



ALPINE  
OFFICIALS'  
MANUAL

This publication is dedicated  
to all  
Alpine Officials -  
past, present, and future;  
to all  
who have contributed to this Manual in the past;  
and to all  
who will contribute in the future.

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U.S. Ski & Snowboard  
1 Victory Lane  
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**U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD**  
**ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL**  
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R.I.P.  
DAVID EMMETT STAPLETON  
APRIL 17, 1934 – DECEMBER 10, 2020

*Although people may forget his name, his contributions to the alpine community will live on in every event.*

# UNITED STATES SKI ASSOCIATION

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November, 1983

Upon the publication of this Manual, it is my belief that the statement of responsibility of the Alpine Officials' Committee will, in fact, become true.

The statement as presently written is "to train and certify officials in all categories and work to upgrade the quality of officiating on a continuing basis."

In the past, we all have done an excellent job within our own areas of expertise and regions - but - never has there been a true national guide which brings all officials together. Many discussions have been held on why do we not have a Manual - a way to let the people in Alaska to have the same knowledge as the people in Maine or New York. We now have that Manual. It may not be the best, nor as complete as we would like, but it is a start. The Manual has been designed by officials for officials. It is not designed just for the East or West or South but for all. The Manual is not designed in a permanent form. It is designed for amendment, change and free of form. As our charge or function states "upgrades the quality on a continual basis" that is the design of the Manual.

My sincere thanks to the many people who labored long and hard to make this Manual a reality and may it never grow old in design.

Sincerely,

DAVID STAPLETON  
National Alpine Officials' Committee



P.O. BOX 100  
1500 KEARNS BLVD  
PARK CITY, UT 84060  
(801) 649-9090  
FAX 801 649-3613/TELEX: 9109715169

# U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

## OBJECTIVES in the ORGANIZATION and EXECUTION of a SKI RACE

COURSES:	Legal Consistent Fair for all competitors
COMPETITORS:	Qualified Properly seeded Controlled
TIMING:	Accurate Posted promptly
DOCUMENTATION:	According to specifications Accurate and timely
THE RACE:	Commonly classified by ability and performance Starts and continues on schedule Fair for all competitors Enjoyed by the competitors
PROCEDURES:	Reasonably consistent from one race to another!
RULES:	No unfair advantage. Each competitor has the opportunity to compete in a secure environment and on a course that is proper and fair!

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALPINE OFFICIALS**

Many ski areas have established professional race departments, however there are still many Alpine Officials who are volunteers and who give freely of their time, ability, and resources in support of ski racing. Whether professional or volunteer, high standards of judgment and competency are expected of all U.S. Ski & Snowboard member Alpine Officials as they represent the organization at all events.

The hallmarks of good officials are consideration, promptness, accuracy, firmness, and justice that are tempered by tact. Any actions taken or behavior exhibited reflects on the whole of the organized sport.

Alpine Officials must remain active and up to date and act in a professional manner. Each official is charged with seeing that the rules governing the sport and their respective specialty areas are followed in a fair and consistent manner without becoming involved in nitpicking over particular procedures. They must exercise reasonable judgment and discretion and insist upon compliance on major issues, including but not limited to: membership and entry requirements, on-hill competitor security, and timekeeping while being willing to compromise on minor ones.

Alpine Officials should use restraint in their dealings, suggesting rather than ordering, and using tact and persuasion rather than force or bluster. A successful event - one that is fair for all competitors - requires knowledge, experience, and teamwork.

Alpine Officials represent U.S. Ski & Snowboard to the ski area, sponsoring club, competitors, Team Captains (coaches), parents, and the public. Their words and behavior should be tempered to create the best possible impression of fairness, competence, and restraint thereby assuring rewarding and enjoyable competition experiences for all.

### **MAJOR BENEFITS for ALPINE OFFICIALS**

To freeze to death in inclement weather  
at inconvenient times in absurd locations

So as to be subject to the accumulated demands  
of coaches, competitors, and parents

Then to face heavy traffic  
in blinding snow storms and dark nights

And arrive home three hours late

But secure in the knowledge that:  
A secure environment was provided for all, and  
the competitors had a good and fair event!!!