



# ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

## CHAPTER II

### THE SUPERSTRUCTURE OF SKI RACING 2017-2018

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## OVERVIEW

*Federation Internationale de Ski* (International Ski Federation or FIS) is the international regulating body for ski competition. In the United States, U.S. Ski & Snowboard is responsible for all events at all levels of competition and brings new opportunities and challenges to alpine ski racing. The revolutionary advancements made in the design and performance of competition equipment and on-hill competitor security/protection measures have increased the challenges faced by these regulating bodies.

During recent years, there have been many changes in alpine ski racing. The International Ski Federation (FIS) has taken major steps to make management of the premier circuit - the Alpine World Cup - more professional and equal to other major sports attractions. To facilitate accomplishing their goals, FIS added an overall director for the World Cup, Men's and Ladies' full-time World Cup Chief Race Directors and Race Directors as well as general staff. The World Cup Chief Race Directors and Race Directors serve as the Referee and the Assistant Referee for all World Cup events – both speed (DH, SG, AC) and technical (GS, SL).

Due to the subject matter, the material contained in this Chapter is not complete. However, much of it still can serve as a reference for some of the general relationships and descriptions of responsibilities. More complete information appears in the annual U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide, which is published in the fall of each competition season. Additional information can be found in the various sections of the organization's website [usskiandsnowboard.org](http://usskiandsnowboard.org).

## FIS BUREAU

The *Federation Internationale de Ski*, also known as the International Ski Federation, or the FIS Bureau or merely FIS, is located in Switzerland and is the governing body for amateur ski competition around the world. The FIS is comprised of representatives from every member national federation, such as U.S. Ski & Snowboard, and it works closely with the International Olympic Committee and other winter sports federations. The general information FIS website address is [fis-ski.com](http://fis-ski.com). This website can also be accessed through a link on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.

An additional FIS website is [ftp.fis-ski.ch](http://ftp.fis-ski.ch). This website contains additional publications which are available for free download and use. (*Please note that the FIS Points List available on the FIS websites is not formatted for downloading directly into race result software.*)

The governing body of the FIS is the Congress - a biennial meeting of the officers and representatives of member nations and committees. The general structure of the FIS is determined by the Congress and is outlined in the FIS Statutes. The rules for competitions are legislated by the Congress and comprise the International Ski Competition Rules, the ICR, for alpine competition.

Between meetings of the FIS Congress, the FIS Council which is elected at each Congress and which is comprised of an Executive Committee that includes the President, Secretary General, Vice Presidents as well as other members, directs the FIS. The Council directs the Calendar Conferences, the roll of Honorary Members, special working groups and relations with other organizations. In

order to deal effectively with the various technical and special questions, the FIS Congress and Council receive input from committees, subcommittees, working groups and special commissions.

### **U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD**

U.S. Ski & Snowboard is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of ski racing in the United States. U.S. Ski & Snowboard is recognized by the FIS and the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) as the sole sanctioning and governing federation for “Olympic-eligible” skiing in the United States. U.S. Ski & Snowboard manages all aspects of competitive skiing, from junior development programs through the National and Olympic teams.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard is responsible for selecting, fielding, coaching and training the teams that represent the United States in international competition. As the NGB, U.S. Ski & Snowboard has the obligation to provide equal opportunities and representation for all those involved in its programs.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard, together with the United States Ski and Snowboard Team Foundation (USSTF), provides fundraising, development, scholarship and marketing support with assistance from major gift donations, the National Ski Areas Association and major American corporations.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard works closely with the FIS on matters relating to ski sport and is active in integrating skiing in the Olympic movement through the USOC and ultimately, the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

U.S. Ski & Snowboard is one of the largest sports organizations in the United States Olympic family and is a nonprofit, privately funded entity that receives no government subsidies. It is mainly a volunteer organization with a Board of Directors that advises policy and includes technical and athletic representatives from each discipline.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard is comprised of staff, athletes and their families, officials, coaches, volunteers and supporters. Interested individuals invest time, energy and expertise at every level from the National Board of Directors to the local ski clubs. These individuals help determine U.S. Ski & Snowboard policy and programs for implementation at every level of competition.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard provides support for members and encourages participation by athletes, parents, professional organizers, volunteers and recreational skiers and provides benefits including event schedules, tracking of event results for the National Points List (NPL), entry into sanctioned events and publication of educational and informational guides.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard manages the technical aspects of ski competition including scheduling and conduct of sanctioned events in the United States, management of appropriate eligibility and competition rules and the education of coaches and officials. It provides an equitable, professional structure of ski competition at all levels and helps assure that all competitions are fairly conducted by qualified organizers.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE ALPINE SPORTS COMMITTEE**

The Board of Directors of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, in cooperation with the President and CEO of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, is responsible for overall management of U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

The Alpine Sports Committee recommends Alpine policy to the Board of Directors. The Alpine Sport Committee is comprised of various subcommittees and working groups with areas of concern that range from Alpine Officials' education, Masters' competition, scheduling, rules, ranking lists and event quotas, etc. U.S. Ski & Snowboard is divided into geographic regions, each with its own sport committee structure that is responsible for activities within the region and for coordinating activities of its skiers in national events. Regional committees coordinate the activities of common interest over wide parts of the country; they are represented on the Alpine Sport Committee.

### **ALPINE COMPETITION WORKING GROUPS**

The following working groups currently report to the **Alpine Technical Subcommittee**. This subcommittee oversees the efforts of the working groups, receives their reports and recommendations, and forwards them to the Alpine Sport Committee for approval and further action.

**U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical Delegate Working Group** establishes standards for certification of U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical Delegates through coordination with the Alpine Officials' Education Working Group. Assignment of U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical Delegates to all U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned events is made by appointed regional/divisional U.S. Ski & Snowboard Technical Delegates.

**Alpine Officials' Education Working Group** is responsible for preparing and providing updated materials for nationwide standardized education and training of Alpine Officials of all classifications and levels and assists in coordinating the training and certification of officials in all categories. This includes developing educational materials, coordinating and conducting Clinics, preparing a comprehensive Alpine Officials' Manual and offering assistance in the field. This group's efforts in providing updated educational materials assists in upgrading the quality of officiating; the working group also assists in the maintenance and publication of a current, active roster of U.S. Ski & Snowboard certified officials.

**Alpine Classification Working Group** maintains the rules regulating the Athlete Points System (APS), or the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Points List (NPL), as a method of ranking all classified competitors. The Chairman has final authority, subject to Board of Directors' approval, to review and decide complaints or discrepancies and to redress grievances of the APS.

**USA FIS Technical Delegate Working Group** reports to the FIS Subcommittee and is responsible for the management of FIS Technical Delegate functions in the United States, including recommendations for USA FIS Technical Delegate assignments to events as made by appointed divisional/regional FIS Technical Delegates, event quality control and FIS Technical Delegate education. It is responsible for U.S. Ski & Snowboard FIS Technical Delegate Aspirant selection and subsequent candidacy. It is also involved in Technical Delegates' matters involving Canada, including assignments and education via the "North American FIS TD Working Group." It functions

in cooperation with, and provides liaison to the FIS Technical Delegate Commission and FIS Technical Delegate Working Group.

**Alpine Course Approval Working Group** also reports to the FIS Subcommittee and is responsible for approving (homologating) courses for use in U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned competitions. This includes assisting ski areas with course design, on-hill competitor protection/security considerations and preparation and application for course approval. It works with the FIS representatives to approve (homologate) courses for FIS events.

**Alpine Masters Working Group reports** to the Regional Subcommittee. It governs and promotes the sport of Alpine ski racing among those 18 and older. It establishes rules and procedures, coordinates regional/divisional activities, and recommends policy to U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

**Alpine Quotas and Selections Working Group** reports to the Development Subcommittee. It recommends policy regarding quotas to regional/divisional/national events and reviews entry rules and procedures for these events. It recommends policy on competitor access to seeding points and researches related issues.

In addition, there are many additional subcommittees and working groups which promote the growth of U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Please refer to current editions of U.S. Ski & Snowboard publications for additional information.

## **COMPETITION RULES**

Competition rules of U.S. Ski & Snowboard provide a framework in which the various programs are developed and operated. Copies of the Bylaws may be obtained by contacting U.S. Ski & Snowboard. The Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR) are printed in the current Alpine Competition Guide and is also available on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.

1. Participation in U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitions is limited to Olympic-eligible athletes. The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eligibility Committee can ban competitors for violation of eligibility rules. Competitors ruled ineligible have the right to suitable hearings conducted according to established procedures of due process. The Board of Directors provides a Judicial Committee, which makes final judgment. A banned athlete is prohibited from further U.S. Ski & Snowboard events, and that athlete's region/division/state and all member clubs are immediately advised of the ban. Foreign competitors are certified as eligible by their national associations.
2. Competitors, coaches, officials, etc., may be sanctioned (penalized) for conduct at U.S. Ski & Snowboard events that is prejudicial to the sport. Sanctions (penalties) may include but are not limited to reprimand, disqualification or suspension from future events. Monetary sanctions are only allowed at the FIS level. Reciprocal agreements with other countries are possible.
3. U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall sanction (schedule/calendar/approve) annual multi-event National Championships, Junior Championships as well as other national age group championships.

When applicable, national teams are expected to participate unless schedule conflict or specific “force majeure” prevents their participation.

4. U.S. Ski & Snowboard may calendar international tournaments as recognized by FIS. All such tournaments shall be applied for through U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Calendar fees for these events become the obligation of the organizers.
5. Once a sanction has been granted to an organizer for the conduct of a National Championship or an international tournament, U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall not schedule any conflicting event, subject to the anticipated successful conduct of the event as outlined in the Schedule Agreement.
6. U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall determine the qualifications of athletes for such events, subject to the regulations of the FIS. The organizers of such events must file all reports with U.S. Ski & Snowboard on a timely basis following the event.
7. U.S. Ski & Snowboard shall register all competitors in all classes as individuals or as members of clubs. An individual may represent only one club, college or school team in one season.
8. A competitor shall affiliate as an athlete of the region/division in which he/she is training during the majority of the northern hemisphere competition season. The designation must be made at the start of the season and must be abided by the racer for the entire season. Conflicts must be resolved before participation. (Exception: members of national groups, e.g. U.S. Ski Team and National Training Group, etc., will retain their home affiliations.)
9. All calendared events, (FIS, U.S. Ski & Snowboard-scored or non-scored), must be sanctioned by U.S. Ski & Snowboard through the normal sanctioning process. To qualify for U.S. Ski & Snowboard event liability insurance coverage, an event must be sanctioned by U.S. Ski & Snowboard and must be administered and officiated by persons in such quantities, qualifications and job descriptions as established by applicable rules, mandates and procedures.
10. Rules for the conduct of U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitions are those of the ACR, except as specifically modified or added to by U.S. Ski & Snowboard to meet conditions in a specific area. *“The FIS International Competition Rules (ICR) and adjuncts shall govern any and all issues not addressed therein.”* (U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR)
11. U.S. Ski & Snowboard-calendared, internationally scored events are also calendared by the FIS. These FIS events are conducted according to FIS ICR rules and Precisions.
12. As required under the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act, as amended, and by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Bylaws, U.S. Ski & Snowboard maintains an appeals procedure wherein an athlete, coach, official or administrator may appeal a specific decision made by a competition Jury or by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Any athlete, coach, official or administrator who feels they wish to appeal a decision should immediately contact U.S. Ski & Snowboard for procedures for filing such an appeal.

## **UNITED STATES SKI TEAM**

The U.S. Ski Team (USST) is responsible for the final development and competition management of the very top competitors nationally. The USST works closely with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Education Department, which handles the coordination and administration of coaches' education and training, and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sports Science Department.

The goals of the USST are to promote and expand the sport of ski racing in the U.S. and to achieve top results in international competition and consistently win World Cup and Olympic events.

## **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM**

The National Development System is a coordinated effort between U.S. Ski & Snowboard and the U.S. Ski Team to provide a uniform system of training and competition at all levels through talent identification, training and appropriate competitions for age and ability levels.

The development concept consists of age group programs, which identify the best athletes at each level. These athletes are given access to regional and national training camps and possible selection for competition in European events.

At every level, advancement is based on attitude, physical conditioning, results from current and previous seasons, training and qualification camp progress, age/point standings and coaches' evaluations. Outstanding performance will always warrant discretionary selection by the coaching staff. The program stresses winning at all levels.

## **ADAPTIVE SKIING AND THE U.S. PARALYMPIC TEAM**

Skiing for the adaptive began as a rehabilitation/recreation program and has evolved into well-organized national and international competition with corresponding organizations to administer the sport. U.S. Ski & Snowboard used to be more closely engaged with governance of the sport through the International Ski Federation (FIS), but sole jurisdiction over the rules and calendaring of events now resides with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Adaptive skiing has grown to become a well-managed and funded athletic sports organization.

In order to encourage adaptive participation in regularly calendared U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitions, the Alpine Sport Committee adopted a special seeding rule. The "Golden Rule," named after a proposal made by the late Diana Golden, authorizes a special start order for adaptive athletes at all U.S. Ski & Snowboard non-FIS events - both scored and non-scored. Please refer to the current edition of the [Alpine Competition Guide](#) for a full explanation of the seeding and start-position draw for adaptive athletes according to the "Golden Rule." *The "Golden Rule" is for U.S. Ski & Snowboard events only; there is no "Golden Rule" seeding at FIS events.*

At events calendared exclusively for adaptive competitors, an adaptive competitor's classification is defined by the degree of function presented by their disability. Competitors are seeded according to their classification and earned seed points. More information is available at [paralympic.org](http://paralympic.org).

## **U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD COACHES' SPORT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coaches' Sport Education Department is the professional organization of ski coaches within U.S. Ski & Snowboard. It was founded to assist coaches in their efforts to improve the coaching and training offered to current and future athletes by making educational clinics, technical videos and publications available to its members. Through the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine education and certification program, the Coaches' Sport Education Department is attempting to regulate and standardize coaching credentials and is establishing a reputation for excellence in coaching that gives its members a sense of pride.

The Sport Education Department handles the coordination and administration of coaches' training and education at all levels. The department works closely with volunteers to conduct existing programs and generate new programs and educational opportunities. Current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach's membership which includes Alpine Official's membership is required in order to participate in any capacity: e.g. on-hill coaching, at all U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned events. \* Although U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach/Official membership is required, it does not guarantee, complimentary lift access at U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned events.

The Sport Education Department provides its members a challenging educational structure in conjunction with a national certification program. The program has been created to give guidance and accreditation to ski coaches in the United States who wish to educate themselves and promote the professional aspects of their coaching careers. The program provides a method by which qualified coaches are identified and assured of recognition for their expertise. This program provides a standardization of the goals and values of ski coaching and lays the groundwork for consistent and effective communication throughout the country. A description of the education/certification levels within the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine skiing program is available upon request from the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education Department.

*\*A select number of events (CAN-AMS), allow coaches from Canada to serve as on-hill coaches for their Canadian athletes. However, they may not serve as Jury members or Course Setters without current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach/Official membership.*

## **ALPINE RACE SERIES**

FIS and U.S. Ski & Snowboard provide a complete calendar of competitions with opportunities for every level of competitor from the beginner to the Olympic Champion; annual World Junior Alpine Championships are also provided. The top FIS race series is the World Cup, although the individual events of the Olympic Winter Games and the World Championships may focus more attention on specific events.

The level of competition immediately below the World Cup is known as the Continental Cup. Continental Cups include Australia New Zealand Cup (ANC), Europa Cup (EC), Far East Cup (FEC), Nor-Am Cup (NAC) and South American Cup (SAC). These events attract the next tier of competitors and also many World Cup racers. The Continental Cup series offers scoring opportunities for younger athletes.



Below the international level, there are many other scheduled events and series. Some of these events are calendared with FIS and provide access to the FIS Points List and ranking system. USST C and D Team members and top regional athletes participate in the National FIS Series. Each region of U.S. Ski & Snowboard conducts a number of events in this series according to international rules and standards. These events may be augmented by non-FIS events in the same series according to the needs of the regional program involved.

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Junior Championships series are the most important age group championships held in the United States each year. There are also special events or series for less-experienced competitors. These programs are planned, organized and conducted by regional, divisional and local committees, clubs and racing programs, within the general framework of U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

Each competition region of the United States offers other events according to the needs and resources of the various programs. For older age groups, there are events that are scored as part of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard points system.

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Youth Ski League (YSL) is the junior entry-level competition program of U.S. Ski & Snowboard. U.S. Ski & Snowboard provides educational materials to these potential world-class skiers, and the program is designed to recruit and retain young skiers in the sport by emphasizing basic skills development, fun and family involvement.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard continues to offer programs for the Masters competitor. Information is available in the [Alpine Competition Guide](#) or from U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard has entered into partnership with NASTAR. Additional information is available from U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

### **FIS POINTS AND THE SEEDING LIST**

The FIS Points and Seeding List is a system that lists and ranks age-eligible competitors registered (inscribed) internationally and competing in FIS-calendared events. The list shows only those competitors who have been properly registered by their federations prior to the deadline for the particular list. Requirements for registration by an age-eligible athlete consist of an application for a FIS code (inscription) designation, a FIS Athlete Declaration signed by both the competitor and, if necessary, parent/legal guardian (refer to laws of State in which competitor maintains legal residence concerning need for parent/legal guardian signature) and payment of the appropriate fee. All competitors in FIS events must have a FIS code designation.

Competitors are seeded with points as provided on the current FIS Points List. If the current points list is not correct, confirmation of FIS points may be issued only by FIS and only at the request of U.S. Ski & Snowboard and payment of the required fee. FIS Points that have a “C” designation on the FIS website version of the FIS Points List have been “confirmed”. These “confirmed” points, if different from those on the printed/downloaded version of the FIS Points List, are used for seeding and, if required, for penalty calculations.

Only FIS calendared events are scored to the FIS list. FIS results are valid only for the current season.

At the 1996 FIS Congress in Christchurch, New Zealand, the Congress approved the introduction of the Integrated FIS List. This integration has been further modified to allocate FIS Points between 0.00 and 5.99 to the top 30 competitors on the World Cup Start List (WCSL). Before the above allocation of points for the top 30 takes place, at the beginning of the season only, a correction (z) will be made to all FIS points which comprise the difference between the points of the 31st competitor and 6.00 FIS points.

This change made the top 30 competitors of the WCSL and the FIS Points List the same. It also clearly defined the four-level structure, World Cup, Continental Cup, FIS events and Entry Level, through the use of category adders, (refer to Chapter IX - Timing and Calculations). This resulted in the FIS points being less compressed, without affecting the rankings.

In season 2012, FIS adopted the Base List (BL). Base List Points are calculated by taking the average of a competitor's best 2 results in each event. Correction values (Z) are applied, the top 30 of the WCSL are integrated and the Normal FIS Points List (NL) is generated. Calculation allowances are made for competitors who are injured, only have 1 result in an event, who have no results in an event or whose Normal Points are higher than Base List Points.

#### **U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD ATHLETE POINTS SYSTEM**

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS points systems are based on the same formula for scoring, and the top competitors in U.S. Ski & Snowboard will be ranked as the top USA competitors in the FIS Points List. The two lists differ in that the FIS Points List is more selective than the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points List (NPL), because there are fewer events scored in the FIS system and because these events generally have restricted fields with various entry limits. FIS results for U.S. Ski & Snowboard-member athletes are scored to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points List.

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Athlete Points System (APS) lists and ranks all age-eligible U.S. Ski & Snowboard competitor members, with the exception of Masters, who are properly registered prior to the deadline for a points list; Masters Competitors have a separate ranking list used for seeding only at U.S. Ski & Snowboard Masters events. Any competitor whose name does not show on the current U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points List may be entered in U.S. Ski & Snowboard scored events upon verification of membership status on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website. The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Online Membership option allows a competitor to immediately process a U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership request.

Competitors who complete membership applications after the closing of an NPL must be seeded with 999.99 points unless they also request and receive a point's confirmation from U.S. Ski & Snowboard. A letter confirming U.S. Ski & Snowboard points will only be issued to a competitor, their family or their coach provided that the competitor is in good standing and has paid the required fee.

**NOTE: 999.99 is a U.S. Ski & Snowboard indicator that a competitor either has not earned any valid U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points or their membership was not current at list closing; FIS Points are calculated to 999.00.**

**NOTE: Athletes from foreign countries, who are training with U.S. Ski & Snowboard clubs/schools, and who wish to compete in *U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned, non-FIS events* must be current members of U.S. Ski & Snowboard. EXCEPTION: *Canadian athletes entered in CAN-AM events.***

Foreign athletes who wish to compete in scored U.S. Ski & Snowboard non-FIS events and who have *current* FIS inscription and Points but do not have *current* U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership and U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points may do so after completing all U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership requirements. These competitors are seeded with their FIS Points; when applicable, their FIS Points are used in the Penalty calculations.

Foreign athletes already registered for the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points List and competing in scored U.S. Ski & Snowboard events are shown with an “X”. If these athletes have *no current* U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points but do have *current* FIS Points, they are to be seeded with their FIS Points. When applicable, their FIS Points are to be used in Penalty calculations.

Foreign athletes registered in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points List who *do have current* U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points must be seeded with their U.S. Ski & Snowboard Points regardless of whether or not FIS Points are better (lower).

### **HOMOLOGATIONS AND COURSE APPROVALS**

All FIS events must be held on FIS homologated trails that have been inspected and approved - homologated - in advance of calendaring by members of the FIS Alpine Courses Sub-Committee. The homologation process for FIS trails involves assembling a report on the technical aspects of the course prior to inspection by the FIS representative.

The purpose of the homologation and inspection is four-fold. First, the inspection guarantees that the course involved meets reasonable FIS standards when it is properly prepared and with on-hill “security/protection measures” in place according to the instructions of the inspector. The inspection confirms that the course meets the technical requirements as described in the report. The report itself provides valuable data to the FIS and is used to confirm that FIS events meet the required standards. Finally, the inspection offers the opportunity for a FIS expert to make suggestions to the ski area operator and event organizer regarding preparation and use of the facilities.

All scored and non-scored U.S. Ski & Snowboard events must be conducted on a homologated or registered/approved course. A registered course is one that does not meet technical requirements (normally, lacking specified vertical drop) but does comply with course setting and security regulations. U.S. Ski & Snowboard Schedule Agreements cannot be executed if approval/homologation has not been completed or is not current. *FIS homologated trails are accepted as approved U.S. Ski & Snowboard courses.*

U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS Slalom (SL) and Giant Slalom (GS) courses must be reinspected/rehomologated every ten years and Downhill (DH) and Super-G (SG) courses must be reinspected/rehomologated every five years to assure they meet current standards. The five/ten-year validity starts with the first of November of the year that the homologation certificate is issued. A new FIS DH venue must be inspected and approved by a FIS inspector from a country other than that requesting the homologation. All courses, however, must be reinspected if major alterations are made in the course or related facilities or if there are changes in the regulations or technical requirements. These changes may include, but are not limited to: erosion; terrain overgrowth; construction of lifts, buildings, shelters, parks, roads or tracks, etc.; the installation of snowmaking hydrants, snow retention fences or other significant hardware. All FIS and U.S. Ski & Snowboard courses not re-inspected by the end of the required 5-year or 10-year intervals are dropped from both FIS and U.S. Ski & Snowboard listings of approved courses.

There are deadlines for submittal of requests for U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS homologation and submittal of completed reports. Ski areas and event organizers interested in pursuing U.S. Ski & Snowboard or FIS homologation should contact either the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Office or the Chairman of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Courses Working Group as listed in the current Alpine Competition Guide for details, necessary forms and other information, including involved costs. When initial paperwork is prepared, an inspector will be assigned and appointments will be made for the inspection. Following a satisfactory inspection and payment of the required fees, U.S. Ski & Snowboard courses will be assigned a homologation/registration number; FIS reports will be submitted to the FIS for approval and assignment of a homologation number.