



UNITED STATES SKI & SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

2012-2013 REVIEW & UPDATE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION - ALPINE

The United States Ski and Snowboard Association's competition regulations for domestic alpine ski racing are adopted from the FIS ICR, but are specific to USSA competitions. The Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR) is updated annually, is published in the current Alpine Competition Guide and is available at www.usssa.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, applicable rules of the FIS should be considered and applied. 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, understand and abide* by 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 of the FIS Points and Rules for the Alpine Continental Cups. The following pages contain a review and clarification of existing USSA and FIS rules. An overview of major rule changes is also included; *this review and update, however, does not contain all rule changes.*

GENERAL REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION – USSA AND FIS:

1. **USSA CONCUSSION POLICY:** Any USSA athlete under the age of 18 years suspected of having sustained a concussion must be removed immediately from participation in USSA sporting events (e.g. sanctioned training, practice, camps, competitions or tryouts), by the Technical Delegate or USSA member coach overseeing such sporting events. The minor athlete will be prohibited from further participation until evaluated and cleared in writing to resume participation in USSA sporting events by a qualified health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussive head injuries. The health care professional must certify to USSA in the clearance letter that he/she has successfully completed a continuing education course in the evaluation and management of concussive head injuries within three years of the day on which the written statement is made.

Upon removal of a minor athlete from participation for a suspected concussion, the USSA TD or member coach making the removal must inform USSA Competition Services. Athletes who have subsequently been medically cleared to resume participation must provide such medical clearance (as described above) to USSA Competition Services in order to be permitted to participate in USSA sporting events. (A "Head Injury Evaluation" is available in the "Master Packet of Forms".)

If necessary, properly executed medical clearance can be presented to and accepted by an on-site Jury.

For athletes under the age of 18, the request to return to training/competition must be submitted by parent/legal guardian.

For all athletes competing in a FIS event, refer to current edition of the "USSA Concussion Policy" and the "FIS Medical Guide containing Medical Rules and Guidelines".

The USSA Concussion Policy requirements must be followed. However many states have also enacted head injury laws that may include additional requirements/restrictions. Please review the law for your state and, if required, contact USSA for direction. Additionally, if working in another state, you may wish to discuss with the Head Coach or Chief of Race, how the local club usually handles head injuries. This is a developing area of responsibility and it is important to be aware that USSA may provide further guidance in the future.

Additional USSA Concussion Policy information is available at: <http://usssa.org/global/concussion-information>

2. **SINGLE POLE SLALOM AND SINGLE GATE GIANT SLALOM** have both been approved for USSA competitions. USSA ACR rules mirror, when possible, rules of the FIS. [804, 904]
3. **LIMITATIONS IN SLALOM AND GIANT SLALOM SECOND RUNS:**
 - a. In USSA collegiate Slalom and Giant Slalom events, the Jury has the right to reduce the number of competitors in the second run to half, provided that notice was given in the invitation, and at the Team Captains' Meeting before the draw.

- b. For FIS Slalom and Giant Slalom events, the Jury has the right to reduce the number of competitors to half on the first run start list. Decision has to be made no later than one hour before the start of the first run. [806.2, 906.2]
4. **QUESTIONS NOT COVERED BY THE RULES:** In general, the Jury makes decisions on all questions not covered by the rules. [601.4.7]
5. **REVIEW OF PARTIAL LIST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR USSA EVENTS:**
- a. For multiple age class competitions, course setting guidelines for technical events are based on one class older than the youngest age class competing. e.g. U16, U14, U12 and U10 will follow U12 guidelines. Speed event course setting is based on the youngest age class competing.
 - b. Referee, Assistant Referee and Course Setter must be certified Referees in order to officiate in the respective capacities at all USSA-sanctioned events – both scored and non-scored.
 - c. For USSA non-scored events, a Jury Advisor (Start/Finish Referee) should be either a certified Jury Advisor (JA) or a certified Referee (RF).
 - d. For USSA scored events, Jury Advisor (Start/Finish Referee) must be either a certified Jury Advisor (JA) or a certified Referee (RF).
 - e. Technical Data & Timing Report (TDTR) is required for all USSA scored events and also for USSA non-scored Championship events, e.g. YSL, U8, U10, U12 Junior Championships, etc.
 - f. A flex pole standard of 25-27mm in diameter and a minimum gate height of 54 inches from the snow surface to the top of the gate shall be used for USSA U14 and younger Slalom events.
6. **VOLUNTEER RACE WORKER REGISTRATION:** A current-season form must be completed by any workers who are over the age of 18, are not USSA members, properly credentialed FIS officials, coaches and trainers, or regular employees of Organizer or of Ski Area/Landowner acting within the scope of their employment. Forms for an event may be submitted to USSA either electronically in the USSA Race Result Document Packet or by postal service. (For scored events, they can be included with the National Head Tax Documents/fees). If a volunteer race worker is involved in an accident with a USSA member athlete or official, the signed Volunteer Race Worker Registration form must be submitted with the USSA member's American Specialty First Report of Accident (ASI). *The Volunteer Race Worker Registration is a critical element for risk management and liability-related matters, and if required, must be readily available.*
7. **HOMOLOGATED TIMING DEVICES:** Extensions for scored events have expired, and scored USSA and FIS events must use currently homologated timing devices for all events. With the exception of championship events, USSA non-scored events should use homologated timing devices for season 2012-2013 and must use them for season 2013-14; use of homologated timing devices is required for all championship events.
8. **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. However, inasmuch as these individuals are the competitors' representatives on the Jury, whenever possible, coaches should be appointed to serve as the Referee and Assistant Referee.
9. **JURY INSPECTION:** Jury must inspect course set and final installation of on-hill competitor security measures for all USSA-sanctioned events and confirm the daily Program (schedule); Team Captains are encouraged to attend inspection. Jury Minutes must be generated to document inspection and *approval by Jury and Team Captains* as well as the confirmation of Program (schedule). The Jury Minutes must be included in the submitted race result packet.
10. **BACK PROTECTORS:** Back protectors are not mandatory; however when used, the back protector must adapt to the anatomical bend of the athlete's spine and lie flat against the body. The top edge of the back protector must be situated in the area of the spinal column and may not go above the 7th cervical vertebrae (C7). There are additional rules that apply to thickness; designs with the view to improve aerodynamic properties are forbidden. *A back protector must be worn underneath the competition suit.* [9.2, FIS Specifications for Competition Equipment; Edition 2012-2013]

11. **OTHER PROTECTIVE MEASURES:** With the exception of forearm protection used in SG, GS and SL and shin protection used in SL, body protection must be worn under the suit; *this includes knee braces*. [5., FIS Specifications for Competition Equipment; Edition 2012-2013]

12. **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. *USSA Associate members are not "participant members"*. Forerunners must have appropriate USSA participant membership: competitor, masters, student or youth. *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*. If a foreign FIS Federation lists a foreign 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; this satisfies the "qualified member of foreign federation" requirement for FIS events. 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".
- c. If a USSA Coach or Official member's membership status on the USSA website 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.
- d. **USSA TEMPORARY REGISTRATION POLICY:** The Temporary Registration is primarily used to introduce new members to USSA programs with the goal of converting these individuals to full membership. However, other uses may also be appropriate. See examples below.

The Temporary Registration is not a "membership" and does not come with any benefits other than the opportunity to participate/compete in the event in question. Provided the individual carries primary insurance, a temporary registration includes secondary accident insurance during the event. *Temporary Registration is not available for participation as a coach or official.*

Temporary Registrations are event specific (excluding Masters), available to specified/pre-approved events only, and cannot be processed onsite.

13. **MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION (UPDATE) CLINIC ATTENDANCE:**

- a. With the exception of Competition Official (CO) and Data Management, all USSA certified officials are required to attend a bi-annual Alpine Officials' Continuing Education Clinic in order to retain current certifications.
- b. Depending on the requirements of the Region/Division/State, a Continuing Education Clinic does not have to be specialty-area specific; many areas host a general Continuing Education Clinic and accept this as satisfying the requirement.

14. **USSA SKI UP AGREEMENT:** At all USSA events, including training, an athlete who is not "age-eligible" for the vertical drop of the actual course set on the piste may never participate in competition or training as a competitor or forerunner. The USSA Ski Up Agreement allows exceptional athletes to ski-up one class and *authorizes the athlete to compete in the next older age group, but only in the disciplines in which they are normally eligible and only in the specific competitions authorized by the appropriate Regional staff member (September 2001 ASC executive)*. Ski-Up Waivers must be processed by the Regional Office, cannot be applied for on-site, and are not accepted by all USSA regions/divisions/states. A copy of the approved Ski-Up Waiver must accompany the entry. *FIS does not recognize requests to ski-up in class.*

15. **EVENT MEDICAL PLAN:** An event medical plan must be in place for all USSA-sanctioned events and must be reviewed by the Jury prior to being presented to the Team Captains. *Jury Minutes must be generated documenting the review and presentation to the Team Captains; the Jury Minutes must be included in the submitted race result packet.*

16. MINIMUM PENALTIES FOR USSA-SCORED EVENTS:

- a. The minimum penalty for a non-FIS USSA race that meets minimum vertical drop requirements is 15.00. If the calculated penalty is lower than 15.00, the applied penalty shall be 15.00. If the minimum vertical drop requirement is met, then the minimum winning time requirement does not apply.
- b. The minimum penalty for a non-FIS USSA race that does not meet minimum vertical drop requirement but does meet minimum winning time requirement as published in the 2013 Alpine Competition Guide is 30.00. If the calculated penalty is lower than 30.00, the applied penalty shall be 30.00.
- c. If both of the published standards – the minimum vertical drop requirement and the minimum winning time requirement are not met, then the greater of the calculated penalty plus an additional penalty as published in the 2013 Alpine Competition Guide, or the minimum penalty of 30.00 shall be applied.

17. SUBMITTAL OF DOCUMENTS:

- a. **USSA Technical Delegate Report:** Signed copy of the form must be submitted to Randy Rogers at: snowmystr@yahoo.com.
- b. **Timing & Data Technical Report:** A signed copy of this form for all FIS and USSA-scored events and for non-scored Championship events must be submitted to Allen Church at: abchurch@taosnet.com or mailed to the address provided on Form 53. Distribution of Documents – FIS Events, in “Master Packet of Forms”.
- c. **Additional Report of the Technical Delegate – USA & FIS:** These forms are used to request inspection/re-inspection of homologated courses, (there are different forms for FIS and for USSA), and must be submitted to Bruce Crane, current Chair of the Alpine Courses Working Group. Forms may be submitted electronically to: bcrane@parkcityus.com. The FIS Additional Report of the Technical Delegate will be forwarded to Walter Trilling (FIS Bureau), as required.
- d. **Technical Delegate’s Expense Report:**
 - 1) A copy of the USSA TD Expense Report for all USSA non-FIS events must be submitted to Randy Rogers at: snowmystr@yahoo.com or mailed to the address provided on the form.
 - 2) Regardless of the nationality of the Technical Delegate, a copy of the FIS TD Expense Report for all USSA FIS events must be submitted to Paul Van Slyke at: paul@twitchellsportswear.com

18. **PER DIEM FOR USSA TD’S AND USSA COURSE INSPECTORS:** In addition to normal out-of-pocket expenses, e.g. meals, lifts, lodging, mileage/transportation/rental car, etc., a per diem of \$50 per travel/inspection/training/competition day has been approved for USSA Technical Delegates at all USSA events – both scored and non-scored. The \$50/day per diem also applies to USSA Course Inspectors. *Please note that FIS officials officiating at USSA FIS events are entitled to a higher per diem amount. A FIS Technical Delegate serving as the Technical Delegate at a USSA non-FIS event is only entitled to the USSA per diem of \$50 per day.*

19. **PER DIEM FOR USSA/CAN FIS TD’S:** In addition to normal out-of-pocket expenses, e.g. meals, lifts, lodging, mileage/transportation/rental car, etc., a per diem of \$120 per travel/inspection/training/competition day plus mileage of \$.55 per mile, has been approved for FIS Technical Delegates at all USSA/CAN FIS events. (Separate forms available for USA and CAN FIS events.) TD’s from nations other than USA/CAN must use the form/amounts noted on the FIS website.

20. **REVIEW OF TIMING DATA TECHNICAL REPORTS (TDTR):** Following a review of Timing Data Technical Reports (TDTR), the following timing issues have been identified as problems. Officials must familiarize themselves with proper procedures in order to eliminate these problems:

- a. The TDTR is a FIS form that is used for both FIS and USSA-scored events and for USSA non-scored Junior Championship events (e.g. Non-scored YSL, U8, U10 and U12 Junior Championships, etc.). Its requirements include name, version and publication date of race result software and verification that timing data agrees with the timing tapes.
- b. Please note the only permissible way to install photocells is on wooden posts which have been cut partially through on the uphill side to facilitate breakage if impacted by a racer. Rules do not permit the use of metal tripods, etc., to install photocells. (Please refer to “FIS Timing Booklet 2.46”, for proper setup of photocells.)

- c. Timekeeping equipment must be synchronized no more than one hour before the start of each run. If more than one hour has elapsed since synchronization, the process must be repeated.
 - d. For any event, re-synchronization of timekeeping equipment must take place before start of the second run.
 - e. Proper synchronization and “synchronization plus one minute” procedures require that the start wand be opened. This action verifies that the entire system is operating properly.
 - f. At “synchronization plus one minute”, the timekeeping equipment must be within .005 second. If this degree of accuracy has not been obtained, the process must be repeated to ensure proper synchronization.
 - g. Proper synchronization can only be done to the Whole Minute (8:40). It is not possible to synchronize clocks to thousandths of a second (8:40:28.789). If the TDTR lists thousandths of a second as the time of synchronization, it is clear that proper synchronization procedures were not followed and the Technical Delegate must notify the state/division Alpine Officials Chair so the issue can be addressed.
 - h. All time-of-day (ToD) data on the TDTR must be to at least the thousandth of a second (.000) and all net times must be truncated to the hundredths of a second (.01).
 - i. The Technical Delegate and the Chief of Timing and Calculations must compare the **actual timing tapes** to the information supplied on the TDTR.
 - j. The Technical Delegate and the Chief of Timing and Calculations must provide current contact information and both of them must sign the TDTR.
 - k. Rules allow for the use of wireless timing in some situations, but this is a difficult process and should only be undertaken by high-level, experienced TC staff. Information regarding installation and use of wireless timing should be directed to the USSA Timing Working Group; contact USSA for regional members’ contact information.
 - l. A provisional rerun due to malfunction of the electronic timekeeping systems is at the discretion of the Jury. [623.1.2] A calculated replacement time using manual/hand timekeeping is preferred.
21. **PROVISIONAL STARTS OR RERUNS:** When making a determination on the validity of a provisional rerun, the Jury must evaluate the following, many of which are included in the very clear provisions of 623:
- a. Did the competitor cross the finish line?
 - b. If obstructed while racing, did the competitor stop immediately, *report to the nearest Gate Judge* and then apply to any member of the Jury for a rerun?
 - c. Does the claimed obstruction meet the requirements of 623.2 – Grounds for Interference?
 - d. Did the claimed obstruction cause significant loss of speed or lengthening of the racing line and consequently affect the competitor’s time?
 - e. Was the competitor’s request for a rerun not valid because they had committed a fault (gate fault or start procedure fault) prior to the obstruction/interference? [628.7]
 - f. Does the Gate Judge have any comments or notes? [666.1]
 - g. 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.
 - h. The Jury is not obligated to provide provisional reruns. It may be that an athlete will be denied a rerun due to situations outside of the control of the Jury (e.g.: granting a rerun to a late running competitor would cause a considerable extension of the competition by allowing them to return to the start for their rerun).
 - i. Only the Jury can validate a provisional start or run.
 - j. A provisional or definitively approved rerun remains valid even if it proves slower than the obstructed run.
22. **RERUNS REQUIRED BY BROKEN GATES:** Every case must be checked individually; the Jury on site is the only group that can decide, based on the particular and detailed circumstances, if interference occurred.

23. **USSA WEBSITE POINTS LISTS:** The USSA and FIS Points Lists found on the USSA website can be accessed and downloaded through a function in the software. *The FIS Points List located on the FIS website, although capable of being downloaded into the USSA software is not formatted for this purpose and eliminates the link between USSA competitor data and FIS competitor data. However, competitors' names/data for USSA FIS events must be verified against and must agree with competitors' names/data on the FIS website version of the Points List.*
24. **SELECTION OF DOCUMENT PRINT OPTIONS:** If all print option selections are not visible, e.g. *both Official Results and Unofficial Results* or *both USSA Results and FIS Results*, you may need to adjust the DPI (dots per inch) or screen resolution on your computer. These adjustments are available in the "Display" section on the "Control Panel".
25. **DOWNHILL EVENT:** 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. **USSA and FIS assign transmittal/codex numbers for all Downhill training runs; the assignment of these numbers is verification of liability insurance. "Special Training Runs" outside of the official training runs do not have USSA/FIS transmittal /codex numbers and must not be staged for forerunners or competitors that have not been able to participate in at least one timed training run prior to the actual event.**
26. **DOWNHILL TRAINING RESULTS:** Training results (TRA) in XML format must be submitted to USSA and, if applicable, to FIS. *Do not submit a Technical Delegate Report or a Technical Data Timing Report (TDTR).*
27. **NON-USSA ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR USSA-SANCTIONED FIS EVENT:** Only National Ski Associations are entitled to make entries for international competitions. If a National Ski Association issues an entry authorization (travel) letter, USSA allows non-USSA athletes training with USSA clubs or attending USA schools/colleges/universities to be entered by their coaches. USSA's policy regarding entry authorization (travel) letters is:
- Every non-USA athlete's authorization letter must be sent to Jeff Weinman (jweinman@ussa.org).
 - Letters must be submitted directly by the respective National Ski Association; they will not be accepted if forwarded by the coach or the athlete.
 - USSA will create a summary of these authorizations and will post that summary on the USSA website so Race Administrators and Technical Delegates can be confident of their validity.
 - Foreign entries that are not submitted by the actual National Ski Association and for whom no authorization letter has been submitted to USSA for verification must not be accepted.*
 - Authorization letters will only be recognized for FIS category and below. Entries for Nor-Am Cup and National Championships must be submitted directly by the respective National Ski Associations.
 - Alpine Canada Alpin (ACA) does not issue authorization (travel) letters; all Canadian entries must originate from ACA.*
- *There is a possibility that small groups of foreign athletes may be training in North America and may seek entry into USSA FIS events. These athletes will be represented by coaches from their National Ski Associations and are authorized to submit entries. Because the athletes are not members of a USSA club or are not attending USA schools/colleges/ universities, their authorization letters may not be on file with USSA. Please contact Competition Services prior to denying any FIS entry.
28. **USSA ONLINE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:** USSA membership registration may be completed online through a link on the USSA website.
- User Account must be established; *multiple memberships can be associated with/managed by one User Account.*
 - Registration must be submitted only by those 18 & older. Parent or legal guardian must submit registration for those under 18.
 - Registration must be submitted by the authorized membership card holder.
 - Primary medical/accident insurance information must be submitted.

- e. Non-certified Coaches must review and complete “Fast Start Coaching Course”.
- f. USSA’s “Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability” must be reviewed and accepted.
- g. USSA’s “Concussion Policy” must be reviewed and accepted.
- h. USSA’s “Child Protection Safe Sport Guidelines” must be reviewed and accepted.
- i. 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. They will be listed as “PENDING” in the membership category on the USSA website.
- j. If background screening is not required, membership will be finalized immediately and the USSA website will be updated. A USSA membership card can be printed or saved to your computer.
- k. Rush fees and/or late fees will be automatically applied to the credit card transaction.
- l. Due to privacy concerns, Member Tools, including Club roster, Member Lookup, Member List, Card Print, etc., will require login access.

The following membership registrations cannot be accepted online; they must be processed with paper copy applications that can be either faxed or e-mailed to USSA.

- Registration for Associate Members
- Registration for foreign competitors (X-membership) wishing to compete in USSA non-FIS events
- Registration for Lifetime Members

29. **ELECTRONIC SEED BOARDS:** Electronic seed boards must have the capability to simultaneously and legibly display the entire competition field. Simultaneous display of all competitors allows Team Captains and officials to verify 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.* (USSA Software – Split Second is developing a “Program” for electronic Draw/Seed Boards.)

30. **USING THE 3 ACCIDENT REPORT FORMS:** The Jury, or an individual appointed by the Jury, must notify USSA of injuries at *all* USSA-sanctioned events (both non-FIS and FIS), where injury claims may result. *An insurance claim for secondary accident insurance cannot begin without a completed and signed ASI first report of accident.* Please help us help our members with this process.

- a. The American Specialty First Report of Accident (ASI) is used only for USSA members who are injured at either non-FIS or FIS events. The form has been updated for easier use and is available in the “Master Packet of Forms” on the USSA website. Regardless of level of the event, the ASI form must not be submitted to the FIS Bureau. (When online filing of this report becomes available, it will no longer be necessary to include paper or scan/pdf copies in USSA Race Result Packets.)
- b. Regardless of the nationality of the competitor, all reportable injuries at USSA-sanctioned FIS events must be reported on the FIS “Notice of Injury” form. This is an online form and a copy must be made available for required, limited distribution.
- c. Accidents that fit the “Guidelines for Serious Accident”, whether non-FIS or FIS, also require the additional filing of the TD Accident Report.

Which Injury Report Form and When:

- a. If an injury occurs during official training or competition to a USSA member at a non-FIS event, the ASI First Report of Accident is required. If the injury fits the “Guidelines for Serious Accident”, both the ASI and TD Accident Report must be submitted.
- b. If an injury occurs during official training or competition to a USSA member at a FIS event, both the ASI First Report of Accident and the FIS Online Report are required. If the injury fits the “Guidelines for Serious Accident”, all 3 reports – ASI, FIS Online Report and TD Accident Report must be submitted.
- c. If an injury occurs during official training or competition to a foreign competitor at a FIS event, only the FIS Notice of Injury is required. If the injury fits the “Guidelines for Serious Accident”, both the FIS Online Report and the TD Accident Report must be submitted.

USSA COMPETITION CONTINUING EDUCATION (UPDATE) 2012-2013:

1. **USSA ALPINE COMPETITION RULES:** Alpine Competition Rules (ACR) has been updated to include applicable rule changes.
2. **AGE CLASS CHANGE:** With exception of Senior age class, USSA age classes are now categorized with “U”.
U8 (under 8); U10 (under 10) are 8 and 9 years of age; U12 (under 12) are 11 and 10 years of age; U14 (under 14) are 12 and 13 years of age; U16 (under 16) are 14 and 15 years of age; U18 (under 18) are 16 and 17 years of age; U21 (under 21) are 18, 19 and 20 years of age; Seniors are 21 years of age and older.
A competitor’s age class is calculated by their actual age on December 31 of the competition season. The current competition season is July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 so an athlete’s class will be determined by their actual age on December 31, 2012.
3. **FACTORS (F-VALUES):** Factors used in calculation of race points/penalties for both USSA and FIS are:
DH: 1370 SL: 620 GS: 890 SG: 1050 SC: 1070
4. **CHILDREN’S KOMBI:** Children’s Kombi events must be set using appropriately homologated hills. SL/GS format (technical orientation) using a hill homologated for Giant Slalom and GS/SG format (speed orientation) using a hill homologated for Super G.
5. **INTERDICTION TO CONTINUE AFTER A COMPETITOR STOPS:** If a competitor comes to a complete stop (e.g. after a fall), he must no longer continue through previous or further gates. This interdiction is valid in all events with a fixed start interval (DH, SG, GS). Only exception is for SL [661.4.1], as long as *the competitor does not interfere with the run of the following competitor or has been passed by a competitor*. [614.2.3] **Penalty** for continuing to race after a complete stop is disqualification. [628.8]
6. **HIKING IN GIANT SLALOM EVENTS:** After coming to a complete stop (e.g. after a fall), a competitor **may not** continue through previous gates (hike) in a USSA non-FIS **scored** event. However, a competitor **may** continue through previous gates (hike) in a USSA **non-scored** event. A competitor who is hiking to complete correct passage in a USSA non-scored single gate Giant Slalom follows the same procedure as for single pole Slalom – around the top of the missed turning gate pole. [614.2.2, 614.2.3]
7. **HIKING IN SLALOM EVENTS:** Exception to 614.2.3 is for Slalom. If a competitor misses a gate, he may continue on course as long as he does not interfere with the run of the following competitor or has been passed by a competitor; a competitor who has been passed cannot continue and is classified as DNF.
8. **DOWNHILL TRAINING OBLIGATION TO PARTICIPATE:** Official training forms an integral part of the competition. Competitors are required to participate in the training. *All qualified competitors entered for the competition must have been entered and drawn in all official training runs.* (“Drawn” is accepted as meaning “assigned a start number”. It does not mean “drawn in the first group”.) [704.1]
9. **INTERFERENCE & THE GATE JUDGE:** A competitor who is obstructed while racing must stop immediately after the incident takes place and *report the interference to the nearest Gate Judge. The competitor may make a request for a provisional rerun to any Jury member or Jury Advisor.* [623.1.1]
10. **USSA’S ONLINE RACE REGISTRATION:** An ROC that chooses to use USSA’s online race registration system will still be responsible for calculating and submitting all required head tax documents and fees.
11. **NATIONAL HEAD TAX:** National Head Tax has increased to \$10 per first-run starter; includes DNF’s and DSQ’s. This amount is also used to calculate National Head Tax for all collegiate events.
12. **USSA POINTS:** 999.99 indicates an athlete has not earned USSA points.
 - a. Foreign athletes who are registered as USSA “X” - “Competitor” members, who do not have existing USSA Points, are seeded with their FIS Points; their FIS Points are used in Penalty calculation, when applicable.
 - b. Foreign athletes who are registered as USSA “X” - “Competitor” members, who do have current USSA Points, are seeded with their USSA Points; their USSA Points are used in Penalty calculation, when applicable.

- c. Athletes who choose to register as a “Student” instead of as a “Competitor” do not earn USSA points. If competing in a USSA-scored event, they are seeded with 999.99; if their result places them in the Penalty calculation, USSA Maximum Points must be assigned.
13. **ASSIGNMENT OF USSA NUMBER FOR A FOREIGN COMPETITOR IN A FIS EVENT:** If a foreign competitor in a FIS event does not have a current USSA “X” membership, assign an X + 7 zeroes (X0000000) as their USSA number in the applicable database area.
14. **HELMET-MOUNTED CAMERAS:** All competitors and forerunners must wear a helmet for official training as well as for the race that meets the Equipment Specifications; new FIS helmet specifications will not be implemented until season 2013-2014. Helmet-mounted cameras are not approved for use at USSA non-FIS events. [606.4, 707, 807, 907, 1007]
15. **USSA NON-FIS RACE RESULT PACKETS:** Effective 2012-2013, Race Result Packets for USSA non-FIS (scored and non-scored) events may be submitted electronically. *All head tax documents and fees, however, must be mailed.* Procedure for preparation and submittal includes the following:
- Scan documents and save in PDF format; do not save as JPG!
 - Arrange documents in proper order (See USSA Race Result Packets in Master Packet of Forms)
 - Save as PDF booklet with **USSA-assigned transmittal number** as booklet title (alpha + 4 numbers)
 - Attach to e-mail using **USSA-assigned transmittal number** as e-mail subject (alpha + 4 numbers)
 - E-mail to: **resultpackets@ussa.org** (cc: Technical Delegate)
 - One race file per booklet and one booklet per transmission!

FIS COMPETITION CONTINUING EDUCATION (UPDATE) 2012-2013:

- FIS ICR:** A new version effective for season 2012-2013 is posted on the FIS website; Precisions may still be published.
- FIS AGE REQUIREMENT:** For season 2012-2013, competitors entered in FIS competition must be at least 16 years of age (U18), on or before 31 December of the respective season.
- FACTORS (F-VALUES):** Factors used in calculation of race points/penalties for both USSA and FIS are:
DH: 1370 SL: 620 GS: 890 SG: 1050 SC: 1070
- FIS POINTS LIST DATES:** Base List (BL) will be calculated mid-May 2013 and will be followed by publication of FIS List 1 (NL).
- FIS POINTS:** FIS Points will only be calculated to 999.00.
- FIS POINTS CONFIRMATION:** If the FIS website version of the FIS Points List shows a competitor’s points followed by a “C”, this indicates that the respective points have been confirmed by FIS, and when applicable, replace points noted the downloaded version.
- INTERDICTION TO CONTINUE AFTER A COMPETITOR STOPS:** If a competitor comes to a complete stop (e.g. after a fall), he must no longer continue through previous (hike) or further gates. This interdiction is valid in all events with a fixed start interval (DH, SG, GS). Only exception is for SL [661.4.1], as long as *the competitor does not interfere with the run of the following competitor or has been passed by a competitor.* [614.2.3] A competitor who has been passed cannot continue and is classified as DNF. Penalty for continuing to race after a complete stop is disqualification. [628.8]
- DOWNHILL TRAINING OBLIGATION TO PARTICIPATE:** Official training forms an integral part of the competition. Competitors are required to participate in the training. *All qualified competitors entered for the competition must have been entered and drawn in all official training runs.* (“Drawn” is accepted as meaning “assigned a start number”. It does not mean “drawn in the first group”.) [704.1]
- INTERFERENCE & THE GATE JUDGE:** A competitor who is obstructed while racing must stop immediately after the incident takes place and *report this to the nearest Gate Judge.* [623.1.1]

10. **TD's DUTIES BEFORE THE RACE:** "...inspects the training courses", has been deleted [601.4.9.1]. This was done to remove misunderstanding between training on a competition course which is controlled by the Jury and warm up/training on a separate course which is not controlled by the Jury. *This change, however, does not remove the requirement of 614.1.3: "Appropriate warm up slopes should be made available."*
11. **GATE PANELS FOR GIANT SLALOM AND SUPER G:** Gate panels which conform to the FIS Specifications must be used for all Giant Slalom and Super G competitions published in the FIS Calendar. A list of homologated panels is published on the FIS Website. ICR arts. 901.2.2 and 1001.3.2 remain valid. [690]
12. **YELLOW ZONES:** FIS Rules Working Group is currently reviewing all Yellow Flag/Yellow Zone sections of the ICR.
13. **ONLINE TIMING DATA TECHNICAL REPORT FORM:** FIS has released a program for online filing of the TDTR. It is currently being reviewed for possible implementation during season 2012-2013, and is available for both MAC and Windows at: **ftp://ftp.fis.ch/Software/Programs/TimingReport/AL/**. Program updates will be posted on the website as required. *If online transmission is not successful; paper copy must be filed.*
14. **ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL OF FIS RACE RESULT DOCUMENT PACKET:** Due to the short duration of time between FIS Lists and in an attempt to meet a "paper-free goal" for season 2013-2014, FIS is requiring online submittal of FIS Race Result Document Packets and has also adjusted their reporting requirements.
 - a. Race Result "XML" file must be submitted. This allows the Technical Delegate to file an online TD Report. The "XML" file is sent to FIS and also to USSA.
 - b. If the online Technical Delegate Report is successful, submit the following:
 - 1) Official, signed Timing & Data Technical Report (TDTR), signed by Technical Delegate and Chief of Timing. *(When online filing is available, scanned/PDF submittal will not be required.)*
 - 2) Signed Official Results
 - 3) Signed Penalty calculation – either computer penalty calculation or the approved form
 - 4) Injury Reports (Serious accidents will require filing of both forms.)
 - a) FIS Notice of Injury for minor injuries
 - b) TD Accident Form for injuries that meet Guidelines for Serious Accidents
 - 5) Official, signed with record of votes, Jury Minutes related to protests and/or sanctions
 - c. If the Technical Delegate cannot complete the online Technical Delegate Report, submit the following:
 - 1) Official, signed Technical Delegate Report
 - 2) Official, signed Timing & Data Technical Report (TDTR)
 - 3) Signed Official Results
 - 4) Signed Penalty calculation – either the computer penalty calculation or the approved form
 - 5) Injury Reports (Serious accidents require filing of both forms.)
 - a) FIS Notice of Injury for minor injuries
 - b) TD Accident Form for injuries that meet Guidelines for Serious Accidents
 - 6) Official, signed with record of votes, Jury Minutes related to protests and/or sanctions.
 - d. Preparation for the above must include:
 - 1) Scan documents
 - 2) Save as PDF (not JPG).
 - 3) Compile PDF documents (in listed order) as a PDF booklet using the nation + FIS-assigned codex as booklet name (e.g. USA1234). Verify size of file; it should be a workable size; jpg files are too large.
 - 4) Using the nation + FIS-assigned codex as e-mail subject (e.g. USA1234), attach individual race file booklets and send to: **luessy@fis.ch** as well as to assigned Technical Delegate. Verification of receipt/read of transmission(s) should be obtained and provided to Technical Delegate.

5) If e-mail is not successful the documents can be faxed to the FIS Bureau at +41 33 244 6171.

- e. **USSA'S COPY OF FIS RACE RESULT PACKET:** The above documents (c.1 – c.5) with the addition of First-Run Start List, Referee Report(s), all Jury Minutes, all Programs and Team Captains Minutes must be electronically submitted to USSA: **resultpackets@ussa.org**.

- 1) Save as PDF booklet with **nation + FIS-assigned codex** as booklet title (USA1234)
- 2) Attach to e-mail using **nation + FIS-assigned codex** as e-mail subject (USA1234)
- 3) E-mail to: **resultpackets@ussa.org**
- 4) Copy **Technical Delegate with the transmission**
- 5) One race file per booklet and one booklet per transmission
- 6) Refer to “FIS Race Result Document Packets” or “Distribution of Documents – FIS Events” in the “Master Packet of Forms” for packet requirements for nations other than USA and CAN

15. **ALPINE CANADA'S COPY OF FIS RACE RESULT PACKET:** For a FIS event with a Canadian FIS TD, submit the following scanned documents in pdf booklet format:

- a. Report of the Technical Delegate
- b. Technical Data Timing Report
- c. Official Results & Penalty calculation
- d. All Jury Minutes
- e. Submittal procedure:
 - 1) Key: **ftp://207.229.38.218**
 - 2) At the Login prompt, key: **ftp-upload**
 - 3) Key Password: **FTP2011**
 - 4) Use nation + FIS-assigned codex as subject and attach PDF booklet

Electronic submittal to ACA's ftp site is the preferred method. However, in the event electronic submittal to the ACA ftp site is not successful, paper copy packets or CD burn packets can be submitted via postal service to:

Alpine Canada
ATTN: Jenn Duggan
Suite 302, 151 Canada Olympic Road SW
Canada Olympic Park
Calgary, Alberta
T3B 5R5

16. **USSA-SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS FOR A FIS EVENTS:** The following documents are required for all USSA FIS events:

- a. Transmittal
- b. Results/Penalty with USSA numbers

Documents may be scanned and prepared as a PDF booklet and e-mailed to **resultpackets@ussa.org**. USSA transmittal number must be used as the title of the booklet and the subject of the e-mail. *All head tax documents and fees, however, must be mailed.*

17. **COURSE SPECIFICATIONS:** Refer to current editions of USSA ACR and FIS ICR for minimum/maximum vertical drop and gate count requirements for USSA and FIS events.
18. **COMPETITION EQUIPMENT:** Refer to current “FIS and USSA Equipment Regulations for Season 2012-2013” and/or current edition of FIS Specifications for Competition Equipment.

ALPINE OFFICIALS' INFORMATION:

1. **CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES:** Certification Guidelines have been updated; please refer to current edition included in the “Master Packet of Forms” or posted on the USSA website.
2. **MASTER PACKET OF FORMS:** Due to the many procedural changes for both USSA non-FIS and USSA FIS events, many forms have been updated. Please only use the forms included in the 2012-2013 “Master Packet of Forms” located on the USSA website.
3. **ADDITIONAL AO EDUCATION MATERIALS:** The “Timing Workshop” and “Radio Protocol & Techniques” have been updated. A presentation addressing the challenges of correct passage for a missed single pole/single gate event is also available. All presentations will be posted on the USSA website.
4. **CHIEF OF TIMING & CALCULATIONS:** This official supervises, documents and enforces quality control of timing operations. With the exception of lower-level events (e.g. YSL), where staffing might require it, the Chief of Timing & Calculations should not also be the individual operating the timekeeping equipment or the timing/race result software. The Chief of Timing & Calculations for National Championship, NorAm Cup and World Cup events should be certified as Level 3 or higher Chief of Timing & Calculations. In addition, USSA’s Schedule Agreement requires that the Chief of Timing & Calculations be appropriately certified for all USSA-sanctioned events; this requirement carries the responsibility of current USSA-membership.
5. **ALPINE OFFICIALS’ CLINIC STUDY GUIDES:** Study Guides for each specialty area are posted on the USSA website. Clinic attendees should download, print and read the applicable Study Guide prior to attending a USSA-approved Clinic, however, ***downloading, printing and reading the Study Guide must not be substituted for actual attendance at a USSA-approved Clinic; it must not be used as a replacement for actual instruction at any USSA-approved Clinic.*** Study Guides for Competition Official (CO) and Data Management (DM) remain in effect until updates are available and posted on the USSA website. Other specialty area Study Guides will expire and will be removed from the USSA website on June 1.
6. **EXAMINATION EXPIRATIONS:** Specialty-area examinations expire on June 1 of the of the respective competition year. Results from expired examinations are void and will not be accepted for certification.
7. **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. ***Misuse, when documented, will result in non-acceptance of examination results.***
8. **DISPOSAL OF COMPLETED EXAMINATIONS:** Completed examinations are to be retained by the Clinic examiners; ***they are not returned to the individuals taking them.***
9. **MATERIAL FOR EXAMINATIONS:** Examinations are open-book format. Allowing use of computers for calculations, 2nd Run Start List preparation, Penalties, article research and location, 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.***
10. **EXAMINATION FAILURE:** An official who does not earn the points required to pass an examination is NOT allowed to retake the failed examination until an updated version is available the following season.
11. **REFEREE, ASSISTANT REFEREE AND COURSE SETTER CERTIFICATION:** These officials must be current USSA members and USSA-certified Referees (RF) for all USSA-sanctioned events – scored or non-scored. Jury Advisors (Start/Finish Referees) for USSA-sanctioned scored events must either be certified Jury Advisors (JA) or certified Referees (RF); for USSA-sanctioned non-scored events, Jury Advisors (Start and Finish Referee) should be USSA-certified Jury Advisors (JA) or Referees (RF). ***For USSA-sanctioned FIS events, when a foreign FIS Federation lists a foreign coach on their entry form, that 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.***

12. OTHER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- a. In order to serve as a Chief of Race (CR) at a scored event (USSA or FIS), an individual must be, at a minimum, certified as a Level 1 Chief of Race (CR), Referee (RF), or Technical Delegate (TD).
- b. USSA Schedule Agreement requires the Jury members, Course Setters, Chief of Timing & Calculations and *other key officials* be appropriately certified, USSA members.

13. USING ONLINE RACE REGISTRATION SYSTEMS: Race Administrators/Data Management personnel who wish to use online race registration systems or who receive a master race file and download it for event are primarily responsible for competitors' data. All competitors' data must be verified against the original source: USSA for USSA non-FIS events and FIS website versions of FIS List for USSA FIS events.

14. USSA TECHNICAL DELEGATE NOMINATION AND EVALUATION FORMS: Forms are available in the "Master Packet of Forms".

USSA MODIFICATIONS TO ICR:

The following is a partial list of USSA modifications that 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. **LIMITATIONS IN SECOND RUN:** **ICR** 806.2 & 906.2 allows the Jury to limit the second run to one-half of the competitors on the first run start list; announcement must be made 1 hour prior to start of first run. **ACR** only allows second run limitations for collegiate events and states notice must have been given in the official invitation, or on the official notice board before the race started, and at the Team Captains' meeting before the draw.
3. **COMPUTER-GENERATED DRAW:** **ACR 621.9** states the Jury can allow a draw assisted by computer. **ICR 621.9** requires that the Team Captains sign their entry before the draw is conducted by computer.
4. **PLOMBS:** **ICR 606.2.1** requires a "plomb" on DH, GS and SG suits certain FIS events; USSA does not.
5. **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.
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. **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 a supplement to the requirement for physical evidence.
8. **PENALTY POINT CALCULATIONS:** **USSA penalty point calculation** differs from **FIS** in that no "correction value" (adder) or "Z value" are part of the 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. **HIKING IN GIANT SLALOM:** **ACR 614.2.3** allows a competitor who has come to a complete stop (e.g. after a fall) to continue through previous gates (hike) in a USSA non-scored event; hiking is not allowed in USSA scored events or in FIS events.
10. **MINIMUM VERTICAL DROP PER RUN, ALTERNATE MINIMUM TIME STANDARDS AND ADDITIONAL PENALTY:** These items are fully explained in **CURRENT Competition Guide - Alpine**; "**Rules for Special USSA Race Penalty Calculations, Race Fails to Comply with Minimum Technical Standards**". *FIS requires that, unless an exception is granted by the FIS Bureau, vertical drop requirements must be met or the event will not score; no minimum time standards.*
11. **SEEDING:**
 - a. **Adaptive seeding:** **USSA** allows for special seeding or by USSA points, whichever is more favorable in order to encourage Adaptive athlete participation in regularly calendared USSA competitions. This "Golden Rule" applies to Adaptive athletes competing in regularly calendared USSA competitions with 160 points or less in the discipline. [**U621.3.1, U621.11.3.1**]
 - 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.
14. **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.
15. **USSA COURSE SPECIFICATIONS and USSA CHILDREN'S RULES:** These specifications may differ from FIS; please refer to current edition of USSA ACR.