

UNITED STATES SKI & SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

2008-2009 UPDATE & REVIEW – ALPINE

The United States Ski and Snowboard Association's Alpine Sports Committee has ratified competition regulations for domestic alpine ski racing. These regulations are adopted from the FIS ICR, but are specific to USSA competitions. The Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR) are updated annually, are published in the current Alpine Competition Guide and are available at www.ussa.org. *The FIS International Competition Regulations (ICR) and adjuncts shall govern any and all issues not addressed therein.*

For all events scheduled by USSA as FIS events, *only* the rules of the FIS apply. In cases that are not addressed by the ACR for USSA events or by the ICR for FIS events, or in cases where the rules must be interpreted, the authority for making such decisions will rest with the Competition Jury.

It is the responsibility of every official, coach and competitor to *know and understand* the rules for the sport. These rules include, but are not limited to, current editions and "Precisions" of the FIS ICR, USSA ACR, and the appropriate supplemental rules, such as Rules for the Alpine Continental Cups, World Cup Rules and Rules of the FIS Points. The following pages contain a review and clarification of existing USSA and FIS rules. An overview of major rule changes is also included; this overview, however, does not contain all rule changes.

GENERAL REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION – USSA AND FIS:

1. **USSA ACR:** Rules are numbered to mirror, where possible, FIS ICR numbering. "U" preceding the rule number identifies USSA exceptions to ICR rules; the "U" is a part of the rule number.
2. **ONLINE RACE REGISTRATION:** Some areas are using online race registration procedures. If an area is using this process for an event, hard copies of FIS Entry Form must still be submitted. If the online race registration process produces an actual race file that can be downloaded directly into race result software, the accuracy of the downloaded data must still be verified against the official source.
3. **RACE RESULT SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS:**
 - a) Verify that you are using an up-to-date version of the software.
 - b) Delete previous seasons' Points Lists.
 - c) Store previous seasons' races on an external storage device (CD or thumb drive).
 - d) If software "freezes", verify that you do not have an excessive number of programs running in the background. If you do have additional programs open, start shutting them down until your software starts responding again.

Key CTRL+ALT+DEL and a TASK MANAGER window will appear. Click the "Applications" tab for a list of running programs; select individual open programs and select "END TASK". A new box will appear that lists the program as not responding and allows you the option to shut it down. After shutting down other programs, if the race result software is still not responding, use the same procedure and shut it down. You should then be able to successfully reopen the software.

If the software is still not responsive, shut it down and, using either CTRL+ALT+DEL again or the RESTART function, reboot the computer. The rebooting function should solve remaining issues. If RESTART or CTRL+ALT+DEL are not allowing you to reboot the computer, your next option is to power off and restart the computer. A "hard" powering off, however—pressing the power button until the computer shuts down, should be used only as a last resort. A "hard" powering off is the equivalent of dropping a phonograph needle directly onto a phonograph record. (If you don't know what a phonograph is, Google it!)

- e) If it is necessary to load a corrected Points List, accessing USSA's ftp points list site and reloading the lists will not be adequate. When you request a download, the ftp site checks your computer, recognizes that the list is already loaded and does not overwrite the previous points list file; you must delete the original version.
- f) When deleting points lists, it is important to remember that the lists may be stored in more than one area.
 - 1) If not sure of actual storage locations, use "SEARCH" function, identify actual storage locations and delete the lists.
 - 2) For USSA Race Software (Split Second), use the "online load points list" option and load required list only when the USSA ftp site says the list is not already loaded.

- 3) After reloading required lists, refresh competitors' points and verify them against the appropriate source.
- 4) If you are having problems retrieving both USSA and FIS data for the same competitor, rekey the competitor's last name.
- g) It is strongly suggested that Snow Seed designations be removed from the race file immediately after they start or if the Jury decides that they will not start.
4. **SKI UP** is not intended to be used by groups of athletes. It is intended for use only by those exceptional athletes who might benefit from a higher level of competition. Ski up must be authorized in advance by USSA and *it is not valid for FIS events*.
5. **EVENTS AND DISCIPLINES:** Downhill, Super G, Giant Slalom, Slalom and Super Combined are "events"; Alpine, Cross Country, Snowboard, Freestyle, etc., are "disciplines".
6. **RACE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Website postings of Race Announcements should be in an easily downloadable format; hml and html formats are not user friendly; PDF format is preferred. Decision as to whether or not an ROC will accept on-site entries should be included in the Race Announcement.
7. **PER DIEM FOR USSA TD'S AND USSA COURSE INSPECTORS:** In addition to normal expenses, e.g. meals, lifts, lodging, transportation, etc., a per diem of \$50 per travel/inspection/training/competition day has been approved for USSA Technical Delegates at USSA-scored events. Please forward a copy of USSA Technical Delegate's expense form to: Dr. Robert G. Calderwood; 10267 South Hopi Lane, Goodyear, AZ 85338. The \$50/day per diem also applies to USSA Course Inspectors. *Please note that FIS Course Inspectors and FIS Technical Delegates are entitled to a higher per diem amount.*
8. **ATHLETE REPRESENTATION:** An athlete must be 18 or older in order to represent themselves at an event.
9. **APPOINTMENT OF REFEREE AND ASSISTANT REFEREES:** Appointment of Referee and Assistant Referee *is the responsibility of the Technical Delegate*. This appointment is from among the most qualified, appropriately certified (Referee) individuals present. Inasmuch as these individuals are the competitors' representatives on the Jury, however, whenever possible, coaches should serve as the Referee and Assistant Referee.
10. **REFEREE, ASSISTANT REFEREE AND COURSE SETTER CERTIFICATION:** For scored-USSA events, these officials must be USSA-certified Referees. For USSA-sanctioned FIS events, when 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: i.e. serve as a Jury member or set a course.
11. **FORERUNNERS--JURY MEMBERS AND COMPETITORS:** It is an important obligation of the ROC to provide the appropriate number of qualified forerunners for an event. Not having sufficient qualified forerunners is grounds for the Jury to delay, postpone or even cancel an event--particularly a speed event. Using a Jury member as a Forerunner is not acceptable. In addition, Forerunners are required to meet all of the requirements for the competition and are not permitted to have started or be listed on the start list as competitors in an event.
12. **START AND FINISH REFEREES:** The Start and Finish Referee must remain at the start and finish *from the beginning of the official inspection time until the end of a training/event*. The Start Referee reports to the Referee the names of the competitors who did not start and informs the Jury of all infringements against the rules, such as false or late starts or violations against the rules for equipment. The Start Referee must ensure that reserve bibs are at the start. (601.3.3) The Finish Referee reports to the Referee the names of the competitors who did not finish and informs the Jury of all infringements against the rules. (601.3.4)
13. **JURY INSPECTION:** Jury must inspect course set and final installation of on-hill competitor security measures. Jury Minutes must be generated to document this inspection and approval.
14. **COMPETITORS' COURSE INSPECTION:** The courses must be set and ready *in time* so that the competitors are not disturbed by course workers during course inspection (603.7.4 applies to all events).
15. **HELMETS:** Helmets are compulsory for all USSA and FIS alpine events. Helmets used in FIS events shall bear a CE mark and conform to recognized and appropriate standards such as CEH. Din 1077. ASTM F2040. SNELL S98 or RS98 etc. *Please refer to current USSA and FIS rules for additional information.*
16. **COMPETITOR'S OFFICIAL TIME:** Time is taken when a competitor crosses the finish line and triggers the beam between the finish cells. (611.3.1) Rules do not allow a competitor who misses a gate adjacent to the finish

line, crosses the finish line and triggers a finish to hike up and complete passage of the missed gate. Disqualification of the competitor is mandatory under these circumstances.

17. **DUE PROCESS:** Due process is "the conduct of legal 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 the athlete a full and complete opportunity to present his or her side of the case before imposing any sanction including disqualification. Failure to allow due process will open the decision to appeal.
18. **HOMOLOGATION INSPECTION REPORT:** This document contains the inspector's *minimum* recommendations regarding placement of on-hill security/protection installations. A Jury may find that, due to existing conditions and/or course set, additional measures may be required.
19. **VERTICAL DROP MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING:** Technical Delegates must physically verify the actual vertical drop of a race course with GPS, altimeter or topographic map. They must verify that the vertical drop, as noted on all required USSA/FIS documentation, is correct.
20. **DOWNHILL EVENT PREPARATION:** An organizer is required to have the entire venue race-ready by the first day of official training. This includes, but is not limited to, availability of Forerunners and all required officials--including Start Referee, Finish Referee, medical personnel, Gate Judges and manual (hand) timekeepers.
21. **PROVISIONAL RUNS:** Any competitor who is granted a "provisional" start or run must be reminded of its provisional nature. Granting a "run"/"start" and not clarifying its "provisional" nature will not allow the Jury to address the validity of the competitor's request. Only the Jury can validate a provisional run.
22. **USSA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:**
 - a) **USSA-SANCTIONED NON-FIS EVENTS:** Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start & Finish Referees), Chief of Course and Course Setters are required to be *participant members of USSA* as a Coach or Official. Competitors are required to have an appropriate competitor's USSA participant membership. Forerunners must have an appropriate USSA participant membership: competitor, master, student or youth. "*Participant members*" are those whose membership application required that they sign the "USSA Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability". USSA Associate members are not "participant members". Qualified members of foreign federations recognized by FIS must hold a valid USSA membership in order to take part in any capacity at a USSA-sanctioned non-FIS event.
 - b) **USSA-SANCTIONED FIS EVENTS:** Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start & Finish Referees), Chief of Course and Course Setters are required to be *participant members of USSA* as a Coach or Official *or must be qualified members of foreign federations recognized by FIS*. Competitors are required to be FIS inscribed. Age-eligible USSA participant members who are **not** FIS inscribed and who are serving as Forerunners **must** sign the "FIS Athlete's Declaration"; *FIS Technical Delegate, may choose to use only current FIS members as Forerunners.*
 - c) *If a USSA Coach or Official member's membership number on the USSA website membership roster is highlighted, this indicates that USSA has received the completed membership application. If the status, however, is PENDING, this is an indication that the member has not completed required background screening, and they must not be appointed to serve as Jury members, Jury Advisors, Chief of Course or Course Setters.*
23. **REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITION IN A USSA-SANCTIONED FIS EVENT:**
 - a) All athletes, foreign or USA, who wish to compete in FIS-sanctioned events, **must** have a valid FIS inscription code number prior to entering an event. A competitor who does not have a valid FIS inscription code number must not appear on a Start List or be included in the Official Results. Allowing a competitor to compete who does not have a valid FIS inscription may invalidate the event and may also invalidate the event liability insurance. If the XML transmission file does not contain a **valid** FIS inscription code number for each competitor, the FIS result database will refuse the results.
 - b) USSA athletes must have a valid FIS inscription and must also be *competitor* members of USSA. FIS inscriptions must be requested through USSA.
 - c) FIS inscription code numbers are assigned on FIS list valid dates.
 - d) USSA website may show inscription requirements have been fulfilled (date applied for and date paid) by a USSA member, but the FIS Bureau may not yet have assigned an inscription code number. Contact USSA national office for information regarding competitor's status.

- e) USSA-member FIS inscription information is highlighted for members holding current FIS inscription. FIS inscription information that is not highlighted indicates the competitor has not completed FIS requirements for the current season.
- f) When FIS inscription information (date applied for and paid) is highlighted, but no inscription code number is assigned or “NULL” is inserted, the Race Administrator must contact the USSA National Office. It is also possible to access competitor biographies at www.fis-ski.com in Competitor Biographies. If the FIS Bureau has already processed the request, the competitor will be designated as being “start authorized” or “active”, the assigned number will be shown, and the competitor may compete.
- g) Only the respective foreign federation may enter a foreign competitor in a FIS event. With this official entry, the foreign federation confirms the eligibility of the respective competitor. If the competitor is not on the current FIS Points List, it may be possible to retrieve a valid FIS code in the “all” section of the Competitor Biographies on the FIS website. If no number is found, the competitor must not be entered. *The “all” section of Competitor Biographies must not be used to verify a USA member’s eligibility!*
- h) Foreign competitors who are training/attending USSA clubs and/or schools must have written consent from their respective federations allowing the club/school to submit their entry in FIS events. A legible copy of the federation’s consent must accompany the official entry. *Only home federations have the authorization to enter their competitors in COC, NJC and NC FIS-category competitions.*

24. **USSA BACKGROUND SCREENING FOR COACHES AND OFFICIALS:** USSA has implemented a strict policy that is in keeping with the standards of many youth sports organizations, schools and recreational programs. All USSA employees, member coaches and officials are subject to the background screening process. Once completed and cleared, reprocessing will be required every three years. The procedures to be followed are:

- a) Apply for your USSA coach or officials membership using either the online or hard copy process. If hard copy is being submitted, submit all signed documents and required fees to USSA.
- b) Upon receipt and processing of your membership, if initial background screening or updating is required, USSA will direct you to a link advising you of the specific online procedure for screening registration.
- c) Within 10 days, register online with NCSI for screening. Approximately 10 additional days are required to process the screening. (Site is [https](https://www.ncsi.org); similar to that used by financial institutions.)
- d) During this screening process, the coach’s or official’s USSA membership number in USSA’s online member lookup tool will be highlighted, but “PENDING” will be noted in the membership category.
- e) Until “PENDING” status is cleared and full membership status is in effect, a Coach/Official must not be appointed to serve as a Jury member, Jury Advisor (Start/Finish Referee), Chief of Course or Course Setter.
- f) Membership will be finalized, the USSA website will be updated and a USSA membership card will be issued when USSA receives a ‘green light’ from NCSI.

25. **TEAM CAPTAINS’ MEETING AND THE DRAW:**

- a) According to USSA and FIS rules, draw must be conducted at a Team Captains’ Meeting. An actual meeting, attended in person by Team Captains, Jury, and race officials is an inseparable 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. (Refer to 604.3 in current ICR or in current Precisions.)
- b) **REPRESENTATION AT TEAM CAPTAINS’ MEETINGS:** Competitors who are not represented or whose entry has not been confirmed by telephone, e-mail or facsimile will not be drawn and shall be removed from the board. [217.3] Team Captains representing competitors who are not members of their clubs must acknowledge this representation. *Clubs or athletes represented by a Team Captain from another club must acknowledge, in writing, receipt of a copy of Team Captains’ Meeting Minutes and Program.*
- c) **COMPUTER-GENERATED DRAW:** FIS rules require that a representative of each nation must sign the team entry at the Team Captains’ meeting indicating their acceptance of a computer-generated draw. USSA rules, however, state that the *Jury can, with the approval of the Team Captains present for the event*, allow a draw assisted by computer. Only exception to USSA rule would be USSA non-scored events, i.e. YSL, where Start Lists are prepared according to TRS (random draw within class and gender). In this instance, a *Team Captains’ information meeting* should be held prior to the start of event; meeting may be held morning of race. *It is*

important to remember that an Attendance List should be available and should be signed by everyone attending the meeting.

- d) **REQUIRED DOCUMENTATIONS:** For all Team Captains' Meetings, regardless of where and when they occur, a written record of attendance should be obtained. Minutes of discussion items should be prepared. These items are mandatory at USSA regional championships and FIS events.
- e) **ELECTRONIC DRAW/SEED BOARD:** Electronic draw/seed boards must have the capability to display simultaneously the entire competition field. Simultaneous display of all competitors allows all Team Captains and officials to verify the actual additions and deletions to the starting order as well as its overall accuracy.

26. SEED POINTS AT USSA EVENTS:

- a) For renewing USSA Alpine competitors, confirmation of USSA Points will be available between lists upon payment of \$100 fee. Contact Divisional Office, Regional Office or compservices@ussa.org for details.
- b) Foreign athletes who hold current FIS inscriptions and who want to participate in USSA events must complete USSA membership requirements. They will be issued an "X" membership. FIS Points for these competitors may be used for seeding and the Penalty calculation. *Foreign competitors competing in a USSA event and who do have current USSA points must be seeded with current USSA points; USSA points must be used in Penalty calculation.*

27. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EARLY/LATE START AND DELAYED START:

- a) Early/Late Start: Competitor is in the start gate and does not start within time limits and is DISQUALIFIED (613.7, 629.3, 805.3, 805.4);
- b) Delayed Start: Competitor is absent when called to the start gate and is SANCTIONED which may or may not include disqualification (613.6).

28. "START STOP" AND ITS PROCEDURES: "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.

- a) 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.
- b) The command "**start stop, yellow flag stop!**" 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 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.
- c) The Start Referee must immediately respond via radio that
 - 1) The start is closed, and
 - 2) Must state the start number of the last competitor to have started as well as
 - 3) The start number of the competitor held at the start.
(*Example: "start stop confirmed, number 23 on course, number 24 at the start"*)
- d) When "**start stop**" or "**start stop/yellow flag stop**" is called, ski patrol assigned to the event and in radio contact with the Jury, is now on alert that a competitor may require medical assistance.
- e) If the Jury/Eyes of the Jury/Jury Advisor call for medical assistance,
 - 1) Ski patrol assigned to event first verifies that the course is clear, *i.e.: no racer is on course!*
 - 2) Once the ski patrol assigned to the event has verified that it has a clear course, it responds to the call for medical assistance.
 - 3) SKI PATROL ASSIGNED TO THE EVENT - NOT COACHES / TRAINERS / OFFICIALS / PARENTS - ARE THE FIRST RESPONDERS!
- f) Only the individual (Jury member, eyes of the Jury or Jury Advisor) who called the "**start stop**" or "**start stop, yellow flag stop**" is responsible for releasing the course hold.

- g) 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.
- h) The Technical Delegate is responsible for confirming that all Jury members, Jury Advisors, and Eyes of the Jury have reviewed and are aware of the “start stop” and “yellow flag stop” protocol.
29. **TIMING TAPES:** Timing tapes from the homologated timekeeping equipment contain the only official timing record for an event and, unless a replacement time was calculated, elapsed times on the primary tapes must match the times published on the Official Results.
30. **TD/JURY RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING INJURIES:** *The FIS Medical Guide is valid for all USSA events.* It states: “Should an injury occur to an athlete during the course of a FIS-sanctioned event where the safety and wellbeing of that athlete is in question, the Technical Delegate may request an independent review/exam by medical personnel unrelated to the team medical personnel for clearance for that athlete to continue in the competition.” Head injuries, in particular, may be caused by even the slightest trauma to the head, face or body, i.e. whiplash. Minor head trauma, even if the athlete does not lose consciousness, should preclude an athlete from continuing in competition or training until evaluated by a qualified medical doctor. Additionally, the recovery period for a head trauma varies significantly from individual to individual and only a qualified medical doctor can determine if and when an athlete can safely return to training or competition. After an athlete has suffered a head trauma, the TD or Jury may require a statement signed by a qualified doctor that states that the athlete has sufficiently recovered from their head trauma to return to ski racing. The TD and Jury are encouraged to report the injury to USSA or FIS and to advise the athlete’s coach or parents of the injury. But, after doing so, the TD and Jury have no further responsibility regarding that particular athlete. The responsibility for the athlete’s continued treatment after the event continues with the coach, the athlete and the parents.
31. **SCAT (SPORT CONCUSSION ASSESSMENT TOOL):** An individual qualified to evaluate medically the injured athlete completes Card. Please note that many National Team as well as other FIS athletes have established a “baseline” which allows these athletes to be effectively evaluated with an online test. (2-page SCAT card is available in the Master Packet of Forms. Refer to FIS Medical Guide for SCAT card guidelines.)
32. **FIS RACE PACKET REQUIREMENTS FOR EVENTS WITH NO PROBLEMS:** For an event with no problems, i.e. no injuries, protests or sanctions:
- Original (signed) Results, Penalty, Program, Technical Delegate Report, Timing & Data Technical Report, Official Entry form for 1st-run DNS competitors where the TD cannot confirm the reason for the DNS (e.g. injury, illness) and Team Captains’ Minutes may be E-mailed to the FIS Bureau at alpine@fisski.ch; use the FIS-assigned codex as the subject.
 - The following formats are acceptable:
 - PDF electronically signed files or
 - Scanned copies of the original documents
 - Successful transmission eliminates the need for mailing a hard copy result packet to the FIS Bureau; separate fax transmission of the TD Report and TT Report will not be necessary in this scenario.
 - XML transmission of Official Results is still required.
 - The original (signed) hard copies must be retained. Suggestions for location of these original documents are Race Administrator or Technical Delegate; instructions of the Technical Delegate prevail.
 - Other packet requirements must be observed; i.e., FIS TD Commissioners, National Associations, etc.

For events with problems - Protests, Sanctions, Injuries, etc. - standard procedures apply, i.e., submittal of hard copy packets and electronic transmission of the signed TD Report and signed TT Report.

33. **ACCIDENT FORMS:** The Jury, or an individual appointed by the Jury, must notify USSA of injuries at *all* USSA-sanctioned events where an injury claim may result. The required form, American Specialty First Report of Accident has been updated for easier use and is available in the “Master Packet of Forms” on the USSA website and on the Alpine Officials’ CD. In all cases, the ASI form *must not be submitted to the FIS Bureau.* For accidents that fit the “Guidelines for Serious Accident”, the TD Accident Form (FIS form) must also be filed. Minor injuries at USSA-sanctioned FIS events, which do not require a TD Accident Report, are to be reported on the FIS “Notice of Injury” form; distribution is per TD Accident Report requirements.

34. **FIS ONLINE ACCIDENT REPORT:** The online accident report form is used for minor injuries that occur during official training or competition that require attention by medical personnel at a FIS event. Injuries occurring during warm-up, free skiing or between runs need not be recorded. Form is available in Master Packet of Forms or on the FIS website. You can complete the form by hand or electronically, save it, and then fax or e-mail it to FIS. The online form requires Adobe Reader 7.0 or higher; Adobe Reader 8.0 is available for download on the USSA website. (American Specialty Report must also be filed with USSA for USA competitors.)
35. **AUTO SCORING OF MULTI-CATEGORY EVENTS:** In order for multi-category events sanctioned and administered as an event for each involved category, i.e. Ladies' and Men's J1, J2, J3 and Youth to be accepted by USSA's auto scoring system, results must be submitted individually and in xml format. A separate, assigned race code must be used for each gender and each category: Scored, Non-Scored and Masters. Youth events that consist of two one-run races must have separate results and separate race codes for each of the one-run races. The system will advise the sender of transmission errors.
36. **E-MAIL RACE RESULT SUBMITTAL IN XML FORMAT:**
 - a) Race result files must be submitted individually and in XML format. This applies to both USSA and FIS events.
 - b) Non-FIS USSA-scored events: Use the USSA race code number (alpha + 4-digit number assigned by USSA)
 - b) FIS events: Use the FIS codex assigned to the event.
 - c) The title of the race, i.e. "Junior Championships", must not be used as an e-mail subject.
 - d) Hard copies of results are transmitted only to USSA; they *are not* included in the transmission to FIS.
37. **REQUEST FROM USA FIS TD COMMISSIONER:** Regardless of nationality of the Technical Delegate, mail copies of *all* USA FIS race result packets and copies of *all* FIS Technical Delegate Expense Reports to: Tom Winters; 4250 East Placita Baja; Tucson, AZ 85718
38. **MYSQL and FIS POINTS LIST PROGRAM:** The FIS Points List Program was modified to handle the addition of Super Combined as well as double-digit FIS Points Lists. Windows requires version 4.1.12a and Vista requires version 5 of MySQL. FIS Points List Program 3.3.0.0 is required in order to accommodate double-digit FIS Points Lists (e.g. List 10).
39. **NATIONAL OFFICE SUPPORT:** If a Jury or ROC requires urgent technical support during an event, they may call Competition Services at (435) 647-2037. On weekends, this number will roll over to a designated Competition Services support staff member.

USSA COMPETITION UPDATE 2008-2009:

1. **USSA ACR:** Where applicable, USSA rules have been updated to incorporate FIS ICR changes.
2. **TIMING CHANGES:**
 - a) The Timing & Data Technical Report is a FIS form which is used for both FIS and USSA-scored events. It has been updated to include name of result software and verification that the data agrees with the timing tapes. A TTR is not required for non-scored events.
 - b) 623.2.7 allowed for a rerun due to malfunction of the timekeeping system and has been removed from FIS rules.
3. **USSA MASTER PACKET OF FORMS:** All USSA and FIS forms have been reviewed and have been updated. Please use the forms included in the 2008-2009 Master Packet of Forms which can be found on the USSA website on the compact disk sent to all USSA-member Alpine Officials.
4. **MULTI-SPORT YOUTH MEMBERSHIPS:** Athletes holding more than one of the following youth memberships will receive a \$25 discount on their second and subsequent youth memberships. The discount will be offered to both new and renewing members.

Youth Memberships include:

- Alpine Youth Competitor
- Freestyle Youth Competitor
- Jumping Nordic Kid (Youth)
- Cross Country Nordic Kid (Youth)

5. **USSA ONLINE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:** USSA membership registration may now be completed online through a link on the USSA website.
 - a) Registration must be submitted only by those 18 & older
 - b) Registration must be submitted by the authorized membership card holder
 - c) Insurance information will be required or the individual will have to complete an online “Medical Exception Agreement”
 - d) Individuals whose membership registration requires background screening will be directed to a link that will initiate the screening process upon acceptance of the registration by USSA
 - e) Rush fees and/or late fees will be automatically applied to the credit card transaction
 - f) The following membership registrations cannot be accepted online; they must be processed with hard copy applications.
 - Registration for Associate Members
 - Registration for foreign competitors (X-membership) wishing to compete in USSA non-FIS events
 - Registration for Lifetime Members
6. **ON-SITE HARD COPY USSA COMPETITOR MEMBERSHIPS:** Until USSA receives and processes a membership application, it may not be valid. Because of this, an ROC may choose to not accept either online or hard copy on-site membership applications. The event fact sheet, both hard copy and online versions, should stress this policy.

If online membership registration is not successful and an ROC is willing to accept a hard copy registration, the ROC, must follow these procedures:

 - a) Competitor must be prepared to complete required payment, including the \$25 rush fee, with a credit card.
 - b) Membership Application (personal data, insurance information and release) must be completed and signed.
 - c) Application must be marked “**ON-SITE**” and faxed to USSA Membership at **435-647-2052, Attn: Lois**.
 - d) Membership applications that are received by USSA, as evidenced by website update, may either be shredded or,
 - e) If submitted with result packet, they must be placed in a separate envelope addressed to “**Membership Department, Attn: Lois**”.
7. **MEDICAL EXCEPTION AGREEMENT:** USSA members are required to obtain and maintain primary medical and accident insurance. Under special circumstances, a member may ask for an exception to this requirement. In this instance, the Medical Exception Agreement must be completed and filed with member’s membership application. (Parent/guardian signature required; please refer to form.)
8. **TIMING EXCEPTIONS:** Exceptions from the USSA Timing Requirements will no longer be granted.

FIS UPDATE 2008-2009:

1. **NEW ICR:** A new ICR has been published with validity beginning with the 2008-2009 competition season. Precisions, if required, will not be available until approved by FIS Council.
2. **FACTORS (F VALUES):** Calculation of both FIS and USSA race points requires the use of the following factors. The cover page of each valid FIS Points List will list the required FIS category adders and correction values (Z).

DH – 1320	SL – 600	GS – 880	SG – 1060	SC – 1240
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3. **FIS FORMS:** Updated FIS forms, many of which are also used to document USSA competitions, are available in the “Master Packet of Forms” on the USSA website or on the compact disk sent to all USSA-member Alpine Officials. The Timing & Data Technical Report will be updated this season; anticipated change is the addition of data regarding the result software and verification of competitors’ times.
4. **FIS TECHNICAL DELEGATE PER DIEM:** Per diem has been increased to \$100 per day and mileage reimbursement has been increased to \$.50 per mile. Per diem includes travel, inspection, training and event days.

5. **FORERUNNERS:** Effective 2008-2009, Forerunners, when appointed, become members of the Organizing Committee. (605.1). They must have a signed FIS Athletes Declaration on file and should have the skiing ability to complete the course in a racing fashion.
6. **TIMING SYSTEM MALFUNCTION RERUN:** 623.2.7 allowed for a rerun due to malfunction of the timekeeping system and has been removed from FIS rules.
7. **FIS MEDICAL GUIDE:** Guide is being revised and may include “medical rules”. Approved version will be available on the FIS and USSA websites. *It is strongly recommended that all coaches and officials familiarize themselves with these very important rules, as there are serious risk management issues for failing to do so.*
8. **KOMBI:** Kombi rules are included in the new ICR. (608.12)
9. **RACE MANIPULATION PROPOSAL:** FIS is proposing that a penalty will be assessed by the Jury when the competitor is judged by the Jury to have participated in race point or penalty manipulation or artificial FIS point improvement. (628.15; refer to current version of ICR or current Precisions) The onus for proof will be placed upon the Jury; Technical Delegates must guide the Juries. Penalties can range from reprimands to monetary fines. The Alpine Classifications Sub-Committee will decide whether or not any competitor who is found guilty of such an offense should be removed from any penalty calculation.
10. **COURSE INSPECTION PROPOSAL:** FIS is proposing that on race day, the Jury inspects the course and confirms the program for the day; Team Captains may accompany the Jury (614.3.1) The competitor inspection is held after Jury inspection and after the Jury has opened the course. The course is normally inspected from top to bottom. (614.3.2) The course must be in racing condition from the time competitors’ inspection starts and the competitors must not be disturbed during the inspection by workers on the course...by the end of the inspection time, competitors have to be inside the finish zone. Racers are not permitted to enter the course on foot without skis. (614.3.2) The time and duration of inspection is determined by the Jury and announced at the Team Captains’ meeting. The Jury may decide on special methods of inspection if necessary due to special conditions, i.e. weather. (614.3.3) The requirement to carry bibs during inspection may be stricken from FIS rules (703.2.3) *If approved, 804.1, 904 and 1004 will refer back to art. 614.3.* (Refer to current ICR or current Precisions.)
11. **OFFICIAL ENTRY FORMS FOR 1ST-RUN DNS COMPETITORS:** When the Technical Delegate is unable to ascertain the reason for a first-run DNS, (e.g. injury or illness), the Official Entry form must be submitted with the Technical Delegate and timing reports to **alpine@fisski.ch**. Inasmuch as results without TD and Timing reports will no longer be included in the FIS Points List, it is strongly suggested that they also be e-mailed to Tatiana Lüsey at **luesey@fisski.ch**. Hard copies of the FIS packet must be submitted as directed in “Distribution of Documents – FIS Events” in “Master Packet of Forms”.
12. **COMPETITION EQUIPMENT:** Refer to current “FIS and USSA Equipment Regulations for Season 2008-2009” and/or current edition of FIS Specifications for Competition Equipment.
 - a) Children I and Children II measurements will be enforced at all international children’s races. There are no international children’s races scheduled by USSA. Athletes competing in the Whistler Cup and at Topolino must adhere to these as well as additional equipment specifications. The responsibility for equipment remains with the athletes!
 - b) FIS has published separate equipment standards for Masters Competitors; refer to current rules.
 - c) USSA-approved devices for checking boot sole thickness and standing height are available:
 - Contact Bob Calderwood (fistd461@charter.net) for information regarding boot sole measuring devices
 - Contact Tom Winters (skicomusa@aol.com) for information regarding calipers
 - d) FIS Equipment Regulations regarding stack height, boot sole thickness, ski width and radius will be enforced at upper-level FIS events.
13. **COURSE SPECIFICATIONS:** Refer to current ICR for maximum/minimum vertical drop and gate count requirements for FIS events.

NOR-AM CUP RULES: Rules have been revised; please refer to current rule book.

WORLD CUP RULES: Rules have been revised; please refer to current rule book.

ALPINE OFFICIALS' INFORMATION:

1. **Alpine Officials' Clinic/Seminar Study Guides:** Study Guides for each specialty area are posted on the USSA website. Clinic/seminar attendees may download, print and read the applicable Study Guide prior to attending a USSA-approved clinic/seminar, however, *downloading, printing and reading the Study Guide must not be substituted for actual attendance at a USSA-approved clinic/seminar; it must not be used as a replacement for actual instruction at any USSA-approved clinic/seminar.*
2. The **Chief of Timing and Calculations** is responsible for supervising, documenting and enforcing the quality control of actual timing and official results. With the exception of lower-level non-scored events, (i.e. YSL), where staffing issues may require it, the Chief of Timing and Calculations is not intended to be the individual operating the electronic timing equipment or the timing/race result software.
3. **Security of Examinations and Keys:** These documents, either current or from previous years, must not be made available for general study prior to actual testing. *This type of availability, when documented, will result in non-acceptance of examination results.*
4. **Disposal of completed Examinations:** Completed examinations are to be retained by the clinic/seminar examiners; they are not returned to the individuals taking them.
5. **Material for Examinations:** Examinations are open-book format. Allowing use of computers for calculations, 2nd Run Start List preparation, Penalties, etc., defeats the purpose of having to KNOW how to perform the function and is strongly discouraged. *The Study Guide is not intended as a replacement for notes used during an open-book examination at any USSA-approved clinic/seminar.*
6. **Examination Failure:** An official who does not earn the points required to pass an examination must not be allowed to retake the failed examination until an updated version is available.
7. **Examination Expirations:** Specialty-area examinations expire on June 1 of the of the respective competition year.
8. **Mandatory Clinic/Seminar Attendance:** Technical Delegates, Referees and Jury Advisors (Start and Finish Referee) are required to attend an Alpine Officials' update biannually in order to retain Technical Delegate, Referee or Jury Advisor certification. *It is strongly recommended that, in order to stay aware of rule changes, that a USSA-certified Chief of Race, Chief of Timing & Calculations and Race Administrator maintain biannual attendance at either a respective specialty-area clinic or Update.*
9. **USSA Technical Delegate Nomination and Evaluation Forms:** Forms are available in the Master Packet of Forms.

USSA MODIFICATIONS TO ICR:

The following modifications do not apply to FIS events.

1. **TIMING RULES:** There are differences between the ICR and the ACR regarding timing. Please review section 611.
2. **COMPUTER-GENERATED DRAW:** ACR 621.11 states the Jury can allow a draw assisted by computer. ICR 621.11 requires that the Team Captains sign their entry before the draw is conducted by computer.
3. **PLOMBS:** ICR 606.2.1 requires a "plomb" on suits used for DH, GS and SG at certain FIS events. USSA has no "plomb" requirement.
4. **MONETARY SANCTIONS:** ICR 223.3.1 allows for monetary sanction at FIS events. ACR 223.4 prohibits monetary sanction at USSA events. It also prohibits the Jury at a USSA event from imposing a sanction that lasts longer than the event for which they are the Jury.
5. **ACCUMULATION OF PENALTIES:** ACR 223.3.2 allows the accumulation of penalties; ICR does not.

6. **VALID FINISHES:** ICR 615.3 states Finish line must be crossed on both skis, or on one ski, or with both feet. ICR 611.3.1 further states that in case of a fall at the finish where the competitor does not come to a full stop, the time can be taken without both of the competitor's feet having crossed the finish line. For the registered time to become valid, the competitor must immediately completely cross the finish line with or without skis. **USSA** states that a binding release more than 2 gates above the Finish line in SL, GS or SG or more than 1 gate above the Finish line in DH shall be considered as a clear DSQ. [U628.1.5, U629.4]
7. **PROTESTS:** ACR U640.1 adds "eyewitness testimony" as an alternative to the requirement of physical evidence.
8. **PENALTY POINT CALCULATIONS:** **USSA penalty point calculation** differs from **FIS** in that no "correction value" (adder) or "Z value" is added/subtracted from the basic calculation. In addition, "**Rules of the FIS Points**" states that at least five competitors have to be classified. **USSA** allows for the insertion of "ghost" racers/points and states that at least three competitors have to be classified. (*Refer to appropriate section of current Alpine Competition Guide.*)
9. **USSA APPLICATION OF VERTICAL DROP, MINIMUM TIME AND MINIMUM PENALTY:** When a **USSA-sanctioned, scored event** is submitted:
 - a) The minimum penalty for a non-FIS **USSA** race is 25.00; if penalty calculates lower, 25.00 must be applied.
 - b) If the minimum vertical drop requirement is met, then the minimum time requirement does not apply.
 - c) If the minimum vertical drop requirement is not met, the greater of the calculated penalty or the minimum penalty of 50.00 shall be applied.
 - d) If the minimum vertical drop requirement is not met, but the minimum time requirement is, then the greater of the calculated penalty or the minimum penalty of 50.00 shall be applied.
 - e) If the minimum vertical drop requirement and the minimum time requirement are not met, then the greater of the calculated penalty plus the additional penalty or the minimum penalty of 50.00 shall be applied.

FIS requires that, unless an exception is granted by the FIS Bureau, all vertical drop requirements must be met or the event will not score; there is no minimum time standard for FIS events.
10. **MINIMUM VERTICAL DROP PER RUN, ALTERNATE MINIMUM TIME STANDARDS AND ADDITIONAL PENALTY:** Minimum vertical drops, alternate minimum times and additional penalty adders when neither the minimum vertical drop requirement nor the minimum time requirement are met are fully explained in **CURRENT Competition Guide - Alpine**; "**Rules for Special USSA Race Penalty Calculations, Race Fails to Comply with Minimum Technical Standards**"; "**Application of Vertical Drop, Minimum Time and Minimum Penalty in Scoring a USSA Alpine Race.**"
11. **SEEDING:**
 - a) **Disabled seeding:** **USSA** allows for special seeding or by **USSA** points, whichever is more favorable in order to encourage disabled athlete participation in regularly calendared **USSA** competitions. This "Golden Rule" applies to disabled athletes competing in regularly calendared **USSA** competitions with 160 points or less in the discipline. They are to be seeded in special groups with start order: 16-20...36-40...56-60...etc., or by seed points whichever is most favorable. (Placement within groups is by **USSA** point ranking.) [U621.3.1, U621.10.3.1]
 - b) **Additional seeding methods:** Special seeding formats can be used if currently approved by the Alpine Sport Committee and announced in advance of the competition. These include, but are not limited to, team seeding and TRS. Refer to current **USSA Competition Guide** for additional information.
12. **GATE JUDGES:** **ICR** eliminated "GO" and "BACK" responses to a competitor who has missed a gate. These commands --"GO" and "BACK"-- are included in ACR U663.1.2.
13. **USSA COURSE SPECIFICATIONS and USSA CHILDREN'S RULES:** These specifications differ from **FIS**; please refer to current edition of USSA ACR.
14. **USSA J4 and younger** is **FIS Children I**. **USSA J3** is **FIS Children II**.