



# ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

## CHAPTER II

### THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF SKI RACING SEASON 2026

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## OVERVIEW

The International Ski & Snowboard Federation (or FIS) is the international regulating body for ski competition. In the United States, U.S. Ski & Snowboard is responsible for all sanctioned events at all levels of competition and brings new opportunities and challenges to alpine ski racing. The revolutionary advancements made in the design and performance of competition equipment and on-hill competitor security/protection measures have increased the challenges faced by these regulating bodies.

During recent years, there have been many changes in alpine ski racing. The International Ski & Snowboard Federation (FIS) has taken major steps to make management of the premier circuit - the Alpine World Cup - more professional and equal to other major sports attractions. To facilitate accomplishing their goals, FIS added an overall director for the World Cup, Men's and Women's full time World Cup Chief Race Directors and Race Directors, and additional general staff. The World Cup Chief Race Directors and Race Directors serve as the Referee and the Assistant Referee for all World Cup events – both speed (DH, SG, AC) and technical (GS, SL, P).

Due to the subject matter, the material contained in this Chapter is not complete. However, much of it still may serve as a reference for some of the general relationships and descriptions of responsibilities. More complete information appears in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide, which is published in the fall of each competition season. Additional information may be found in the various sections of the organization's website [usskiandsnowboard.org](http://usskiandsnowboard.org).

## FIS OFFICE

The International Ski & Snowboard Federation, or the FIS Office - or merely FIS, is located in Switzerland and is the governing body for amateur ski competition around the world. The FIS is comprised of representatives from every member national federation, such as U.S. Ski & Snowboard, and it works closely with the International Olympic Committee and other winter sports federations. The general information FIS website is [fis-ski.com](http://fis-ski.com). This website may also be accessed through a link on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.

*(Please note that the FIS Points List available on the FIS website is not formatted for downloading directly into currently approved versions of race result software.)*

The governing body of the FIS is the Congress - a yearly meeting of the officers and representatives of member nations and committees. The general structure of the FIS is determined by the Congress and is outlined in the FIS Statutes. The rules for competitions are legislated by the Congress and comprise the International Ski Competition Rules (ICR), for alpine competition.

The FIS Council is elected at the FIS Congress and is comprised of an Executive Committee that includes the President, Secretary General, Vice Presidents, as well as other members. The Council directs the Calendar Conferences, the roll of Honorary Members, special working groups, and relations with other organizations. In order to deal effectively with the various technical and special questions, the FIS Congress and Council receive input from committees, subcommittees, working groups, and special commissions.

## **U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD**

U.S. Ski & Snowboard is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of ski racing in the United States. It is recognized by FIS and the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) as the sole sanctioning and governing federation for “Olympic-eligible” ski sport in the United States. U.S. Ski & Snowboard manages all aspects of competitive skiing, from junior development programs through the National and Olympic teams.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard is responsible for selecting, fielding, coaching, and training the teams that represent the United States in international competition. As the NGB, U.S. Ski & Snowboard has the obligation to provide equal opportunities and representation for all those involved in its programs.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard, together with the United States Ski & Snowboard Team Foundation (USSTF), provides fundraising, development, scholarship, and marketing support with assistance from major gift donations, the National Ski Areas Association, and major American corporations.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard works closely with the FIS on matters relating to ski sport and is active in integrating skiing in the Olympic movement through the USOC and ultimately, the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

U.S. Ski & Snowboard is one of the largest sports organizations in the United States Olympic family and is a nonprofit, privately funded entity that receives no government subsidies. It is mainly a volunteer organization with a Board of Directors that advises policy and includes technical and athletic representatives from each discipline.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard is comprised of staff, athletes and their families, officials, coaches, volunteers, and supporters. Interested individuals invest time, energy, and expertise at every level from the National Board of Directors to the local ski clubs. These individuals help determine U.S. Ski & Snowboard policy and programs for implementation at every level of competition.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard provides support for members and encourages participation by athletes, parents, professional organizers, volunteers, and recreational skiers. It provides benefits including event schedules, tracking of event results for the National Points List (NPL), entry into sanctioned events, and publication of educational and informational guides.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard manages the technical aspects of ski competition including scheduling and conduct of sanctioned events in the United States, management of appropriate eligibility and competition rules, and the education of coaches and officials. It provides an equitable, professional structure of ski competition at all levels in order to provide competitions that are fairly conducted by qualified organizers.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE**

The Board of Directors of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, in cooperation with the President and CEO of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, is responsible for overall management of U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

The Alpine Sport Committee recommends Alpine policy to the Board of Directors. The Alpine Sport Committee is comprised of various subcommittees and working groups with areas of concern ranging from Alpine Officials’ education, Masters competition, scheduling, rules, ranking lists, course homologations, event quotas, etc. U.S. Ski & Snowboard is divided into geographic regions, each with its own sport committee structure responsible for activities within the region and for

coordinating activities of its skiers in national events. Regional committees coordinate the activities of common interest over wide parts of the country; they are represented on the Alpine Sport Committee.

### **ALPINE COMPETITION WORKING GROUPS**

The following working groups currently report to the **Alpine Technical Subcommittee**. This subcommittee oversees the efforts of the working groups, receives their reports and recommendations, and forwards them to the Alpine Sport Committee for approval and further action.

**Alpine Officials' Education Working Group**, working closely with all Working Groups - especially those that comprise the Alpine Technical Subcommittee - is responsible for compiling and providing updated technical resources and materials for nationwide standardized training of Alpine Officials of all classifications and levels and assists in coordinating the training and certification of officials in all categories. This includes developing technical resources and materials, coordinating and conducting clinics, preparing a comprehensive Alpine Officials' Manual, and providing assistance in the field. This group's efforts in providing updated technical resources and materials assists in upgrading the quality of officiating. The working group also assists in the maintenance and publication of a current, active roster of U.S. Ski & Snowboard certified officials.

The **U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical Delegate Advisory Group** is a part of the Alpine Officials' Education Working Group and, through coordination with this Working Group, establishes standards for certification of U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical. Assignment of U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical Delegates to all U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events is made by appointed Division/Region U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical Delegates.

**Alpine Classification Working Group** maintains the rules regulating the Athlete Points System (APS), or the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points List (NPL), as a method of ranking all classified competitors. The Chairman has final authority, subject to Board of Directors' approval, to review and decide complaints or discrepancies and to redress grievances of the APS.

**USA FIS Technical Delegate Working Group** is responsible for the management of FIS Technical Delegate functions in the United States, including recommendations for USA FIS Technical Delegate assignments to events as made by appointed Division/Region FIS Technical Delegates, event quality control, and FIS Technical Delegate education. It is responsible for U.S. Ski & Snowboard FIS Technical Delegate Aspirant selection and subsequent Candidacy. It is involved in Technical Delegates' matters in cooperation with Canada regarding assignments and education via the "North American FIS TD Working Group." It functions in cooperation with and provides liaison to the FIS Technical Delegate Commission and FIS Technical Delegate Working Group.

**Alpine Course Approval Working Group** is responsible for approving (homologating) courses for use in U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned competitions. This includes assisting ski areas with course design, on-hill competitor protection/security considerations, and preparation and application for course approval. It works with the FIS representatives to approve (homologate) courses for FIS events.

**Alpine Masters Working Group reports** to the Regional Subcommittee. It governs and promotes the sport of Alpine ski racing among athletes 18 years of age and older. It establishes rules and procedures, coordinates division/region activities, and recommends policy to U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

In addition, there are additional subcommittees and working groups that promote the growth of U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Please refer to current editions of U.S. Ski & Snowboard publications for additional information.

## COMPETITION RULES

U.S. Ski & Snowboard competition rules provide a framework in which the various programs are developed and operated. Copies of the Bylaws may be obtained by contacting U.S. Ski & Snowboard. The Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR) are printed in the current Alpine Competition Guide and are also available on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.

1. Participation in U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitions is limited to Olympic-eligible athletes. U.S. Ski & Snowboard may ban competitors for violation of eligibility rules. Competitors ruled ineligible have the right to suitable hearings conducted according to established procedures of due process. The Board of Directors provides a Judicial Committee that makes final judgment. A banned athlete is prohibited from further U.S. Ski & Snowboard events, and the athlete's region/division and all member clubs are immediately advised of the ban. Foreign competitors are certified as eligible by their national associations.
2. Competitors, coaches, officials, etc., may be sanctioned (penalized) for conduct at U.S. Ski & Snowboard events when such conduct is determined to be prejudicial to the sport. Sanctions (penalties) may include but are not limited to reprimand, disqualification, or suspension from future events. Monetary sanctions are only allowed at the FIS level. Reciprocal agreements with other countries are possible.
3. U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall sanction (schedule/calendar/approve) annual multi-event National Championships, Junior Championships, and other national age group championships. When applicable, national teams are expected to participate unless schedule conflict or specific "*force majeure*" prevents their participation.
4. U.S. Ski & Snowboard may calendar international tournaments as recognized by FIS. All such tournaments shall be applied for through U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Calendar fees for these events become the obligation of the organizers.
5. Once an event sanction has been granted to an organizer for the conduct of a National Championship or an international tournament, U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall not schedule any conflicting event, subject to the anticipated successful conduct of the event as outlined in the Schedule Agreement.
6. U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall determine the qualifications of athletes for such events, subject to the regulations of the FIS. The organizers of such events must file all reports with U.S. Ski & Snowboard on a timely basis following the event.
7. U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall register all competitors in all classes as individuals or as members of clubs. An individual may represent only one club, college, or school team in a season.
8. A competitor shall affiliate as an athlete of the region/division in which the competitor is training during the majority of the northern hemisphere competition season. The designation must be made at the start of the season and must be abided to by the racer for the entire season. Conflicts must be resolved before participation. (*Exception: members of national groups, e.g.,*

*U.S. Ski Team, Development Team, and National Training Group, will retain their home affiliations.)*

9. All calendared events, (FIS, U.S. Ski & Snowboard scored or non-scored), must be sanctioned by U.S. Ski & Snowboard through the normal sanctioning process. To qualify for U.S. Ski & Snowboard event liability insurance coverage, an event must be sanctioned by U.S. Ski & Snowboard and must be administered and officiated by persons in such quantities, qualifications, and job descriptions as established by applicable rules, mandates, and procedures.
10. Rules for the conduct of U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitions are those of the ACR, except as specifically modified or added to by U.S. Ski & Snowboard to meet conditions in a specific area. *“The FIS International Ski Competition Rules (ICR) and adjuncts shall govern any and all issues not addressed therein.”* (U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR)
11. U.S. Ski & Snowboard calendared, internationally scored events are also calendared by the FIS. These FIS events are conducted according to FIS ICR rules and Precisions.
12. As required under the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act, as amended, and by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Bylaws, U.S. Ski & Snowboard maintains an appeals procedure wherein an athlete, coach, official, or administrator may appeal a specific decision made by a competition Jury or by U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Any athlete, coach, official, or administrator who desires to file an appeal should immediately contact U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition Services for information regarding appeal procedures.

### **UNITED STATES SKI TEAM**

The U.S. Ski Team (USST) is responsible for the final development and competition management of the very top competitors nationally. The USST works closely with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education Department, that handles the coordination and administration of coaches' education and training, and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sports Science Department.

The goals of the USST are to promote and expand the sport of ski racing in the U.S. and to achieve top results in international competition and consistently excel at World Cup and Olympic events.

### **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM**

The National Development System is a coordinated effort between U.S. Ski & Snowboard and the U.S. Ski Team to provide a uniform system of training and competition at all levels through talent identification, training, and appropriate competitions for age and ability levels.

The development concept consists of age group programs that identify the best athletes at each level. These athletes are given access to regional and national training camps and possible selection for competition in European events.

At every level, advancement is based on attitude, physical conditioning, results from current and previous seasons, training and qualification camp progress, age/point standings, and coaches' evaluations. Outstanding performance will always warrant discretionary selection by the coaching staff. The program stresses winning at all levels.

## **ADAPTIVE SKIING AND THE U.S. PARALYMPIC TEAM**

Skiing for the adaptive began as a rehabilitation/recreation program and has evolved into well-organized national and international competition with corresponding organizations to administer the sport. Over the years, adaptive skiing has grown to become a well-managed, funded athletic sports organization.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) was originally responsible for the governance of para snow sports. The IPC has transferred governance, including rules and calendaring of events, to the International Ski & Snowboard Federation (FIS).

In order to encourage adaptive participation in regularly calendared U.S. Ski & Snowboard non-FIS competitions, the Alpine Sport Committee adopted a special seeding rule. The "Golden Rule," named after a proposal made by the late Diana Golden. The "Golden Rule" authorizes a special start order for adaptive athletes at all U.S. Ski & Snowboard non-FIS events - both scored and non-scored. Please refer to the current edition of the Alpine Competition Guide for a full explanation of the seeding and start-position draw for adaptive athletes according to the "Golden Rule." *"Golden Rule" seeding is valid for U.S. Ski & Snowboard non-FIS events only; there is no "Golden Rule" seeding at FIS events.*

At events calendared exclusively for adaptive competitors, an adaptive competitor's classification is defined by the degree of function presented by their disability. Competitors are seeded according to their classification and earned seed points. More information is available at [paralympic.org](http://paralympic.org).

### **U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD COACHES' SPORT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education Department is committed to providing coaches with exceptional, high-quality, engaging, and collaborative opportunities to learn and develop their coaching skillset. Combining an acute knowledge of sport with best practices of leadership is essential for developing not only a high level of physical performance, but also the mental, emotional, and social well-being of athletes. The Sport Education Department's levelized system delivers relevant, engaging, impactful, and accessible courses developed through a holistic instructional design process of aligning research-based coaching competencies with engaging course content and multifaceted learning assessments.

In 2023, U.S. Ski & Snowboard committed to a significant review and revision of the coaches' education program to make it more efficient, effective, and economical for our coaching community. Staff discussions with U.S. Ski & Snowboard constituents across all levels revealed that there was a need to make the coach education and certification process less time consuming, more relevant, easier to navigate, more consistent, less costly, and more credible. There was also a desire to expand the scope of the content in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard coaches' education online learning materials to cover all the non-sport specific areas in the Training Systems Domains.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff is engaged in the ongoing process of developing their educational programs to have a new focus, strategy, components, and process. The key elements of the Sport Education Department's approach, that will continue to guide direction in future seasons, are:

1. Increase engagement of coaches, clubs, athletes, parents and all other U.S. Ski & Snowboard stakeholders to achieve the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Mission and uphold its values.
2. Make the process economical, efficient, convenient, relevant, and effective.
3. Develop holistic and comprehensive content and curriculum for all stakeholders.
4. Make it financially sustainable.

5. Be flexible and innovative.

### **Information for Coach Members**

All new member coaches must complete background screening and a SafeSport course before their membership will become current. These opportunities are delivered through the membership portal. For support with the background check or SafeSport course processes, please contact [membership@usskiandsnowboard.org](mailto:membership@usskiandsnowboard.org).

Avalanche Awareness and Coaching Fundamentals courses also fall within the pathway towards certification as a U.S. Ski & Snowboard coach.

### **Coach Certification Requirement**

All presently non-certified coach members are required to pursue Level 100 Certification and must earn it in full within two years. An “Active” or “In Progress” Coach Certification designation is required in order to register for U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned competitions and be granted race arena/venue access.

### **Streamlined Certification Process**

Coaches will be guided through a series of educational modules, both on-line and on-snow, at their local clubs and regions where they will have the opportunity to learn and master the information and skills they need to do their job more effectively. “Assessment” sessions will be set up around the country where our National Faculty will determine the certification of the coaches. The certification process is significantly shorter than the previous process as it focuses on what coaches need to know and be able to do on-snow with their athletes, and then supports them with an extensive array of professional development opportunities they can pursue to improve their coaching skills.

### **Continuing Education Requirement**

If a coach presently holds a current certification, it is still considered “current” going into the next season. To maintain that certification, however, a coach must complete the following on an annual basis:

1. Renew U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach Membership
2. Enroll in the Sport Education Academy (SEA) at the Gold Tier
3. Earn 10 Continuing Education (CE) credits each year to maintain “Active” certification status, where 2 credits are equal to 1 hour of engagement with learning materials. Please note that U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education conferences and other special events may be the exception to this credit value system, and the CE credit value of these exceptions will be clearly indicated in the registration process.

If a coach fails to earn their 10 annual CE credits, their U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach Certification will be “Inactive” until those credits have been earned. Once those credits have been earned, their Certification will return to “Active” status.

***REMINDER:*** *Coaches’ CE is not the same as Alpine Officials’ Continuing Education (Update & Review). Yearly attendance at an Alpine Officials’ Continuing Education (Update & Review) Clinic is required in order to retain earned Alpine Officials’ Certification.*

## **Sport Education Academy**

The Sport Education Academy is our custom online learning system. The Sport Education Academy has 5 main areas of focus:

1. Structure of programming
2. Content of curriculum
3. Delivery of educational content
4. Credible certification process
5. Equitable and affordable costs

These five areas of focus are reflected in the learning modules created, the on-snow sessions delivered, the resources developed, the recognitions earned, the revenue generated, the stakeholders served, and the engagement platform that is established. Success will be measured by the numbers of coaches, athletes, parents, and club directors that participate in the program, their progress through the system, their use of the resources provided, and eventually the quality of the clubs and athletes developed.

The Sport Education Academy is accessible at [academy.us skiandsnowboard.org](http://academy.us skiandsnowboard.org), and U.S. Ski & Snowboard members may log in to the Academy using their Membership account credentials.

### **U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD COACH MEMBERSHIPS**

In addition to “In Progress” or “Active” coach certification, either a current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach membership (which also includes Official membership) or Junior Coach \* membership is required in order to be granted race arena/venue access or to participate in any capacity, e.g., on-hill coaching, at all U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned events. \*\* *Although U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach/Official membership is required, it does not guarantee complimentary lift access at U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events.*

\*Please note that a Junior Coach must be supervised by a member Coach/Official.

\*\**A select number of events (CAN-AM), allow coaches from Canada to serve as on-hill coaches for their Canadian athletes. However, these coaches may not serve as Jury members or Course Setters without a current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach/Official membership.*

### **ALPINE RACE SERIES**

FIS and U.S. Ski & Snowboard provide a complete calendar of competitions with opportunities for every level of competitor from the beginner to the Olympic Champion; annual World Junior Alpine Championships are also provided. The top FIS race series is the World Cup, although the individual events of the Olympic Winter Games and the World Championships may focus more attention on specific events.

The level of competition immediately below the World Cup is known as the Continental Cup. Continental Cups include Australia New Zealand Cup (ANC), Europa Cup (EC), Far East Cup (FEC), Nor-Am Cup (NAC), and South American Cup (SAC). These events attract the next tier of competitors and also many World Cup racers. The Continental Cup series offers scoring opportunities for younger athletes.

Below the international level, there are many other scheduled events and series. Some of these events are calendared with FIS and provide access to the FIS Points List and ranking system. USST C Team members and top regional athletes participate in the national FIS Series. Each region of

U.S. Ski & Snowboard conducts a number of events in this series according to international rules and standards. These events may be augmented by non-FIS events in the same series according to the needs of the division/region program involved.

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Junior Championships series are the most important age group championships held in the United States each year. There are also special events or series for less-experienced competitors. These programs are planned, organized, and conducted by regional, divisional and local committees, clubs, and racing programs within the general framework of U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

Each competition region of the United States offers other events according to the needs and resources of the various programs. For older age groups, there are events that are scored as part of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points System.

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Youth Ski League (YSL) is a junior entry-level competition program of U.S. Ski & Snowboard. U.S. Ski & Snowboard provides educational materials to these potential world-class skiers, and the program is designed to recruit and retain young skiers in the sport by emphasizing development of basic skills, fun, and family involvement.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard continues to offer programs for the Masters competitor. Information is available in the current Alpine Competition Guide or from U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

### **FIS POINTS AND THE SEEDING LIST**

The FIS Points and Seeding List is a system that lists and ranks age-eligible competitors registered (inscribed) internationally and competing in FIS-calendared events. With the exception of the first list that may show data for all competitors registered in the previous season, the list only shows those competitors who were properly registered by their federations prior to the deadline for the particular list.

Requirements for registration by an age-eligible athlete consist of an application for a FIS code (inscription) designation, a FIS Athlete Declaration signed by both the competitor and, if necessary, parent/legal guardian, and payment of the appropriate fee. All competitors entered in FIS events must have a FIS inscription code designation.

Competitors are seeded with points as provided on the current FIS Points List. If a coach or competitor believes the current points list is not correct, they may request a confirmation. Confirmation of FIS points may be issued only by FIS and only at the request of U.S. Ski & Snowboard and payment of the required fee. FIS Points that have a "C" designation on the FIS website version of the FIS Points List have been "confirmed." These "confirmed" points, if different from those on the printed/downloaded version of the FIS Points List, are used for seeding and, if required, for penalty calculations.

Only FIS calendared events are scored to the FIS Points List. FIS results are valid only for the current season.

In season 2012, FIS adopted the Base List (BL). Base List Points are calculated by taking the average of a competitor's pre-determined number of results in each event. Correction values are then applied, and the Normal FIS Points List (NL) is generated. Calculation allowances are made for competitors who are injured, have fewer than the pre-determined number of results in an event,

who have no results in an event, or whose Normal Points are higher than Base List Points. *The seasonal Base List must not be used for event seeding and/or penalty calculation procedures.*

## **U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD NATIONAL POINTS SYSTEM**

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS points systems are based on the same formula for scoring, and the top competitors in U.S. Ski & Snowboard will be ranked as the top USA competitors in the FIS Points List. The two lists differ in that the FIS Points List is more selective than the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points List (NPL), because there are fewer events scored in the FIS system and these events generally have restricted fields with various entry limits. FIS results for U.S. Ski & Snowboard member athletes are also scored to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points List.

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Athlete Points System (APS) lists and ranks all age-eligible U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitor members, with the exception of Masters, who are properly registered prior to the deadline for a points list.

*Masters Competitors have a separate ranking list used for seeding only at U.S. Ski & Snowboard Masters events. Any competitor whose name does not show on the current U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points List may be entered in U.S. Ski & Snowboard scored events upon verification of membership status on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.*

With the exception of Short-Term and Alpine Master (one who has no regular contact with minor athletes) memberships, all members who are 18 years of age or older must complete SafeSport Training through the U.S. Center for SafeSport (substitutions are not permitted) and complete periodic background screening. Those members who will turn 18 years of age during the competition season, must also complete background screening.

Any athlete who turns 18 years of age during the competition season will receive notice of the requirement for initial background screening. U.S. Ski & Snowboard must receive a screening determination within 45 days from the member's birthday, or membership will become inactive on the 46<sup>th</sup> day. Athletes shall not be allowed to participate in any capacity in U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events without an active membership. *Due to the background screening requirement, immediate processing of an Online Membership is not available for individuals 18 years of age or older.*

Renewing competitors who complete membership applications after the closing of an NPL must be seeded with 999.99 points unless they also request and receive a point's confirmation from U.S. Ski & Snowboard. A letter confirming U.S. Ski & Snowboard points will only be issued to a competitor, their family, or their coach provided that the competitor is in good standing and has paid the required fee.

**NOTE: 999.99 is a U.S. Ski & Snowboard indicator that a competitor either has not earned any valid U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points or their membership was not current at list closing; FIS Points are calculated to 999.00.**

**NOTE: Athletes from foreign countries, many of whom are training with U.S. Ski & Snowboard clubs/schools, and who wish to compete in *U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned, non-FIS events* must be current members of U.S. Ski & Snowboard.**

**EXCEPTION: *Canadian athletes entered in CAN-AM events.***

Foreign athletes who wish to compete in scored U.S. Ski & Snowboard non-FIS events, who have *current* FIS inscription and Points, but do not have *current* U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership and U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points may do so after completing all U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership requirements. These competitors are seeded with their FIS Points; when applicable, their FIS Points are used in the Penalty calculations.

Foreign athletes already registered for the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points List and competing in scored U.S. Ski & Snowboard events are designated with an “X.” If these athletes have *no current* U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points but do have *current* FIS Points, they are to be seeded with their FIS Points. When applicable, their FIS Points are to be used in Penalty calculations.

Foreign athletes registered in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points system who *do have current* U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points must be seeded with their U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points regardless of whether or not FIS Points are better (lower).

*Foreign athletes who have neither U.S. Ski & Snowboard nor FIS Points are assigned event Maximum Value National Points.*

**NOTE: Competition Services must be notified when a foreign competitor’s FIS Points are used in the calculation of a non-FIS Penalty.**

### **HOMOLOGATIONS AND COURSE APPROVALS**

All FIS events must be held on FIS trails that have been inspected and approved - homologated - in advance of calendaring by members of the FIS Alpine Courses Sub-Committee.

The homologation process for FIS trails involves assembling a report on the technical aspects of the course prior to inspection by the FIS representative.

The purpose of the homologation and inspection is four-fold. First, the inspection guarantees that the course involved meets reasonable FIS standards when it is properly prepared and with on-hill “security/protection measures” in place according to the instructions of the inspector. The inspection confirms that the course meets the technical requirements as described in the report. The report itself provides valuable data to the FIS and is used to confirm that FIS events meet the required standards. Finally, the inspection offers the opportunity for a FIS expert to make suggestions to the ski area operator and event organizer regarding preparation and use of the facilities.

All scored and non-scored U.S. Ski & Snowboard events must be conducted on a homologated or registered/approved course. A registered course is one that does not meet technical requirements (normally lacking specified vertical drop) but does comply with course setting and security regulations. U.S. Ski & Snowboard Schedule Agreements may not be executed if approval/homologation has not been completed or is not current. *FIS homologated trails are accepted as approved U.S. Ski & Snowboard courses.*

U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS Downhill (DH) and Super G (SG) courses must be reinspected/rehomologated every five seasons, and Slalom (SL) and Giant Slalom (GS) courses must be reinspected/rehomologated every ten seasons to verify they meet current standards. The five/ten-season validity starts with the first of November of the year that the homologation certificate is issued. *A new FIS Downhill venue must be inspected and approved by a FIS inspector from a country other than that requesting the homologation.*

All courses must be reinspected if major alterations are made in the course or related facilities, or if there are changes in the regulations or technical requirements. These changes may include but are not limited to erosion, terrain overgrowth, construction of lifts, buildings, shelters, parks, roads, or tracks. The installation of snowmaking hydrants, snow retention fences, or other significant hardware will also require rehomologation. All FIS and U.S. Ski & Snowboard courses not re-inspected by the end of the required 5-season or 10-season intervals are dropped from both FIS and U.S. Ski & Snowboard listings of approved courses.

There are deadlines for submittal of requests for U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS course homologation and submittal of completed reports. Ski areas and event organizers interested in pursuing U.S. Ski & Snowboard or FIS homologation should contact either the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Office or the Chairman of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Courses Working Group as listed on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website for details, necessary forms, and other information, including involved costs. When initial paperwork is prepared, an inspector will be assigned, and appointments will be made for the inspection. Following a satisfactory inspection and payment of the required fees, U.S. Ski & Snowboard courses will be assigned a homologation/registration number; FIS reports will be submitted to the FIS for approval and assignment of a homologation number.

**NOTE:** Homologation files are available for review on the following websites. Inasmuch as paper copy files or files posted on independent websites may be outdated, these websites are the only valid sources for verification of a course homologation. *A new inspection of an existing course (FIS or National) voids the previous homologation of an existing course.*

[media.usskiandsnowboard.org/CompServices/Homologation/](https://media.usskiandsnowboard.org/CompServices/Homologation/)

(Login is required: **User ID = homologation; Password = Allout2022!**)

[fis-ski.com/DB/alpine-skiing/homologations.html](https://fis-ski.com/DB/alpine-skiing/homologations.html)

(Maps, photos, reports, etc. not accessible at this site.)