



ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

CHAPTER X

COACHES AS OFFICIALS

SEASON 2026

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OVERVIEW

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

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

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

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

Competitors 18 years of older who have not completed required SafeSport training and background screening within the allowed time frame will be moved to “PENDING” status and will not be allowed to participate in any U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event – either as a competitor or a forerunner - until “active” status is renewed.

For U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned FIS events: The requirements listed above also apply to USA officials at FIS events. If a foreign FIS Federation lists a coach on their entry form, the Federation is verifying that the coach has the knowledge and the ability to fulfill the duties of a Team Captain, e.g., serve as a Jury member or set a course. With this verification, the named coaches are recognized as being “qualified members of a foreign federation recognized by FIS.”

Failure to observe requirements for U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events will jeopardize an event's liability insurance.

RESPONSIBILITIES AT AN ALPINE COMPETITION

The coach has three main responsibilities at an alpine competition:

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

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

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROJECT A PROFESSIONAL IMAGE

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

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

RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMPETITORS

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

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

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

2. **RULES:** Each coach has the responsibility to assure their competitors know, understand, and abide by all U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or FIS rules that pertain to the event. The coach should:
 - a. Be well versed on the rules and communicate the rules to the competitors.
 - b. Make sure pertinent rulebooks are part of the race day equipment.
 - c. Make sure competitors follow the rules.
 - d. Set a good example by following and enforcing the rules and demonstrating an appreciation for them. *Coaches who do not observe the rules or who are engaged in obvious manipulation of the Official Results and Penalty may be sanctioned. In addition, suspected penalty manipulation may result in an event not being scored until it can be fully reviewed.*

e. Accept the responsibility to assure all competitors follow the same rules and standards.

3. **RACE SCHEDULES AND REGULATIONS:** A coach must know the event schedule and ski area requirements. They are required to share this information with their competitors in order to enable the competitors to understand and observe them:
- Read all pre-event information – this includes, but is not limited to Event Fact Sheet and Event Medical Plan.
 - Attend Team Captains' Meetings.
 - Attend all course inspections: Jury's course inspection and competitors' course inspection.
 - Check Official Notice Board for Report by the Referee* and other updates.
 - Relay event information/Jury instructions to competitors.
 - See that rules are enforced, especially in regard to competitors' security/protection.

* Report by the Referee must be reviewed regardless of a coaches' belief in competitors' status

4. **ATHLETE REPRESENTATION:** A coach represents their athletes at all formal race activities (Team Captains' Meetings, Jury Meetings, etc.):
- Check event entries prior to Team Captains' Meeting.
 - Check Seed Board for proper points and/or seeding.
 - Check Report by the Referee for DNS's, DNF's, and especially DSQ's after each run.
 - Advise and assist competitors with requests for provisional starts/provisional reruns, as required.
 - Advise and assist competitors with Protest(s), as required.
 - Represent competitor(s) at Jury Meetings, as required.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE EVENT ORGANIZERS AND RACE OFFICIALS

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

1. **JURY:** Each coach should be qualified and willing to serve as Referee or Assistant Referee as needed:
- Have current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach Membership (includes Official Membership), Referee certification, current update status, and should review provided educational materials.
 - Keep current on the rules by attending Officials' and Coaches' Continuing Education* Clinics.
 - Know, understand, and abide by the responsibilities of the Referee.
 - Fulfill all reporting requirements.

* **NOTE:** Sport Education CE (continuing education) completion is separate from required yearly attendance at an Alpine Officials' Continuing Education (Update & Review). Attendance at both is required.

2. **COURSE SETTER:** Each coach should be qualified and willing to serve as a Course Setter as needed:
- Know current course setting specifications and adhere to them.
 - Work with Jury and organizers.
 - Be prepared with needed equipment; e.g., drill, wrench.
 - Respect existing competitor protection measures, course preparation, and ability of participating competitors.
 - Take speed into consideration and set a fair and legal course.

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

U.S. SPORT EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

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

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD COACHES' CERTIFICATION STRUCTURE

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

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 screening or SafeSport course processes, please contact membership@usskiandsnowboard.org.

Coaches' membership requirements also require completion of Avalanche Awareness and Coaching Fundamentals courses.

Coach Certification Requirement

All presently non-certified coach members are required to begin their pursuit of Level 100 Certification and must earn it in full within two years. Beginning Season 2026, "Active" or "In Progress" Coach Certification will be 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. We will be setting up “assessment” sessions around the country where our new National Faculty will determine the certification of the coaches. This certification process will be significantly shorter than the previous process by focusing on what coaches need to know and be able to do on-snow with their athletes, and then supporting them with an extensive array of professional development opportunities they can pursue to improve their coaching.

Continuing Education Requirement

If a coach presently holds a current certification, it will still be considered “current” going into next season. To maintain that certification, 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 Clinic (Update & Review) is required in order to retain Alpine Officials’ Certification.*

For more information about coach education and certification, contact the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education office at (435) 647-2050 or email education@usskiandsnowboard.org. You may also find information on the US Ski and Snowboard Sport Education Academy at academy.usskiandsnowboard.org/page/6335/coach-certification-information

INTRODUCTION TO AVALANCHES COURSE

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

Coach and Junior Coach members are required to complete the Introduction to Avalanches Course in order to activate membership. Other requirements such as SafeSport Training, background screening, and Coaching Fundamentals may also apply.

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership applications or renewals are filed online using the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Membership Tool. The procedure is:

1. Apply for or renew your membership online at usskiandsnowboard.org. Create (new members) or access your “User Account” and select all requested memberships, e.g., Coach/Official, Competitor – Alpine, U.S. Ski & Snowboard Club Volunteer, U.S. Ski & Snowboard Club Participant, Snowboard, Freestyle, Masters, etc.

NOTE: Athletes who will turn 18 during the competition season must create their own membership account. Junior Coaches must also create their own membership account.

2. All members must review and accept “Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability.” (Read carefully before accepting.)
3. All members must review and accept “Athlete Safety & Legal Acknowledgements”. (Read carefully before accepting.)
4. All members must review and accept “U.S. Ski & Snowboard’s Concussion Policy and Action Plan”.
5. All members must provide primary medical/accident insurance information.
6. Site will provide membership fee total.
7. Credit card holder must provide current credit card information.
8. Member will be directed to DocuSign site to e-sign releases and acknowledgements.
9. Upon receipt and processing of an application, if either background screening and/or SafeSport training (after initial training, yearly refresher is required are required, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will direct you to a link that will initiate the required process; you may also be contacted via email with instructions on how to proceed. Until all requirements are met, “PENDING” will be noted on your membership dashboard. Failure to complete requirements in a timely manner will result in membership being inactivated.
10. Until “PENDING” status is cleared and full membership status is in effect, a Coach or Official must not be granted race arena/venue access or allowed to participate in any capacity at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event, e.g., appointed to serve as a Jury member, Jury Advisor (Start/Finish Referee), Chief of Course, Course Setter, Race Administrator, Chief of Timing & Calculations. *Coaches who are shown as “PENDING” are also not allowed to serve as an on-hill coach. Competitors who are shown as “PENDING” must not be allowed to compete or forerun in an event.*

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD BACKGROUND SCREENING

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

Background rescreening will be required every two (2) years for all U.S. Ski & Snowboard employees, coaches, competitors over 18 years of age, and officials. Approximately 1/2 of the membership will be re-screened during any one-year period with the remaining rescreening completed during the next one-year period.

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

SAFESPORT TRAINING

U.S. Federal Law requires that adults who have frequent contact with, or who are in positions of authority over athletes, must receive consistent education on prevention and reporting of all allegations of sexual misconduct, bullying, hazing, and abuse of all forms. This impacts all U.S. Ski & Snowboard member clubs, coaches, officials, competitors 18 years of age and older, and Club Volunteer members.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership is not required prior to initiating SafeSport Training. However, individuals are encouraged to include their U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership number and affiliate with U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

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

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

After applying for/renewing your U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership, if SafeSport training was not completed in advance, use the following instructions:

1. Follow link provided during membership application/renewal or included in SafeSport email notification sent by U.S. Ski & Snowboard.
2. Affiliate account with U.S. Ski & Snowboard and enter your 7-digit membership number. *Do not include your alpha Division designation.*
3. Choose the learning dashboard under your name (on left) and begin the required course/refresher.
4. Complete each required module of the course; all required modules must be completed to earn certificates.

Due to length of this course, an applicant may choose to complete one module at a time. They may log in and out at their convenience.

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