

5 - RULES GOVERNING PNSA COMPETITIONS

PNSA clubs and teams hosting divisional races should consider the following rules and guidelines.

RACE ORGANIZATION

Entry Fees

Race entries must be made on an official USSA/PNSA Entry Card. An entry card must be completely filled out in all of the spaces provided for the racer's use, and full entry fees must accompany all entries. Mail entries to the race organizer's address as shown on the PNSA Alpine Calendar. Race entries may be sent to only one event on a given day; duplicate entries will result in forfeiture of all entry fees and may result in disciplinary sanction by the ACC.

The Alpine Competition Committee recommends entry fees for the various levels of racing (Junior, Buddy Werner, College and Masters). A portion of each entry fee is sent to USSA, Western Region and PNSA and is called Head Tax. If Head Taxes are assessed, fees vary depending on the nature and level of each race. Race Administrators and Clubs will be notified of the recommended entry fees and appropriate Head Tax fees each season. Rule of thumb: The recommended entry fee for all JR scored races is double the head tax.

Entry Deadlines

Race Entry Deadlines are also listed on the PNSA Race Calendar. The number of days may vary from race to race, however usually 10 days is required. All entries must be postmarked by the Entry Deadline. Late entries, phone entries, or entries submitted without payment may be denied by the race organizer. Organizers may apply a late fee penalty to late entries. Late entries will always be first cut from a race when field size is an issue. It is the racer's responsibility to check with the race organizer to see if a late entry has been accepted.

Entry Refunds

Weather and snow conditions can at times cause the cancellation of a race or training day. Also, a racer may cancel his/her entry for reasons of illness, etc. If cancellation occurs the following policy will apply:

Cancellation by a racer: If a sponsoring host club is advised 24 hours before the race start, or 24 hours before the training day (for DH or Super G), of the inability of a previously entered competitor to attend, the entry fee will be fully refunded. This policy also applies in the case where a race is relocated and the competitor is unable to attend at the new site.

Cancellation of a training day: Upon cancellation by the jury, TD, or race organization, of a DH or Super G training day, up to 50% of the total training fee may be kept by the host club to recover expenses associated with set-up for training.

Cancellation of a race: Upon cancellation by the jury, TD, or race organization of a race on the actual day of the event, the host club may keep up to 50% of the club's portion of the total entry fee collected. The head tax portions and at least 50% of the club's portion must be refunded to the racers. If a race is cancelled prior to the actual day of the event, the total entry fee must be refunded to the competitors.

Cancellation of a single selection qualifier run: Upon cancellation by the jury, TD, or race organization of a "run", the host club may keep up to 100% of the club's portion of the total entry fee collected. All of the USSA and Western Region head tax and 50% of the PNSA head tax must be refunded to the racers.

Seeding Systems

In ski racing "seeding" is the process by which racers are assigned bib numbers and arranged in an order for competition. There are two different methods used for PNSA Junior racing, and additional methods used for Western Region FIS and Junior Olympic events.

TRS System – PNSA J3 Qualifiers

SL & GS: Four runs held over a two-day period. First run of racers is drawn at random. Second run is the reverse of the first. Third run begins with the second half of the first run order and then continues with the first half of the first run order. Fourth run is the reverse of the third run order.

SG: Two or three races held over a two-day period. First race is drawn at random. Second race is the reverse of the first. Third race begins with the second half of the first run order and then continues with the first half of the first run order.

Example:

1st Run or Race:	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
2nd Run or Race:	10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1
3rd Run or Race:	6,7,8,9,10,1,2,3,4,5
4th Run or Race:	5,4,3,2,1,10,9,8,7,6

With the TRS Seeding System all racers receive a 2nd run in SL or GS, whether they finished the 1st run or not. When more than four runs will be contested at a single event, the process starts all over again. A natural break in events should be used to re-start the TRS Seeding.

USSA Point Seeding

Most PNSA races are seeded by USSA points. Competitors are ranked by USSA points in the contested event. Competitors are then placed on the board in point order (lowest to highest). The USSA points used will always be from the current USSA Points list. The first seed of competitors, usually a group of 15, are randomly drawn. The remainder of the field runs in point order. This establishes the 1st run order.

For SL and GS, two run events, only those racers who legally finished the first run are allowed a second run. Racers are ranked in order of first run finish with the top 30 finishers running in reverse order. Therefore the 30th fastest time from the first run starts 1st, and the fastest time starts 30th. All others race in finish order of first run.

Western Region J3 Junior Olympics Seeding

At the Western Region J3 Junior Olympics seeding is done by groups of 15 competitors, with each division receiving one or more spots in each group. Once each group has been filled the groups are then randomly drawn, creating the 1st run start order. The 2nd run start order is created by following the normal rules of USSA seeding as described above.

At the J3 Junior Olympics PNSA will assign racers to each group in order of their ranking from the PNSA J3 Qualifying series. Each event will be ranked separately.

Western Region Championships and FIS Races

At the Western Region Junior Championships, Western FIS Series Finals and all Western Region FIS races, seeding is done using the current FIS list, and following the same procedure as USSA seeding described above. For the 1st run, racers without FIS points are seeded in order of their USSA points following all racers with FIS points.

PNSA Race Field Size

1. There shall be no more than 140 racers on one course.
2. The number of competitors in a race must not exceed 140. This means 140 men plus 140 women, if the event includes men and women racing on separate courses. An exception to this rule is for FIS races where guaranteed national quotas may generate field sizes over 140.
3. The number of racers in a race may be determined by the Race Chairman, however, not to exceed 140. This number must be announced on the race calendar or by a mailing to the racers concerned.
4. When the field size at the deadline exceeds the maximum of the announced limitation, host organization competitors, who are otherwise qualified to enter the event, will be selected first. Then all other competitors will be selected by USSA points - lowest points first. Those competitors who are dropped from the race must be notified in ample time to allow for other participation on the same date.

Out-of-Division Racers in PNSA Events

Racers from other divisions are welcome to compete in PNSA races to the extent compatible with field size restrictions. The racer must meet the qualifications of the PNSA race series being entered. Western Region racers should contact their Divisional office at least two weeks prior to the race. Racers from outside the Western Region will need permission from their Regional Director and the Western Region Director / Divisional Manager at least three weeks (21 days) before the event.

Race Announcements

Each race organizer is required to send a race announcement "fact sheet" to the PNSA office and to PNSA club contacts on the PNSA Club list by email. Organizers should send the announcement to the PNSA for posting on the Internet. Announcements should be sent out in good time, at least 14 days prior to the entry deadline. Information that is to be included on a race announcement:

1. Name of race, type of race series, dates of race and race location.
2. Entry fee amount, entry deadline and address for mailing of entry fees.
3. Race Chairman's name and contact phone numbers
4. Location of race headquarters during the event.
5. Housing and wax-room facilities, if appropriate.
6. Time and location of the Team Captains' meetings.
7. Price of lift passes, and time and location to purchase pass.
8. Daily schedule or events, including start times and race hill locations.
9. Time and location of racer registration, bib distribution and amount of bib deposit.
10. Time and location of awards or awards banquet, if appropriate.
11. Phone number to be called, up to 24 hours prior to race start time, to be used for possible racer cancellation.
12. Procedure for competitors to follow if race is canceled or relocated.
13. Other special instructions i.e. complimentary entries, late fee, etc.

Race Results

Race results must be received in the PNSA office no later than three days following a race. All results to be included on the USSA Points list must be submitted by email using the "xml" format, and a hard copy of computer generated results. Race organizers will be provided with instructions for submitting results for scoring. All results must be accompanied by the "Transmittal Sheet" (corrected if necessary), with the race code number for that event, and the signed T.D. Report for each race. Head tax payment (three separate checks - Western Region, PNSA and USSA) in full must accompany results.

Team Captains Meeting - Racer Representation

It is the responsibility of all racers to be represented at the Team Captains meeting, or to otherwise inform themselves of the decisions made concerning the competition and the rules of the day.

PNSA "Pace Skier" Policy

The purpose of the Pace Skier Policy is to assist racers, who normally compete at higher levels of competition, when they participate in divisional racing. Those racers are encouraged to compete at lower levels, thereby sharing their experiences with lesser skilled competitors. This approach helps generate appropriate FIS or USSA point levels at each series. To determine who qualifies as a Pace Skier, FIS points will be used at ENL FIS races, and USSA points will be used at PNSA/USSA scored races. The pace skier policy applies only to PNSA/USSA scored races and to PNSA ENL FIS races.

1. The following PNSA racers are considered Pace Skiers:
 - a. Western Region Automatics
 - b. PNSA Alpine Team members
 - c. FIS or USSA points of 100 or lower in the event contested.
 - d. Certain USCSA racers who appear on a Pace Skier roster prepared by the PNSA office
2. Any Pace Skier who is one of the top 5 Pace Skiers seeded in a PNSA race will receive complimentary entry fees. PNSA will waive the PNSA head tax and pay the USSA and Western Region head tax for the race organizer. The race organizer will waive the club's portion of the entry fee. The organizer must submit the list of racers whom they have waived fees and head tax with the Official Results.
3. Race organizers are encouraged to provide other financial assistance to Pace Skiers, e.g. lift tickets, whenever appropriate.
4. It is the competitors' responsibility to check with the race organizer to verify if they hold Pace Skier status.

RULES OF ALPINE COMPETITION

USSA alpine races are run under the USSA Competition Regulations for USSA events. The International Ski Federation (FIS) regulations, known as the International Competition Regulations (ICR), shall govern any and all issues not addressed in the USSA rules and regulations. The USSA Competition Regulations are found in the current USSA Alpine Competition Guide (ACG). It is every competitor's responsibility to know and observe the rules. Coaches are expected to support the rules by instructing their racers in proper observance and respect.

USSA EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

A competitor may only take part in a USSA competition with equipment that conforms to the USSA Regulations. Competitors are responsible for the equipment they use (skis, bindings, ski boots, helmet, suit, etc.). It is their duty to check that the equipment conforms to the USSA specifications and general safety requirements and is in working order. The specifications for the current season can be found on www.USSA.org and www.PNSA.org.

Ski Brakes

Ski brakes which are functional with the actual ski/plate/binding in use are required and are the responsibility of the respective producers and the athletes (regardless of standheight). Any and all ski brakes used by competitors in all events, including master's events, must be functional and comply with all related FIS requirements.

Helmets

Helmets designed and manufactured for the particular event being contested are required for all competitors and forerunners in all USSA events and official training. Helmets must bear a CE mark and conform to recognized and appropriate standards such as CEH.Din 1077, ASTM F2040, SNELL S98 or RS 98.

Helmets must cover the head and ears. Helmets with spoilers or with edges that stick out are not permitted. Protective features integral to the event being contested, such as chin guards on slalom helmets, are permitted.

PNSA and USSA do not specify nor recommend nor make any warranties as to the fitness for use of any particular ski helmet design or brand name. PNSA and USSA undertake no responsibility, liability or duties to any competitor in connection with the requirement that helmets be utilized. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to select the appropriate helmet for accident protection in ski racing.

Caution: Age and use affect the protective qualities of all safety helmets. Some older helmets and any helmets that have been damaged either in a racing fall or from other impact may no longer provide sufficient protection - even if there are no visible indications of damage.

COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED RULES

Interference, requests for re-run

If a competitor feels that he or she has suffered from interference on the course, the competitor must ski out of the course immediately and request a provisional re-run from any competition jury member, explaining the specific problem and location. The jury will determine the validity of the claim in a subsequent meeting, according to the rules related to re-runs.

Racing numbers, bibs

Competitors must carry their official start numbers during inspection, clearly visible. Bibs must be worn during official training. Bibs shall not be modified in any way. The penalty for breach of these rules is disqualification.

After Clear Disqualification

A racer who has clearly disqualified for missing a gate may not continue through further gates. Competition juries may instigate disciplinary sanction of competitors who violate this rule.

Binding Release

For USSA races, a binding release occurring more than two gates above the finish in Slalom, Giant Slalom or Super G, or one gate in Downhill, shall be considered a "clear disqualification". Racers may not continue on the course. This rule does not apply to FIS events. Competition juries at events that are not scored for seeding points, i.e., Youth Ski League races and certain team races may waive this rule.

Protest

If a racer protests the decision of a race official, he or she must submit a written protest and post a bond of an amount determined by the competition jury. If the protest is denied, the bond is forfeited.

Unqualified racers

By majority vote the competition jury may exclude racers for safety reasons.