



UNITED STATES SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

ALPINE
OFFICIALS'
MANUAL

This publication is dedicated
to all
Alpine Officials -
past, present and future;
to all
who have contributed to this Manual;
and to all
who will contribute in the future.

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Revised 1984

Revised 1985

Revised 1986

Revised 1989

Revised 1990

Revised 1991

Revised 1993

Revised 1994

Revised 1995

Revised and Reprinted 1996

Revised 1998

Annual Revision and USSA Website Posting: 1999 – 2011

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2011-2012

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The National Governing Body for Olympic Skiing and Snowboarding

November 1983

Upon the publication of this Manual, it is my belief that the statement of responsibility of the Alpine Officials' Committee will, in fact, become true.

The statement as presently written is "to train and certify officials in all categories and work to upgrade the quality of officiating on a continuing basis."

In the past, we all have done an excellent job within our own areas of expertise and regions - but - never has there been a true national guide, which brings all officials together. Many discussions have been held on: why do we not have a Manual - a way to let the people in Alaska have the same knowledge as the people in Maine or New York? We now have that Manual. It may not be the best, nor as complete as we would like, but it is a start. The Manual has been designed by officials for officials. It is not designed just for the East or West or South but for all. The Manual is not designed in a permanent form. It is designed for amendment, change and free of form. As our charge or function states, "upgrades the quality on a continual basis" that is the design of the Manual.

My sincere thanks to the many people who labored long and hard to make this Manual a reality and may it never grow old in design.

Sincerely,

DAVID STAPLETON
National Alpine Officials' Committee

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UNITED STATES SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

OBJECTIVES in the ORGANIZATION and EXECUTION of a SKI RACE

COURSES:	Legal Consistent Fair for all competitors
COMPETITORS:	Qualified Properly seeded Controlled
TIMING:	Accurate Posted promptly
DOCUMENTATION:	According to specifications Accurate and timely
THE RACE:	Classification by ability and performance Starts and continues on schedule Fair for all competitors Enjoyed by the competitors
PROCEDURES:	Reasonably consistent from one race to another!
RULES:	No unfair advantage. Each competitor has the opportunity to compete on a course that is proper and fair!

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALPINE OFFICIALS

Many ski areas have established professional race departments, however there are still a large number of Alpine Officials who are volunteers and who give freely of their time, ability and resources in support of skiing racing. Whether professional or volunteer, high standards of judgment and competency are expected of all USSA- member Alpine Officials as they represent USSA at all events.

The hallmarks of good officials are consideration, promptness, accuracy, firmness and justice that are tempered by tact. Any actions taken or behavior exhibited reflects on the whole of the organized sport.

Alpine Officials must remain active and up to date and act in a professional manner. Each official is charged with seeing that the rules of the sport and for their respective areas are followed in a fair and consistent manner without becoming involved in nit picking over particular procedures. They must exercise reasonable judgment and discretion and insist upon compliance on major issues, especially on-hill competitor security and timing, while being willing to compromise on minor ones.

Alpine Officials should use restraint in their dealings, suggesting rather than ordering and using tact and persuasion rather than force or bluster. A successful event, one that is fair for all competitors, requires knowledge, experience and teamwork.

Alpine Officials represent USSA to the ski area, sponsoring club, competitors, Team Captains (coaches), parents and the public. Their words and behavior should be tempered to create the best possible impression of fairness, competence and restraint thereby assuring rewarding and enjoyable competition experiences for all.

MAJOR BENEFITS for ALPINE OFFICIALS

To freeze to death in inclement weather
at inconvenient times in absurd locations

So as to be subject to the accumulated abuse
of coaches, competitors and parents

Then to face heavy traffic
in blinding snow storms and dark nights

And arrive home three hours late
But secure in the knowledge that
the competitors had a good and fair event! ! !