



ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW 2020-2021

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INTRODUCTION

A worthwhile competition must be legal, fair, and consistent with prescribed standards and rules to define eligibility as well as the conduct and execution of a competition. Standards and rules are not designed to stand as obstacles. Standards have been created for the protection and security of the competitors, their coaches, officials, spectators, and the good of the sport.

As they organize and produce events (ski races), Alpine Officials are trained and are ready to work as members of a team for the benefit of the competitors and their coaches. Whether the competitors are Olympic-bound or are seeking the satisfaction of competition as a form of recreational skiing, Alpine Officials appreciate the opportunity to make a useful contribution.

One of our senior officials once said events should be held in the springtime because "we're all experts by then". In other words, with the accumulated experience of a winter's officiating behind us, we could - on very short notice - gather a group of officials and "put on" an excellent event with minimal issues. In September, after vacations, involvement in other sports, and involvement in our personal lives, even the most conscientious officials need to refresh their education by updating their knowledge and understanding of the rules and procedures and refreshing their skills.

It is important that the reader realize that although the information contained in this Manual can be used to organize and officiate at any level, it is primarily intended as a guide for those who are organizing and officiating at events that are sanctioned by U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or the International Ski Federation (FIS). This Manual should be used in conjunction with the current editions of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR), the International Ski Competition Rules (ICR), their current Precisions, and other pertinent rulebooks published by U.S. and/or the FIS Office. This Manual contains U.S. Ski & Snowboard-approved mandates but is not intended to supersede the current editions of any U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or FIS official publications.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS MANUAL

The objectives of this Manual are to serve as a guide to those intending to organize and administer a U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned alpine ski race. This Manual, if used properly, will encourage uniformity in the interpretation and implementation of rules and procedures involved in organizing and officiating at such an event. It not only helps to train "novices", but it also assists "experts" with review.

STANDARDS AND UNIFORMITY

An event's Organizing Committee (OC) and officials may not always have the resources to follow an "ideal" procedure. However, if they are knowledgeable about what should be done, they can improvise and produce an outcome that is proper, legal, accurate, timely, etc., whether at entry-level (YSL – Youth Ski League) or Continental Cup (NAC – Nor-Am Cup) and World Cup (WC) events.

In attempting to achieve uniformity in our events, we must recognize that any true sport does not boast local variations. It demands standards and uniformity for the competitors, the coaches, and the benefit of the spectators. To this end, this Manual offers suggestions and guidelines based upon the experiences of many Alpine Officials. These elements may be modified according to the human and material resources available to the sponsoring organization.

Any club, event site, or region/division can add supplementary notes and details for local operations. However, the goal of U.S. Ski & Snowboard and the FIS Office is to minimize provincial differences relative to policies and to eliminate such differences in the application of rules. Procedural specifications should be viewed in the light of what is ultimately required as "output" rather than an insistence upon how that result is achieved.

Lack of knowledge, failure to anticipate a situation, and failure to follow instructions can create difficulties, problems, and unpleasant situations. It is important to know the differences between and keep in mind the following:

ESSENTIAL VERSUS DESIRABLE
CORRECT VERSUS INCORRECT
PREFERRED VERSUS ACCEPTABLE

The sport of ski racing was not “invented”. It developed and has been refined over a period of more than a hundred years. Its rules and procedures have come from experience and judgment, reaction to technical developments in equipment, and consideration of external influences such as extended start intervals to allow for television coverage.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS, in attempting to evaluate the hundreds of competitions each year, require every sanctioned event be properly reported and two items be observed: first is the technical aspects of the event conform to the current rules, and second is the documentation of the event be consistent.

Rules and standards continue to change to reflect internal resolve and external influences. We should recognize the rationale for change and appreciate the process by which large legislative bodies such as U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS consider means of improving the sport. We should commit ourselves not only to keeping our knowledge and understanding of these rules and standards current but also to abiding by them.

Uniformity in procedures and in the implementation of the rules eases the burden of anxiety on competitors, Team Captains, and visiting officials. Standard procedures also minimize the risk of mistakes and facilitate the operations of an event.

By “uniformity” we do not mean that all timekeeping crews and Race Administrators must operate in exactly the same manner. We do mean there should be uniformity in the interpretation and application of the rules as presented in the current U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR, the FIS ICR, and their current Precisions. There should also be uniformity in procedures seen by the competitors and their Team Captains as well as uniformity in the documentation and reporting of the event.

Certain aspects are well defined. These include composition of the Jury and its rights and duties, minimums and maximums for course dimensions, definition of correct gate passage, eligibility of competitors, and rules for sanction. Areas where rules are few or are not specific include Race Administration, the sanction that should be applied for a specific offense, and the use of course hardening agents in the preparation of the course.

- The **Draw**, whether "double draw" or computer-generated draw, must be conducted according to approved procedures.

- According to current rules, the draw must be conducted (or confirmed) at a Team Captains' Meeting. A Team Captains' Meeting, attended by Team Captains, Jury, and "key" officials is an inseparable and mandatory part of the competition and is important for communication of Jury instructions, support of the Organizing Committee, as well as conveying Organizing Committee's requests and information. *It is also a critical element for risk management and liability-related matters.*

With the approval of the Jury and at a time and place announced to all Team Captains, and where a computer-assisted Draw has been approved or is not required (e.g. YSL where TRS by class and gender is used to determine the start order), an informational meeting is still required but may be held either early in the morning prior to an event or immediately after the completion of an event for the next day's event.

- All athletes entered in an event must be represented at the Team Captains' Meetings for all U.S.-sanctioned events - both scored and non-scored - regardless of where and when they occur. An Attendance List must be available and signed by everyone attending the meeting. Paper copies of the Event Medical Plan and race-day program/schedule must be available for distribution and review. Minutes of the meeting must be generated and must be included in the submitted event document packet.
- The Jury may authorize a computer-generated draw for U.S. non-FIS events. Submittal of an official/signed FIS entry serves as acceptance of a computer-generated draw for FIS events. *(It is important to remember that computer-generated Draws are governed by a random identifier, and unless this identifier is changed prior to each Draw, results of a Draw involving the same competitors may only have minimal changes.)*
- Electronic seed/draw boards must have the capability to simultaneously and legibly display the entire competition field. Simultaneous display of all competitors allows all Team Captains and officials to verify the overall accuracy as well as any additions and deletions to the starting order in "real time". *Using the race result software to display portions of the competition field is not acceptable.*
- Start and Finish procedures must be according to current rules.
- Surface of the course should be as well prepared for the last competitor as it is for the first.
- Venue should be race ready on the first day of training or competition. This includes but is not limited to availability of all required officials - including Start Referee, Finish Referee, medical personnel, Gate Judges, and manual/hand timekeepers.
- Inspection of the course by the Jury and Jury Advisors with an invitation to attend course inspection extended to Team Captains.
- Inspection of the course, by the competitors and Team Captains, must be consistently legal and proper.
- The procedure for posting disqualifications and the handling of Protests must be uniform.
- Team Captains must be given advance notice if announcement of DSQ information will replace actual posting of Report by Referee.
- Although they are unofficial, competitors' times must be accurately posted/announced.
- Official Results must be correct as published and reported according to current standards.

There has been a concerted effort to achieve greater uniformity in the rules and documentation pertaining to alpine ski racing as imposed by U.S. Ski & Snowboard and the FIS Office. A major focus of this effort has been to place greater emphasis on the role of the Jury as the official representatives of U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or FIS. Also, the use of computers and electronic

documentation have stimulated standards for documentation and reduced the required volume of paper copy.

MAJOR TOPICS AND COMMENTS

Whether you are an organizer or a visiting official, it seems natural to begin with an understanding of organized ski racing as a reminder of where your event belongs in the national and international structure.

The objective has been to produce a Manual that serves as a beginning for meeting the needs of our Alpine Officials. Suggestions and comments regarding this Manual should be sent to the Chair of the Alpine Officials' Education Working Group. (aoewgchair@gmail.com)

It is through the contributions of many interested and involved officials that this Alpine Officials' Manual exists. It is through the efforts of all of us that it will remain a current and valid resource.

ALPINE OFFICIALS' EDUCATION

Alpine Official educational materials are reviewed and updated yearly for electronic distribution to regional offices and designated Alpine Officials' Clinic Organizers for further distribution to those persons actually conducting the Clinics. The material contains a yearly "Update & Review" that is used in the continuing education of Alpine Officials, certification-specific Study Guides, Study Problems (if applicable), Jury Problems (if applicable), a variety of Power Point presentations, and where required, an appropriate examination and examination key. *With the exception of specialty-area examinations and examination keys, education materials are also posted on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.*

Some of the materials that are provided include an aid for the preparation of Jury Minutes and use of U.S. Ski & Snowboard-approved race result software programs. A Timing Operations Workshop has been developed to assist in the instruction of installation and operation of timing equipment and software; this workshop, however, is not intended to replace the Basic Timing & Calculations (Level 1) or Advanced Timing & Calculations (Level 3) Clinics.

As an aid in education and review for individuals interested in alpine officiating, Study Guides and other educational resources are posted in the "Officials" section of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website. With the exception of the online "Introduction to Ski Racing" which is accepted in place of actual clinic attendance for Competition Official (CO) certification, downloading, printing, and reading the Study Guide must not be substituted for actual attendance at a U.S. Ski & Snowboard approved Clinic or used as a replacement for actual instruction at any approved Clinic.

A NOTE ABOUT THE MANUAL

The use of a gender-specific pronoun in any Chapter of this Manual is inadvertent. It is not meant to imply disrespect for any Alpine Official.