

UNITED STATES SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

05-06

INTRODUCTION	I/ 2/05-06
OBJECTIVES OF THIS MANUAL	I/ 2/05-06
STANDARDS AND UNIFORMITY	I/ 2/05-06
MAJOR TOPICS AND COMMENTS	I/ 4/05-06
ALPINE OFFICIALS' SEMINARS/CLINICS.....	I/ 4/05-06
A NOTE ABOUT THE MANUAL	I/ 4/05-06

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

OBJECTIVES OF THIS MANUAL

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

STANDARDS AND UNIFORMITY

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

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

Any club, race site or region/division can add its own supplementary notes and details for local operations. However, the goal of USSA and the FIS Bureau is to minimize provincial differences relative to policies and to eliminate such differences in the application of rules.

Procedural specifications should be viewed in the light of what is ultimately required as "output" rather than as an insistence upon how that result is achieved.

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

ESSENTIAL VERSUS DESIRABLE
CORRECT VERSUS INCORRECT
PREFERRED VERSUS ACCEPTABLE

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

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

Rules and standards continue to change to reflect internal resolve and external influences. We should recognize the rationale for change and appreciate the process by which large legislative bodies such as USSA and FIS consider means of improving the sport.

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

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

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

- The Draw, whether "Double Draw" or random computer Draw, must be conducted according to approved procedures.
- The Jury may authorize a computer Draw; FIS events also require the consent of all Team Captains as indicated with signatures on the entry forms.

- Electronic seed/draw boards must have the capability to **simultaneously** display all competitors.
- Start and Finish procedures must be according to current rules.
- Surface of the course should be as well prepared for the last competitor as it is for the first.
- Inspection of the course, by the competitors and Team Captains must be consistently legal and proper.
- Competitors' times must be accurate.
- The procedure for posting disqualifications and the handling of Protests must be uniform.
- Team Captains must be notified if announcement of DSQ information will replace actual posting of Report by Referee.
- Official Results must be correct as published and reported according to current standards.

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

MAJOR TOPICS AND COMMENTS

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

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

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

ALPINE OFFICIALS' EDUCATION

Alpine Official educational materials are updated yearly and are distributed in compact disk format to regional offices and designated Alpine Officials' seminar/clinic organizers for further duplication and distribution to those persons actually conducting the seminars/clinics. The material contains a yearly Update, Study Guides, study problems (if applicable), and where required, an appropriate examination and examination key.

Study Guides are also posted on the USSA web site, **<http://www.ussa.org>**. They are intended for education and review for individuals interested in officiating at USSA events and must not be used as a substitute for attendance at a USSA-approved Alpine Officials' seminar/clinic.

A NOTE ABOUT THE MANUAL

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