SEASON 2027 UPDATE & REVIEW

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR ALPINE OFFICIALS

U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR) for domestic alpine ski racing are based in large part on the FIS International Ski Competition Rules (ICR) but are specific to U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitions. The competition regulations are updated annually, are published in the current Alpine Competition Guide, and are available at **usskiandsnowboard.org.**

It is the responsibility of every official, coach and competitor to *know, understand, and abide by* the rules for the sport. Coaches, Program Directors, and other club officers are encouraged to provide the time and opportunity to instruct their athletes on the rules for the sport. These rules include, but are not limited to, current editions as well as the "Precisions" of the FIS ICR, U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR, and the appropriate supplemental rules, such as Rules of the FIS Points, and Rules for the Alpine Continental Cups. The following pages contain an overview of rule changes as well as a review and clarification of existing U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS rules. *This update and review, however, may not contain all rule changes*.

For all events scheduled by U.S. Ski & Snowboard as FIS events, applicable rules of the FIS must be considered and applied. In cases that are not addressed by the ACR for U.S. Ski & Snowboard 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.

"Clean Hill Initiative Revisited" and "B-Net" (PowerPoint presentations) are a mandatory part of Continuing Education. These - as well as other important presentations - can be found on the Officials' section of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website. (usskiandsnowboard.org/sport-development/officials-development/alpine-officials)

Alpine Officials' resource materials are prepared to be accurate and in compliance with current rules and procedures while maintaining a nationwide outlook. The content of the material is reviewed by senior Alpine Officials prior to being submitted for acceptance by appropriate U.S. Ski & Snowboard authorities. If an item included in the resource materials appears to be in conflict with current rules and procedures, please contact U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition Services for clarification and/or interpretation.

PLEASE NOTE: The information contained in this document is current as of 15 September 2026. U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or FIS decisions made in meetings following that date which may affect rules and event operating procedures will be published in Season 2027 Precisions. Please review applicable Precisions upon their publication.

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD COMPETITION UPDATE: SEASON 2027

The following changes are only applicable for non-FIS events:

1. **USE OF INTERNET-BASED TIMING/RESULT PLATFORMS (U612.4.1)**

   Any event that includes U14 and younger athletes is not allowed to post "real-time" results or times on an internet-based timing/result platform during any **run** of an event. Competitor lists, Club entries, Start Lists, Results, Referee Reports, may be posted, and standings/times should be updated at the conclusion of each **run** ideally prior to or in conjunction with the Referee Report. The use of a scoreboard and/or announcer is strongly encouraged. ***If the event includes U14 and older athletes, the above restriction does not apply.***

2. **U12 AND U14 SUPER G TRAINING TIMES (U1256.4)**

   "Training times are not to be posted" will be re-inserted in the ACR.

3. **U14 GIANT SLALOM COMPETITOR START INTERVALS (U622.2.3.1)**

   The Jury may allow irregular (non-fixed) competitor start intervals for U14 and younger Giant Slalom.

4. **U10 COMPETITORS AND SOFT EAR HELMETS (U707, U807, U907, U1007, U1255.4)** In Giant Slalom events, including mixed age events with U10, U12, and U14 Competitors, U10 competitors may wear soft ear helmets.

5. **GATE JUDGES (U669.3)**

The Jury, along with the support of the Organizing Committee may opt to not use Gate Judges for U.S. Ski & Snowboard Slalom provided they take measures to cover the entire course with sufficient Jury members, Jury Advisors, and Eyes of the Jury (Connection Coaches).

6. **THREE RUN SLALOM (803.2.2)**

FIS-amended rules for 3-run Slalom have been added to the ACR and are applicable for both non-scored and scored events. There will be no minimum vertical drop, but USSS age-group maximum vertical drop, minimum time, and minimum penalty will apply; TRS start order will be clarified as required.

7. **WHAT IS "DQM?"**

"DQM" is interpreted as "Disqualified Due to Membership Issue," and will be manually assigned by Competition Services to athletes who were inadvertently entered into an event, and who were allowed to start; e.g.:

- An "inactive" competitor who was inadvertently allowed to compete.
- A competitor who was inadvertently allowed to compete in an incorrect category; e.g., Master in an age-class event.

"DQM," if assigned, will not appear either on paper copies of Official Results or in the result XML file; it will only appear on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website posting of results.

A competitor who is later disqualified due to a membership issue (DQM):

- Will be removed from the event penalty calculation if their participation included them either in the best 5 at start or the top 10 at finish.
- Must still be included in Head Tax calculations.

8. **ALPINE OFFICIALS' CERTIFICATION MATRIX**

Alpine Officials' Certification Matrix has been revised to allow a National Level 3 or Level 4 Technical Delegate or Chief of Race to write recommendations for advancement for Technical Delegates.

9. **U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD LINKS**

All U.S. Ski & Snowboard links may change. The new link for Membership is: **membership.usskiandsnowboard.org/**

10. **ALPINE OFFICIALS' SPECIALTY AREA EXAMINATIONS**

Electronic devices may be used to search through official U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS documents while taking examinations. Electronic devices and AI tools, however, may **not** be used to conduct general internet searches, research external sources, or obtain answers beyond the content of the official rule documents while taking examinations. Calculators may be used to perform any required calculations.

NOTE: An official who does not pass an examination is NOT allowed to retake the failed examination within the same competition season. An appeal of a failing examination may be filed; refer to "Appeal of an Official's Examination Grade" contained in Chapter XI Alpine Officials' Program in the Alpine Officials' Manual, for detailed information.

FIS COMPETITION UPDATE: SEASON 2027

The following are only applicable at FIS events:

1. **ENTRY DEADLINE (ICR Art. 604.4.1)**

In order to support better race planning, the entry deadline has been changed as follows: The Organizer must determine the final date of entry (Art. 213.8) between 72 hours and 24 hours (215.1) before the first Team Captains´ Meeting.

2. **PENALTY CALCULATION ADDER (Art. 4.5 Rules for the FIS Alpine Points)**

An 8-point Adder has been introduced for addition to the calculated penalty for all events and both genders for Levels 2, 3, and 4.

3. **SPEED EVENT COURSE WIDTH (ICR Art. 1002.1, 702.3)**

The width of the speed event courses will be at 40m which is the same as that required for technical events.

4. **DELAYED GATE: Outside Pole Positioning (ICR Art. 801.2.3)**

   The outside pole of the delayed gate:

   - Must not interfere with the racing line.
   - Must be positioned within a maximum 90° angle from the horizontal line relative to the turning pole.

5. **CIT CATEGORY EVENTS**

   Season 2027 calendar will include CIT events. For current rules and procedures, please refer to: FIS Rules for CIT Races and FIS Precisions for the Northern Hemisphere.

6. **AIRBAGS (Specifications for Alpine Competition Equipment Art. 3.5.2)**

   Airbag protector system is now mandatory for race level 0 and 1 speed events. *There is no longer an exception for Nor-Am Cup, South American Cup, Far East Cup, or World Junior Championships.*

7. **CUT RESISTANT UNDERGARMENT PANTS (Specifications for Alpine Competition Equipment Art. 3.5.3)**

   Cut-resistant undergarment pants with a minimum protection level of 3 stars are mandatory for **all** FIS Alpine events. ***The use of cut resistant shirts or cut resistant full body suits is strongly recommended.***

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD & FIS UPDATES: SEASON 2027

The following are applicable to both Non-FIS and FIS events:

1. **ONLINE EVENT MANAGEMENT/REGISTRATION PLATFORM: SkiReg**

   Unless an exception has been granted for Season 2027, organizers of all U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events will be required to use **SkiReg** for event management and registration. In addition, a noncompliance monetary penalty will not be assessed. *Additional information will be available in November.*

2. **INJURY REPORTING**

   The overall goal of FIS is to support a reduction in injury rates which may include changes in rules and regulations, equipment, or coaching techniques. For this purpose, a reportable injury is defined as an injury that occurs during competition or official training requiring attention by medical personnel.

   For a solid evidence base, a detailed Injury Report is necessary. The Technical Delegate plays an important role in registering incidents, but they are NOT responsible for registering medical details.

   It is NOT the duty of the Technical Delegate to gather/record any medical or other sensitive data or to question anyone about the incident. Fact finding, if required, will be done by the respective departments within FIS with a validated Injury Registration Form.

   If an accident results in serious injury or death, immediately contact Jeff Weinman at U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition Services.

   Roles and Responsibilities of the Technical Delegate are:

   - Indicating in the TD report, that an incident happened during the event.
   - Identifying the group to which the injured party belongs; e.g., athlete, official, OC member.
   - If the injured party is either an athlete and/or official, identifying their nation.
   - Providing contact details for the on-site medical staff.
   - Providing type of evacuation; e.g., walking, sled, helicopter, ambulance.
   - Providing information regarding whether or not video is available.
   - Providing contact information in order to obtain a copy of available video.
   - Making notes about the incident in order to reconstruct the incident, if required; e.g., where, when, weather, surface.

   The above will have an impact on Technical Delegates and the member of the Organizing Committee who may be designated to complete injury reports at U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned. First Reports of Accidents/Injury

are only filed online: U.S."AG First Report of Accident" through a link on the Club Insurance page on the website; FIS as part of the Technical Delegate Report.

3. U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD FIRST REPORT OF ACCIDENT

Required for all injuries involving athletes, coaches, officials, or spectators where an insurance claim may be filed:

- Regardless of national federation affiliation.
- Regardless of whether or not Ski Patrol evacuation was required.
- Report should only contain facts; speculation should be avoided.
- Injuries/accidents that occur within the competition arena (including Start and Finish areas) should be submitted by the Technical "Director" or an event official.
- Injuries/accidents that take place outside of the competition arena must be submitted by a coach, parent, or the respective athlete.
- Report **must only be filed online;** instructions and required reporting form may be found under "Participant Accident" at **usskiandsnowboard.org/sport-development/club-development/club-insurance**.
- Report will be refused if fields requiring data input are empty. If the required information is not available, "NA" or similar text must be inserted.
- Filing instructions as well as a sample of the reporting form are available in the Master Packet of Forms. The sample of the reporting form is intended only for gathering required data prior to online filing.

First Report(s) of Injury for named U.S. Ski Team members will be filed by U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff.

4. COURSE PREPARATION (696, U696)

For all competitions listed in the calendar, the competition course should be completely prepared and race ready before the first Jury inspection. It shall include all installations specified in the Technical Advisor's or homologation report, or as agreed between the organizer and the Technical Delegate prior to the arrival of the teams. All the facilities (start, course, and finish area) must be completely prepared and ready for racing prior to the first Jury inspection. Competitions should be conducted on the hardest course surface appropriate to the race level. The Jury and the Organizing Committee shall jointly ensure appropriate planning and management of weather and snow surface condition while taking all relevant variables into account.

5. SUPER G COURSE SETTING (ICR Art. 1003.1.1)

The following sentence has been reworded: "Gate combinations according to Art. 803.3 are allowed **only** in clarifications regarding Para events."

6. TIMING BOOKLET

A new version of the Alpine Timing Booklet has been published: Alpine, Para Alpine Timing Booklet (2.67). It includes clarifications regarding Para events.

7. POINTS LISTS

FIS and National Points Lists will be updated weekly instead of every two weeks.

8. EVENT DOCUMENT PACKET SUBMITTAL – 2 AVAILABLE OPTIONS:

OPTION 1: Individual Event Packet Submittal: If Event Document Packets are submitted individually (daily), you must use the **individual race code** as the file name and email subject. *Please reduce the file size prior to attaching it to the email.*

Code: U0011	**Discipline:** Slalom
Status: Processed	**Gender:** Women

OPTION 2: Series Event Packet Submittal: If you choose to submit Event Packets for an entire series, combine the individual files (each file must be identified with its correct "Code") into one "PDF Portfolio." You must use the **event code** as the "Portfolio's" name and email subject. *Depending on the size of the Portfolio, you may need to zip it before attaching it to the email.*

Name: SnowCup **Sport:** Alpine

Code: 38673 **Division:** Intermountain

Regardless of which option is used, packets must be attached to an email and sent to **resultpackets@ussa.org**.

You <u>must not</u> use the title of the event or any variation of the type of event as the file name or the e-mail subject!

Name: SnowCup

Women's 1st Slalom: 04.04.27

GENERAL REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION - U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD AND FIS:

1. CONTROLLED FREESKI ON THE RACECOURSE

If the opportunity to freeski the competition course is made available:

- Freeski must be controlled by the Jury and the Organizing Committee.
- Freeski opportunity must be made available to all competitors.
- Freeski information, e.g., course inspection time, start time, and the number of runs allowed must be communicated to all participants.
- On-hill competitor security measures – including yellow flags, if required by the type of event and/or terrain – must be in place.

The Jury must conduct an inspection of the slope condition and on-hill competitor security measures prior to the start. *Jury Minutes documenting the inspection and acceptance are required.*

2. SLALOM POLES and GATE PANELS (U680.2.1.1, 701.3.2)

Slalom poles must be contrasting, alternating colors; turning pole must be a flex pole. For **<u>scored</u>** U14 events, 72" gates may be allowed.

For **Downhill and Super G**, in the event the safety netting is the same color as the gate panels, where the gates cannot be seen against the backdrop, an alternative color may be used. Poles <u>should</u> be the same color as the panels.

3. RACE RESULT SOFTWARE WARNINGS

- Do not use **OneDrive** or a folder in OneDrive as a location to save race files. Your software may be set to automatically save files on a specific time schedule. ***If the software's "save" function occurs at the same time Windows syncs to "the cloud," it may cause a file error or only save partial data.***
- **Automatic Windows updates** must be disabled. ***They can reboot or freeze a PC mid-race.***
- **Antivirus protection and firewalls** should be disabled. If they are third-party apps, it is highly recommended they be uninstalled. ***Antivirus/firewall systems routinely block communication with timing hardware.***
- Laptop **standby/sleep settings** should be **disabled**. ***Standby/sleep function can cause data loss, dropped timing connections, and sync failures during live sports timing operations.***
- Vola requires a coded physical **USB dongle** for actual timing. ***A red square in the hardware protection menu indicates the dongle is either malfunctioning or requires an updated driver.***

4. ALPINE OFFICIALS' CONTINUING EDUCATION (UPDATE & REVIEW) REQUIREMENT

Certified Alpine Officials are required to attend an approved <u>yearly</u> Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) or certification-specific Workshop prior to being appointed to officiate at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event.

5. "BLOCKS" OF TICKET FOR COACHES (AOM: Chapter V The Secretariat)

"Blocks" of coaches' tickets must **<u>not</u>** be provided for participating clubs. This practice does not allow the OC to make their best effort to comply with SafeSport requirements.

If event's organization requires that only one coach pick up all of a team's coach credentials/lift tickets:

- A designated coach must complete the "Race Arena/Venue Access Registration" form located in the MPF and list the names to whom the credentials/lift tickets will be issued.
- Race Administrator must verify membership and status for all of the recipients.
- Designated coach must sign for receipt of the credentials/lift tickets thereby confirming identity of the recipients.

6. VERIFICATIONS: MEMBERSHIP, ETC.: Required prior to granting race arena/venue access.

- The Race Administrator must verify that membership status for all named officials, coaches, course setters (if not a coach), forerunners, and competitors is current and not "Pending."
- The Race Administrator must verify that all named officials and course setters are appropriately certified.
- The Race Administrator must verify that the "Last Clinic Season" for all named officials, coaches, and course setters (if not a coach), is "**Season 2027**."
- The Race Administrator must verify the non-presence of all named officials, coaches, course setters (if not a coach), and adult forerunners on the Centralized Disciplinary List.
- The Race Administrator must verify the non-presence of all athletes on the Membership Hold List.
- The Race Administrator must verify all coach certifications are either "Active" or "In Progress."

NOTE: Medical Pool, Contractor, or Staff memberships provide race arena/venue access to named medical personnel, equipment technicians, and physical therapists who are attending an event and acting within the scope of their membership category and professional role.

7. FORERUNNERS

Non-FIS event: Forerunners must hold a current U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership; e.g., Competitor, Coach, Official, Volunteer, Master w/Requirements, Non-Scored Athlete, Short-Term Athlete, or General.

FIS event: Forerunners must hold either a current U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership and FIS inscription or inscription in a foreign federation recognized by FIS. In cases of *force majeure*, where a sufficient number of FIS-inscribed forerunners are not available, an eligible U.S. Ski & Snowboard member may forerun after signing a FIS Athlete's Declaration. **[**605.1**]** Declaration requires a parent or legal guardian's signature for an athlete who is not of legal age.

Adult Forerunners – Minor Participants: Adult (18+) forerunners at events including minor participants (U18 and younger) must be in good standing with a membership that includes SafeSport training and background screening. *The "Alpine Master" and "Short-Term Alpine Master" memberships do not meet this requirement and are not allowed.*

Masters Events: U18 and younger forerunners, including those with General and Short-Term Memberships, at Masters events where competitors may have the "Master" or "Short-Term Alpine Master" memberships that do not include SafeSport Training and background screening *must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or at least two (2) U.S. Ski & Snowboard members with a membership that includes SafeSport training and background screening (e.g., Coach w/Official, Official, Volunteer, Masters w/requirements).*

As with all U18 and younger events, if U18 athletes will be forerunning a Masters event, a communication pertaining to athlete safety policies must be sent to all participants, and the QR code must be posted at the registration area.

A list of approved Forerunners must be provided for the Start Referee. This is critical if a Condensed Start List is being generated or the race result software does not provide enough space to list the names of all approved Forerunners.

8. THE JURY: Composition and Tenure

In accordance with Art. 601.4.4.2, the active tenure of the Jury begins with its first meeting and ends, if no protests are submitted, at the expiration of the protest deadlines as noted in Art. 643 (Deadlines for Submittal). If protests are submitted, the tenure of the Jury ends after settlement of all submitted protests.

- Start/Finish Referees are Jury members **only** for Olympic Winter Games and World Ski Championships. For other events, they are not listed as "Jury Members with Voting Rights." They have no vote and do not sign Jury Minutes.
- If the Jury is no longer empaneled, they may not re-evaluate a previous decision.
- If the Jury is no longer empaneled, they may not alter an athlete's status; e.g., assign/unassign DSQ based on previously unavailable video.