



ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

CHAPTER X

COACHES AS OFFICIALS

2017-2018

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OVERVIEW

In ski racing, we must all function as team players; no one person can stage a successful competition without the support and cooperation of everyone involved. In order to combine talents in the most effective way and provide this support and cooperation, we must have an understanding of the roles played by others. This understanding will allow coaches, officials and parents to present a professional and objective appearance and viewpoint.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Coaches have numerous responsibilities. This chapter discusses some of the responsibilities of a coach at competitions to the competitor, the event organizers and race officials. It also discusses the coach's responsibility to project a professional image.

For U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned *FIS* and *non-FIS* events : Unless an exception has been granted (e.g. Canadian coaches at CAN-AM events*), coaches must have a current Coach Membership to participate in any capacity, e.g. on-hill coaching, at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard event. In addition to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership requirement, U.S. Ski & Snowboard member coaches who wish to serve as Referee, Assistant Referee or Course Setter at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned event – either scored or non-scored – must be certified Referees.

** Canadian coaches at CAN-AM events may serve in the capacity of on-hill coaches. They may not, however, be assigned as Jury members or Course Setters unless they also hold a U.S. Ski & Snowboard “X” coach/official membership.*

For all U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned *non-FIS* events: All Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start Referee or Finish Referee), Chief of Course, Course Setters, Chief of Timing and Calculations and Race Administrator need to be current, appropriately certified, members of U.S. Ski & Snowboard as a Coach (which includes an Officials' membership), or an Alpine Official.

NOTE: *U.S. Ski & Snowboard members whose status is **PENDING** on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website membership roster may not serve as Jury members, Jury Advisors, Chief of Course or Course Setters.*

For U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned *FIS* events: If a FIS Federation lists a coach on their entry form, the Federation is offering their guarantee 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. With this understanding, the above individuals are recognized as being qualified members of a foreign federation recognized by FIS.

NOTE: For all U.S. Ski & Snowboard events – scored and non-scored, Jury Advisors (Start and Finish Referees) must be a certified Referee, Jury Advisor or Chief of Race.

Failure to observe these requirements for U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned events will invalidate liability insurance.

RESPONSIBILITIES AT AN ALPINE COMPETITION

The coach has three main responsibilities at an alpine competition:

1. Represent their athletes in all aspects of the competition to the best of their ability.
2. Assist event organizers and race officials in assuring quality competition that is fair for all competitors.
3. Project a professional image to competitors, officials, parents and the skiing public.

Coaches must accept these responsibilities, but first and foremost they must remember they are there for the competitors.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMPETITORS

The following are the responsibilities of the coach to the competitors as they pertain to a competition, as well as some general statements as to how these responsibilities should be met.

1. **ON-HILL SECURITY/PROTECTION:** It is each individual coach's responsibility to verify the overall on-hill security/protection of their athletes at all competitions:
 - a. Check courses, start area, spill zones, finish area and other on-hill course/security protection.
 - b. Voice concerns to the Jury.
 - c. Assist athletes to warm up (in a secure environment), train and race at their ability.
 - d. Remove competitors with questionable ability from an event.
2. **RULES:** Each coach has the responsibility to assure their competitors know, understand and abide by all of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or FIS rules that pertain to the race. The coach should:
 - a. Be well versed on the rules and communicate the rules to the competitors.
 - b. Make sure pertinent rulebooks are part of the race day equipment.
 - c. Make sure competitors follow the rules.
 - d. Set a good example by following and enforcing the rules and demonstrating an appreciation for them. *Coaches who do not observe the rules or who are engaged in obvious manipulation of the Official Results and Penalty may be sanctioned; suspected penalty manipulation will result in an event not being scored until it can be fully reviewed.*
 - e. Accept the responsibility to assure all competitors follow the same rules and standards.
3. **RACE SCHEDULES AND REGULATIONS:** A coach must know the event schedule and ski area requirements and must assure their competitors understand and observe them:
 - a. Read all pre-event information – this includes, but is not limited to, event fact sheet and event medical plan.
 - b. Attend Team Captains' Meetings.
 - c. Attend course inspections.
 - d. Check Official Notice Board for Report by the Referee* and other updates.
 - e. Relay event information/Jury instructions to competitors.
 - f. See that rules are enforced, especially in regard to competitors' security/protection.

* Report by the Referee must be reviewed regardless of a coaches' belief in competitors' status
4. **ATHLETE REPRESENTATION:** A coach represents their athletes at all formal race activities (Team Captains' Meetings, Jury Meetings, etc.):
 - a. Check event entries prior to Team Captains' Meeting.

- b. Check Seed Board for proper points and seeding.
- c. Check Report by the Referee for DNS's, DNF's and especially DSQ's after each run.
- d. Advise and assist competitors with Protest(s), if appropriate.
- e. Represent competitor(s) at Jury Meetings.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE EVENT ORGANIZERS AND RACE OFFICIALS

The following are the responsibilities of the coach to the event organizers and race officials.

1. **JURY:** Each coach should be qualified and willing to serve as Referee or Assistant Referee as needed:
 - a. Have current Referee certification and U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach Membership and review provided educational materials. (Coach Membership includes Official membership.)
 - b. Keep current on the rules by attending officials' and coaches' continuing education clinics.
 - c. Know, understand and abide by responsibilities of the Referee.
 - d. Fulfill all reporting requirements.

2. **COURSE SETTER:** Each coach should be qualified and willing to serve as a Course Setter as needed:
 - a. Know current course setting specifications and adhere to them.
 - b. Work with Jury and organizers.
 - c. Be prepared with own drill, wrench, and other course setting equipment as needed.
 - d. Set a fair and legal course appropriate for the ability of the field.

3. **ORGANIZATION SUPPORT:** As the liaison between organizers and competitors, a coach should give organizers proper support:
 - a. Assure that all entries are submitted within the proper time frame.
 - b. Communicate all required information to competitors.
 - c. Verify that competitors attend all required functions (banquets, awards, etc.).
 - d. Require that competitors observe all rules.
 - e. Communicate injury information to Technical Delegate/Jury even if injury occurred on a warmup/training course provided by the Organizing Committee.
 - f. Be courteous and respect all officials and race workers.
 - g. Set a good, professional example.
 - h. Volunteer to assist on the Jury.
 - i. *Thank all officials and race workers.*

RESPONSIBILITY TO PROJECT A PROFESSIONAL IMAGE

A coaches' third area of responsibility is to project a professional image at all times during all competitions. Coaches not only represent themselves, they also represent their athletes, clubs, athletes' parents, the national federation and the sport in general:

1. Realize that appearance and actions must reflect favorably upon the individual and the sport.
2. Treat the organizers, officials and area operators in a courteous, professional manner.
3. Promote the sport and its image in a favorable fashion to the skiing public.
4. Work with the press and media in a positive, professional manner.

U.S. SPORT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education Department works closely with the Alpine Officials' group to improve the quality and professionalism of our alpine events. Successful coaches must have a strong working knowledge and respect for the rules as outlined in the FIS ICR and U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR, (Alpine Competition Regulations found in Chapter 7 of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide).

Officials' training is arranged through region/division Alpine Officials' organizations. Look for details at usskiandsnowboard.org or on region/division websites. U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education encourages all member coaches to attend these training sessions and become certified Referees regardless of their coaching level or experience. To maintain official's certification, biennial attendance at Officials' Continuing Education Clinics is required. This is in addition to the continuing education requirements to keep coaching certification status current.

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD COACHES' CERTIFICATION STRUCTURE

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education offers on-snow clinics and presentations as well as on-line courses and webinars to all of its member coaches. To support the professional development of coaches, these clinics are structured in a progression that allows a coach to continually upgrade their educational background in alpine ski racing. Through these levels of courses, coaches can obtain certification. An outline of the certification process is below:

Entry Level Coach – All U.S. Ski & Snowboard member coaches who are not certified will be required to review and complete a “Fast Start Coaching Course” every three years before their membership will be valid. This on-line course covers the essentials of coaching, including general coaching responsibilities, long-term athlete development, planning, coaching ethics, risk management, and rules of sport. These coaches will also be linked in with continued learning opportunities specific to their needs and the athletes they will be coaching.

Level 100 Coach – The Level 100 coach will have completed a series of online modules, attended an on-snow Alpine Ski Fundamentals clinic and passed the corresponding on-snow skills assessment and on-line exam. Certified coaches must have a current First Aid/CPR certification and completed both SafeSport and Concussion awareness programs. It is recommended that all Level 100 coaches also become certified alpine Referees. Coaches without significant experience with course setting must also complete the Introduction to Course Setting course prior to attending the Level 200 clinics.

Level 200 Coach – The Level 200 coach will have attended an on-snow clinic in Alpine Technique and Tactics and passed the corresponding on-snow skills assessment and on-line exam. They must complete the General Coaching Principles course offered by the American Sport Education Program (ASEP). Level 200 coaches must also complete additional course work in sport science areas supporting their coaching needs. Level 200 coaches must be Level 1 Alpine Referees.

Level 300 Coach – The Level 300 coach will have attended on-snow clinics in Advanced Slalom, Giant Slalom, and Speed Technique and Tactics. Level 300 coaches also must complete additional course work in sport science and sport management topics. Level 300 coaches must also earn Level 2 Referee certification through their activity record as Jury members at races and recommendation from upper level officials.

Elite Level Coaching – Top level coaches will also have opportunities to develop and enhance their coaching knowledge through the U.S. Ski & Snowboard National Coaching Academies. These academies offer longer blocks of intensive on-snow and classroom training with national team staff and other experts in skiing and related fields. Additionally, apprentice and mentoring opportunities with the U.S. Ski Team staff may be coordinated through the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education Department.

Continuing Education requirements for each level will ensure that all coaches remain current and up-to-date in the latest developments and advances in coaching their sport. All certified coaches are required to complete continuing education credits based on their certification level. There are many options available to meet continuing education requirements.

***NOTE:** Coaches' Continuing Education is not the same as Alpine Officials' Continuing Education; biennial attendance at an Alpine Officials' Continuing Education Clinic is required in order to retain Alpine Officials' Certification.*

For more information about coach education and certification, contact the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education office at (435) 647-2050 or email education@usskiandsnowboard.org. You can also find information on the web at alpine.usskiteam.com/alpine/coaches.

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD BACKGROUND SCREENING

Over 75% of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's membership is under the age of 18. In order to help ensure that these members are in a secure environment, U.S. Ski & Snowboard has implemented a strict policy that is in keeping with the standards of many youth sports organizations, schools and recreational programs in the US. All U.S. Ski & Snowboard employees, member coaches and officials are subject to the background screening process.

Background re-screening will be required every three years for all U.S. Ski & Snowboard employees, coaches and officials. Approximately 1/3 of the membership will be re-screened during any one-year period with the remaining re-screening completed during the next two-year period.

Approximate background screening approval for those residing in the U.S. for 7 years or more can take as long as 2-3 weeks; turnaround for foreign coaches and officials or for those who have lived abroad can take several months.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach/Official membership application or renewal is filed online using the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Membership Tool. The procedure is:

1. Apply for or renew your U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach or Official membership online on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website. Create a "User Account" and select all requested memberships, e.g. Coach/Official, Competitor – Alpine, U.S. Ski & Snowboard Club Volunteer, U.S. Ski & Snowboard Club Participant, Snowboard, Freestyle, Masters, etc.
2. Enter or affirm previously supplied primary medical/accident insurance information
3. Coaches who are non-certified member coaches must review and complete the "Fast Start Coaching Course"
4. All members must review and accept "Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability". (Read carefully before accepting.)
5. All members must review and accept "U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Concussion Policy"

6. All members must review and accept “U.S. Ski & Snowboard’s Child Protection Policy Safe Sport Guidelines”
7. Upon receipt and processing of your application, if either “Fast Start Coaching Course” and/or initial background screening or updating are required, U.S. Ski & Snowboard will direct you to a link that will initiate the required process.
8. Site will provide membership fee total.
9. Credit card holder must provide current credit card information.
10. If either background screening and/or “Fast Start Coaching Course” are required, “PENDING” will be noted on the membership dashboard.
11. Until “PENDING” status is cleared and full membership status is in effect, a Coach or Official must not be allowed to participate in any capacity at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned event: e.g. appointed to serve as a Jury member, Jury Advisor (Start/Finish Referee), Chief of Course, Course Setter; this includes Coaches being allowed to serve as an on-hill coach.
12. When all “PENDING” requirements are fulfilled, membership status will be updated and U.S. Ski & Snowboard website will be updated.
13. If there are no “PENDING” requirements, membership will be finalized immediately and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website will be updated.

In order to secure members personal information, Member Tools – Club Roster, Member Lookup, Member List, etc., will require login access. Program is more fully explained on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website.

Until all membership requirements are finalized, a coach or official will show “PENDING” in U.S. Ski & Snowboard’s online member lookup tool. Until “PENDING” status is cleared and full membership status is in effect, a Coach/Official must not be appointed to serve as a Jury member, Jury Advisor, Chief of Course or Course Setter.