



UNITED STATES SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

2011-2012

INTRODUCTION	I/ 2/11-12
OBJECTIVES OF THIS MANUAL	I/ 2/11-12
STANDARDS AND UNIFORMITY	I/ 2/11-12
MAJOR TOPICS AND COMMENTS	I/ 5/11-12
ALPINE OFFICIALS' EDUCATION	I/ 5/11-12
A NOTE ABOUT THE MANUAL	I/ 5/11-12

INTRODUCTION

A worthwhile competition must be legal, fair and consistent with prescribed standards and rules that define eligibility as well as the conduct and execution of the competition. Standards and rules are not designed to stand as obstacles; they have been created for the protection and security of the competitors, their Team Captains, officials and spectators as well as for the good of the sport.

Alpine Officials are trained and are ready to work as members of a team as they organize and produce ski races for the benefit of the competitors and their Team Captains. Whether the competitors are Olympic-bound or are seeking the satisfaction of competition as a form of recreational skiing, Alpine Officials appreciate the opportunity to make a useful contribution.

One of our senior officials once said that races should be held in the springtime because "we're all experts by then!" In other words, with the accumulated experience of a winter's officiating behind us, we could - on very short notice - gather a group of officials and "put on" an excellent event with no mistakes. In September, after vacations, involvement in other sports and involvement in our personal lives, even the most conscientious officials need to continue their education by updating their knowledge and understanding of the rules and procedures as well as by refreshing their skills.

It is important that the reader realize that although the information contained in this Manual can be used to organize and officiate at any race level, it is primarily intended as a guide for those who are organizing and officiating at races that are sanctioned by the United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) and/or the International Ski Federation (FIS). This Manual should be used in conjunction with the current editions of the USSA Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR), the International Ski Competition Rules (ICR) and its current Precisions, and other pertinent rulebooks published by USSA and/or the FIS Bureau. This Manual contains USSA mandates, but is not intended to supersede the current editions of any USSA and/or FIS official publications.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS MANUAL

The objectives of this Manual are to serve as a guide to those intending to organize and administer a USSA-sanctioned alpine ski race. This Manual, if used properly, will encourage uniformity in the interpretation and implementation of rules and procedures involved in organizing and officiating at a race. It not only helps to train novices but also assists experts with review.

STANDARDS AND UNIFORMITY

Race Organizers and race officials may not always have the resources to follow an "ideal" procedure. However, if they are knowledgeable about what should be done, they can improvise and produce an outcome that is proper, legal, accurate, timely, etc., whether at entry-level (YSL) or Nor-Am (Continental Cup) events.

In attempting to achieve uniformity in our races, we must recognize that any true sport does not boast local variations. It demands standards and uniformity for the competitors, Team Captains and the benefit of the spectators. To this end, this Manual offers suggestions and guidelines based upon the experiences of many Alpine Officials. These elements may be modified according to the human and material resources of a sponsoring organization.

Any club, race site or region/division can add its own supplementary notes and details for local operations. However, the goal of USSA and the FIS Bureau is to minimize provincial differences relative to policies and to eliminate such differences in the application of rules. Procedural specifications should be viewed in the light of what is ultimately required as "output" rather than as an insistence upon how that result is achieved.

Lack of knowledge, failure to anticipate a situation and failure to follow instructions can create difficulties, problems and unpleasant situations. It is important to know the differences between and keep in mind the following:

ESSENTIAL VERSUS DESIRABLE
CORRECT VERSUS INCORRECT
PREFERRED VERSUS ACCEPTABLE

The sport of ski racing was not "invented." It developed and has been refined over a period of more than a hundred years. Its rules and procedures have come from experience and judgment, reaction to technical development in equipment and consideration of external influences such as extended start intervals to allow for television coverage.

USSA and FIS, in attempting to evaluate the hundreds of competitions each year, require that every sanctioned event be properly reported and that two items be observed: first that the technical aspects of the race conform to the current rules and second that the documentation of the race be consistent.

Rules and standards continue to change to reflect internal resolve and external influences. We should recognize the rationale for change and appreciate the process by which large legislative bodies such as USSA and FIS consider means of improving the sport. We should commit ourselves not only to keeping our knowledge of these rules and standards current but also to abiding by them.

Uniformity in procedures and in the implementation of the rules eases the burden of anxiety on competitors, Team Captains and visiting officials. Also, standard procedures minimize the risk of mistakes and facilitate the operations of a race.

By "uniformity" we do not mean that all timekeeping crews and Race Administrators should operate in exactly the same manner. We do mean there should be uniformity in the interpretation and application of the rules as presented in the current USSA ACR, the FIS ICR and its current Precisions. There should also be uniformity in procedures seen by the competitors and their Team Captains as well as uniformity in the documentation and reporting of the event.

Certain aspects are well defined. These include composition of the Jury and its rights and duties, minimums and maximums for course dimensions, definition of correct gate passage, eligibility of competitors and rules for sanction. Areas where rules are few or are not specific include Race Administration, the sanction that should be applied for a specific offense and the use of chemicals in the preparation of the course.

- The **Draw**, whether "double draw" or computer-generated draw, must be conducted according to approved procedures.
- According to USSA and FIS rules, the draw must be conducted (or confirmed) at a Team Captains' Meeting. An actual meeting, attended in person by Team Captains, Jury, and race

officials is an inseparable and mandatory part of the competition and is important for communication of Jury instructions, support of the ROC, as well as conveying ROC requests and information. It is also a critical element for risk management and liability-related matters.

With the approval of the Jury and at a time and place announced to all Team Captains, and where a computer-assisted Draw has been approved or is not required (e.g. YSL where TRS by class and gender is used to determine the start order), an informational meeting is still required but may be held either early in the morning prior to a race or immediately after the completion of a race for the next day's race.

For all Team Captains' Meetings for all USSA-sanctioned events - both scored and non-scored, and regardless of where and when they occur, an Attendance List must be available and signed by everyone attending the meeting and Meeting Minutes must be generated and must be included in the submitted race result packet.

- The Jury may authorize a computer-generated draw for USSA non-FIS events; FIS events, however, require the consent of all Team Captains as indicated with signatures on the entry forms.
- Electronic seed/draw boards must have the capability to simultaneously and legibly display the entire competition field. Simultaneous display of all competitors allows all Team Captains and officials to verify the overall accuracy as well as additions and deletions to the starting order in “real time”. *Using the race result software to display portions of the competition field is not acceptable.*
- Start and Finish procedures must be according to current rules.
- Surface of the course should be as well prepared for the last competitor as it is for the first.
- Venue should be race ready on the first day of training or competition. This includes, but is not limited to availability of all required officials – including Start Referee, Finish Referee, medical personnel, Gate Judges and manual timekeepers.
- Inspection of the course, by the competitors and Team Captains must be consistently legal and proper.
- The procedure for posting disqualifications and the handling of Protests must be uniform.
- Team Captains must be given advance notice if announcement of DSQ information will replace actual posting of Report by Referee.
- Competitors' times must be accurate.
- Official Results must be correct as published and reported according to current standards.

There has been a concerted effort to achieve greater uniformity in the rules and documentation pertaining to alpine ski racing as imposed by USSA and the FIS Bureau. A major focus of this effort has been to place greater emphasis on the role of the Jury as the official representatives of USSA and/or FIS. Also, the use of computers and the volume of both paper copy and electronic documentation that is required for a race have stimulated standards for documentation.

MAJOR TOPICS AND COMMENTS

Whether you are an organizer or a visiting official, it seems natural to begin with an understanding of organized ski racing as a reminder of where your race belongs in the national and international structure.

The objective has been to produce a Manual that serves as a beginning for meeting the needs of our Alpine Officials. Suggestions and comments regarding this Manual should be sent to the current Chair(s) of the Alpine Officials' Education Working Group as listed on the USSA website.

It is through the contributions of many interested and involved officials that this Alpine Officials' Manual exists. It is through the efforts of all of us that it will remain a current and valid resource.

ALPINE OFFICIALS' EDUCATION

Alpine Official educational materials are updated yearly and are distributed on compact disks to regional offices and designated Alpine Officials' Clinic Organizers for further duplication and distribution to those persons actually conducting the Clinics. The material contains a yearly Review & Update that is used in the continuing education of Alpine Officials, certification-specific Study Guides, Study Problems (if applicable), Jury Problems (if applicable), a variety of Power Point presentations, and where required, an appropriate examination and examination key. Materials are also provided for a Timing Workshop to assist in the instruction of installation and operation of timing equipment and software; the Workshop, however, is not intended to replace the Basic Timing & Calculations (1) or Advanced Timing & Calculations (3) Clinics.

Study Guides are posted on USSA website, <http://www.ussa.org> as an aid in education and review for individuals interested in alpine officiating. Downloading, printing and reading the Study Guide must not be substituted for actual attendance at a USSA-approved Clinic or used as a replacement for actual instruction at any USSA-approved Clinic.

A NOTE ABOUT THE MANUAL

Any reference to an Alpine Official with the use of the male pronoun is not meant to imply any disrespect for female Alpine Officials.