copy.*

8. CLINIC ATTENDANCE

In addition to applicable certification and current U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership, an official must have attended a bi-seasonal Continuing Education Clinic prior to serving as a Course Setter, Chief of Course, Chief of Race, Referee, **Assistant Referee**, Jury Advisor (Start or Finish Referee), Chief of Timing & Calculations, or Race Administrator at U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events.

9. "CLEAN HILL INITIATIVE"

A new Power Point presentation, "Clean Hill Initiative", is available and is a mandatory part of the following Alpine Officials' Clinics: Continuing Education, Chief of Race, Chief of Course, Referee (Jury Advisor), and Technical Delegate.

"Courses" and "B-Net" Power Point presentations are recommended viewing for those officials who have not seen them previously.

10. TECHNICAL DELEGATES' WORKSHOP

In addition to applicable certification and current U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership, a Technical Delegate must attend a seasonal workshop approved for the continuing education of Technical Delegates prior to serving as a Technical Delegate at U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events.

It is strongly recommended each Division establish a system of communication that will enable continuing support for its Technical Delegates throughout the season. Informal meetings – either actual or virtual – can provide an excellent forum for the sharing of best practices. An end-of-season follow-up is also recommended.

11. TECHNICAL DELEGATE CERTIFICATION

- To be certified as a Level 1 Technical Delegate, an official must have appropriate certifications as outlined in the Certification Guidelines and must also pass the Level 1 TD exam with a grade of 75% or better
- A minimum of two shadow assignments – one (1) tech and one (1) speed – as an ‘aspirant’ under the supervision of a Level 3 or higher Technical Delegate must be completed
- Following completion of two (2) shadow assignments, one (1) assignment as a ‘candidate’ under the supervision of a Level 3 or higher Technical Delegate must be completed
- All assignments must be completed at different venues and must be supervised by a different Technical Delegate
- The supervising Technical Delegates must submit written evaluations of the candidate’s knowledge and performance, and the ‘aspirant/candidate’ must submit race result packets as required by the division AO Committee

12. CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

Certification Guidelines have been updated to include approved changes. Advancement to Level 4 has been clarified to include requirement that official must serve a minimum of five (5) outstanding years as a Level 3 in the specialty area for which advancement is being recommended.

13. REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

Requests must be filed online at buckner.com/us-ski-and-snowboard/ (Certificate Request). A minimum of two (2) days must be allowed for processing.

14. VENUE ACCESS

“Blocks” of coaches’ tickets must not be provided for participating clubs. This practice does not allow the OC to “make their best effort” to comply with SafeSport requirements.

Due to COVID-19 requirements, it may be necessary to allow one coach to pick up all of a team’s coach credentials/lift tickets. In this case the coach must list the names to whom the credentials/lift tickets will be issued, RA must verify membership status for all of the recipients, and the coach must sign for receipt of the credentials/lift tickets, thereby confirming identity of the recipients.

FIS COMPETITION CONTINUING EDUCATION (UPDATE) SEASON 2021:

1. ENL LEVEL SUPER G - 1001.1.4

Vertical drop for Entry Level Super G has been adjusted to 300 – 500 m.

2. TEAM EVENT NAME CHANGE - 1211

Combined Team Event will be referred to as Mixed Team Parallel.

3. TEAM CAPTAINS’ MEETINGS - ICR Precisions

An actual meeting, attended in person, [or in the case of exceptional circumstances held online](#), 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 Organizing Committee (“OC”), Organizing Committee requests and information. It is also a critical element for risk management and liability-related matters. **[216, 217 apply in all cases]**

COVID-19 protocols allow for website posting of all event-related documents. Rules (Precisions), still require some type of meeting: in-person or virtual. Meetings can be night before or morning of a competition. Attendance must be taken and Team Captains’ Meeting Minutes must be generated.

GENERAL REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION - U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD AND FIS:

1. MASTER PACKET OF FORMS

All forms in the Master Packet of Forms (MPF) have been reviewed, updated, and approved; *this includes both national and FIS forms*. Please use current forms without alterations and/or personalization.

2. COURSE HOMOLOGATION DATA VERIFICATION

Paper copies of homologations located in ski area/club files may be outdated. The only accurate sources for course homologation data verification are the U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS websites.

U650.1.2 A new inspection of an existing course (FIS or National) voids the previous homologation of an existing course.

3. VERIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP, CERTIFICATION, UPDATE STATUS

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Memberships Department has a list online of those individuals whose membership status is “pending” due to incomplete fulfillment of one or more of the following membership requirements: Background Screening, SafeSport Training, Introduction to Avalanches Course, Coaching Fundamentals Course. The list will be updated daily between 10:00 – 11:00 AM (MST).

In addition to current active membership, a Coach or Official **must** also be appropriately certified for the respective position as required by the current ACR and have attended a bi-seasonal Continuing Education prior to the event (Season 2021 requires minimum of Season 2020 attendance).

NOTE: Technical Delegates are required to attend a Technical Delegates’ Workshop prior to every season.

4. COURSE SETTING GUIDELINES FOR MULTIPLE AGE CLASS COMPETITIONS

For multiple age class competitions, course setting guidelines for Super G, Giant Slalom, and Slalom events are based on one class older than the youngest age class competing, e.g., U16, U14, U12, and U10 events will follow U12 guidelines. Downhill event course setting is based on the youngest age class competing. **U8, although recognized by U.S. Ski & Snowboard, as well as additional classes for younger competitors are established for the purpose of awards and are subject to U10 course setting guidelines.**

5. KOMBI RULES

- Kombi events must be set using appropriately homologated hills. Slalom/Giant Slalom format (technical orientation) using a hill homologated for Giant Slalom; Giant Slalom/Super G format (speed orientation) using a hill homologated for Super G
- Rules are those that apply to the faster of the events: e.g., Slalom/Giant Slalom events are governed by Giant Slalom rules; e.g., Start commands and start intervals; helmets

U1259.10 clarifies In Kombi competitions, athletes must use the helmets designed for GS, SG, or DH. Athletes U14 and older must use helmets that meet the FIS standards.

6. SUPER G TRAINING RUNS AT YOUTH COMPETITIONS

Official training for U12 and U14 Super G is an integral part of the competition. The schedule must include at least one training run *without posted times* prior to the first competition, and all athletes are required to participate [U1256.4]. If competition includes U16 athletes, U1256.4 applies. For U16 Super G, an official training run is recommended and, if scheduled, all entrants are required to participate according to the decisions of the Jury. [U1003.2.1]

In exceptional cases, which must be documented in Jury Minutes, a controlled freeski run may be authorized in lieu of an official training run.

7. PARALLEL

Rules for Parallel events continue to evolve. Events are referred to only as “Parallel”. Please refer to current editions of ACR/ICR and their precisions.

U614.2.3 Competitors may step back (hike) in qualification round(s) only; stepping back (hiking) is not allowed in bracket round(s). FIS rules do not allow for stepping back (hiking) in any portion of Parallel events.

8. FORCE MAJEURE

In Alpine competitions, "force majeure" describes those uncontrollable/unexpected events (such as extreme weather, extreme surface conditions) that are not the fault of any party and that make it difficult or impossible to carry out an event. *Force majeure is "uncontrollable and unexpected"; it is not "planned"*.

- An unexpected weather occurrence that requires a program/course/assignment change
- A last-minute ski area management decree

9. GATE PANEL AND FLEX POLE HOMOLOGATION

FIS homologations are valid as long as there are no new specifications introduced. The year of homologation has to be imprinted or inserted as reference. Homologations require attachment of all four panel corners to poles.

10. TRAINING ON COMPETITION COURSES AND WARM-UP SLOPES [614.1.3]

With the exception of Downhill Training which is governed by Downhill rules, the Jury may approve special training with or without gates (freeski) which can take place on the competition course. In that case, the training has to be controlled by the Jury and the Organizing Committee.

Warmup slopes outside the competition course should be made available to the participating teams under specific guidelines by the Organizer. *Warmup slopes are not under the control of the Jury and are not governed by the ICR.*

11. TENURE OF THE JURY

In accordance with Art. 601.4.4.2, the active tenure of the Jury begins with its first meeting and ends, if no protests are submitted, at the expiration of the protest deadlines as noted in Art. 643 (Deadlines for Submittal). If protests are submitted, the tenure of the Jury ends after settlement of all submitted protests.

- If the Jury is no longer empaneled, they may not re-evaluate a previous decision
- If the Jury is no longer empaneled, they may not alter an athlete's status; e.g., assign/unassign DSQ based on previously unavailable video, etc.
- Jury decisions are final except those that may be protested (641) or appealed (647)
- A Jury may re-evaluate a previous decision (Art. 640.2) but only if their tenure has not ended as outlined in Art. 601.4.4.2.

12. JURY MEMBERS' VOTES

The Start and Finish Referees are voting members of the Jury only for Olympic Winter Games and World Ski Championships. For all other events, they **must not** be listed under "Jury Members Present" as they have no vote and do not sign Jury Minutes. *Marking "NO" means an official voted "NO"; it does not mean the official does not have voting rights.*

13. DUE PROCESS [224.7]

Prior to the imposition of a penalty (except in cases of verbal reprimands and withdrawal of accreditation), the person accused of an offense shall be given the opportunity to present a defense at a hearing, verbally or in writing. Defense can include, but is not limited to the following:

- Calling witnesses, including athlete, coach, Gate Judge, etc.
- Questioning witnesses – including athlete and coach – upon whose testimony the Jury relies

Considering information from a witness who is unavailable for questioning by the accused would create a serious issue. It is also unwise for Jury members to discuss a situation and consider possible penalties prior to hearing all testimony. The Jury must adhere to the following policy:

- Consider infraction
- Hear and consider all testimony and evidence
- Allow accused person the opportunity to present a defense and review all evidence (question witnesses, etc.)
- Deliberate

- Make a fair decision
- Review, vote, and sign prepared Jury Minutes of decision
- Notify affected parties.

14. PROTEST AND SANCTION FEES – FIS EVENTS

Protest fees for a protest that is upheld are returned to the protesting party. Protest fees for protests that are not upheld are to be submitted to U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition Services and must be identified by event, date, codex, and name of party involved in the applicable protest/sanction; this requirement also applies to monetary sanctions that are collected on site. Tendered amount(s) will be forwarded to the FIS Office. **[644.4]** Protest fees collected at non-FIS events remain with the Organizer.

15. VALID AND FALSE STARTS [613.7, 805.4] AND DELAYED STARTS [613.6, 805.3.1]

- Early/late start violation occurs when a competitor is in the start gate and does not start within the required period with respect to the start command – “GO”!
- Course workers and officials must have a reasonable expectation of when a competitor may be approaching their position. Competitors who either start early or late can minimize this expectation and potentially create an environment that is not secure. For these reasons, early/late start violations require DSQ.
- A “delayed” competitor is one who is not present in the start area or who is not ready to start when called
- A provisional start may be allowed by the Start Referee (*force majeure*) or the Jury (in case of doubt)
- Athletes who are given provisional starts are subject to SANCTION, which *may or may not* include DSQ

16. PROVISIONAL STARTS – IMPORTANT POINTS:

- An athlete who is granted a provisional start that is later found to be unjustified is subject to “sanction”
- Depending on circumstances, the sanction may include a DSQ. Prior to imposing the DSQ, Jury must decide whether or not the competitor’s later start provided an unfair advantage, e.g., improved weather conditions, etc.
- A competitor shall only be disqualified if their mistake would result in an advantage for them with regard to the end result, unless the Rules state otherwise in an individual case, e.g., gate fault; early/late starts. **[223.3.3]**
- If a provisional start is not approved, the competitor’s status must not be changed to DNS. The only available option is DSQ, but then only if the provisions of 223.3.3 have been met.

17. NOT PERMITTED TO START [627]

A competitor will not be permitted to start (NPS) in any competition who

- wears obscene names and/or symbols on clothing and equipment or behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner in the start area
- violates FIS rules in regard to FIS Specifications for Competition Equipment **[222; 207]**
- trains on a course closed for competitors **[614.1.4]**
- has not participated in at least one timed Downhill training run **[704.8.3]**
- does not wear a crash helmet that conforms to the Specifications for Competition Equipment **[606.4]** or does not have ski brakes on their skis **[606.3]**, does not wear or carry an official start number according to the rules **[606.1]**. An “official start number” refers to any bib issued by the local event organizer; this includes replacement bibs furnished by the Start Referee.
- FIS EVENT ONLY: Was disqualified (DSQ), did not start (DNS), not permitted to start (NPS) or did not finish (DNF) in the first run. (Refer to AC rules for specific rules pertaining to that event.)

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.

18. RERUNS

When deciding on the validity of a provisional rerun, the Jury must evaluate the following, many of which are included in the provisions of **623**:

- Did the competitor cross the finish line? *Unless the claimed obstruction occurred in close proximity to the finish line and the competitor's racing speed did not allow sufficient time for the competitor to avoid crossing the finish line, the Jury may consider the run is over.*
- When interference did not occur in immediate proximity to the finish line, did competitor stop immediately after the obstruction or interference occurred and *report the incident to the nearest Gate Judge or Jury member?*
- Does the claimed obstruction/interference meet the requirements of 623.1.2 (Technical Failure), 623.1.3 (Yellow Flag) or 623.2 (Grounds for Interference)?
- Did a "similar incident" occur that caused significant loss of speed or lengthening of the racing line and consequently affect the competitor's time? **[623.2.6]** *Please note the reference to "competitor's time" refers to "time on course" – not "competitor's assigned time". Example would be if a competitor is forced to ski around an obstruction on the course which would lengthen their racing line and affect their time. Rules 623.1.2, 623.1.3, and 623.2.1 – 623.2.5 list specific definitions of obstructions/interference, and rules cannot be written to address all issues that could be so defined. Rule 623.2.6 refers to "similar incident" which gives the Jury latitude to address these issues. This could apply to an obstruction that occurred in immediate proximity to the finish line, a gate that is not replaced in the correct position and requires a reaction time of one or more gates; weather issues, e.g., fog, lightning, snow swirl, etc., course condition, e.g., surface breakdown, etc.*
- Did competitor commit a fault (gate fault or start procedure fault) prior to the obstruction or interference? **[628.7]**
- Only the Jury can approve the validity of a provisional start or validate a provisional run.
- A provisional or definitively approved rerun remains valid even if it proves slower than the obstructed run.
- For provisional reruns required by broken gates, every case must be checked individually; the Jury on site is the only group that can decide, based on the particular and detailed circumstances, if interference occurred.

EXCEPTION: If actual interference is witnessed by a Jury member, Jury Advisor or Connection Coach, upon request from the competitor or their coach, a rerun – not a provisional – should be authorized. If prior to the incident for which a rerun was granted, an infraction was committed that would result in disqualification, the rerun is not valid **[628.7]**.

19. START STOP

- ANY Jury member
- ANY Eyes of the Jury (Connection Coach, Chief of Course)
- ANY Jury Advisor (Start Referee or Finish Referee)

May call a "Start Stop" when necessary to address critical situations; no other official is authorized to call a "Start Stop". Failure to comply may result in a "radio walk-over", effectively canceling the Start Referee's ability to receive the transmission.

20. FIRST REPORT OF ACCIDENT

A First Report of Accident is required for all injuries involving U.S. Ski & Snowboard members (both national and foreign) at all sanctioned events. The required form can be found at buckner.com/us-ski-and-snowboard/ under "Participant Accident/Online Accident Report".

Online filing is available and is preferred; online filing requires completion of final step: "SUBMIT". Paper filing is also available; applicable form is available at bottom of link section and requires reporting party's signature. Education materials refer to the reporting form as: "U.S. First Report of Accident" or "1st Report of Accident". (Refer to MPF for complete instructions.)

21. FIS INJURY REPORTING

A FIS Report of Injury is required for all injuries involving participants in FIS events; form is available in the MPF. If used, please submit to alpine@fiski.com. A copy must also be made available for limited distribution as outlined in "Distribution of Documents – FIS Events", located in the MPF.

If an accident requires filing of a 4-page “TD Accident Report” as updated in the “Guidelines for Actions in Case of Serious Accidents,” *the Technical Delegate must immediately contact Jeff Weinman, U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition Services for instructions. The Technical Delegate must coordinate with the Ski Patrol and verify the information contained in the report. If required, this form is submitted in addition to the First Report of Accident.*

NOTE: Refrain from discussing accidents/injuries via text, email or social media!

22. RECOMMENDATIONS: Content of Jury Minutes and Team Captains’ Meeting Minutes

- It is recommended that event medical plans be amended to require a member of the Ski Patrol be present in the start area for an event
- It is recommended that all OC’s add to the medical plan the availability of “Stop the Bleed” kits at the start
- For more information and to obtain “Stop the Bleed” kits:
kellybrushfoundation.org/skiracingsafety/stop-the-bleed/
- It is recommended that Ski Patrol at resorts where there is avalanche potential provide an “Avalanche Control Report” at the Team Captains’ Meetings.

23. SUBMITTAL OF TECHNICAL DELEGATE REPORTS: Event Report and Expense Report

A Technical Delegate Report is required for all levels of competition. A copy of the completed/signed report as well as a copy of the Technical Delegate’s Expense Report should be submitted to the appropriate member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard U.S. Technical Delegates Working Group.

24. EVENT RELATED DOCUMENTS

For events with no issues (injuries or accidents), it is recommended all event-related documents be kept on file for one (1) year. In the case of an event with serious injury/accident as defined by the Guidelines for Serious Accidents, the Technical Delegate must immediately contact Jeff Weinman, U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition Services for instructions. The Technical Delegate must coordinate with the Ski Patrol and verify the information contained in the TD Accident Report.

25. CALCULATION OF AN ELECTRONIC REPLACEMENT TIME (EET)

All times used for the final result must be from System A. If there is a failure of System A, a calculated net time (EET) from System B must be used following the procedure as shown below.

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. If the time is not available from System B, the photo finish time – if available – must be used, otherwise use the manual/hand time. *If a photo finish time is used, no correction is required.*

To calculate the correction time, use the 10 times of day of the competitors who started before the one with the missing time. If there are not 10 times before, complete the calculation with the remaining times after the missed time. Subtract the backup times from System A times for these 10 competitors. The sum of the 10 calculated time differences is divided by 10 and rounded up or down (0.0449 = 0.04, 0.0450 = 0.05). This correction time must be added or subtracted to the replacement time of the competitor without a System A time. The EET calculation must only use time of day precision to a minimum 1/1000th for the correction value of the time of day.

If Hand timing is only available to precision of 1/100th, the full precision of 1/1000th or better must be used for the System A times. [FIS Timing Booklet, Ver. 2.58; October 2019; **611.3.2; 611.3.2.1**]

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION:

If both the Start impulse and the Finish impulse from system A are missed, replacement ToD’s must be calculated for each missing impulse as outlined in ICR 611.3.2.1. Net time is then calculated and verified. (Use one form for Start ToD and one form for Finish ToD.)

26. MANUAL/HAND TIMING [611.2.2]

Stopwatches or hand operated battery powered timers installed at both the Start and the Finish and capable of expressing the time of day to at least 1/100th (0.01) precision qualify as proper hand timing devices. They must be synchronized prior to the start of the first run with the same time of day as system A and System B.

27. SYNCHRONIZATION OF ELECTRONIC & MANUAL TIMEKEEPING SYSTEMS [611.2.1]

Synchronization of the timing systems must occur *as close as possible to the scheduled start for the first run*. Synchronization of all systems must be maintained and systems *must not be re-synchronized for the second run*.

28. TRAVEL LETTERS

Only National Ski Associations are entitled to make entries for international competitions. If a National Ski Association issues an entry authorization (travel) letter, non-U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes training with U.S. Ski & Snowboard clubs or attending USA schools/colleges/universities may be entered by their coaches.

- Every non-USA athlete's authorization letter must be submitted to chip.knight@usskiandsnowboard.org. *It must also be sent to the Regional Manager for the Region where the athlete is training.*
- Letters must be submitted directly by the respective National Ski Association; they will not be accepted if forwarded by the coach or the athlete.
- A list of foreign athletes for whom authorization letters have been received is available at usskiandsnowboard.org/competition/points/alpine-points. This site will provide a link to the google doc which is updated as information is received.
- Foreign entries that are not submitted by the actual National Ski Association and for whom no authorization letter has been submitted to U.S. Ski & Snowboard for verification, must not be accepted. *
- Authorization letters will only be recognized for FIS category and below. *Entries for NorAm Cup and National Championships must be submitted directly by the respective National Ski Associations.*
- Several nations, e.g., Austria, Canada, Great Britain and Spain, do not issue authorization (travel) letters; entries for competitors from these nations must originate from the respective Federation.

**Prior to denying any FIS entry, please contact U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition Services.*

29. MEMBER HOLD LIST CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

- If due to a suspected concussion, an athlete has been placed on the Member Hold List posted on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website, the athlete must be cleared by a licensed health care provider prior to being allowed to return to training/competition.
- The care provider must be trained in the evaluation and management of a concussion and must have successfully completed a continuing education course in the evaluation and management of a concussion within three years prior to evaluating the athlete.
- The care provider must complete the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Concussion Medical Evaluation, found in the Master Packet of Forms (MPF) and submit it to jeff.weinman@usskiandsnowboard.org.
- *Signature from parents/guardians of athletes under 18 years of age is required.*
- Clearance can take up to 48 hours, so an on-site Jury can accept a properly executed Concussion Medical Evaluation and clear an athlete to return to training/competition.
- Coaches need to work with an injured athlete's parents/guardians to confirm clearance process has been completed; they must cooperate with the OC in verifying athletes on the Member Hold List do not appear on a Start List.

NOTE: A Jury may remove a foreign athlete with a suspected concussion from competition; however, foreign athletes who are not also U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitor members may not be placed on the Member Hold List.

30. NON-FIS EVENTS WHERE POINT IMPROVEMENTS EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

The goal of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard scoring system is to ensure fair and accurate events so that results earned represent an athlete's ability. An accurate scoring system is critical for athlete ranking, evaluation, and selection purposes.

Research has culminated in criteria to identify events where athletes score point improvements far beyond expectations. Every scored event will be subject to these filters and events that exceed the threshold of the criteria - a statistical probability of .003 - will be marked for review by U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition Services staff and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Classification Working Group.

The cause of an exceptional event could range from random situational circumstances to penalty manipulation. If the Technical Delegate feels an event may exceed criteria, please contact Jeff Weinman, U.S. Ski & Snowboard Director Competition Services (jeff.weinman@usskiandsnowboard.org), Dave Waller, Alpine Classification Working Group Chair (davewaller2270@gmail.com), and the appropriate U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Regional Director.

If documented evidence of penalty manipulation by an athlete or coach is submitted to Competition Services, the event may immediately be removed from scoring pending further review.

31. SUBMITTAL OF RESULTS AND PREPARATION OF EVENT RESULT DOCUMENT PACKETS

Requirements for submittal of results and preparation of Event Result Document Packets differ depending on the level – non-FIS or FIS – and type of event. Please refer to current requirements posted in the Master Packet of Forms (MPF) posted on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.

ALPINE OFFICIALS' INFORMATION

- 1. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT:** With the exception of Technical Delegates, bi-seasonal attendance at a Continuing Education Clinic (Update) is required in order to maintain certification and officiate at events. Yearly attendance is strongly recommended. Technical Delegates must attend an annual Technical Delegate Workshop; *membership and certification requirements still apply.*
- 2. CHIEF OF TIMING AND CALCULATIONS:** This official supervises, documents and enforces quality control of timing operations. With exception of lower-level events (e.g., YSL), where staffing might require it, Chief of Timing and Calculations should not be operating the timekeeping equipment or the timing/race result software.
- 3. RACE ADMINISTRATOR:** Due to requirements for preparation of accurate event documentation (these are documents that may be required in a legal review), it is strongly recommended that the Race Administrator not also assume the duties and critical event responsibilities of the Chief of Timing and Calculations.
- 4. ALPINE OFFICIALS' CLINIC STUDY GUIDES:** Study Guides for each specialty area are posted on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website and should be downloaded and reviewed prior to attending a U.S. Ski & Snowboard-approved Clinic. Competition Official (“Introduction to Ski Racing”) is a pre-requisite for Alpine Official certification and is the only category where online instruction is accepted as a replacement for actual attendance and instruction.
- 5. MATERIAL FOR EXAMINATIONS:** Examinations are open-book format. Allowing use of computers for calculations, Second Run Start List preparation, Penalties, article research, and location, etc., defeats the purpose of having to KNOW how to perform the function and is not acceptable. *The Study Guides are not intended as a replacement for notes used during an open-book examination at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard-approved Clinic.*
- 6. EXAMINATION FAILURE:** An official who does not earn the points required to pass an examination is NOT allowed to retake the failed examination within the same competition year. A retake cannot occur until an updated version of the examination is available the following season. An appeal of a failing examination may be filed; refer to “Appeal of an Official’s Examination Grade” contained in Chapter XI. Alpine Officials’ Program in the Alpine Officials’ Manual, for detailed information.