



UNITED STATES SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL

CHAPTER III

**RULES, THE JURY AND
THE TECHNICAL DELEGATE**

2011-2012

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OVERVIEW

In this Chapter, an attempt is made to give Alpine Officials both an understanding of why we have rules for ski racing as well as the composition and function of a competition Jury. Details concerning the role of the Technical Delegate are also discussed.

THE RULES OF SKI RACING

In the United States non-FIS, USSA-sanctioned competitions are conducted according to the rules in the current USSA ACR. These regulations are published in the USSA Alpine Competition Guide, (Comp Guide), and are also available on the USSA website at <http://www.ussa.org>. All Alpine Officials are urged to review current copies of these regulations at the beginning of each season. *“The FIS International Competition Regulations, (ICR), and adjuncts shall govern any and all issues not addressed therein.”* (USSA ACR). ACR mirrors, where possible ICR numbering. ACR rules that are exceptions to ICR are preceded by “U”; “U” is part of the rule number.

Under certain conditions, USSA rules may be modified by region and/or division rules. These modifications may not be in conflict with the USSA ACR.

In order for a modification to become a USSA, regional or divisional rule, the Executive Committee, policy committees and/or technical committees must approve the recommendation for modification at the annual USSA Spring Congress. Members can also make motions for changes prior to the Congress, and if necessary, a rule can be interpreted between meetings by the Executive Committee upon Sport Committee request and/or recommendation.

USSA policy on such matters as the calendar of events, quotas, major projects, budget, etc., is set annually by the Executive Committee based on recommendation from subcommittees to the Alpine Sport Committee. Proposals for these items are initially included on the meeting agendas; however, they may also be introduced at the Congress. USSA staff, in consultation with the Alpine Sport Committee, designs procedures and instructions for implementing policies. These are then subject to Working Group, subcommittee, Alpine Sport Committee and Executive Committee's approval.

FIS competitions are internationally scored and are conducted according to the International Competition Rules - better known as the ICR, or “Blue Book”, which is a set of rules that have been approved by the FIS Congress. The last paper copy edition was published in 2008; updated versions, including both a “clean copy” and a “strike-through” copy which shows all changes, are posted on the FIS website. Changes are based on recommendations from committees and national federations as well as from motions made by Congress delegates. If necessary, rules are interpreted by the FIS Council between meetings of the Congress and are published as “Precisions”.

“Precisions” are provisional rules that are compiled by FIS staff at the direction of major FIS committees. They are then subject to the approval of the FIS Council. These provisional rules are adopted by major FIS committees, subject to FIS Council approval, and must be considered at the next Congress if they are to continue to have effect at ski competitions. All Alpine Officials are urged to review current copies of the ICR and its Precisions.

HOW RULES BECOME RULES

Alpine ski racing is different from most “American” sports for several reasons: The sport is international and the rules reflect this in translations from various languages (primarily German and French), the dimensions of the “arena” (race hill), and the type of equipment (boots, skis, helmets, clothing, slalom armor, back braces, etc.), the duration of the event and the number of “players”. All of these elements are constantly changing and evolving.

Depending on the level of the competition, dimensions of baseball fields, football fields or basketball courts are all the same regardless of where they are located - whether in Maine, California or any state in between or even in another country. This is not true of race hills because no two are identical due to characteristics of the hill itself, the altitude, the weather, the snow coverage - manmade or natural - and various other natural elements.

Rule development is an evolutionary process that reacts to problems and situations as they occur. The rules are written in response to real life situations and are often influenced by commercial considerations.

In reference to translation of the FIS rules, no known language is precise. Translation from the original language as well as interpretation as to what is actually meant are both required. For both FIS and USSA rules, judgment plays a key role, not only in the application of the existing rules, but also in dealing with situations not described in the rules. Rules need to be viewed with these thoughts in mind: “What does this rule mean? What does the rule intend to accomplish/control?” It is also necessary to consider the “spirit” of the rule as well as its fairness and appropriateness. Our primary goal as Alpine Officials is to give every competitor a fair and equal opportunity in an event where rules are applied consistently, to conduct the event on a consistent and legal course, to provide an accurate timekeeping system, and to file required documentation in a timely manner.

The competition Jury is a decision-making body with responsibility for the application of the rules and for the success of the competition beyond the rules while keeping fairness in mind. Being a member of this Jury is an important role for coaches, appointed by the Technical Delegate to serve on the Jury as Referee and Assistant Referee at speed events (Downhill and Super G) and as Referee at technical events (Giant Slalom and Slalom). This is no less of an important role for “Jury Advisors” (USSA term), who serve as Start Referee and Finish Referee. **NOTE:** An Assistant Referee may be appointed for USSA technical events for training purposes only. In this case, the Assistant Referee participates with the Jury but is not a member of the Organizing Committee, does not have voice or voting rights in Jury decisions and is not named on any of the official race documents.

At Olympic Winter Games and World Championships, the Start and Finish Referee are appointed by FIS and are voting members of the Jury.

SOURCES FOR RULES

There are several reasons why rules are necessary for ski racing. These include preventing local or regional advantages, providing competitors’ on-hill security/protection, specifying technical aspects in the definition of and execution of a race - often on matters once assumed to be “understood” by knowledgeable Alpine Officials and to adapt to technical developments in competitors' clothing and equipment. Skillful race officials do not have to memorize the rules, but they must know where to

find the rules, how to interpret and understand them and how to apply the rules in a consistent manner.

There are several publications where the current rules pertaining to alpine ski racing can be found. It is important that ALL Alpine Officials be familiar with *current editions* of these publications.

1. United States Ski and Snowboard Association Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR)
2. International Competition Rules, (ICR)
3. Precisions to the ICR, published by FIS, in early summer for the Southern Hemisphere and in November for the Northern Hemisphere
4. Rules of the FIS Points, published by FIS, in early summer for the Southern Hemisphere and in November for the Northern Hemisphere
5. Rule books for World Cup and Continental Cup (Europa Cup, Nor-Am, etc.), published annually
6. Memorandum for the Technical Delegate, provided by the FIS Bureau to Technical Delegates

NOTE: The above are all available either on the USSA or FIS websites.

RULES - THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS

As in any other sport, rule violations are a common problem. From a disciplinary point of view it is necessary to consider the conduct of both the competitors and the race officials.

Infractions could begin as competitors are inspecting the racecourse and disregarding instructions of the Jury by disregarding closures of portions of the course, following or not following the prescribed method of inspection, or by ignoring the scheduled course inspection times.

As a race progresses, other problems may include but not be limited to, competitors arriving late for their starts or committing false start(s), failure to have a helmet that conforms to current Specifications for Competition Equipment (USSA and FIS require helmets for all events), equipment and clothing that does not conform to current rules, unsportsmanlike behavior and attempts to manipulate Official Results and/or Penalties.

In addition, there can be problems concerning personnel needed to staff the competition. These problems occur when individuals serving as an Alpine Official do not know, understand or abide by current rules, fail to anticipate potential difficulties, are not available when needed, are overbearing in demeanor, fail to follow instructions, exhibit evidence of personal or local favoritism when making decisions or are indecisive.

In general and organizational areas common problems are lack of adequate preparation by the Chief of Race, Chief of Course, Chief of Timing & Calculations and Race Administrator (Race Secretary). Lack of preparation may lead to insufficient or unprepared Gate Judges; lack of communication equipment; insufficient or inadequate electronic or manual timekeeping equipment and personnel; lack of meeting room facilities; lack of knowledge regarding duties and obligations of competitors, Team Captains and officials; errors in Data Management and/or Timing and Calculations which affect Second Run Start Lists and/or Official Results and Penalty; and inconsistencies in documentation procedures.

OFFICIATING AND THE RULES

Rules are created to define the physical environment of the competition, its dimensions and its condition. Rules also define or describe essential procedures, and they serve to control the

participants as well as those associated with the competition. Rules prevent actions that give an advantage to one or more of the participants and they define the rights and duties of the officials. In order to ensure that the rules are followed, officials are present to assist, assume control, arbitrate and then report on the competition.

Officials need to keep in mind that if all pertinent facts are *not known*, it is wise to reserve judgment until these facts are available. For example, normally a rerun is allowed only if a competitor has been “obstructed” by an object, person or act other than one initiated by the competitor. However, since not all these facts may be known, a “provisional” rerun should be allowed which will keep options open until such a time after the run or race that facts can be gathered, the competitor can be allowed due process and proper Jury deliberations can take place.

“Provisional” reruns are not valid until ratified by the Jury, and the competitor must be reminded of the provisional status of the run. If a Jury member allows a request for a rerun (or delayed start) and fails to indicate its provisional nature, the Jury will be unable to address the validity of the request. The use of “rerun” / “start” versus “provisional rerun” / “provisional start” is accepted as automatic acceptance of validity of reason for request.

It is important to remember that the Jury is not obligated to provide provisional reruns or provisional starts. It may be that requests for provisional reruns/starts will be denied 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).

COMPETITION JURY

The competition Jury controls a ski race and rules on ALL questions concerning the interpretation or applicability of the rules. Upon their appointment, members of the Jury become members of the Organizing Committee. However, the nature and function of the Jury is very different from those of the Organizing Committee and has developed in direct response to the needs of competition.

Unlike many other sports, the nature of the competitors and the location of the event change radically from race to race. Furthermore, rules themselves are often subject to different interpretations. Therefore, the Jury is the means of providing access to immediate rulings for all parties involved: the competitors and their Team Captains, the sponsoring organization and the sanctioning group.

COMPOSITION OF THE JURY

According to current rules, with the exception of World Championships and Olympic Winter Games, the Jury for USSA/FIS speed events is composed of:

Technical Delegate

- is appointed by and represents sanctioning association
- is from outside the host organization
- upon appointment, becomes member of Organizing Committee

Referee*

- is appointed by Technical Delegate
- represents the competitors and coaches
- upon appointment, becomes member of Organizing Committee

Assistant Referee*

- is appointed by Technical Delegate

- represents the competitors and coaches
- upon appointment, becomes member of Organizing Committee

Chief of Race

- is appointed by the host organization
- is a member of the Organizing Committee

* Referee and Assistant Referee should be the most qualified, appropriately certified (Referee) individuals present. Inasmuch as these individuals are the competitors’ representatives on the Jury, the Referee and Assistant Referees should be appointed from among the coaches present for the event. Referees, Assistant Referees and Course Setter(s) for all USSA-sanctioned events – scored and non-scored – must be USSA certified Referees.

As noted before, for USSA technical events, an Assistant Referee may be appointed for training purposes only. In this case, the Assistant Referee participates with the Jury but is not a member of the Organizing Committee, does not have voice or voting rights in Jury decisions and is not named on any of the official race documents.

In addition to the Jury members mentioned above, there are two “Jury Advisors”: the Start Referee and the Finish Referee who are appointed by the host organization. These persons serve as “eyes of the Jury” at their respective positions during the course inspection, training and the race but are not members of the Jury. The term “Jury Advisor” is a USSA term used to recognize two officials who are an integral part of the competition.

For Olympic Winter Games and World Championship events, the Start Referee and Finish Referee are appointed by the FIS as voting members of the Jury. At these upper-level events, in addition to the Start and Finish Referee, Team Captains are named to also serve in the capacity of “Connection Coaches” or “Eyes of the Jury”.

At some events (usually FIS speed events), the Committee for Alpine Skiing can appoint a **Technical Advisor**. The Technical Advisor supports the Jury and has the right to express opinions within the Jury; the Technical Advisor does not have a vote.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE JURY AND USSA JURY ADVISORS

The Race Jury and its Advisors see to it that the rules are adhered to throughout the competition as well as throughout the official training. They consider the on-hill security/protection of the competitors, officials and spectators as well as the propriety of local procedures at respective areas. Please refer to the current editions of the USSA ACR as well as the FIS ICR and its Precisions for more specific duties of each Jury member as well as the Start Referee and the Finish Referee.

The primary responsibilities of the **Technical Delegate** are:

1. Serving as the official representative of USSA/FIS
2. Making sure that all rules and directions of USSA/FIS are adhered to before, during and after the event(s)
3. Assuring that the event runs as smoothly as possible
4. Advising the organizers within the definition of the duties of the Technical Delegate.

With the exception of World Cup, World Championships and Olympic Winter Games, the Technical Delegate appoints the Referee and Assistant Referee. For the above events, the FIS Bureau appoints these officials. Regardless of how appointed, these officials become members of the Organizing

Committee and also serve as the competitors' representatives on the Jury. For World Championships and Olympic Winter Games, the Start and Finish Referee are also appointed by the FIS Bureau and have voting rights.

The primary responsibilities of the **Referee** are:

1. Supervising the Drawing of start numbers, either by “Double Draw” or computer-generated draw (See Chapter V - Secretariat, for information concerning “Double Draw”)
2. Inspecting the course after it is set, alone or accompanied by members of the Jury
3. Changing the course by taking out or adding gates
4. Receiving the reports of the Start and Finish Referees and other race officials concerning infractions of the rules and/or gate faults after each run/race and signing and posting the Report by the Referee with a list of competitors who did not start, did not finish or who are disqualified.*
5. In special cases, submitting a report to the FIS Bureau.

**In cases of force majeure, the Technical Delegate may prepare, sign and post the Report by the Referee. A Report by the Referee signed by the Technical Delegate is valid.*

For speed events, the **Assistant Referee** is expected to assist the Referee in all of the above duties.

The primary responsibility of the **Chief of Race** is supervising the entire race operation. Although only a few words describe this position, the job itself is actually rather large. See Chapter IV - Race Organization for further information.

The above officials constitute the Jury. The Jury is responsible for the technical matters within the closed competition areas from a technical standpoint, and organizational viewpoint and a disciplinary viewpoint. Included in the disciplinary viewpoint duties is the observance of due process.

What is “**due process**”? Due process is "the conduct of formal proceedings according to established rules and principles for the protection and enforcement of private rights, including notice and the right to a fair hearing before a tribunal with the power to decide the case." The Jury shall provide the athlete a full and complete opportunity to present his or her side of the case before imposing any sanctions. Failure to allow due process may open the Jury's decision to appeal.

The primary responsibilities of the **Start Referee** are:

1. Making sure the regulations for the start are properly observed
2. Having reserve bibs (with numbers not assigned in the competition) available for competitors who do not have their assigned bibs
3. Determining late and false starts
4. As directed by the Jury, determining violations against equipment rules.
5. Reporting to the Referee at the end of the race with the bib #'s and names of the competitors who did not start
6. Reporting to the Jury the bib #'s and names of competitors who have made false or late starts or who have committed other infringements.

Experienced Start Referees have “emergency supplies” handy such as: shovel, felt tip marker, extra paper, flagging or surveyor's tape, measuring tape, etc.

The Start Referee must have the ability to communicate by radio with the Jury at all times. The Jury must be advised regarding replacement bib #'s, insertions in the running order, requests for provisional starts, requests for provisional reruns, etc.; to call a "START STOP" when it is necessary to halt the competition; and to notify the Jury when the start officials are ready to restart the competition.

"START STOP" AND ITS PROCEDURES

Information regarding "start stop" commands is found in the yellow flag section of DH rules; yellow zones may also be found on SG courses. "Start stop" commands are applicable at all levels of competition.

1. The command "**start stop!**" is called via radio by a Jury member, eyes of the Jury (a coach positioned at a yellow flag zone) or Jury Advisor when it is necessary to control the departure of the next racer – usually because the preceding racer has fallen and the racer or racer's equipment is blocking the course. When this command is issued, the Start Referee must immediately close the start.
2. The command "**start stop, yellow flag stop!**" is called via radio by the Jury member, Eyes of the Jury or Jury Advisor who called the "**start stop**" when it is necessary to control the departure of the next racer and also to "**yellow flag**" (**stop**) a racer who is already on course – again, because the preceding racer has fallen and the racer or racer's equipment is blocking the course. When this command is issued, the Start Referee must immediately close the start.
3. The Start Referee must immediately and in a concise manner, respond via radio that:
 - a. The start is closed, and
 - b. Must state the start number of the last competitor to have started as well as
 - c. The start number of the competitor held at the start.
(Example: "start stop confirmed, number 23 on course, number 24 at the start". Additional verbiage is discouraged because the Jury channel must be kept clear.)
4. When "**start stop**" or "**start stop/yellow flag stop**" is called, ski patrol assigned to the event and in radio contact with the Jury, is now on alert that a competitor may require medical assistance.
5. If the Jury/Eyes of the Jury/Jury Advisor call for medical assistance,
 - a. Ski patrol assigned to the event first verifies that the course is clear, *e.g.: no racer is on course!*
 - b. Once ski patrol assigned to the race has verified that it has a clear course, it responds to the call for medical assistance.
 - c. SKI PATROL ASSIGNED TO THE RACE - NOT COACHES / TRAINERS / OFFICIALS / PARENTS / OTHER COMPETITORS - ARE THE FIRST RESPONDERS!
6. The individual (Jury member, eyes of the Jury or Jury Advisor) who called the "**start stop**" or "**start stop, yellow flag stop**" is responsible for releasing the course hold.
7. The course is reopened at the direction of the Jury: either from top to bottom, bottom to top or from the position where the incident requiring the "start stop" occurred.
8. The Technical Delegate is responsible for confirming that all Jury members, Jury Advisors and Eyes of the Jury have reviewed and are aware of "start stop" and "start stop/yellow flag stop" procedures.

The primary responsibilities of the **Finish Referee** are:

1. Making sure that all rules for the organization of the finish and the in-run to the finish are observed
2. Marking the finish line with a "coloring substance"
3. Supervising the Finish Controller and the timing personnel in the immediate finish area

4. Supervising crowd control in the finish area
5. Maintaining communication with the start area at all times.
6. Reporting to the Referee at the end of the race with the bib #'s and names of the competitors who did not finish
7. Reporting to the Jury at the end of the race with the bib #'s and names of the competitors who did not observe the rules for the finish or committed other infringements.

The **Chief of Course** is neither a Jury member nor a Jury Advisor and is responsible for supervising preparation and maintenance of the race hill, especially the track.

The Chief of Course supervises the work of the Course Maintenance Workers/Crew. Inasmuch as the Chief of Course must be familiar with local snow conditions on the terrain concerned, this official is usually either a ski area employee or a member of the local club.

Due to the rapidly changing nature of the sport, the sport's snow preparation requirements as well as the requirements involved in the choice and placement of on-hill security/protection measures, the duties of Chief of Course are best learned through mentorship and on-hill training with an experienced Chief of Course. *Educational materials – including Study Guide and examination – are currently available for Chief of Course Clinics.*

THE TECHNICAL DELEGATE

The role of the Technical Delegate is multifaceted. The Technical Delegate is the single race official with the greatest responsibility for the proper conduct of a competition. Through their knowledge and experience, Technical Delegates are a positive contributor to a race. They are a counselor to the race organizers, are charged with the supervision of the event and are expected to make or assist in the making of decisions with regard to the application of the rules.

In addition, the objective of the Technical Delegate is to help the Organizers run the best possible competition even under the worst possible conditions. Achieving this goal calls for foresight, preparation, organization and anticipation.

In more detail the rights and duties of the Technical Delegate also include the following:

The Technical Delegate should communicate with the organizers and arrive at the race site in due time to prepare fully. This preparation includes, but is not limited to:

1. Reviewing the homologation file to verify that suggestions for installation of the minimum on-hill competitor security/protection measures as noted in the Inspection Report have been met or are available for placement. (Jury may vote to add additional measures.)
2. Verifying that a valid USSA Schedule Agreement (sanction agreement) has been processed.
3. Verifying that event liability insurance is in effect.
4. Verifying that an event medical plan appropriate for the level and type of competition is ready for review and acceptance by the Jury.
5. Inspecting the competition and training courses and checking on available competitor on-hill security/protection with the Organizer's representative, usually the Chief of Course.
6. Collaborating in the administrative and technical preparations.
7. Checking the official entry lists, including Seed Points, if applicable.
8. Checking on the availability of radios for the Jury.

9. Checking access to the start and verifying location of the lifts together with possible inconveniences and restrictions that may require alternate methods of transportation.
10. Verifying that an Event Medical Plan has been prepared.
11. Locating the available first aid service and medical care facilities.
12. Checking all technical installations.
13. Taking part in Team Captains' meetings and Jury meetings.
14. Appointing the Referee and Assistant Referee, when applicable, and assisting in nomination of Course Setter(s) [For all USSA-sanctioned events – both scored and non-scored, Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start & Finish Referee), Chief of Course, and Course Setters are required to be participant members of USSA as an Official or Coach/Official. (*Associate members are not “participant” members.*) 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*.

For USSA-sanctioned *FIS events*, if a foreign FIS Federation lists a 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. With this certification, the above individuals may also be qualified members of a foreign federation recognized by FIS.

NOTE: USSA members whose status is PENDING on the USSA website membership roster must not serve as Jury members, Jury Advisors, Chief of Course or Course Setters.

In addition to meeting membership requirements, Referee, Assistant Referee and Course Setter(s) for all USSA-sanctioned events – both scored and non-scored must be certified Referees.

15. Verifying that a sufficient number of forerunners are available.
16. Accompanied by the Jury, verifying that on-hill security/protection measures are in place
17. Being present in race area during competition.
18. Acting as Chairman of the Jury.

The Technical Delegates represent the sanctioning organization and assist organizers with event preparation and conduct and in completing his work he might have to make decisions against the Organizers if it concerns enforcing the rules. The Technical Delegate should work with the Organizers in a helpful manner and take all points of view into consideration prior to making a decision. Therefore, the Technical Delegate is also responsible for:

1. Observing that the rules are followed and that race officials perform adequately in accomplishing their tasks.
2. Making decisions on situations not explicitly covered in the current rules when these situations have not already been addressed by the Jury and do not fall within the scope of other authorities.
3. Commenting on “local options”, ruling on their compatibility with the current rules, and reporting on any which are adopted for the event.
4. Checking to see that service personnel are properly identified and observing the rules as to their numbers, conduct and access to the competitors and the course.
5. Taking definite action on violations of the rules and having the courage to make unpopular decisions.
6. Avoiding influence on his decisions by any particular individual or group once fair discussion has been completed on an issue.

Technical Delegates report on the race based on their observations throughout the competition. Therefore, it is necessary that the Technical Delegate:

1. Observe the preparation of Official Results and confirm their accuracy by signing them.
2. Calculate/verify competitors' Race Points.
3. Calculate/verify the Official Penalty and confirm its accuracy by signing it.
4. Work with the Race Administrator to see that all paperwork has been correctly prepared and submitted; e.g.: Jury Minutes
5. File a final report to the sanctioning organization with copies to other concerned parties, approving the conduct of the race.

NOTE: USSA Technical Delegates have liability insurance provided by USSA. Technical Delegates for all USSA-sanctioned (scored and non-scored), non-FIS events are entitled to Per Diem of \$50 per travel/inspection/training/competition day plus expenses, including room, board and transportation. Per Diem, including expenses, is the responsibility of the Organizing Committee. (FIS Per Diem is calculated at a higher rate. Refer to "FIS TD Expense Report Form" in the "Master Packet of Forms" found on the USSA website.) *FIS Technical Delegates assigned to USSA non-FIS events are only entitled to USSA Per Diem of \$50 per travel/inspection/training/competition day.*

THE FIS TECHNICAL DELEGATE

FIS initiated the issuance of FIS Technical Delegate designation in a major effort to achieve worldwide uniformity in all aspects of alpine ski racing. Anyone wishing to become a FIS Technical Delegate should review the requirements as found in the current ICR as well as the information found in the current edition of the USSA Alpine Competition Guide.

FIS Technical Delegates have event liability insurance coverage provided by FIS and by USSA. Per Diem and expenses, including room, board and transportation, are the responsibility of the Organizing Committee. Due to an agreement with FIS, North American (CAN and USA) FIS Technical Delegates *officiating at FIS events in North America* are entitled to a different reimbursement scale than that outlined in the FIS ICR.

ASSIGNMENT OF TECHNICAL DELEGATES

The Technical Delegate acts as the representative of USSA and/or FIS. For USSA-sanctioned events, a USSA Technical Delegate Working Group representative in each region/division/state appoints the Technical Delegates. For FIS events, the Technical Delegate Working Group representative in the respective area appoints a FIS Technical Delegate. For Nor-Am events (Continental Cup), this appointment process is accomplished in cooperation with Canada. These nominations are then presented to the USA FIS Technical Delegate Commissioner.

Technical Delegates are not assigned by the host organization except under extraordinary circumstances and only with the approval of the responsible Alpine Official Committee representative.

THE TECHNICAL DELEGATE AND LOCAL OPTIONS

Under their responsibility for upholding and interpreting the rules, the Technical Delegates will be called upon to comment upon proposed variations or local options and to rule on their compatibility with the applicable USSA or FIS regulations. Further, Technical Delegates must report to USSA and/or FIS on any variation and effect of such options.

In considering a proposed option, the Technical Delegate should weigh the option against the following guidelines:

1. If additional on-hill competitor security/protection is required, is it available?
2. Does it maintain the spirit and intent of the actual rules?
3. Does it avoid giving any undue advantage?
4. Does it maintain the relative value of racing performance and USSA/FIS Points?
5. Is it consistent with modern skiing standards?
6. Can it be realistically carried out and/or enforced?
7. Is it readily understandable to the concerned public so that good public relations can be maintained?
8. Is it advantageous or necessary (not merely convenient to Organizers or a particular group)?
9. All things considered favorably, when summing up - is the Technical Delegate willing to go on record in the written report as having approved a deviation from the rules?

There are several noteworthy “local options” which will appear frequently:

1. Quotas - automatics, additional invitations, state quotas - information can be found in the current USSA Alpine Competition Guide.
2. Junior Championships entries - information can be found in the current USSA Alpine Competition Guide.
3. Junior Championships seeding.
4. Ski area requirements, such as lift privileges, etc.