



# ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

## CHAPTER III

### RULES, THE JURY, AND THE TECHNICAL DELEGATE SEASON 2026

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## OVERVIEW

This Chapter will discuss the basis for the rules for alpine ski racing, the composition and function of a competition Jury, and the role of the Technical Delegate.

### THE RULES OF SKI RACING

In the United States, non-FIS U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned competitions are conducted according to the rules in the current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Regulations, (ACR). These regulations are published in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide (Comp Guide), and are also available on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website. All Alpine Officials are urged to review current copies of these regulations at the beginning of each season. *“The FIS International Ski Competition Rules, (ICR), and adjuncts shall govern any and all issues not addressed therein.”*

ACR numbering mirrors, when possible, ICR numbering, and any ACR exceptions to the ICR are preceded by “U.” The “U” is part of the rule number. “Precisions,” provisional rules compiled by U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff, are published as required. Under certain conditions, U.S. Ski & Snowboard rules may be modified by region and/or division rules. These modifications, however, must not be in conflict with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR.

In order for a modification to become a national, regional, or divisional rule, policy committees, and/or technical committees, and the Executive Committee, must approve the recommendation for modification at the annual U.S. Ski & Snowboard Spring Congress. Members – working through their regions or divisions – may make motions for changes prior to the Congress, and if necessary, a rule may be interpreted between meetings by the Executive Committee upon Sport Committee request and/or recommendation.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard policy on such matters as the calendaring of events, quotas, major projects, budget, etc., is set annually by the Executive Committee based on recommendations forwarded from working groups and technical subcommittees to the Alpine Sport Committee. U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff, in consultation with the Alpine Sport Committee, designs procedures and instructions for implementing policies. The policies are then subject to working group, technical subcommittee, FIS Subcommittee, Alpine Sport Committee, and Executive Committee approval. All recommendations for modifications must be electronically submitted in advance of Congress. They must be in accordance with required format and within the allowed timeframe. (Contact Region/Division Office for details.)

FIS competitions are internationally scored and are conducted according to the International Ski Competition Rules - better known as the ICR. These are rules that have been approved by the FIS Congress and ratified by the FIS Council. Changes are based on proposals from committees and national federations as well as from motions made by FIS Congress delegates. Updated versions of the ICR are posted annually on the FIS website. If necessary, rules are interpreted by the FIS Council between meetings of the FIS Congress and are published as “Precisions.”

“Precisions” are provisional rules that are compiled by FIS staff at the direction of major FIS committees. These provisional rules are adopted by the FIS committees, subject to FIS Council approval, and must be considered at the next FIS Congress in order to continue to have effect at ski competitions. All Alpine Officials are urged to review current copies of the ICR and its Precisions.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard may also compile “Precisions” to the Alpine Competition Rules (ACR). Precisions, if required, will be posted on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.

## **INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF RULES**

The sport of alpine ski racing is unique to sport competition because of the variables that must be considered by the Organizing Committee (OC) to successfully host an event. The skillful application and implementation of the rules provides the Organizing Committee with guidelines to help prevent local or regional advantages, defines on-hill security/protection for competitors, specifies technical aspects in the definition and execution of a race/an event, and outlines the technical developments in competitors' clothing and equipment.

The rules of alpine ski racing have evolved in response to actual situations, and they are written in a manner to provide the opportunity for a competition Jury to use sound judgement as they adapt to distinctive situations at different venues/events.

Outlining a few of the most apparent variables regarding alpine ski racing include the following elements that are constantly changing and evolving:

- First, the sport is international lending to rule translations from various languages (primarily German and French), and no language translation is precise. This presents a requirement for accurate translation from the original language as well as an interpretation as to the actual intent of the rule.
- Race hills or arenas are all different due to characteristics of the hill itself, the altitude, the weather, the snow coverage - manmade or natural, and various other natural elements.
- Equipment (boots, skis, helmets, clothing, slalom armor, back braces, airbags, etc.)
- The duration of the event
- The number of “players” who are allowed to participate

The competition Jury, while keeping fairness in mind, is a decision-making body with responsibility for the application of the rules and the success of the competition. Being a member of a competition Jury is an important role for individuals – historically coaches with athletes participating in the event – appointed by the Technical Delegate to serve on the Jury as the Referee at technical events (Giant Slalom, Slalom, Parallel) or the Referee and Assistant Referee at speed events (Downhill, Super G, and Alpine Combined).

Alpine ski race officials should view the rules with these thoughts in mind: “What does this rule mean? What does the rule intend to accomplish/control?” It is also necessary to consider the “spirit” of the rule as well as its fairness and appropriateness. The primary goals for the competition Jury and Alpine Officials are to give every competitor an equal opportunity in a secure environment, to apply rules in a consistent manner, to conduct the event on a legal course, to provide an accurate timekeeping system, and to file required documentation in a timely manner.

For both U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS rules, sound judgment - not emotion - plays a key role in the application and interpretation of the existing rules.

## **SOURCES FOR RULES**

There are several publications where current rules pertaining to alpine ski racing may be found. Alpine race officials do not have to memorize rules, but they must know where to find the rules, how to interpret and understand them, and how to apply the rules in a consistent manner.

It is important that ALL Alpine Officials know, understand, and abide by the provisions contained in the *current editions* of these publications.

1. United States Ski & Snowboard Association Alpine Competition Regulations, (ACR)
2. Precisions to the ACR, published by U.S. Ski & Snowboard, as required
3. FIS International Ski Competition Rules, (ICR)
4. Precisions to the ICR, published by FIS, in early summer for the Southern Hemisphere and in November for the Northern Hemisphere, as required
5. Rules of the FIS Points, published annually by the FIS Office
6. Rules for World Cup and Continental Cup (Europa Cup, Nor-Am Cup, etc.), published annually by the FIS Office
7. Rules for Equipment Specifications, published by the FIS Office
8. Memorandum for the Technical Delegate, published by the FIS Office

**NOTE:** *The above documents are available either on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard or FIS websites.*

### **RULES - THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS**

Some of the most common problems in alpine ski racing result from a lack of adequate preparation by the Organizing Committee. This is often compounded by a lack of communication between the resort and the competition Jury.

The Chief of Race, as member of the Organizing Committee, serves as a link between the resort and the competition Jury. This link is critical as it allows the Technical Delegate and the rest of the Jury the opportunity to be advised of any operational procedures adopted by the resort that could affect the event.

Lack of preparation may lead to insufficient or unprepared Gate Judges (if required); insufficient or inadequate internet connectivity as required for online meetings and/or result transmission; insufficient or inadequate communication equipment (Jury radios); insufficient or inadequate electronic or manual/hand timekeeping equipment and personnel; lack of meeting room facilities; lack of knowledge regarding duties and obligations of competitors, Team Captains, and officials; errors in data management and/or Timing and Calculations that affect Second Run Start Lists and/or Official Results and Penalty; and inconsistencies in documentation preparation and submittal procedures.

In addition, there may be problems concerning personnel needed to staff the competition. These problems occur when individuals serving as an Alpine Official do not know, understand, or abide by current rules, fail to anticipate potential difficulties, are not available when needed, are overbearing in demeanor, fail to follow instructions, exhibit evidence of personal or local favoritism when making decisions, or are indecisive.

The competition Jury is responsible for the application and enforcement of the rules, and the decisions they make are deserving of respect from all involved in the competition. Observance of the

decisions of the competition Jury by all participants is required. At times, due to poor communication, these decisions are not always recognized or followed.

The Code of Conduct for athletes and officials must be at the forefront for all alpine competitions. Athletes and officials must be aware of the rules for the event and be willing to comply in the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.

Compliance with U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS equipment specifications is the responsibility of the competitor, and in the case of a minor, their parents or guardians. Competitors must arrive at the start with the proper equipment for the event being contested; failure to do so may result in their not being permitted to start.

### **OFFICIATING AND THE RULES**

Rules are created to define the physical environment of the competition, its dimensions, and its condition. Rules also define or describe essential procedures, and they serve to control the participants as well as others associated with the competition. Rules prevent actions that give an advantage to one or more of the participants, and they define the rights and duties of the officials. In order to ensure that the rules are followed, officials are present to assist, manage, arbitrate, and report on the competition.

Officials need to keep in mind if all pertinent facts are *not known*, it is wise to reserve judgment until these facts are available. For example, a rerun is normally allowed only if a competitor has been “obstructed” by an object, person, or a dislodged gate pole – even if the pole is dislodged by the competitor. However, since not all these facts may be known, a “provisional” rerun should be allowed that will keep options open until such a time after the run or race when facts may be gathered, the competitor is allowed due process, and proper Jury deliberations may take place.

Another example is the competitor who is not present when called to the start but subsequently arrives, and requests a start. Again, circumstances may not allow time for the Jury to review the facts that resulted in the delayed start, and a “provisional” start should be allowed until these facts are known, the competitor is allowed due process, and proper Jury deliberations may take place.

*Competitors granted a provisional rerun or provisional start should, in agreement with Start Referee and/or the Jury, be inserted in the “normal starting order.” Automatically making the competitor wait a fixed number of starts, e.g., 20 start positions, or starting them prior to the last scheduled starter. could be considered a sanction without the competitor being afforded due process.*

**NOTE:** If actual interference is witnessed by a Jury member, a Jury Advisor, or a Connection Coach, a rerun – not a provisional – should be granted.

Upon interference, unless interference occurs in the immediate area of the finish line, and the competitor cannot stop prior to crossing the line, the competitor must immediately ski out of the course, and the competitor or their coach must actually request a rerun.

A rerun granted to a competitor who had crossed the finish line remains valid even if it proves slower than the obstructed run; this also applies if the rerun results in the competitor not finishing (DNF).

*If prior to the incident for which a rerun was granted, the Jury later finds an infraction had been committed that would have resulted in disqualification, the competitor will be disqualified; results of the rerun will not be valid.*

## **COMPETITION JURY**

The Competition Jury controls an event and rules on ALL questions concerning the interpretation or applicability of the rules. Upon their appointment, members of the Jury become members of the Organizing Committee. However, the nature and function of the Jury is very different from those of the Organizing Committee and has developed in direct response to the needs of competition.

Acknowledging all the variables that may vary from race to race as well as the rules themselves which are often subject to different interpretations, it is the Competition Jury that provides access to immediate rulings for the competitors and their Team Captains, the sponsoring organization, and the sanctioning body.

## **COMPOSITION OF THE JURY**

According to current rules, with the exception of World Championships and Olympic Winter Games, the Jury for U.S. Ski & Snowboard/FIS speed events is composed of:

### **Technical Delegate**

- is appointed by and represents the sanctioning association
- is from outside the host organization
- upon appointment, becomes a member of Organizing Committee

### **Referee\***

- is appointed by Technical Delegate for both technical and speed events
- represents the competitors and coaches
- upon appointment, becomes a member of Organizing Committee

### **Assistant Referee\***

- is appointed by Technical Delegate for speed events only (DH, SG, and AC)
- represents the competitors and coaches
- upon appointment, becomes a member of Organizing Committee

### **Chief of Race**

- is appointed by the host organization
- represents the host ski club and host ski area
- is a member of the Organizing Committee
- serves as a critical link between the resort, the other members of the Organizing Committee, and the competition Jury
- *should be a member of the host federation for Continental Cup (e.g., Nor-Am Cup) events*

\* Referee and Assistant Referee should be the most qualified, appropriately certified (Referee) individuals present. Inasmuch as these individuals are generally considered to be the competitors' representatives on the Jury, the Referee and Assistant Referees should be appointed from among the coaches present for the event and with athletes participating in the competition.

Referees, Assistant Referees, and Course Setter(s) for all U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events – scored and non-scored – must be U.S. Ski & Snowboard certified Referees with current update status (yearly attendance at a Continuing Education Clinic), prior to being appointed. *At upper-level*

*events, e.g., Championship Events, the Referee(s), Assistant Referee(s), and Course Setter(s) may be appointed by the Federation/Region/Division.*

At FIS events, qualified members of foreign federations may be appointed to serve as Referees, Assistant Referees, or Course Setters. The foreign federation – by listing a coach on their official entry – is verifying that the individual has the ability and knowledge to serve.

The term “Jury Advisor” is a U.S. Ski & Snowboard term used to recognize two officials who are an integral part of the competition. There are two named “Jury Advisors”: **Start Referee and Finish Referee**; they are appointed by the host organization. These officials supervise their respective areas from the beginning of competitors’ course inspection until the completion of the training run or race. The Start and Finish Referee deliver reports regarding competitors’ actions that may result in sanction, but they are not members of the Jury, have no vote, and must not be listed as participating Jury members on any official documents.

*For Olympic Winter Games and World Championship events, the Start Referee and Finish Referee are appointed as voting members of the Jury by the FIS; the names/nations do appear on official documents; they do have a voice and vote in Jury decisions.*

One or two Team Captains may be named to serve in the capacity of **Connection Coaches** or “Eyes of the Jury.” At many upper-level events – especially speed events, “Connection Coaches” often are positioned at “yellow flag zones.” When appointed, “Connection Coaches” become the Team Captains’ and competitors’ liaison with the Jury.

At some upper-level events (usually speed or Championship events), the Committee for Alpine Skiing may appoint a **Technical Advisor**. The Technical Advisor supports the Jury and has the right to express opinions within the Jury; the Technical Advisor does not have a vote.

**NOTE:** *An Assistant Referee may be appointed for U.S. Ski & Snowboard technical events for training purposes only. In this situation, the Assistant Referee participates with the Jury but is not a member of the Organizing Committee, does not have voice or voting rights in Jury decisions and, is not named on any of the official race documents. An Assistant Referee may also be appointed for a Parallel event if assistance is required for control of the event.*

### **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE JURY AND JURY ADVISORS**

The Competition Jury and its Jury Advisors verify that the rules are adhered to throughout the official training and the competition. They consider the installation of the on-hill security/protection and the propriety of local procedures.

The Jury has the authority to make decisions on all questions not addressed by current rules. All Jury decisions must be documented in Jury Minutes.

Please refer to the current editions of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR as well as the FIS ICR and their respective Precisions for more specific duties of each Jury member as well as the duties of the Start Referee and the Finish Referee.

The **Technical Delegate** is required to have current U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership and appropriate certification. Unless an exception is granted by the Region/Division AO Chairperson,

yearly attendance at a Technical Delegates' Workshop is also required prior to serving as an event's Technical Delegate.

The primary responsibilities of the Technical Delegate are:

1. Serving as the official representative of U.S. Ski & Snowboard/FIS
2. Making sure that all rules and directions of U.S. Ski & Snowboard/FIS are adhered to before, during, and after the event(s)
3. Assuring that the event runs as smoothly as possible
4. Advising the organizers within the definition of the duties of the Technical Delegate.

With the exception of World Cup, World Championships, and Olympic Winter Games, where the FIS Office makes all Jury appointments, and Nor-Am Cup and Championship events, etc., where the National Association(s) makes Jury appointments, the Technical Delegate appoints the Referee and Assistant Referee. Regardless of how appointed, the Referee and Assistant Referee become members of the Organizing Committee.

The primary responsibilities of the **Referee** are:

1. Supervising the Drawing of start numbers, either by "Double Draw" or computer-generated draw (See Chapter V - Secretariat, for information concerning "Double Draw.")
2. Receiving the reports of the Start and Finish Referees and other race officials concerning infractions of the rules, competitors' gate faults, and signing and posting the Report by the Referee after each run/race. The Report by the Referee contains a list of competitors who were not allowed to start (NPS), did not start (DNS), did not finish (DNF), or who are disqualified (DSQ). \*
3. In special cases, submitting a report to the FIS Office.

For speed events, the **Assistant Referee** is expected to assist the Referee in all of the above duties. *\*In cases of force majeure, the Technical Delegate may prepare, sign and post the Report by the Referee or may assign the duty to another official. A Report by the Referee signed by the Technical Delegate, or the Technical Delegate's designee, is valid.*

The **Chief of Race** is primarily responsible for supervising the entire race operation and is a critical liaison between the resort and the overall event operation. Although only a few words describe this position, the job itself is actually rather large. (See **Chapter IV - Race Organization** for further information.)

The above officials form the Competition Jury. The Jury is responsible for the technical matters within the closed competition areas (race arena) from a technical standpoint, organizational standpoint, and disciplinary viewpoint.

The "race arena" is accepted as being within (the side-to-side fencing) and without (the start area and the finish area) the confines of the competition area: any location connected with the competition that the Jury inspects and accepts as being suitable for competitors' presence.

In addition to noting that sanctions can be applied and a penalty imposed for “actions within and without the competition area”, rules include conduct within “any location connected with the competition”. These locations include, but are not limited to the following areas that are required for the orderly conduct of an event: Team Captains’ Meetings, Jury meeting areas, timing building, equipment control area. *Neither the “closed competition areas” (within or without the fencing) nor “any location connected with the competition” include lift lines, cafeterias, parking lots, warmup area, or warmup courses, etc., **unless rules state otherwise**; e.g., U14 regulation which prohibits waxing application on ski area property.*

*Prior to the event, the Chief of Race should establish contact with ski area management and Ski Patrol and clarify those areas for that the Jury will assume responsibility. This clarification should be made available to all Team Captains. It is critical that the Chief of Race becomes knowledgeable of any operational procedures adopted by the resort that could affect the event and advise the Jury of the same.*

With the exception of Downhill Training that is governed by Downhill rules, the Jury may approve special training with or without gates (freeski) which can take place on the competition course. In that case, the opportunity must be available to all competitors, and the training run (freeski), has to be controlled by the Jury and the Organizing Committee.

Warmup slopes outside the competition course should be made available to the participating teams under specific guidelines by the Organizer. *Warm up slopes are not under the control of the Jury, are not considered part of the “race arena,” and are not governed by the ACR or the ICR.*

### **DUE PROCESS**

Included in the disciplinary viewpoint duties is the observance of due process. What is “**due process**?” Due process is "the conduct of formal proceedings according to established rules and principles for the protection and enforcement of private rights, including notice and the right to a fair hearing before a tribunal with the power to decide the case."

The Jury shall provide any athlete accused of violating competition rules a full and complete opportunity to present the athlete’s side of the case before imposing any sanctions; the athlete must also have the opportunity to question any individuals who are presenting evidence. *Failure to allow due process may open the Jury’s decision to appeal.*

By rule, the primary responsibilities of the **Start Referee** are:

1. Making sure the regulations for the start are properly observed.
2. Having reserve bibs (with numbers not assigned in the competition) available for competitors who do not have their assigned bibs.
3. Reporting to the Referee at the end of the race with the bib #'s and names of the competitors who did not start.
4. As directed by the Jury, determining violations against equipment/start number rules\* and listing those competitors who were not allowed to start due to these violations (NPS).

5. As directed by the Jury, determining competitors who may be in violation of equipment rules but were allowed to start provisionally (stack height, skis, etc.).
6. Reporting to the Jury the bib #'s and names of competitors who have made false or late starts, or who have committed other infringements.

**\*NOTE:** *A competitor will not be permitted to start (NPS), who wears obscene names and/or symbols on clothing and equipment, behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner in the start area; violates the rules in regard to the competition equipment and commercial markings; trains on a course closed for competitors; in training for Downhill has not participated in at least one timed training run; does not wear a crash helmet that conforms to the Specifications for Competition Equipment; does not wear or carry an official start number according to the rules; etc. (Refer to current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Rules (ACR), FIS International Ski Competition Rules (ICR) and their current Precisions.)*

The Start Referee, using approved radio protocols, must have the ability to communicate by radio with the Jury at all times. The Jury must be advised regarding replacement bib #'s, insertions in the running order, requests for provisional starts and provisional reruns, etc.; to call a "START STOP" when it is necessary to halt the competition; and to notify the Jury when start officials are ready to restart the competition.

For events using an approved Alternate Seeding System, the Start Referee needs to advise the Jury and timing personnel if a competitor or coach requests adjustment of the published interval between consecutive competitor starts.

Start Referees should consider having "supplies" handy such as: shovel, felt tip marker, flagging or surveyor's tape, measuring tape, etc.

**RECOMMENDATION:** If available, a "Stop the Bleed" pack should be included in the start area supply pack.

**NOTE:** **Ski Patrol assigned to the start should be physically present at the start; not just in the vicinity of the start.**

The primary responsibilities of the **Finish Referee** are:

1. Making sure that all rules for the organization of the finish and the in-run to the finish are observed.
2. Marking the finish line with a "coloring agent."
3. Supervising the Finish Controller and the timing personnel in the immediate finish area.
4. Supervising crowd control in the finish area.
5. Maintaining communication with the start area at all times.
6. Reporting to the Referee at the end of the race with the bib #'s and names of the competitors who did not finish.
7. Reporting to the Jury at the end of the race with the bib #'s and names of the competitors who did not observe the rules for the finish or committed other infringements.

The **Chief of Course** is responsible for supervising preparation and maintenance of the race hill, especially the track. *The Chief of Course is not a Jury member.*

The Chief of Course supervises the work of the Course Maintenance Workers/Crew. Inasmuch as the Chief of Course must be familiar with local snow conditions on the terrain concerned, this official is usually either a ski area employee or a qualified member of the local club.

Due to the rapidly changing nature of the sport, the sport's snow preparation and grooming requirements as well as the requirements involved in the choice and placement of on-hill security/protection measures, the duties of Chief of Course are best learned through mentorship and on-hill training with an experienced Chief of Course. ***Educational materials – including Study Guide and examination – are available for Chief of Course Clinics.***

### **“START STOP” AND ITS PROCEDURES**

The Technical Delegate is responsible for confirming that all Jury members, Eyes of the Jury, and Jury Advisors have reviewed “Start Stop” and “Start Stop Yellow Flag” procedures. ***ANY Jury member, Eyes of the Jury, or Jury Advisor MAY call a “Start Stop” when necessary to address critical situations; no other official is authorized to call a “Start Stop.” Failure to comply may result in a “radio walk-over,” and effectively impair the Start Referee’s ability to receive the transmission.***

**NOTE:** It is important that the Technical Delegate confer with the Chief of Race and respect area-specific race crew radio protocol, e.g., “Copy,” “Acknowledged,” or “Confirmed.”

1. The command “Start Stop!” is called via radio by a Jury member, Eyes of the Jury (a coach positioned at a yellow flag zone), or Jury Advisor when it is necessary to control the departure of the next racer – usually because the preceding racer has fallen, and the racer or racer’s equipment is blocking the course. When this command is issued, the Start Referee must immediately close the start.
2. The command “Start Stop Yellow Flag” is called via radio by the Jury member, Eyes of the Jury or Jury Advisor who called the “Start Stop” when it is necessary to control the departure of the next racer and also to “Yellow Flag” (stop) a racer who is already on course – again, because the preceding racer may have fallen, and the course may be blocked. When this command is issued, the Start Referee must immediately close the start.
3. The Start Referee must immediately, and in a concise manner, respond via radio:
  - a. That the start is closed.
  - b. Must state the start number of the last competitor to have started.
  - c. Must state the start number of the competitor being held at the start.

***Example: “Start Stop confirmed, number 23 on course, number 24 at the start.”***  
(Additional verbiage is discouraged because the Jury channel must be kept clear.)

4. When “Start Stop” or “Start Stop Yellow Flag” is called, Ski Patrol assigned to the event and in radio contact with the Jury, is on alert medical assistance may be required.
5. If the Jury/Eyes of the Jury/Jury Advisor call for medical assistance:
  - a. Ski Patrol assigned to the event first verifies course is clear, e.g., no racer is on course!
  - b. Once Ski Patrol assigned to the event has verified that it has a clear course, it responds to the call for medical assistance.

- c. SKI PATROL ASSIGNED TO THE EVENT - NOT COACHES / TRAINERS / OFFICIALS / PARENTS / OTHER COMPETITORS - ARE THE FIRST RESPONDERS!
6. The individual (Jury member, eyes of the Jury or Jury Advisor) who called the “Start Stop” or “Start Stop Yellow Flag” is responsible for releasing the course hold.
  7. The course is reopened at the direction of the Jury: either from top to bottom, bottom to top, or from the position where the incident requiring the “Start Stop” occurred.
  8. Prior to the start of an event, the Technical Delegate is responsible for confirming that all Jury members, Eyes of the Jury, and Jury Advisors have reviewed and are aware of “Start Stop” and “Start Stop Yellow Flag” procedures.

### **RADIO COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL**

The following protocol is intended for review and use as a working document to be enhanced and revised in an effort to promote the clearest, most expedited communication for races. The Technical Delegate should establish with the Organizing Committee who is ‘leading’ calls, or if they want the Technical Delegate to lead.

**Note:** *At some resorts, a “Course Clear” is controlled by the Chief of Race or Start Referee. This often depends on the level of experience these officials may or may not have. A long course hold generally requires a clear from the bottom up; a short one (gate/panel repair) may clear from the “start stop” position.*

#### **Course Clear**

##### **Example**

- Chief of Race - *“CR to the eyes of the Jury, clear the hill from the from the bottom up.”*
- Finish Referee - *“Finish Referee, clear”*
- Referee - *“Referee on coaches’ knoll, clear”*
- Technical Delegate - *“TD, clear on Upper Peak”*
- Start Referee - *“Start Referee, clear”*
- Chief of Race - *“CR to Start and Timing, course is clear, send the first forerunner (or next racer on next interval if this was a long hold). Out”*

**NOTE:** *Depending on circumstances, a clear from the bottom up should include Timing.*

#### **Start Stop NO YELLOW FLAG**

##### **Example (slalom event)**

- Technical Delegate - *“Start Stop”*
- Start Referee - *“Copy, Start Stop confirmed, number 33 on course, number 34 at the start”*
- Technical Delegate - *“This is the TD, racer 33 is a DNF, equipment blocking the course”*
- Start Referee - *“Copy”*
- Technical Delegate - *“Course clear, Start Start. (or resume Start) Clear to send #34, out”*
- Start Referee - *“Copy, Start Start, racer 34 in gate”*
- Start Referee - *“Racer 34 on course. Out”*

#### **Start Stop YELLOW FLAG**

**Example (GS or Speed Event)** Includes Jury Member/Eyes Jury/Jury Advisor

- Jury Member- *“Start Stop, Start Stop, Yellow Flag, @ (Identify Flag location, or the assigned Yellow Flag #)!!”*
- Start Referee - *“Copy, Start is stopped. Racer 56 on course, holding 57. Yellow flag 56!”*
- Eyes of Jury @ Yellow Flag location - *“Yellow Flag out, 56 is stopped. Racer 56 will return to start for a rerun.”*

If Medical is **not** required

- Jury Member - *“Racer 55 is a DNF. Continue hold for B-net/ course repair”*
- Start Referee - *“Copy, holding 57 at start for course repair.”*

If Medical **is** required - *“Medical required at (location).”*

- Start Referee - *“Medical notified; in route to (location).”*

After athlete is transported and repairs are complete

- Jury Member - *“Athlete being transported. Repair is complete. (location) is clear. Resume start.”*
- Start Referee - *“Confirm (location) is clear. Finish (or nearest exit location) please notify when medical exits the course.”*
- Finish Referee (or nearest exit location) - *“Medical is clear.”*
- Start Referee - *Confirm course is clear. Please clear from the finish up. Timing?” (Each Jury member/Eyes of the Jury/Jury Advisor clears their section moving up the hill.)*
- Start Referee - *“Start is clear, resuming with racer 57 on next interval.”*

### **OTHER NECESSARY AND PLANNED INTERRUPTIONS**

1. **Course Maintenance Hold:** Most course maintenance issues do not require a **“Start Stop.”** Depending on the type and level of event, a Jury may schedule course holds at regular intervals, e.g., after first seed or a predetermined number of starts. An exception is if a broken gate or other material poses a hindrance to competitors on the course. Otherwise, experienced race crew members operate within the competitors’ start intervals.

When it is necessary to have a hold for an extended period of time for course maintenance, the Chief of Course or another Jury member may inform the Start Referee to interrupt the race to complete the task. On fixed interval events, it is common to indicate the requested amount of time in terms of number of intervals: **“We will need a 4-interval hold for course maintenance.”**

2. **Timing Hold:** If required, a radio request for a timing hold is communicated by the Chief of Timing & Calculations to the Jury and the Start Referee. It is further communicated by radio to Jury positions along the course and by voice communication to those in the start area.

3. **Start Interval**

The designated start interval for “fixed interval” events GS/SG/DH is the time planned between consecutive starts of the forerunners and competitors. The start intervals are listed on the program as it is critical for course workers and officials to know when it is clear to work or communicate between racers. Changes to the start interval **MUST** be communicated over the Jury channel.

#### 4. Start Interval Changes

*Force majeure* may require changes to start intervals. Particularly in events where Start Lists were prepared using random seeding, competitors or Team Captains may request that the Start Referee increase the interval between individual competitor's starts. **All changes to** start intervals must be communicated via Jury radio, as required; e.g., Jury, Timing, Connection Coach(es), course crew.

#### 5. Finish Interval

A finish interval is a decision to start one racer after the completion of the run by the previous racer. The use of a finish interval, though not required, for the last few remaining athletes on the start list may help eliminate unnecessary delays by minimizing the interference of an athlete due to course issues occurring prior to their start.

#### 6. STOP START: Important Reminders

It is important to remember that "Stop Start" is called when necessary to address critical situations by:

- **ANY** Jury member
- **ANY** Eyes of the Jury (Connection Coach, Chief of Course)
- **ANY** Jury Advisor (Start Referee or Finish Referee)

No other official is authorized to call a "Start Stop." Failure to comply may result in a "radio walk-over," and effectively impair the Start Referee's ability to receive the transmission.

### THE TECHNICAL DELEGATE

The role of the Technical Delegate is multifaceted. The Technical Delegate is the single race official with the greatest responsibility for the proper conduct of a competition. Through their knowledge and experience, Technical Delegates are a positive contributor to an event. Technical Delegates are a counselor to the Organizing Committee, are charged with the supervision of the event, and are expected to make or assist in the making of decisions with regard to the application of the rules.

In addition, the objective of the Technical Delegate is to help the Organizing Committee conduct the best possible competition even under the worst possible conditions. Achieving this goal calls for foresight, preparation, organization, anticipation, and people skills.

The Technical Delegate should communicate with the organizers and arrive at the race site in due time to prepare fully. This preparation includes, but is not limited to:

1. Reviewing the homologation file to verify that suggestions for installation of the minimum on-hill competitor security/protection measures as noted in the Inspection Report have been met or are available for placement. (Jury may vote to add additional measures.)

**NOTE:** Homologation files are available for review on the following websites. These websites – not paper files, files posted on independent websites, or old documents – are the only valid sources for verification of a course homologation.

[media.us skiandsnowboard.org/CompServices/Homologation/](http://media.us skiandsnowboard.org/CompServices/Homologation/)

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

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

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

**NOTE:** A new inspection of an existing course (FIS or National) voids the previous homologation of an existing course.

2. Verifying that event liability insurance is in effect as evidenced by a properly executed/processed U.S. Ski & Snowboard Schedule Agreement.
3. Reviewing any operational procedures adopted by the resort that could affect the event.
4. Verifying that an Event Medical Plan appropriate for the level and type of competition is ready for review and acceptance by the Jury for distribution to Team Captains. *It is recommended that all Organizing Committees add the availability of "Stop the Bleed" packs to their medical plan.*
5. Locating the available first aid service and medical care facilities.
6. Verifying the actual location of on-hill Ski Patrol personnel, e.g., Ski Patrol stationed at the start are in the actual start area not just in the vicinity of the start area.
7. Inspecting the competition course(s) and checking on available competitor on-hill security/protection with the Organizer's representative, usually the Chief of Course and/or Chief of Race.
8. Reviewing projected weather forecast and establishing an alternate competition schedule, if required. *It recommended that Ski Patrol at resorts where there is avalanche potential, provide an Avalanche Control Report at the Team Captains' Meetings.*
9. Collaborating in the administrative and technical preparations, e.g., race result software and timekeeping requirements.
10. Verifying no athletes have been entered who require medical clearance due to suspected concussions.
11. Verifying athletes who are currently 18 years of age or older are "ACTIVE," not "PENDING." *(Critical for athletes who turn 18 after membership processing or during the competition season.)*
12. Verifying "Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy" (MAAPP) and SafeSport Code, has been reviewed and organizers are exercising due diligence regarding compliance.
13. Verifying appointed officials have current membership, applicable certification, and current update status. \*\*
14. Checking the official entry lists, including Seed Points, if applicable.
15. Checking on the availability of radios for the Jury.
16. Checking access to the start and verifying location of the lifts together with possible inconveniences and restrictions that may require alternate methods of transportation.

17. Checking all technical installations.
18. Taking part in Team Captains' meetings and Jury meetings.
19. Verifying that the Race Administrator is aware of the requirements regarding the preparation and control of Minutes, e.g., Team Captains' Meeting Minutes and Jury Minutes
20. Appointing the Referee and Assistant Referee, when applicable, and assisting in nomination of Course Setter(s).
21. For events using an approved Alternate Seeding System, clarifying the need for coaches/competitors to advise the Start Referee when an adjustment to competitors' consecutive start intervals may be required.

**\*\*For all U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events – both scored and non-scored, Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start & Finish Referee), Chief of Course, Course Setters, Chief of Timing & Calculations, and Race Administrator are required to be current, appropriately certified members of U.S. Ski & Snowboard as an Official or Coach/Official. *These officials must have also attended a yearly Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) or certification-specific Workshop (Technical Delegates and Race Administrators), prior to serving in any of these positions.***

*Unless an exception is granted (e.g., CAN-AM events), coaches must have current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach membership in order to be granted venue access and participate in any capacity, e.g., coaching on the hill, at a U.S. Ski & Snowboard event. The CAN-AM event exception applies to coaches accompanying foreign teams, and although it does allow race arena/venue access, it does not allow the coaches to serve on a Jury or set a course.*

Qualified members of foreign federations recognized by FIS must hold a valid U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership and, if required, appropriate certification, and update in order to take part in any capacity at a U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned non-FIS event.

For U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned FIS events, if a foreign FIS Federation lists a coach on their entry form, the Federation is certifying that the coach has the knowledge and ability to fulfill the duties of a Team Captain, e.g., serve as a Jury member or set a course. With this certification, the above individuals are considered to be “qualified members of a foreign federation recognized by FIS.”

**NOTE: U.S. Ski & Snowboard members whose status is “PENDING” on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website membership roster must not be granted venue access (lift ticket/credentials) or appointed to serve as Jury members, Jury Advisors, Chief of Course, or Course Setters. (Granting “venue access” may allow pending members to access the “race arena.”)**

22. Verifying the availability of a sufficient number of forerunners. Verifying the Forerunners are current “active” members of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, e.g., Competitor, Coach, Official, Volunteer, Master w/Requirements, non-scored Athlete, Short-Term Athlete, or General. *For FIS events, eligible forerunners who are not FIS inscribed must also complete the FIS Athlete Declaration; parent/legal guardian signature may be required.*

**NOTE: If no minor age athletes are participating in the event either as competitors or forerunners, Alpine Masters may also serve as forerunners.**

23. Verifying that the Organizing Committee is requiring age-eligible non-U.S. Ski & Snowboard member competition workers (e.g., Gate Judges, course maintenance workers, etc.), who are not area landowners or area employees performing within the scope of their normal duties, complete the “U.S. Ski & Snowboard Volunteer Competition Worker Release.” *Must be 18 years of age or older.*
24. Accompanied by the Jury, verifying that on-hill security/protection measures are in place
25. Being present in race area during the competition training and the actual competition.
26. Acting as Chairman of the Jury.

Technical Delegates represent the sanctioning organization and assist organizers with event preparation and conduct. (Technical Delegate’s Worksheets are available in the “Master Packet of Forms.”)

In completing required duties, the Technical Delegate might have to make decisions against the Organizers if it concerns enforcing the rules. The Technical Delegate should work with the Organizers in a helpful manner and take all points of view into consideration prior to making a decision. Therefore, the Technical Delegate is also responsible for:

1. Observing that the rules are followed and that race officials perform adequately in accomplishing their tasks.
2. Assisting the Jury in making decisions on situations not explicitly covered in the current rules when these situations have not already been addressed by the Jury and do not fall within the scope of other authorities. (e.g., an item is not addressed in the ACR or ICR but is addressed in the Specifications for Competition Equipment or the Rules of the FIS Points.)
3. Commenting on “local options” by ruling on their compatibility with the current rules, and reporting on any that are adopted for the event.
4. Checking to see that service personnel are properly identified and observing the rules as to their numbers, conduct, and access to the competitors and the race arena.
5. Taking definite action on violations of the rules with the courage to make unpopular decisions.
6. Avoiding influence on decisions by any particular individual or group.

Technical Delegates report on the race based on their observations throughout the competition. Therefore, it is necessary that the Technical Delegate:

1. Observe the preparation of Official Results and confirm their accuracy by signing them.
2. Calculate/verify competitors’ Race Points.
3. Calculate/verify the Official Penalty and confirm its accuracy by signing it.
4. Verify the accuracy of the race result XML file and its successful electronic transmission.

5. Work with the Chief of Timing & Calculations and verify that the Timing & Data Technical Report (TDTR) is accurately completed, and the XML file is successfully submitted.
6. Work with the Race Administrator and verify all paperwork listed in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Race Result Document Packet has been correctly prepared, signed, and submitted, e.g., Programs, Team Captains' Meeting Minutes, Jury Minutes, injury reports.

**NOTE: A U.S. First Report of Injury is required for all accidents/injuries regardless of the nationality of the injured party, regardless of whether or not the accident/injury occurred within the fenced race arena, and whether or not ski patrol transport was required. *This is an insurance carrier requirement.***

7. File a Report of the Technical Delegate with U.S. Ski & Snowboard approving the conduct of the race.

**NOTE:** U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical Delegates have liability insurance provided by U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Technical Delegates for all U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned (scored and non-scored), non-FIS events are entitled to a daily allowance of \$150 per travel/inspection/training/competition day plus expenses, including room, board, and transportation. This daily allowance, including expenses, is the responsibility of the Organizing Committee. FIS daily allowance may be calculated at a higher rate ("FIS TD Expense Report Form" in MPF).

FIS events allow for a FIS Technical Delegate's daily allowance of \$180 per travel/inspection/training/competition day. ***FIS Technical Delegates assigned to U.S. Ski & Snowboard non-FIS events are only entitled to U.S. Ski & Snowboard daily allowance of \$150.00 per travel/inspection/training/competition day. However, if a non-FIS event specifically requires assignment of a FIS Technical Delegate, e.g., Championship events, the FIS daily allowance may be claimed.***

### **THE FIS TECHNICAL DELEGATE**

In an effort to achieve worldwide uniformity in all aspects of alpine ski racing, FIS initiated the issuance of FIS Technical Delegate designation. Anyone wishing to become a FIS Technical Delegate should review the requirements as found in the current ICR as well as the information found in the current edition of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide.

FIS Technical Delegates have event liability insurance coverage provided by FIS and by U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Daily allowance and expenses, including room, board, and transportation, are the responsibility of the Organizing Committee. With the exception of Continental Cup and World Cup events, North American (CAN and USA) FIS Technical Delegates *officiating at FIS events in North America* are entitled to a different daily allowance/expense reimbursement scale than that outlined in the FIS ICR.

### **ASSIGNMENT OF TECHNICAL DELEGATES**

The Technical Delegate acts as the representative of U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or FIS. For U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned non-FIS events, a U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical Delegate Working Group representative in each Region/Division appoints the Technical Delegates. For FIS events, the FIS Technical Delegate Working Group representative in the respective area appoints the FIS Technical Delegates. For Nor-Am Cup events (Continental Cup), this appointment process is accomplished in cooperation with Canada. These nominations are then presented to the USA FIS Technical Delegate Commissioner.

Technical Delegates are not assigned by the host organization\* except under extraordinary circumstances (*force majeure*) and only with the approval of the responsible Alpine Official Committee representative.

**\*NOTE:** *If an Organizing Committee uses an online officials' registration system, (e.g., Google docs, Dropbox), the position of "Technical Delegate" must not be included. Unless force majeure exists, assignment of this official must remain with the appropriate Region/Division representative.*

### **THE TECHNICAL DELEGATE AND LOCAL OPTIONS**

Under their responsibility for upholding and interpreting the rules, the Technical Delegates will be called upon to comment on proposed variations or local options and to rule on their compatibility with the applicable U.S. Ski & Snowboard or FIS regulations. Furthermore, Technical Delegates must report to U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or FIS on any variation and the effect of such options. In considering a proposed option, the Technical Delegate should weigh the option against the following guidelines:

1. Does the option go beyond the inherent risks of the sport?
2. If additional on-hill competitor security/protection is required, is it available?
3. Does it maintain the spirit and intent of the actual rules?
4. Does it avoid giving any undue advantage?
5. Does it maintain the relative value of racing performance and the U.S./FIS Points?
6. Is it consistent with modern skiing standards?
7. Can it be realistically carried out and/or enforced?
8. Is it understandable to the concerned public so that good public relations may be maintained?
9. Is it advantageous or necessary (not merely convenient to Organizers or a particular group)?
10. All things considered favorably, when summing up - is the Technical Delegate willing to go on record in written reports as having approved a deviation from the rules?

There are several noteworthy "local options" that will appear frequently:

1. Quotas - automatics, additional invitations, quotas - information may be found in the current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide.
2. Junior Championships entries - information may be found in current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide or in applicable Region/Division policies and procedures.
3. Alternate Seeding Systems, e.g., TRS, Turton Method, Golden Rule seeding, Junior Championship seeding. Information may be found in the current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide and on applicable Region/Division websites and/or in applicable handbooks.
4. Ski area requirements, such as lift privileges, foot traffic on lifts, etc.

## **THE “IDEAL” TECHNICAL DELEGATE**

The “ideal” Technical Delegate is an honest, well-mannered, and diplomatic person enjoying leadership qualities that, with the assistance of the Jury, enable the Technical Delegate to:

1. Observe and grasp the state of the organization and the event
2. Judge arising situations quickly and correctly
3. Order appropriate and timely measures
4. Make clear decisions
5. Give clear and well thought out directions
6. Consider how to decide or react to circumstances that may arise
7. Coach/teach/advise others in order to assist in improvement of their skills
8. Manage well the use of information technology in order to conduct the required administrative duties

This list above shows that the ‘Ideal’ Technical Delegate simply does not exist! We are all human and we all make mistakes – but we learn from them. However, when confronted with new or unfamiliar situations, experience may often minimize the extent of an error so that it goes unnoticed by outsiders. (Memorandum for the Technical Delegate, FIS Office; 2020.)