



ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

CHAPTER X

COACHES AS OFFICIALS

SEASON 2024

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OVERVIEW

In ski racing, we must all function as team players; no one person can stage a successful competition without the support and cooperation of everyone involved. In order to combine talents in the most effective way and provide this support and cooperation, we must understand the roles played by others. This understanding will allow coaches, officials, and parents to present a professional and objective appearance and viewpoint.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to projecting a professional image, coaches have numerous responsibilities to competitors, the event organizers, and the race officials. This chapter discusses some of these responsibilities.

For U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned *FIS and non-FIS events*: Unless an exception has been granted (e.g., Canadian coaches at CAN-AM events*), coaches must have a current Coach Membership to participate in any capacity, e.g., on-hill coaching, at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard event. In addition to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership requirement, U.S. Ski & Snowboard member coaches who wish to serve as Referee, Assistant Referee, or Course Setter at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event – either scored or non-scored – must be certified Referees. They must have also attended a biennial Continuing Education (Update) Clinic prior to the event at which they are officiating.

** Canadian coaches at CAN-AM events may be granted venue access and allowed to serve in the capacity of on-hill coaches for their athletes. They may not, however, be assigned as Jury members or Course Setters unless they also hold a U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach/Official membership.*

For all U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned *non-FIS events*: All Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start Referee or Finish Referee), Chief of Course, Course Setters, Chief of Timing and Calculations, and Race Administrator need to be current, appropriately certified members of U.S. Ski & Snowboard as a Coach (which includes an Officials' membership), or an Alpine Official. With the exception of Technical Delegates and Race Administrators who are required to attend a workshop every season, officials are must have also attended a biennial Continuing Education (Update) Clinic prior to the event at which they are officiating.

NOTE: *U.S. Ski & Snowboard members whose status is “PENDING” on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website membership roster may not serve as Jury members, Jury Advisors, Chief of Course, Course Setters, Chief of Timing and Calculations, or Race Administrator.*

Competitors 18 years of older who have not completed required SafeSport training, Introduction to Avalanches Course, and background screening within the allowed time frame will be moved to “PENDING” status and will not be allowed to participate in any U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event until “active” status is renewed.

For U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned *FIS events*: If a foreign FIS Federation lists a coach on their entry form, the Federation is offering their guarantee that the coach has the knowledge and the ability to fulfill the duties of a Team Captain, e.g., serve as a Jury member or set a course. With this understanding, the above individuals are recognized as being qualified members of a foreign federation recognized by FIS.

NOTE: *Referee certification in order to serve as a Team Captain is not currently required in order to be granted venue access; it is only required for Jury positions and Course Setters.*

Failure to observe requirements for U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events will invalidate liability insurance.

RESPONSIBILITIES AT AN ALPINE COMPETITION

The coach has three main responsibilities at an alpine competition:

1. Project a professional image to competitors, officials, parents, and the skiing public.
2. Represent their athletes in all aspects of the competition to the best of their ability.
3. Assist event organizers and race officials in assuring quality and fair competition for all competitors.

Coaches must accept these responsibilities. First and foremost, however, they must remember they are there for the competitors.

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROJECT A PROFESSIONAL IMAGE

A coach must project a professional image at all times during all competitions. Coaches not only represent themselves, they also represent their clubs, athletes, athletes' parents, the national federation, and the sport in general:

1. Realize that appearance and actions must reflect favorably upon the individual and the sport.
2. Treat the organizers, officials, and area operators in a courteous, professional manner.
3. Promote the sport and its image in a favorable manner to the skiing public.
4. Work with the press and media in a positive, professional manner.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMPETITORS

The following are the responsibilities of the coach to the competitors as they pertain to a competition, as well as some general statements as to how these responsibilities should be met.

1. **ON-HILL SECURITY/PROTECTION:** It is each individual coach's responsibility to review the overall on-hill security/protection at all competitions:
 - a. Check course set, start area, finish area, and security/protection installations.
 - b. Attempt to identify situations that may go beyond the inherent risks of the sport.
 - c. Voice concerns to the Jury.
 - d. Assist athletes to warm up, train, and race at their ability.
 - e. Advise Jury and/or Start Referee if an extended start interval may be required between competitors.
 - e. Remove competitors with questionable ability from an event.

Team Captains are all invited to attend the Jury's course inspection. Team Captains who do not attend course inspection or who do attend but do not express concerns to the Jury have, by their lack of action, accepted the course set, its condition, and the competitor security installations.

2. **RULES:** Each coach has the responsibility to assure their competitors know, understand, and abide by all U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or FIS rules that pertain to the event. The coach should:
 - a. Be well versed on the rules and communicate the rules to the competitors.
 - b. Make sure pertinent rulebooks are part of the race day equipment.
 - c. Make sure competitors follow the rules.

- d. Set a good example by following and enforcing the rules and demonstrating an appreciation for them. *Coaches who do not observe the rules or who are engaged in obvious manipulation of the Official Results and Penalty may be sanctioned. In addition, suspected penalty manipulation may result in an event not being scored until it can be fully reviewed.*
 - e. Accept the responsibility to assure all competitors follow the same rules and standards.
3. **RACE SCHEDULES AND REGULATIONS:** A coach must know the event schedule and ski area requirements. They are required to share this information with their competitors in order to enable the competitors to understand and observe them:
- a. Read all pre-event information – this includes, but is not limited to Event Fact Sheet and Event Medical Plan.
 - b. Attend Team Captains' Meetings.
 - c. Attend all course inspections: Jury's course inspection and competitors' course inspection.
 - d. Check Official Notice Board for Report by the Referee* and other updates.
 - e. Relay event information/Jury instructions to competitors.
 - f. See that rules are enforced, especially in regard to competitors' security/protection.
- * Report by the Referee must be reviewed regardless of a coaches' belief in competitors' status
4. **ATHLETE REPRESENTATION:** A coach represents their athletes at all formal race activities (Team Captains' Meetings, Jury Meetings, etc.):
- a. Check event entries prior to Team Captains' Meeting.
 - b. Check Seed Board for proper points and seeding.
 - c. Check Report by the Referee for DNS's, DNF's, and especially DSQ's after each run.
 - d. Advise and assist competitors with requests for provisional starts/provisional reruns, as required.
 - e. Advise and assist competitors with Protest(s), as required.
 - f. Represent competitor(s) at Jury Meetings, as required.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE EVENT ORGANIZERS AND RACE OFFICIALS

The following are the responsibilities of the coach to the event organizers and race officials.

1. **JURY:** Each coach should be qualified and willing to serve as Referee or Assistant Referee as needed:
 - a. Have current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach Membership (includes Official Membership), Referee certification, current update status, and review provided educational materials.
 - b. Keep current on the rules by attending Officials' and Coaches' Continuing Education Clinics.
 - c. Know, understand, and abide by responsibilities of the Referee.
 - d. Fulfill all reporting requirements.
2. **COURSE SETTER:** Each coach should be qualified and willing to serve as a Course Setter as needed:
 - a. Know current course setting specifications and adhere to them.
 - b. Work with Jury and organizers.
 - c. Be prepared with needed equipment; e.g., drill, wrench, etc.
 - d. Respect existing competitor protection measures, course preparation, and ability of participating competitors.
 - e. Take speed into consideration and set a fair and legal course.

3. **ORGANIZATION SUPPORT:** As the liaison between organizers and competitors, a coach should provide the Organizing Committee with proper support:
 - a. Assure that all entries are submitted within the proper time frame.
 - b. Communicate all required information to competitors.
 - c. Require that competitors observe all rules.
 - d. Communicate injury information to Technical Delegate/Jury even if injury occurred on a warmup/training course provided by the Organizing Committee.
 - e. Verify that competitors attend all required functions (banquets, awards, etc.).
 - f. Be courteous and respect all officials and race workers.
 - g. Set a good, professional example.
 - h. Volunteer to assist on the Jury.
 - i. *Thank all officials and race workers.*

U.S. SPORT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education Department works closely with the Alpine Officials' community to improve the quality and professionalism of our alpine events. Successful coaches must have a strong working knowledge and respect for the rules as outlined in the FIS ICR and U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR, (Alpine Competition Regulations found in Chapter 7 of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide).

Officials' training is arranged through Region/Division Alpine Officials' organizations. Look for details at usskiandsnowboard.org or on Region/Division websites. U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education encourages all member coaches to attend these training sessions and become certified Referees regardless of their coaching level or experience. To maintain official's certification, biennial attendance at Alpine Officials' Continuing Education (Update) Clinics is required; yearly attendance is recommended. *This requirement is in addition to the continuing education required in order to keep coaching certification status current.*

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD COACHES' CERTIFICATION STRUCTURE

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education offers on-snow clinics and presentations as well as on-line courses and webinars to all of its member coaches. To support the professional development of coaches, these clinics are structured in a progression that allows a coach to continually upgrade their educational background in alpine ski racing. Through these levels of courses, coaches may obtain certification. An outline of the certification process is below:

Entry Level Coach – All U.S. Ski & Snowboard member coaches who are not certified will be required to review and complete a “Coaching Fundamentals Course” (required for Level 100 Coach) every three years before their membership will be valid. This online course covers the essentials of coaching, including general coaching responsibilities, long-term athlete development, planning, coaching ethics, risk management, and rules of sport. These coaches will also be linked in with continued learning opportunities specific to their needs and the athletes they will be coaching.

Level 100 Coach – The Level 100 coach will have completed a series of online modules, attended an on-snow Alpine Ski Fundamentals Clinic, and passed the corresponding on-snow skills assessment and online exam. Level 100 coaching module includes the opportunity to earn Alpine Officials' Competition Official (CO) certification which includes a short quiz. Alpine Officials' Referee (RF) certification is only available at approved Region/Division Alpine Officials' Clinics; successful completion of the provided exam with a score no lower than 75% is required.

Certified coaches must have a current First Aid/CPR certification and completed both SafeSport and Concussion awareness programs. Coaches without significant experience with course setting must also complete the Introduction to Course Setting course prior to attending the Level 200 clinics.

Level 200 Coach – The Level 200 coach will have attended an on-snow clinic in Alpine Technique and Tactics and passed the corresponding on-snow skills assessment and online exam. They must complete the General Coaching Principles course offered by the American Sport Education Program (ASEP). Level 200 coaches must also complete additional course work in sport science areas supporting their coaching needs. Level 200 coaches must be certified Alpine Referees.

Level 300 Coach – The Level 300 coach will have attended on-snow clinics in Advanced Slalom, Giant Slalom, and Speed Technique and Tactics. Level 300 coaches also must complete additional course work in sport science and sport management topics. Level 300 coaches must also earn Level 2 Alpine Referee Certification through their activity record as Jury members at races and recommendation from upper-level officials.

Continuing Education requirements for each level will ensure that all coaches remain current and up-to-date in the latest developments and advances in coaching their sport. All certified coaches are required to complete continuing education credits based on their certification level. There are many options available to meet continuing education requirements.

***NOTE:** Coaches' Continuing Education is not the same as Alpine Officials' Continuing Education. Biennial attendance at an Alpine Officials' Continuing Education (Update) Clinic is required in order to retain Alpine Officials' Certification; annual attendance is recommended.*

Effective Season 2025, Referee certification will be required for Level 100 Coach certification, and Level 100 Coach will be required for all member coaches.

For more information about coach education and certification, contact the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education office at (435) 647-2050 or email education@usskiandsnowboard.org. You may also find information on the web at usskiandsnowboard.org/sport-development/coaches-development.

SAFESPORT TRAINING

U.S. Federal Law requires that adults who have frequent contact with, or who 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. With the exception of General, Alpine Master with no contact with minor athletes, Competitors 14 years of age or younger, and Short-Term memberships, this impacts all U.S. Ski & Snowboard member clubs, all levels of coaches, officials, competitors 18 years of age and older, and Club Volunteer members.

After completion of membership application/renewal, you will receive email notification containing instructions and a time limit for completion of training. Failure to complete training prior to deadline will result in membership being inactivated.

A comprehensive training program is required the first year, with annual refresher training required in subsequent years. SafeSport training must be completed through the U.S. Center for SafeSport (substitutions are not permitted).

SafeSport training must be completed promptly after applying for/renewing your U.S. & Snowboard membership. Using the following instructions:

1. Follow link above your “MY ACCOUNT” page or go to safesport.org and create an account
2. Affiliate account with U.S. Ski & Snowboard and enter your 7-digit membership number. *Do not include your alpha Division designation.*
3. Choose the learning dashboard under your name (on left) and begin the course
4. Complete each module of the course; all three modules must be completed to earn certificates.

Due to length of course, you may choose to complete one module at a time. You may log in and out at your convenience.

INTRODUCTION TO AVALANCHES COURSE

This course was developed through a partnership between the Utah Avalanche Center, BRASS, and U.S. Ski & Snowboard. The purpose of this course is to make you aware of avalanche and snow safety and to make you think twice before going off piste or entering the backcountry without the proper gear and training.

All members who are 18 years of age or older, including those who will turn 18 years of age during the competition season, are required to complete the Introduction to Avalanches Course in order to activate membership. Other requirements such as SafeSport Training, background screening, and Coaching Fundamentals may also apply.

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD BACKGROUND SCREENING

Over 75% of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's members are under the age of 18. In order to help ensure that these members are in a secure environment, U.S. Ski & Snowboard has implemented a strict policy that is in keeping with the standards of many youth sports organizations, schools and recreational programs in the US. All U.S. Ski & Snowboard employees, member coaches, officials, and competitors 18 years of age or older, are subject to the background screening process.

Background rescreening will be required every two (2) years for all U.S. Ski & Snowboard employees, coaches and officials. Approximately 1/2 of the membership will be re-screened during any one-year period with the remaining rescreening completed during the next one-year period.

Approximate background screening approval for those residing in the U.S. for 7 years or more can take as long as 2-3 weeks; turnaround for foreign coaches and officials or for those who have lived abroad can take several months.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach/Official membership application or renewal is filed online using the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Membership Tool. The procedure is:

1. Apply for or renew your U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach or Official membership online at usskiandsnowboard.org. (Program is fully explained on this site.) Create (new members) or access your “User Account” and select requested memberships.
2. Enter or affirm previously supplied primary medical/accident insurance information

3. Coaches who are non-certified member coaches must review and complete the Coaching Fundamentals Course
4. All members must carefully review and accept “Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability.”
5. All members must complete “Introduction to Avalanches Course”
6. All members must review and accept “U.S. Ski & Snowboard’s Concussion Policy”
7. All members must review and accept “Child Protection Policy Safe Sport Guidelines”
8. Upon receipt and processing of application, if SafeSport training, Introduction to Avalanches Course, background screening, and/or Coaching Fundamentals Course are required, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will either direct you to a link that will initiate the required process or you will be contacted via email with instructions on how to proceed. *Failure to complete requirements will result in membership being designated as “PENDING”.*
9. Site will provide membership fee total; credit card holder must provide current credit card information.
10. If either SafeSport Training, Introduction to Avalanches Course, background screening, and/or Coaching Fundamentals Course are required, “PENDING” will be noted on the membership dashboard.
11. Until “PENDING” status is cleared, a Coach or Official must not be granted venue access or allowed to participate in any capacity at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event, e.g., appointed to serve as a Jury member, Jury Advisor (Start/Finish Referee), Chief of Course, Course Setter; this includes being allowed to serve as an on-hill coach. *Competitors who are shown as “PENDING” must not be allowed to compete or forerun in an event.*
12. If there are no “PENDING” requirements, membership will be finalized immediately and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website will be updated.

NOTE: It is each individual’s responsibility to review and verify the information (membership status/certifications/update status) posted in the Alpine Officials’ directory/roster on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website and notify the appropriate Region/Division Alpine Official Chairperson if a correction is required.