

UNITED STATES SKI & SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

2009-2010 REVIEW & UPDATE – ALPINE

The United States Ski and Snowboard Association's competition regulations for domestic alpine ski racing are adopted from the FIS ICR, but are specific to USSA competitions. The Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR) are updated annually, are published in the current Alpine Competition Guide and are available at www.usssa.org. *The FIS International Competition Regulations (ICR) and adjuncts shall govern any and all issues not addressed therein.*

For all events scheduled by USSA as FIS events, *only* the rules of the FIS apply. In cases that are not addressed by the ACR for USSA events or by the ICR for FIS events, or in cases where the rules must be interpreted, the authority for making such decisions will rest with the Competition Jury.

It is the responsibility of every official, coach and competitor to *know and understand* the rules for the sport. These rules include, but are not limited to, current editions and "Precisions" of the FIS ICR, USSA ACR, and the appropriate supplemental rules, such as Rules of the FIS Points and Rules for the Alpine Continental Cups. The following pages contain a review and clarification of existing USSA and FIS rules. An overview of major rule changes is also included; *this review and update, however, does not contain all rule changes.*

GENERAL REVIEW AND CLARIFICATION – USSA AND FIS:

1. It is important that all officials acting as Technical Delegates and Chiefs of Timing & Calculation fully understand and follow timing rules set forth in the USSA Alpine Competition Guide, the FIS ICR (and its Precisions), and the FIS Timing Booklet. (Timing Booklet is available on the FIS website).

Following a review of the Timing and Data Technical Reports (TDTR) from last season, the following timing issues have been identified as problems. Officials must familiarize themselves with proper procedures in order to eliminate these problems:

- a. The TDTR is a FIS form and it is used for both FIS and USSA-scored events. Its requirements include name, version and publication date of race result software and verification that timing data agrees with the timing tapes. *A TDTR is not required for non-scored events.*
- b. Please note the only permissible way to install photocells is on wooden posts which have been cut partially through on the uphill side to facilitate breakage if impacted by a racer. It is **not allowed** to use metal tripods, etc., to install photocells. (Please refer to the FIS Timing Booklet for proper setup of photocells.)
- c. Timekeeping equipment must be synchronized no more than one hour before the start of each run. If more than one hour has elapsed since synchronization, the process must be repeated.
- d. For any event, re-synchronization of the timekeeping equipment must take place before the start of the second run.
- e. Proper synchronization and "synchronization plus one minute" procedures require that the start wand be opened. This action verifies that the entire system is operating properly.
- f. At "synchronization plus one minute", the timekeeping equipment must be within .005 second. If this degree of accuracy has not been obtained, the process must be repeated to ensure proper synchronization.
- g. Proper synchronization can only be done to the Whole Minute (8:40) it is not possible to synchronize clocks to thousandths of a second (8:40:28.789). If the TDTR lists thousandths of a second as the time of synchronization, it is clear that proper synchronization procedures were not followed and the Technical Delegate must notify the state/division Alpine Officials Chair so the issue can be addressed.
- h. All time-of-day (ToD) data on the TDTR must be to at least the thousandth of a second (.000) and all net times must be truncated to the hundredths of a second (.01).
- i. The Technical Delegate and the Chief of Timing and Calculations must compare the **actual timing tapes** to the information supplied on the TDTR.
- j. The Technical Delegate and the Chief of Timing and Calculations must provide current contact information and both of them must sign the TDTR.
- k. Rules allow for the use of wireless timing in some situations, but this is a difficult process and should only be undertaken by high-level, experienced TC staff. Information regarding installation and use of wireless timing

should be directed to the USSA Timing Working Group; contact USSA for regional members' contact information.

- l. A provisional rerun due to malfunction of the timekeeping system is at the discretion of the Jury (623.1.2).
- m. Exceptions from the USSA Timing Requirements will no longer be granted.
2. **PROVISIONAL STARTS OR RUNS:** Any competitor who is granted a “provisional” start or run must be reminded of its provisional nature. Granting a “run”/“start” and not clarifying its “provisional” nature will not allow the Jury to address the validity of the competitor’s request. Only the Jury can validate a provisional start or run.
3. **PROVISIONAL RERUNS:** When making a determination on the validity of a provisional rerun, the Jury must evaluate the following, many of which are included in the very clear provisions of 623:
 - a. Did the competitor cross the finish line?
 - b. If obstructed while racing, did the competitor stop immediately and apply to any member of the Jury for a rerun?
 - c. Does the claimed obstruction meet the requirements of 623.2 – Grounds for Interference?
 - d. Did the claimed obstruction cause significant loss of speed or lengthening of the racing line and consequently affect the competitor’s time?
 - e. Was the competitor’s request for a rerun not valid because they had committed a fault (gate fault or start procedure fault) prior to the obstruction/interference? (628.7)
 - f. Does the Gate Judge have any comments or notes? (666.1)

There are no provisions in USSA/FIS rules that allow for the penalization of a competitor who is having a slow run and who is subsequently granted a provisional rerun because of an obstruction as defined by the rules.

4. **USSA ACR:** Rules are numbered to mirror, where possible, FIS ICR numbering. “U” preceding the rule number identifies USSA exceptions to ICR rules; the “U” is a part of the rule number.
5. **ONLINE RACE REGISTRATION:** If an organizer is using this process for an event, hard copies of FIS Entry Form must still be submitted. If the online race registration process produces an actual race file that can be downloaded directly into race result software, the accuracy of the downloaded data must still be verified against the official source.
6. **RACE RESULT SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS:**
 - a. Verify that you are using an up-to-date version of the software.
 - b. Delete previous seasons’ Points Lists.
 - c. If required for reference purposes, store previous seasons’ races on an external storage device (hard drive, CD or thumb drive).
 - d. If software “freezes”, verify that you do not have an excessive number of programs running in the background. If you do have additional programs open, start shutting them down until your software starts responding again.

Key CTRL+ALT+DEL and a TASK MANAGER window will appear. Click the “Applications” tab for a list of running programs; select individual open programs and select “END TASK”. A new box will appear that lists the program as not responding and allows you the option to shut it down. After shutting down other programs, if the race result software is still not responding, use the same procedure and shut it down. You should then be able to successfully reopen the software.

If the software is still not responsive, shut it down and, using either CTRL+ALT+DEL again or the RESTART function, reboot the computer. The rebooting function should solve remaining issues. If RESTART or CTRL+ALT+DEL are not allowing you to reboot the computer, your next option is to power off and restart the computer. A “hard” powering off, however—pressing the power button until the computer shuts down, should be used only as a last resort. A “hard” powering off is the equivalent of dropping a phonograph needle directly onto a phonograph record. (If you don’t know what a phonograph is, Google it!)

- e. If it is necessary to load a corrected Points List, accessing USSA’s ftp points list site and reloading the lists will not be adequate. When you request a download, the ftp site checks your computer, recognizes that the list is already loaded and does not overwrite the previous points list file; you must delete the original version.

- f. When deleting points lists, it is important to remember that the lists may be stored in more than one area.
 - 1) If not sure of actual storage locations, use “SEARCH” function, identify storage locations and delete the lists.
 - 2) For USSA Race Software (Split Second), use the "online load points list" option and load required list only when the USSA ftp site says the list is not already loaded.
 - 3) After reloading required lists, refresh competitors' points and verify them against the appropriate source.
 - 4) If you are having problems retrieving both USSA and FIS data for the same competitor, rekey the competitor's last name.
 - g. It is strongly suggested that Snow Seed designations be removed from the race file immediately after they start or if the Jury decides that they will not start.
7. **ATHLETE REPRESENTATION:** An athlete must be 18 or older in order to represent themselves at a Team Captains' Meeting or event.
 8. **APPOINTMENT OF REFEREE AND ASSISTANT REFEREES:** Appointment of Referee and Assistant Referee *is the responsibility of the Technical Delegate*. This appointment is from among the most qualified, appropriately certified (Referee) individuals present. Inasmuch as these individuals are the competitors' representatives on the Jury, however, whenever possible, coaches should be appointed to serve as the Referee and Assistant Referee.
 9. **FORERUNNERS, JURY MEMBERS AND COMPETITORS:** It is an important obligation of the ROC to provide the appropriate number of qualified forerunners for an event. Not having sufficient qualified forerunners is grounds for the Jury to delay, postpone or even cancel an event--particularly a speed event. Using a Jury member as a Forerunner is not acceptable. In addition, Forerunners are not permitted to have started or be listed on the start list as competitors in an event. *Downhill Training is an integral part of the Downhill event so the Downhill Training forerunners must not be allowed entry as competitors for the applicable event.*
 10. **JURY INSPECTION:** Jury must inspect course set and final installation of on-hill competitor security measures for all USSA-sanctioned events. Jury Minutes must be generated to document this inspection and approval and must be included in the submitted race result packet.
 11. **HELMETS:** Helmets are compulsory for all USSA and FIS alpine events. Helmets used in FIS events shall bear a CE mark and conform to recognized and appropriate standards such as CEH. Din 1077. ASTM F2040. SNELL S98 or RS98 etc. *Please refer to current USSA and FIS rules for additional information.*
 12. **COMPETITOR'S OFFICIAL TIME:** Time is taken when a competitor crosses the finish line and triggers the beam between the finish cells. (611.3.1) Rules do not allow a competitor who misses a gate adjacent to the finish line, crosses the finish line and triggers a finish to hike up and complete passage of the missed gate. Disqualification of the competitor is mandatory under these circumstances.
 13. **DUE PROCESS:** Due process is "the conduct of legal 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 sanction including disqualification. Failure to allow due process will open the decision to appeal.
 14. **VERTICAL DROP MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING:** Technical Delegates must physically verify the actual vertical drop of a race course with GPS, altimeter or topographic map. They must verify that the vertical drop, as noted on all required USSA/FIS documentation, is correct.
 15. **DOWNHILL EVENT:** An organizer is required to have the entire venue race-ready by the first day of official training. This includes, but is not limited to, availability of Forerunners and all required officials, including Start Referee, Finish Referee, medical personnel, Gate Judges and manual (hand) timekeepers. In addition, Downhill training is an integral part of the competition; all competitors and forerunners should be available to participate in all training runs; "special training runs" must not be staged for forerunners or competitors that have not been able to participate in at least one timed training run prior to the actual event.
 16. **USSA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:**
 - a. **USSA-SANCTIONED NON-FIS EVENTS:** Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start & Finish Referees), Chief of Course and Course Setters are required to be *participant members of USSA* as a Coach or Official. Competitors are required to have an appropriate competitor's USSA participant membership. *USSA Associate members are*

not “participant members”. Forerunners must have an appropriate USSA participant membership: competitor, masters, student or youth. ***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.***

- b. **USSA-SANCTIONED FIS EVENTS:** Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start & Finish Referees), Chief of Course and Course Setters are required to be ***participant members of USSA*** as a Coach or Official *or must be qualified members of foreign federations recognized by FIS*. 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: i.e. serve as a Jury member or set a course; this satisfies the “qualified member of foreign federation” requirement for FIS events. Competitors are required to be FIS inscribed. Age-eligible USSA participant members who are **not** FIS inscribed and who are serving as Forerunners **must** sign the “FIS Athlete’s Declaration”.
- c. *If a USSA Coach or Official member’s membership number on the USSA website membership roster is highlighted, this indicates that USSA has received the completed membership application. If the status, however, is PENDING, this is an indication that the member has not completed required background screening, and they must not be appointed to serve as Jury members, Jury Advisors, Chief of Course or Course Setters.*
- d. **USSA TEMPORARY REGISTRATION POLICY:** The Temporary Registration is primarily used to introduce new members to USSA programs with the goal of converting these individuals to full membership. However, other uses may also be appropriate. See examples below.
 - 1) One time introductory opportunity for new athlete members for use as a recruiting tool
 - 2) Grand Prix Junior Jam (Snowboard)
 - 3) Foreign athletes competing in a USSA event non-FIS event
 - 4) USCSA National Championships
 - 5) Alpine Masters – may purchase one temporary registration in a season
 - 6) Other proposed uses – management approval required

The Temporary Registration is not a “membership” and does not come with any benefits other than the opportunity to participate/compete in the event in question. Provided the individual carries primary insurance, a temporary registration includes secondary accident insurance during the event. *This registration is not available for participation as a coach or official.*

Temporary Registrations are event specific (excluding Masters) and available to specified and pre-approved events only. A Temporary Registration may be issued for a time period not to exceed seven consecutive days, but is generally used for a weekend event. Use of this recruiting tool must be approved annually even if the event in question was granted use of a Temporary Registration in a previous season.

The current price of a Temporary Registration is \$25. The \$25 may be applied to the price of an athletic membership in the same sport in the same competition season.

Temporary Registrations are issued by the Member Service Department. Inquiries for Temporary Registrations will be directed to the Sport Director or Manager for the particular event and/or sport in question. Together the Member Service and Sport Directors will assess the athletic need and financial viability for the Temporary Registration.

NOTE: Please allow a minimum of two weeks for the registration approval and document preparation prior to an event.

17. **REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITION IN A USSA-SANCTIONED FIS EVENT:**

- a. FIS inscription code numbers are assigned on FIS list valid dates.
- b. All athletes, foreign or USA, who wish to compete in FIS-sanctioned events, **must** have a valid FIS inscription code number prior to entering an event. A competitor who does not have a valid FIS inscription code number ***must not*** appear on a Start List or be included in the Official Results. Allowing a competitor to compete who does

not have a valid FIS inscription may invalidate the event and may also invalidate the event liability insurance. If the XML transmission file does not contain a *valid* FIS inscription code number for each competitor, the FIS result database will refuse the results.

- c. USSA athletes must have a valid FIS inscription and must also be *competitor* members of USSA. FIS inscriptions must be requested through USSA.
 - d. USSA website may show inscription requirements have been fulfilled (date applied for and date paid) by a USSA member, but the FIS Bureau may not yet have assigned an inscription code number. Contact USSA national office for information regarding competitor's status.
 - e. USSA-member FIS inscription information is highlighted for members holding current FIS inscription. FIS inscription information that is not highlighted indicates the competitor has not completed FIS requirements for the current season.
 - f. When FIS inscription information (date applied for and paid) is highlighted, but no inscription code number is assigned or "NULL" is inserted, the Race Administrator must contact the USSA National Office. It is also possible to access competitor biographies at www.fis-ski.com in Competitor Biographies. If the FIS Bureau has already processed the request, the competitor will be designated as being "start authorized" or "active", the assigned number will be shown, and the competitor may compete.
 - g. Only the respective foreign federation may enter a foreign competitor in a FIS event. With this official entry, the foreign federation confirms the eligibility of the respective competitor. If the competitor is not on the current FIS Points List, it may be possible to retrieve a valid FIS code in the "all" section of the Competitor Biographies on the FIS website. If no number is found, the competitor must not be entered. *The "all" section of Competitor Biographies must not be used to verify a USA member's eligibility!*
 - h. Foreign competitors who are training/attending USSA clubs and/or schools must have written consent from their respective federations allowing the club/school to submit their entry in FIS events. A legible copy of the federation's consent must accompany the official entry. *Only home federations have the authorization to enter their competitors in COC, NJC and NC FIS-category competitions.*
18. **USSA ONLINE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:** USSA membership registration may now be completed online through a link on the USSA website.
- a. Registration must be submitted only by those 18 & older
 - b. Registration must be submitted by the authorized membership card holder
 - c. Insurance information will be required or the individual will have to complete an online "Medical Exception Agreement"
 - d. Individuals whose membership registration requires background screening will be directed to a link that will initiate the screening process upon acceptance of the registration by USSA
 - e. Rush fees and/or late fees will be automatically applied to the credit card transaction
 - f. The following membership registrations cannot be accepted online; they must be processed with hard copy applications.
 - Registration for Associate Members
 - Registration for foreign competitors (X-membership) wishing to compete in USSA non-FIS events
 - Registration for Lifetime Members
19. **ON-SITE HARD COPY USSA COMPETITOR MEMBERSHIPS:** Until USSA receives and processes a membership application, it may not be valid. Because of this, an ROC may choose to not accept either online or hard copy on-site membership applications. The event fact sheet, both hard copy and online versions, should stress this policy.
- If online membership registration is not successful and an ROC is willing to accept a hard copy registration, the ROC, must follow these procedures:
- a. Competitor must be prepared to complete required payment, including the \$25 rush fee, with a credit card.
 - b. Membership Application (personal data, insurance information and release) must be completed and signed.
 - c. Application must be marked "**ON-SITE**" and faxed to USSA Membership at **435-647-2052, Attn: Lois**.

- d. Membership applications that are received by USSA, as evidenced by website update, may either be shredded or,
 - e. If submitted with result packet, they must be placed in a separate envelope addressed to “**Membership Department, Attn: Lois**”.
20. **MEDICAL EXCEPTION AGREEMENT:** USSA members are required to obtain and maintain primary medical and accident insurance. Under special circumstances, a member may ask for an exception to this requirement. In this instance, the Medical Exception Agreement must be completed and filed with member’s membership application. (Parent/guardian signature required; please refer to form.)
21. **USSA BACKGROUND SCREENING FOR COACHES AND OFFICIALS:** All new members and approximately one-third (1/3) of existing USSA members, are subject to a background screening process.
- a. Apply for or renew your USSA coach or officials membership at www.ussa.org. (Select all requested memberships, i.e. Coach/Official, Competitor – Alpine, Snowboard, Freestyle, Masters, etc.)
 - b. Supply required medical insurance information. If applicant does not have valid medical insurance, a link to the Medical Exception Agreement is provided.
 - c. Site will provide membership fee total; supply credit card information.
 - d. Upon receipt and processing of your application, if initial background screening or updating is required, USSA will direct you to a link advising you of the specific online procedure for screening registration.
 - e. During this screening process, the coach’s or official’s USSA membership number in USSA’s online member lookup tool will be highlighted, but “PENDING” will be noted in the membership category.
 - f. 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 (Start/Finish Referee), Chief of Course or Course Setter.
 - g. When USSA receives a ‘green light’ on the background screening from NCSI, membership card can be printed from the website.
 - h. If background screening is not required, membership will be finalized immediately, the USSA website will be updated and a USSA membership card can be printed from the website.
22. **TEAM CAPTAINS’ MEETING AND THE DRAW:**
- a. According to USSA and FIS rules, the draw must be conducted (or confirmed) at a Team Captains’ Meeting. An actual meeting, attended in person by Team Captains, Jury, and race officials is an inseparable and mandatory part of the competition and is important for communication of Jury instructions, support of the ROC, as well as conveying ROC requests and information. It is also a critical element for risk management and liability-related matters. (Refer to 621.8, 604.3; ICR Precisions.)
- With the approval of the Jury and at a time and place announced to all Team Captains, and where a computer-assisted Draw has been approved or is not required (i.e. YSL where TRS by class and gender is used to determine the start order), an informational meeting is still required but may be held either immediately after the completion of a race for the next day’s event or on the morning prior to a race.
- For all Team Captains’ Meetings for all USSA-sanctioned events—both scored and non-scored, and regardless of where and when they occur, an Attendance List must be available and signed by everyone attending the meeting and Meeting Minutes must be generated and must be included in the submitted race result packet.
- b. **REPRESENTATION AT TEAM CAPTAINS’ MEETINGS:** Competitors who are not represented or whose entry has not been confirmed by telephone, e-mail or facsimile will not be drawn and shall be removed from the board. [217.3] Team Captains representing competitors who are not members of their clubs must acknowledge this representation. *Clubs or athletes represented by a Team Captain from another club must acknowledge, in writing, receipt of a copy of Team Captains’ Meeting Minutes and Program.*
 - c. **COMPUTER-GENERATED DRAW:** FIS rules require that a representative of each nation must sign the team entry at the Team Captains’ meeting indicating their acceptance of a computer-generated draw. USSA rules, however, state that the *Jury can, with the approval of the Team Captains present for the event, allow a draw*

assisted by computer. Only exception to USSA rule would be USSA non-scored events, i.e. YSL, where Start Lists are prepared according to TRS (random draw within class and gender).

23. **“START STOP” AND ITS PROCEDURES:** “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.
- a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. The Start Referee must immediately respond via radio that
 - 1) The start is closed, and
 - 2) Must state the start number of the last competitor to have started as well as
 - 3) The start number of the competitor held at the start.

(Example: “start stop confirmed, number 23 on course, number 24 at the start”)
 - d. 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.
 - e. If the Jury/Eyes of the Jury/Jury Advisor call for medical assistance,
 - 1) Ski patrol assigned to event first verifies that the course is clear, *i.e.: no racer is on course!*
 - 2) Once the ski patrol assigned to the event has verified that it has a clear course, it responds to the call for medical assistance.
 - 3) **SKI PATROL ASSIGNED TO THE EVENT - NOT COACHES / TRAINERS / OFFICIALS / PARENTS - ARE THE FIRST RESPONDERS!**
 - f. Only 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.
 - g. 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.
 - h. The Technical Delegate is responsible for confirming that all Jury members, Jury Advisors, and Eyes of the Jury have reviewed and are aware of the “start stop” and “yellow flag stop” protocol.
24. **TD/JURY RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING INJURIES:** *The FIS Medical Guide is valid for all USSA events.* It states: “Should an injury occur to an athlete during the course of a FIS-sanctioned event where the safety and wellbeing of that athlete is in question, the Technical Delegate may request an independent review/exam by medical personnel unrelated to the team medical personnel for clearance for that athlete to continue in the competition.” Head injuries, in particular, may be caused by even the slightest trauma to the head, face or body, i.e. whiplash. Minor head trauma, even if the athlete does not lose consciousness, should preclude an athlete from continuing in competition or training until evaluated by a qualified medical doctor. Additionally, the recovery period for a head trauma varies significantly from individual to individual and only a qualified medical doctor can determine if and when an athlete can safely return to training or competition. After an athlete has suffered a head trauma, the TD or Jury may require a statement signed by a qualified doctor that states that the athlete has sufficiently recovered from their head trauma to return to ski racing. The TD and Jury are encouraged to report the injury to USSA or FIS and to advise the athlete’s coach or parents of the injury. But, after doing so, the TD and Jury have no further responsibility regarding that particular athlete. The responsibility for the athlete's continued treatment after the event continues with the coach, the athlete and the parents.

25. **ACCIDENT FORMS:** The Jury, or an individual appointed by the Jury, must notify USSA of injuries at *all* USSA-sanctioned events where an injury claim may result. The required form, American Specialty First Report of Accident has been updated for easier use and is available in the “Master Packet of Forms” on the USSA. In all cases, the ASI form *must not be submitted to the FIS Bureau*. For accidents that fit the “Guidelines for Serious Accident”, the TD Accident Form (FIS form) must also be filed. Minor injuries at USSA-sanctioned FIS events, which do not require a TD Accident Report, are to be reported on the FIS “Notice of Injury” form; distribution is per TD Accident Report requirements.
26. **FIS ONLINE ACCIDENT REPORT:** The online accident report form is used for minor injuries that occur during official training or competition that require attention by medical personnel at a FIS event. Injuries occurring during warm-up, free skiing or between runs need not be recorded. Form is available in Master Packet of Forms or on the FIS website. You can complete the form by hand or electronically, save it, and then fax or e-mail it to FIS. The online form requires Adobe Reader 7.0 or higher; Adobe Reader is available for download at www.adobe.com. (American Specialty Report must also be filed with USSA for USA competitors; form has been updated for 09-10.)
27. **AUTO SCORING OF MULTI-CATEGORY EVENTS:** In order for multi-category events sanctioned and administered as an event for each involved category, i.e. Ladies’ and Men’s J1, J2, J3 and Youth to be accepted by USSA’s auto scoring system, results must be submitted individually and in xml format. A separate, assigned race code must be used for each gender and each category: Scored, Non-Scored and Masters. Youth events that consist of two one-run races must have *separate results and separate race codes* for each of the one-run races. The system will advise the sender of transmission errors.
28. **REQUEST FROM USA FIS TD COMMISSIONER:** Regardless of nationality of the Technical Delegate, mail copies of *all* USA FIS race result packets and copies of *all* FIS Technical Delegate Expense Reports to: Tom Winters; 4250 East Placita Baja; Tucson, AZ 85718.

USSA COMPETITION UPDATE 2009-2010:

1. **J6 COMPETITION CLASS:** Effective 2009-2010, USSA will recognize J6 class for competitors 8 years of age and younger.
2. **EVENT MEDICAL PLAN:** *As with FIS events, an event medical plan must be in place for all USSA-sanctioned events and must be reviewed by the Jury prior to being presented to the Team Captains; Jury Minutes must be generated documenting approval of the event medical plan and must be included in the submitted race result packet.*
3. **PER DIEM FOR USSA TD’S AND USSA COURSE INSPECTORS:** In addition to normal expenses, e.g. meals, lifts, lodging, transportation, etc., a per diem of \$50 per travel/inspection/training/competition day has been approved for USSA Technical Delegates at all USSA events – both scored and non-scored. Please forward a copy of USSA Technical Delegate’s expense form to: Dr. Robert G. Calderwood; 10267 South Hopi Lane, Goodyear, AZ 85338. The \$50/day per diem also applies to USSA Course Inspectors. *Please note that FIS officials are entitled to a higher per diem amount.*
4. **SINGLE POLE SLALOM AT USSA NON-FIS EVENTS:** USSA does allow single pole Slalom. Please refer to current Competition Guide for specifications. Some items that should be considered are:
 - a. Where must both outside pole and turning pole be installed?
 - b. What is the definition of “gate line” for single pole slalom?
 - c. What is the definition of “clear passage”?
 - d. How far does a hiking competitor have to hike?
5. **USSA MASTER PACKET OF FORMS:** All USSA and FIS forms have been reviewed and have been updated. Please use the forms included in the 2009-2010 Master Packet of Forms which can be found on the USSA website.

FIS COMPETITION UPDATE 2009-2010:

1. **SUPER COMBINED:** If the Slalom run takes place before the DH or SG, competitors who DNS, DNF or DSQ will start in the DH or SG with original bib after the last competitor who qualified in the SL run.

2. **VALIDITY OF FIS RESULT:** Effective 2009-2010, a FIS result will be valid for 14 lists. If there is no result available in the calculation period 5% will be added to the competitor's current FIS points in each of the next 14 lists. Starting from the 15th list, 10% will be added to the competitor's current points. (Rules of the FIS Points, Section 4.2.) Additional rules apply for competitors with injured status; please refer to current Rules of the FIS Points or contact the National Office for clarification of these rules.
3. **SINGLE POLE SLALOM:** Please refer to current ICR Precisions for the Northern Hemisphere.
4. **SUPER G COURSE SETTING:** Refer to current Precisions regarding Super G course setting. The course setter must take speed control into consideration. For FIS level events (including ENL), 7% of the vertical drop equals the minimum number of direction changes; 6% is valid only for OWG, WSC, WJC and COC events. There are no separate requirements in place for Ladies'/Men's SG.
5. **FIS MEDICAL GUIDE:** Guide has been revised, includes "medical rules", and is available on the FIS website. *An event medical plan must be in place for all events and must be reviewed by the Jury prior to being presented to the Team Captains; Jury Minutes must be generated documenting approval of the event medical plan and must be included in the submitted race result packet.*
6. **COMPETITION EQUIPMENT:** Refer to current "FIS and USSA Equipment Regulations for Season 2009-2010" and/or current edition of FIS Specifications for Competition Equipment. Children I and Children II measurements will be enforced at all international children's races. Athletes competing in the Whistler Cup and at Topolino must adhere to these as well as additional equipment specifications. There are no international children's races scheduled by USSA. The responsibility for equipment remains with the athletes!
7. **COURSE SPECIFICATIONS:** Refer to current ICR for maximum/minimum vertical drop and gate count requirements for FIS events.

NOR-AM CUP AND WORLD CUP RULES: Rules have been revised; please refer to current rule books.

ALPINE OFFICIALS' INFORMATION:

1. **Alpine Officials' Clinic/Seminar Study Guides:** Study Guides for each specialty area are posted on the USSA website. Clinic/seminar attendees may download, print and read the applicable Study Guide prior to attending a USSA-approved clinic/seminar, however, *downloading, printing and reading the Study Guide must not be substituted for actual attendance at a USSA-approved clinic/seminar; it must not be used as a replacement for actual instruction at any USSA-approved clinic/seminar.*
2. **Study Guides:** Effective 2009-2010, Study Guides for Competition Official (CO) and Data Management (DM) will remain in effect until updates are available and posted on the USSA website. Other specialty area Study Guides will expire and will be removed from the USSA website on June 1.
3. **Examination Expirations:** Specialty-area examinations expire on June 1 of the of the respective competition year.
4. **Security of Examinations and Keys:** These documents, either current or from previous years, must not be made available for general study prior to actual testing. *This type of availability, when documented, will result in non-acceptance of examination results.* **Disposal of completed Examinations:** Completed examinations are to be retained by the clinic/seminar examiners; they are not returned to the individuals taking them.
5. **Material for Examinations:** Examinations are open-book format. Allowing use of computers for calculations, 2nd Run Start List preparation, Penalties, etc., defeats the purpose of having to KNOW how to perform the function and is strongly discouraged. *The Study Guide is not intended as a replacement for notes used during an open-book examination at any USSA-approved clinic/seminar.*
6. **Examination Failure:** An official who does not earn the points required to pass an examination must not be allowed to retake the failed examination until an updated version is available.
7. **Mandatory Clinic/Seminar Attendance:**
 - a. Technical Delegates, Referees and Jury Advisors (Start and Finish Referee) are required to attend an Alpine Officials' update biannually in order to retain Technical Delegate, Referee or Jury Advisor certification.

- b. Effective 2009-2010, biannual update is also required for officials currently certified as Chief of Course, Chief of Timing & Calculations and Race Administration in order to maintain USSA Alpine Officials' Certification.
8. **REFEREE, ASSISTANT REFEREE AND COURSE SETTER CERTIFICATION:** For scored USSA events, these officials must be USSA-certified Referees. It is recommended that Referee certification be required for these officials at non-scored USSA events, i.e. YSL. For USSA-sanctioned FIS events, when a foreign FIS Federation lists a coach on their entry form, that Federation is certifying that the coach has the knowledge and ability to fulfill the duties of a Team Captain: i.e. serve as a Jury member or set a course.
9. **Changes to Chief of Course Certification Guidelines.**
- Effective 2009-10, Chief of Course (CC) certification prerequisites should include a written recommendation from a Level 3 or higher Referee (RF), Chief of Course (CC), or Technical Delegate (TD).
 - Level 1 certification requirements should include attendance at a level 1 Chief of Course (CC) clinic and successful completion of Chief of Course (CC) exam.
 - Effective 2010-2011, both the prerequisite and the Level 1 clinic attendance and examination are mandatory.
 - Chief of Course Study Guide and examination will be available for the 2009-2010 season.
10. **Chief of Race Certification Requirements.**
- Effective 2009-2010, in order to serve as a Chief of Race (CR) at a scored event (USSA or FIS), an individual should be, at a minimum, certified as a Level 1 Chief of Race (CR), Referee (RF), or Technical Delegate (TD). Effective 2010-2011, this requirement is mandatory.
 - Effective 2009-2010, the Chief of Race (CR), should be required to maintain the same update standards as Technical Delegate (TD), Referee (RF) and Jury Advisor (JA). Effective 2010-2011, this requirement is mandatory.
11. **USSA Technical Delegate Nomination and Evaluation Forms:** Forms are available in the Master Packet of Forms.

USSA MODIFICATIONS TO ICR:

The following modifications do not apply to FIS events.

- TIMING RULES:** There are differences between the ICR and the ACR regarding timing. Please review section 611.
- COMPUTER-GENERATED DRAW:** ACR 621.9 states the Jury can allow a draw assisted by computer. ICR 621.9 requires that the Team Captains sign their entry before the draw is conducted by computer.
- PLOMBS:** ICR 606.2.1 requires a "plomb" on DH, GS and SG suits certain FIS events; USSA does not.
- MONETARY SANCTIONS:** ICR 223.3.1 allows for monetary sanction at FIS events. ACR 223.4 prohibits monetary sanction at USSA events. It also prohibits the Jury at a USSA event from imposing a sanction that lasts longer than the event for which they are the Jury.
- ACCUMULATION OF PENALTIES:** ACR 223.3.2 allows the accumulation of penalties; ICR does not.
- VALID FINISHES:** ICR 615.3 states Finish line must be crossed on both skis, or on one ski, or with both feet. ICR 611.3.1 further states that in case of a fall at the finish where the competitor does not come to a full stop, the time can be taken without both of the competitor's feet having crossed the finish line. For the registered time to become valid, the competitor must immediately completely cross the finish line with or without skis. **USSA** states that a binding release more than 2 gates above the Finish line in SL, GS or SG or more than 1 gate above the Finish line in DH shall be considered as a clear DSQ. [U628.1.5, U629.4]
- PROTESTS:** ACR U640.1 adds "eyewitness testimony" as an alternative to the requirement of physical evidence.
- PENALTY POINT CALCULATIONS:** **USSA penalty point calculation** differs from **FIS** in that no "correction value" (adder) or "Z value" is added/subtracted from the basic calculation. In addition, "**Rules of the FIS Points**" states that at least five competitors have to be classified. **USSA** allows for the insertion of "ghost" racers/points and states that at least three competitors have to be classified. (*Refer to appropriate section of current Alpine Competition Guide.*)

9. **USSA APPLICATION OF VERTICAL DROP, MINIMUM TIME AND MINIMUM PENALTY:** When a USSA-sanctioned, scored event is submitted:
- The minimum penalty for a non-FIS USSA race is 25.00; if penalty calculates lower, 25.00 must be applied.
 - If the minimum vertical drop requirement is met, then the minimum time requirement does not apply.
 - If the minimum vertical drop requirement is not met, the greater of the calculated penalty or the minimum penalty of 50.00 shall be applied.
 - If the minimum vertical drop requirement is not met, but the minimum time requirement is, then the greater of the calculated penalty or the minimum penalty of 50.00 shall be applied.
 - If the minimum vertical drop requirement and the minimum time requirement are not met, then the greater of the calculated penalty plus the additional penalty or the minimum penalty of 50.00 shall be applied.
- FIS requires that, unless an exception is granted by the FIS Bureau, all vertical drop requirements must be met or the event will not score; there is no minimum time standard for FIS events.
10. **MINIMUM VERTICAL DROP PER RUN, ALTERNATE MINIMUM TIME STANDARDS AND ADDITIONAL PENALTY:** Minimum vertical drops, alternate minimum times and additional penalty adders when neither the minimum vertical drop requirement nor the minimum time requirement are met are fully explained in **CURRENT Competition Guide - Alpine; “Rules for Special USSA Race Penalty Calculations, Race Fails to Comply with Minimum Technical Standards”;** **“Application of Vertical Drop, Minimum Time and Minimum Penalty in Scoring a USSA Alpine Race.**
11. **SEEDING:**
- Adaptive seeding:** USSA allows for special seeding or by USSA points, whichever is more favorable in order to encourage Adaptive athlete participation in regularly calendared USSA competitions. This “Golden Rule” applies to Adaptive athletes competing in regularly calendared USSA competitions with 160 points or less in the discipline. They are to be seeded in special groups with start order: 16-20...36-40...56-60...etc., or by seed points whichever is most favorable. (Placement within groups is by USSA point ranking.) [U621.3.1, U621.10.3.1]
 - Additional seeding methods:** Special seeding formats can be used if currently approved by the Alpine Sport Committee and announced in advance of the competition. These include, but are not limited to, team seeding and TRS. Refer to current USSA Competition Guide for additional information.
12. **GATE JUDGES:** ICR eliminated “GO” and “BACK” responses to a competitor who has missed a gate. These commands --“GO” and “BACK”-- are included in ACR U663.1.2.
13. **USSA COURSE SPECIFICATIONS and USSA CHILDREN’S RULES:** These specifications differ from FIS; please refer to current edition of USSA ACR.
14. USSA J4 and younger is FIS Children I. USSA J3 is FIS Children II.