



**UNITED STATES SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION**

**ALPINE OFFICIALS' MANUAL**

**CHAPTER X**

**COACHES AS OFFICIALS**

**2011-2012**

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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 USSA-sanctioned non-FIS events:** Coaches who serve as members of the Jury, Jury Advisors (Start Referee or Finish Referee), Chief of Course and Course Setters need to be current members of USSA as a Coach (which includes an Officials membership), Alpine Official or Competitor. **NOTE:** *USSA members whose status is PENDING on the USSA website membership roster may not serve as Jury members, Jury Advisors, Chief of Course or Course Setters.*

**For USSA-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 may also be qualified members of a foreign federation recognized by FIS.

**For USSA-sanctioned FIS and non-FIS events :** USSA coaches are required to be USSA member coaches in order to receive complimentary lift privileges at sanctioned USSA and FIS events. In addition to the USSA membership requirement, USSA member coaches who wish to serve as Referee, Assistant Referee or Course Setter at any USSA-sanctioned event – either scored or non-scored – must be certified Referees. This type of certification is strongly recommended for USSA non-scored events and may be required in certain divisions or states.

Failure to observe these requirements for USSA-sanctioned events may 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 competitor.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMPETITOR**

The following are the responsibilities of the coach to the competitor 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 and understand all of the USSA/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.
  - 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.
  - b. Attend Team Captains' Meetings.
  - c. Check Official Notice Board for Report by the Referee and other updates.
  - d. Relay information to competitors.
  - e. See that rules are enforced, especially in regard to competitors' security/protection.
  
4. **ATHLETE REPRESENTATION:** A coach represents their athletes at all formal race activities (Team Captains' Meetings, Jury Meetings, etc.):
  - a. Check race 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. Keep current on the rules by attending officials' continuing education clinics.
  - b. Know responsibilities of the Referee.
  - c. Have current Referee certification and USSA Coach Membership and review provided educational materials. (Coach Membership also includes Official.)
  - 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**

The third area of a coaches' 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 ski association 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.

### **USSA SPORT EDUCATION PROGRAM: *Building Towards Success***

The USSA 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 USSA ACR, (Alpine Competition Regulations found in Chapter 8 of the USSA Competition Guide).

Officials' training is arranged through region/state/division officials' organizations. Look for clinic schedules here: <http://www.ussa.org/magnoliaPublic/ussa/en/formembers/officials/clinics.html>. USSA 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, attendance at Officials' Continuing Education Clinics is required.

## USSA COACHES' CERTIFICATION STRUCTURE

USSA 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** – Starting in the 2012/13 season, all USSA member coaches who are not certified will be required to take an on-line course covering 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 attended an on-snow Alpine Ski Fundamentals clinic and passed the corresponding on-line exam, and have current First Aid/CPR certification. It is recommended that all Level 100 coaches also become certified alpine Referees. Coaches who do not have 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-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. We recommend that Level 300 coaches work to upgrade their Referee certification through their activity record as Jury members at races.

**Elite Level Coaching** – Top level coaches will also have opportunities to develop and enhance their coaching knowledge through the return of the USSA 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 USSA 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 one full continuing education credit every two years. There are many options available to meet this requirement.

For more information about coach education and certification, contact the USSA Sport Education office at (435) 647-2050 or email [education@ussa.org](mailto:education@ussa.org). You can also find information on the web at <http://www.ussa.org/magnoliaPublic/ussa/en/formembers/coaches/about.html>.

## USSA BACKGROUND SCREENING

Over 75% of USSA's membership is under the age of 18. In order to help ensure that these members are in a secure environment, USSA 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 USSA employees, member coaches and officials are subject to the background screening process. Background re-screening will be required every three years for all USSA 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.

Coaches/Officials may file a USSA membership application online through the USSA membership tool. However, if the initial background screening has not been completed, or if a background screening update is required, the applicant will be directed to another link in order to initiate the background screening process.

1. Apply for your USSA coach or officials membership. You may either apply online or request a paper membership form. If using the paper membership form, submit with all required fees to USSA.
2. If applying online, you must create a "User Account" and complete the following:
  - 2011-2012 "Alpine Skiing Competition Form" (Membership Form)
  - Medical Insurance information. If you do not have insurance, you will be directed to a link for a "Medical Exception Agreement".
  - Review and accept "Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability".
  - Review and accept "USSA's Concussion Policy".
  - Credit card payment information.
3. Upon completion of the above, if required, you will be directed to a secure link in order to initiate background screening registration.
4. If initial screening (new member) or re-screening (1/3 of current membership), the USSA membership card can be printed immediately.
5. In order to secure members personal information, Member Tools – Club Roster, Member Lookup, Member List, and Card Print will require login access; Chat Support is available for online registration.

If paper copy membership form is submitted, it can be downloaded from the USSA website. Upon USSA's receipt of completed paper copy membership form, and if initial or re-screening is required:

1. USSA will advise you of the specific online procedure for background screening registration.
2. The applicant must then register online with NCSI within 10 days in order to initiate the background screening process. (Site is https; similar to that used by financial institutions.)
3. When USSA receives a "green light" from NCSI, your membership will be finalized and a USSA membership card can be printed from the USSA website.

Regardless of which membership application process is used: online or paper copy, a coach or official will show "PENDING" in USSA's online member lookup tool until the background screening process is complete and NCSI issues a "green light". Coach/Official must not be appointed to serve as a Jury member, Jury Advisor, Chief of Course or Course Setter until "Pending" status is cleared and full membership status is in effect.

Approximate background screening approval turnaround is increasing. For those residing in the U.S. for 7 years or more it 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.

Program is more fully explained in "Member Announcements" on the USSA website or at [http://www.ussa.org/PublishingFolder/272\\_7115.htm](http://www.ussa.org/PublishingFolder/272_7115.htm).