

Guidelines Regarding Equipment Control and Equipment Protests at non-FIS Events

U.S. Ski & Snowboard has equipment standards that are imposed at all alpine events. Competition Equipment Rules can be found in the current Alpine Competition Guide and on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.

Equipment violations are subject to disqualification and other sanctions as determined by the Jury. The sanction may be against the individual competitor, or the competitor's coach if it is determined that he/she is complicit in the use of equipment known to be in violation of the rules.

1. Skis must be marked by the manufacturer with both the length and the radius. Unmarked skis will be grounds for disqualification.
2. At U.S. Ski & Snowboard scored alpine events, competition equipment will be subject to unannounced control.
3. At U.S. Ski & Snowboard non-scored technical events (GS and SL), equipment control will be dealt with only on a protest basis. However, the Jury cannot ignore obvious infractions.
4. In the case of all speed events (SG and DH, scored and non-scored) where the Jury has allowed control of equipment at the start for compliance, the athlete will not be allowed to start if their equipment does not meet the current marked specifications.
5. Unless a clear violation of equipment rules exists, e.g. no helmet, attached helmet camera, missing or broken ski brakes, missing or broken basket on a ski pole, etc., the Start Referee must not refuse an athlete's right to start. An athlete in a non-FIS event is also allowed to personalize their helmet with the application of bling, stickers, helmet camera mount, etc.
6. The Start and Finish Referees' responsibility to monitor equipment and communicate to the Jury is critical in this process and should be reviewed by the TD at each event. TD instructions to these individuals must be clear. It is essential that the Start and Finish Referee communicate with and report their findings to the competition Jury.

Guidelines for Equipment Protests at any non-FIS event: The specifics for handling an equipment protest will be subject to TD and Jury protocol. Instructions must be clearly conveyed to the Team Captains.

1. The athlete must compete or intend to compete on the suspect equipment.
2. The Coach or Team Captain who observes the equipment that is suspect must alert the Start Referee of their imminent intention to protest the equipment being used by that competitor.
3. The Coach or Team Captain must formalize the protest, at the end of the run, with the written protest and the \$100 (one hundred USD) protest fee.
4. If the athlete has started, the Start Referee alerts the Finish Referee and the Jury, that there is a pending protest against equipment. The equipment must be evaluated or confiscated for evaluation when the competitor arrives in the finish.
5. Finish Referee should stop the competitor with suspect equipment and confiscate the suspect equipment pending the filing of the formal protest and Jury review. Confiscation should be witnessed, and third-party access to the confiscated equipment must be avoided.
6. Equipment protests cannot be considered or accepted if the suspect equipment has left the finish area.
7. If approved testing devices are available, or compliance can be confirmed by checking the manufacturer's marks, the Jury will then evaluate the equipment and render a decision regarding the equipment. The decision of the Jury shall be final.
8. If approved testing devices are not available, or the Jury is unable to reach a consensus, the Jury must seal and ship the equipment to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Office for evaluation. U.S. Ski & Snowboard's decision shall be final.
9. The Jury will use the \$100 (one hundred USD) protest fee to cover the initial shipping costs. The losing party will be charged by U.S. Ski & Snowboard for all expenses related to shipping and testing. Reimbursement must be submitted within 10 (ten) working days of notice of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's decision.

Acceptable equipment control devices for non-FIS event alpine equipment evaluation include:

- Reliable Racing stand height calipers
- FIS-approved equipment-testing devices