



Most organizers of U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitions will have comprehensive protocols in place for the occurrence of a serious incident/accident; however, this summary may be useful in developing more comprehensive procedures.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTIONS IN CASE OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

A major accident should be viewed as one or more of the following:

- Accident is the result of Athlete exiting the trail and sustaining injury in conjunction with the competition.
- Coach, Official, or Spectator is involved in the accident in conjunction with the competition.
- Accident has any strange or extenuating circumstances.
- Accident results in serious injury (compound fractures or life-altering injury) or death.

Actions to be taken are the following:

1. Immediately contact U.S. Ski & Snowboard: Director of Competition Services, Jeff Weinman (jeff.weinman@usskiandsnowboard.org | 435.640.8561) and ski area representative (e.g. Ski Patrol and/or Risk Management)
2. Compile lists of key personnel involved as follows:
 - A. List of all race organization personnel,
 - B. List of all accident eyewitnesses,
 - C. List of all on-hill photographers, especially video.
3. Secure written report of eyewitnesses
 - A. Detailed,
 - B. Objective,
 - C. Legible,
 - D. Spontaneous,
 - E. Signed and dated.
4. Secure pictures of the following:
 - A. Video recordings or digital media, if possible, of course and trail, including accident area, to be preserved immediately after the incident.
 - B. Still photographs of:
 - i. Site of accident:
 - a. 100 feet from site,
 - b. Show the skier's perspective,
 - c. Take close to time of accident,
 - d. Depict site in representative condition (DO NOT ALTER).

- ii. Trail around accident site showing: slope, terrain, snow conditions, etc.
 - iii. Existing protection around accident site.
 - iv. View of the trail above and below accident.
5. Prepare detailed chronological sequence of events, including accident follow-up actions.
6. Work closely with ski area management (e.g. Ski Patrol and/or Risk Management) and prepare detailed notes.
7. Include the following in or with the Technical Delegate Report:
 - A. Detailed report of the accident, including the following:
 - i. Accident Report form,
 - ii. Photocopy of completed ski patrol report,
 - iii. Technical Delegate Report should be spontaneous, complete and objective with no reference to causation.
 - B. Detailed description of weather and course safety protection, including references to homologation report, safety expert report, previous TD Reports, competitor inspection, etc.
 - C. Jury and Team Captains' Meeting Minutes and attendance records.
 - D. List of eyewitnesses including names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc.
 - E. Location of the above-mentioned photos, video tapes, lists, etc., and names of those who have access to them.
8. Include diagrams and measurements, when appropriate.
9. Immediately submit U.S. Ski & Snowboard's First Report of Accident (1 page) as well as FIS TD Accident Report (4 pages) together with all the above documentation electronically to ensure immediate receipt and proper documentation:

U.S. Ski & Snowboard | Jeff Weinman | jeff.weinman@usskiandsnowboard.org
10. Resume the competition, if possible.
11. All individuals involved in the accident are expected to keep all information regarding the accident, any investigation, and individuals involved strictly confidential. Refrain from referring to the accident via email or social media. The organizer should coordinate any released statement with U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

Disclaimer: These guidelines are provided solely as an informational and educational service to

U.S. Ski & Snowboard organizers. While these guidelines are provided to assist organizers, all policies, procedures, and protocols remain the sole responsibility of the individual organizer. Although U.S. Ski & Snowboard prioritizes the safety of all participants, it expressly disclaims any and all liability arising from the use of or reliance upon these guidelines. These guidelines do not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as such. Organizers should consult with their own counsel regarding specific circumstances.

August 2025

Season 2026