U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

FREESTYLE OFFICIALS

Aerials | Moguls & Dual Moguls

GOVERNANCE & GUIDELINES HANDBOOK

2018 EDITION

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The integrity of the sport lies with the integrity of the officials."







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1.0 JUDGES SUBCOMMITTEE - ORGANIZATION

1.1 Status

- 1.1.1 The Judges Subcommittee (JSC) is a permanent subcommittee of the United States Ski & Snowboards' Rules & Officials Subcommittee (R&O). The JSC is authorized by the FSC and R&O to take actions stated herein, and serves to advise the R&O in all matters relevant to Freestyle Judges and judging criteria. (See Appendix A Org. Chart)
- **1.1.2** Other than in exceptional circumstances, a proposal concerning judging criteria, licensing or this document shall be submitted to the R&O at least fifteen days before an R&O meeting to allow for it to be distributed and reviewed by R&O members.

1.2 Authority of the JSC

The JSC is authorized to do the following:

- **1.2.1.** Review and suggest modifications to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Freestyle Officials Governance & Guidelines Handbook;
- **1.2.2.** Adopt and modify rules governing qualification of U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle judges;
- **1.2.3.** Review annually the judging criteria for U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle competitions and make recommendations for changes;
- **1.2.2** Supervise the training and development of U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle judges;
- **1.2.1.** Govern the conduct, including the rights and duties, of U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle judges;
- **1.2.2.** Evaluate, promote and demote U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle judges in accordance with U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS regulations; and recommend disciplinary action to the R&O's Officials Review Committee (ORC);
- **1.2.3.** Appoint (via the Judge Appointment Working Group) U.S. Ski & Snowboard licensed judges to all events above the divisional level, and recommend appointments to all International Ski Federation (FIS) competitions.

1.3 Structure of the JSC

- **1.3.1** The JSC shall consist of the following members:
 - 1.3.1.1 The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Head Judge (Chairperson)
 - **1.3.1.2** The Rules and Officials Subcommittee Chairperson
 - **1.3.1.3** Divisional Representatives
 - **1.3.1.4** The FSC Chairperson



1.3.1.5 The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Representative to the FIS Judges Advisory Group (JAG)

Members of the JSC shall hold a valid U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle officials license.

- 1.3.2 The JSC Chairperson shall be the U.S. Head Judge and be elected by the R&O Subcommittee Representatives. The JSC Chairperson is the official representative to the FSC and shall attend all FSC meetings. The JSC Chairperson shall arrange and chair JSC meetings. The term of this position shall be limited to 2 years with elections to take place in the spring at the U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Spring Congress. A candidate for JSC Chairperson must hold an FIS judging license of "B" or higher.
- **1.3.3** One representative from each recognized U.S. Ski & Snowboard division shall be a JSC member. Divisional representatives are appointed or elected according to the rules of their respective divisions.
- 1.3.4 The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Representative to the FIS Judges Advisory Group (the FIS Representative) shall be appointed by the FSC Chairperson with the approval of the R&O Chairperson and the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board. The FIS JAG Representative shall, whenever appropriate, advocate the positions of the FSC and the JSC at FIS Judges Advisory Group meetings.

1.4 Voting Procedures

- 1.4.1 The following members of the JSC shall have one vote: each divisional representative, the FIS JAG Representative and the R&O Chairperson. An individual may cast only one vote per motion. The JSC Chairperson shall also have one vote, but may cast it only in the event of a tie.
- **1.4.2** A quorum shall exist when persons holding 50% of the total number of divisional representatives' votes are present. Solely for the purpose of determining whether a quorum exists, the JSC Chairperson shall be considered a divisional representative.
- **1.4.3** A motion shall carry if it is supported by a simple majority of all votes cast.
- **1.4.4** Voting by proxy is allowed upon prior presentation of a written proxy.



2.0 RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF FREESTYLE JUDGES

2.1 A U.S. Ski & Snowboard Freestyle Judge has the right to:

- **2.1.1.** To watch the official training.
- **2.1.2.** To have access to the judges stand at all times.
- **2.1.3.** To receive rule books and other materials for training at the lowest possible cost.
- **2.1.4.** To receive compensation and accommodations pursuant to Section 13.0 of this document.
- **2.1.5.** To receive lift tickets during all training and competition days at no cost.
- **2.1.6.** To check results and competition protocol.
- **2.1.7.** To attend all official events and functions.

2.2 A U.S. Ski & Snowboard Freestyle Judge has the following duties:

- **2.2.1.** To have a valid U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership and officials license.
- **2.2.2.** To adhere to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard code of conduct found in the competition guide.
- **2.2.3.** To maintain license qualifications by attending all necessary clinics, seminars, competitions and other events.
- **2.2.4.** To have a thorough and complete knowledge of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard evaluation criteria and rules.
- 2.2.5. To follow the U.S. Ski & Snowboard judging criteria in all respects.
- **2.2.6.** To attend the team leader meeting prior to the first day of competition.
- **2.2.7.** When possible, inspect the mogul course during the official inspection times.
- **2.2.8.** To watch the official training.
- **2.2.9.** To adjudicate and score every competitor fairly, without bias, without regard to former impressions, and without regard to the competitor's national or divisional affiliation, race color or creed.
- **2.2.10.** To be present at the judges stand when requested by the Head Judge of the competition. This is typically 15 minutes prior to the start of official training.
- **2.2.11.** To be present at the judges stand until released by the Head Judge of the competition. This is typically 15 minutes after the last competitor or longer if requested by the Head Judge.
- 2.2.12. To not criticize any coach, competitor or official.



- 2.2.13. To sign all judging sheets and protocols when required.
- **2.2.14.** To assist the Head Judge as required.
- **2.2.15.** If necessary, check and verify the proper input of scores and results.
- **2.2.16.** To respond to all inquiries from the JSC, and to submit to the jurisdiction of the FSC, JSC and JEC for proceedings pursuant to section 17.0 of this document.

3.0 THE HEAD JUDGE

3.1 Selection

- **3.1.1.** Every competition shall have a designated Head Judge. This person will be selected according to the guidelines of section 6.0 of this document.
- **3.1.2.** At every national level competition an alternative for the Head Judge and for a member of the judging panel shall be named and available if for any reason an individual is unable to perform his or her duties. Whenever possible, these alternatives shall be drawn from judges already present at the competition.

3.2 Rights and Duties of the Head Judge

- 3.2.1. Shall be an experienced judge who is aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- **3.2.2.** Is a member of the jury with voting rights.
- **3.2.3.** Is responsible for the coordination of the judges' accommodations and related transportation at the competition in question.
- **3.2.4.** To attend all necessary pre-event course inspections and all Jury meetings.
- **3.2.5.** Review the location of the Judges' stand and construction at least one day before the first competition day. Any required modifications must be presented to the Technical Delegate and Chief of Competition. Such notification shall occur no later than the last day of official training for that event, and by noon of that day whenever possible.
- **3.2.6.** To attend all team leader meetings starting with the meeting the night before the final day of official training. The Head Judge should present the panel of judges at this meeting.
- **3.2.7.** To ensure that the judges have all of the necessary tools to perform their jobs. This includes, but is not limited to, scorecards, pencils, clipboards and start lists.
- **3.2.8.** To ensure the appropriate behavior of the judges at all times during the competition.
- **3.2.9.** To lead all discussions during training and fore running for the purpose of calibrating the judges.



- **3.2.10.** Is responsible to check if all judges follow the U.S. Ski & Snowboarding judging criteria.
- **3.2.11.** To examine all scorecards during the competition for problems or errors. If there are errors, the Head Judge may call a conference in order to resolve the situation.
- **3.2.12.** To police the judges' stand during the competition.
- **3.2.13.** To review all properly executed protests.
- **3.2.14.** To examine all scores and certify the results upon completion of the competition. Certifying the results shall be accomplished by signing the top sheet of a verified protocol.
- **3.2.15.** To be the final authority on all judging issues at the competition, and to accept all responsibility for any irregularity in the service provided by the judges to the competition.
- **3.2.16.** To ensure that the judges' scores are commensurate with the athletes performance. The Head Judge may request (but not require) one or more judges to reconsider their respective scores.
- **3.2.17.** To act as a substitute judge in emergencies.
- **3.2.18.** Shall complete the Head Judge report within a week after the last competition day. Copies of the report are to be sent to the U.S. Judges Chair and the U.S. FIS JAG member.

4.0 SPECIAL JUDGING REGULATIONS

4.1 Number of Judges

- **4.1.1.** There shall be eight judges' at all national level U.S. Ski & Snowboard mogul competitions, consisting of seven scoring judges and one non-scoring Head Judge.
- **4.1.2.** There shall be a minimum of 4 judges' at all national U.S. Ski & Snowboard aerial competitions, consisting of three scoring judges and one non-scoring Head Judge. When possible it is preferable to have 6 judges five scoring and one Head Judge.
- **4.1.3.** There shall be a maximum of two scoring judges from any U.S. Ski & Snowboard division at a national level event, provided that this limit may be disregarded in exceptional circumstances, or if there is an insufficient pool of qualified or available judges.



4.2 Judging Procedure

- 4.2.1. Judges shall use the U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle judging criteria. These criteria, subject to any interim modifications, are published annually in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition Guide Freestyle Rulebook.
- **4.2.2.** The judges shall make a permanent written record (including when using a computer key pad) of each of his/her scores, using a new card for every competitor.
- **4.2.3.** The judges shall work independently unless questioned by the Head Judge. There should be no unnecessary conversation by the judges during the event and none whatsoever during a competitors run.
- **4.2.4.** After scoring is complete, the Head Judge shall collect the scorecards and review the scores to make sure they comply with Section 3.2.16.
- **4.2.5.** The scorecards shall then be handed to the competition secretary, scorer or Head Judges assistant.

4.3 Personal Electronic Devices

No electronic device, including but not limited to cellular phones, tablets and laptop computers may be used at any time during the official competition. Electronic devices may be used prior to the start, during an official break, and at the completion of the event.

4.4 Emergencies

If a judge has an emergency that requires their attention during a competition, it is their responsibility to communicate the nature of that emergency to the Head Judge. The Head Judge will determine if the affected judge will need to excuse themselves for the remainder of the event and/or to officially stop the event to deal with the emergency. The jury must be apprised of the reason for any stoppage of an event.

4.5 Guests / Pets

Guests and/or pets are not permitted to stay in event housing that is supplied by the organizing committee.



5.0 FREESTYLE JUDGE LICENSES

5.1 License Categories

5.1.1 D License (Regional) - U.S. Ski & Snowboard

This is an entry level regional license established and certified by the Judges Chairperson within each U.S. Ski & Snowboard division.

Level of Competition:

Regional Level Freestyle Events

Requirements for Certification:

Attend a regional judges' clinic and/or fulfill any divisional requirements if applicable.

5.1.2 C Level (National) - U.S. Ski & Snowboard

This is a national level judge's license established and certified by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Judges Sub-Committee. Judges licensed at this level are certified for regional head judge assignments. It is highly recommended that judges at this level judge all disciplines – Moguls and Aerials.

Level of Competition:

Regional, Interdivisional and Junior National Freestyle Events

Requirements for Certification:

To be considered certified as a C level judge, each judge must satisfy the following requirements:

- Attend one approved judges' clinic in the current or prior year. Clinic attended may include a local or FIS B level clinic.
- Must judge at least 5 events per discipline.
- Must have the recommendation from their respective regional judges' chair.

Recommendations from regional judges' chairs should be sent in writing to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Judges Sub-Committee in the fall prior to the start of the competition season.



5.1.3 B Level - FIS

This is an international level judge's license established and certified by FIS - the International Ski Federation.

Level of Competition:

Competitions available to C & D licenses as well as:

- Continental Cups NorAm and Europa
- University Games
- Junior World Championships
- Other FIS sanctioned events such as U.S. Selections and U.S. Championships that do not require the highest skilled judges.

Requirements for Certification:

To be considered certified as a B level judge, each judge must satisfy the following requirements:

- Two seasons as a nationally licensed judge and eight (8) individual competitions, per discipline. For a moguls upgrade, there must be a minimum of at least two judging assignment as a turns judge and two assignments as an air judge. At least four (4) of the events judged must have been single moguls events, <u>not duals</u>. A duals event that includes a single-format qualification can be counted as a single mogul event, but may not be counted as two separate events. Aerial events are all overall judged and in the event a competition is judged by the prior standards of component judging, that event shall count but at least three events must be judged as overall.
- Attend and pass an International Introductory level clinic FIS B level clinic.
- Attendance and passing of an International Assist program may be substituted for the clinic. No Assist program is required to receive a B license.
- FIS B upgrade recommendation from U.S. Ski & Snowboard to FIS.
- Applications are done at the Proctor meeting and the approval is done during FIS biannual meetings.

Recommendations for upgrades must come from U.S. Ski & Snowboard to FIS by May 1^{st} in the year the judge is requesting an upgrade.



5.1.4 A Level - FIS

This is an international level judge's license established and certified by FIS - the International Ski Federation.

Level of Competition:

Competitions available to B, C & D licenses as well as:

- World Cup
- World Championships
- Olympic Games

Requirements for Certification:

To be considered certified as an A level judge, each judge must satisfy the following requirements:

- Two seasons as an internationally licensed judge and six individual competitions, per discipline. For a moguls upgrade, there must be a minimum of at least two judging assignment as a turns judge and two assignments as an air judge. At least three of the events judged must have been single moguls events, not duals. A duals event that includes a single-format qualification can be counted as a single mogul event, but can't be counted as two separate events. Aerial events are all overall judged and in the event a competition is judged by the prior standards of component judging, that event shall count but at least three events must be judged as overall.
- Attend and pass an International A level clinic. If a judge has met all requirements except the clinic, they can apply for the license immediately after successful completion of the clinic. It is strongly recommended that a judge seeking an upgrade in the coming season should notify the proctors at the start of the clinic.
- Attend and pass an International Assist program. Since assist programs are on snow, completing this required element will allow a judge to apply for an upgrade following the season n which the assist took place. Assist program completions are valid for 3 years. If an upgrade is not awarded within three years of the assist, a judge must pass another program prior to receiving an upgrade.
- FIS A upgrade recommendation from U.S. Ski & Snowboard to FIS.
- Applications are done at the Proctor meeting and the approval is done during FIS biannual meetings.

Recommendations for upgrades must come from U.S. Ski & Snowboard to FIS by May 1^{st} in the year the judge is requesting an upgrade.



5.2 License Notes

5.2.1 Definition of a qualifying Event

A competition is defined as any event that includes men's and women's qualification and final run(s) within a defined amount of time; typically a single day but may stretch over the course of two days.

5.2.2 FIS Upgrades

Since most clinics are held September through December, a judge requesting an upgrade in the spring should have attended a clinic prior to that season.

The International Ski Federation (FIS) provides standards for, and approves A and B judge licenses for Moguls and Aerials. If a nationally licensed judge wishes to be considered for international licensure or upgrade, they must fill out and submit the appropriate license request (See **Appendix B** – FIS Judges License Upgrade Form) to U.S. Ski & Snowboard by April 25th in the year they are requesting an upgrade. This deadline is set so that all NSA approved upgrade request may be submitted to FIS prior to May 1 (before the spring FIS meeting or Congress). The application must be submitted by their NSA to the FIS office and include all relevant judging and other freestyle history.

5.3 License Maintenance

All judges shall maintain their license levels as long as they remain current. They must attend a clinic at the start of each season to be eligible to judge in that season. They may substitute an assist program for the clinic but would be ineligible to judge until after the assist program is completed. If a judge misses a year (does not attend a clinic) they shall remain certified for the next year, presuming they attend a clinic the following year. If a judge misses two consecutive years they shall be ineligible to judge at their current license level. In the third or fourth year (a two (2) or three (3) year leave of absence), the judge must apply for reinstatement at a clinic and must work at a minimum of two events at a level lower than their highest achieved and can re-apply for their highest level achieved with the successful head judge evaluations from the events judged. They do not need to attend an assist program or meet any other event requirements.

Licenses shall be tracked by the Judges Subcommittee.



5.4 Fast Track Exemptions

It is recognized by virtue of past experience as a competitor, coach or other key experience; a person may have exceptional skills and may progress through the license process more quickly. Therefore, a judge may apply to receive a "fast-track" upgrade based on experience and test results. Under these circumstances, the judge may be excused from meeting one or more of the guideline criteria normally required for an upgrade (for instance, the minimum number of events judged or minimum number of years). The decision for fast-tracking must receive the approval of 75% of Judges Subcommittee and also be approved by the Freestyle Sport Committee. Applications for Fast Track must be sent to FIS by the NSA during the normal judge license process. If a judge is fast-tracked to a license level, the judge is given credit for the minimum level of experience for that level. For example, a judge could be fast tracked so that after completing the first year with an International License, he/she could be awarded a World Cup license (with proper evaluation by head judges at events and from the clinic or assist program).



6.0 JUDGE SELECTION PROCEDURES

6.1 U.S. Ski & Snowboard - Judge Appointment Working Group (JAWG)

The JAWG is an advisory group of the Judges Subcommittee (JSC). The JAWG is authorized by the JSC to assign individual judges for various levels of competition. JAWG is small group comprised of the following individuals:

- The Sport Development Manager for Freestyle
- The U.S. Judges Chair and/or Co-Chair
- The U.S. representative to the FIS Judges Advisory Group (JAG)

6.2 General Selection Criteria

There are two categories of information that the JAWG considers when making their decisions – quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative information includes those aspects of judging that can be empirically measured and examined whereas qualitative information can be thought of as insights derived from observations of performance. Both types of information are equally important to the selection process.

Below is a list of factors (in no particular order) that influence the committee's decisions on who is assigned to an event.

- The Judges Availability
- Past Event Performance Head Judge Reports and Result Analysis
- Clinic performance
- Clinic attendance
- Test Results
- Cost
- Professionalism
- Judges Skill sets turns/air, aerials
- Ability to work with others

6.3 Event Specific Selection Criteria & Procedures

6.3.1 FIS World Championships & Olympic Games

Recommendations for the Olympic Winter Games and the World Championships will be selected from the pool of qualified A-license level judges. To be eligible for a World Championship or Olympic Games, a World Cup Judge shall have judged at least 4 seasons with a World Cup license and judged a



minimum of 6 World Cup events. For moguls there must be at least two assignments as a turns judge and two assignments as an air judge.

Qualified candidates will be asked to submit an application which must include their judging history and resume. A selection committee will then consider all of the applications and select one candidate to submit to FIS for consideration.

6.3.2 FIS World Cup Events

U.S. recommendations for World cup events shall be made from the pool of Alicensed judges. After reviewing all the available candidates, the JAC will determine a primary and backup candidate to submit to FIS for consideration for each assignment. The backup candidate is selected to replace the primary candidate should that individual become unable to fulfill their assignment. The final selection of candidates for World Cup judging panels are determined by FIS.

6.3.3 FIS Continental Cup Events

U.S. judges for Continental Cups (Nor-Am), or other FIS events which requires a B-license will be selected from the available pool of A and B license judges. The JAWG will review the available pool of candidates and select judges for each event. Depending on the nation in which the event occurs, the number of judges assigned per event will vary.

For U.S. based Continental Cup events the HJ nomination is the responsibility of the JAWG. For mogul and dual mogul events, the JAWG will select an additional four judges to fill the panel. For aerial events, the JAC must select three additional judges.

For events held in Canada, the JAWG does not select the head judge but must appoint three judges for moguls and dual moguls and select two judges for each Aerial event.

6.3.4 FIS Sanctioned National Events

Selection for the U.S. Freestyle Selection Event and U.S. Freestyle Championships will be from the available pool of judges holding a B license or higher. While the primary emphasis for judges selection is to assign the highest quality judges available, equitable divisional representation is also of importance, provided that:

- 1. Each division has a qualified judge, and
- 2. A qualified judge from each division is available to attend



6.3.5 U.S. Junior National Championship

Selection for the U.S. Junior National Freestyle Championships shall be from the available pool of C license level judges and above. All other requirements are the same as in section 7.3.4.

6.3.6 Interdivisional Events

Selection for formal Inter-Divisional competitions shall be made by the divisional Judges Chairs of the divisions involved. The JSC may be consulted as necessary.

Note: No judge shall be assigned to more than two consecutive U.S. Championships if other qualified judges are available. The JSC Chairperson shall submit to the FSC Chairperson and the Sport Development Manager for Freestyle, a list of recommended judges for national level events at least 30 days prior to the start of any such event.

7.0 JUDGES TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Administration and Purpose

- **7.1.1** The development and maintenance of training standards for all U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle judges shall be the shared responsibility of the U.S. Judges chair and the U.S. FIS JAG representative.
- **7.1.2** The purpose of these standards will be to ensure that all judges, regardless of division or level, are working under the same guidelines and criteria.

7.2 Responsibilities

- **7.2.1** Provide direction and guidance for divisional judges training.
- **7.2.2** Develop and continually revise, as needed, educational training aides for Divisional judges seminars. Such aides may including items as books, video, diagrams, testing material etc.
- **7.2.3** Develop and provide guidance for Head Judges.
- **7.2.4** Offer information and concepts to help recruitment and develop regional level judges.
- **7.2.5** Provide regional and national level judges with updates on FIS level judging programs and educational opportunities.
- **7.2.6** Offer guidance and mentorship to judges looking to improve their skills and advance upward to higher level events.



8.0 JUDGES EVALUATION COMMITTEE (JEC)

8.1 Organization and Authority

- **8.1.1** The Judges Evaluation Committee shall be chaired by the Head Judge of the Rules and Officials Committee.
- **8.1.2** The JEC shall be compromised of the judges' representatives on the Rules and Officials Committee.
- **8.1.3** The JEC shall maintain comprehensive records on all licensed U.S. Ski & Snowboard judges.
- **8.1.4** The JEC has the authority to recommend disciplinary actions listed in § 17.4.2.1 through 17.4.2.4 to the Officials Review Committee for evaluation.

8.2 Review of Judges

- **8.2.1** The JEC shall annually review all judges who have licenses of C level and higher. Judges will be demoted, maintained or promoted based upon information from available sources.
- **8.2.2** The JEC shall review all judges who are put forth by Divisional representatives of the JSC for promotion to C level.
- **8.2.3** The JEC shall publish a list of U.S. Ski & Snowboard judges who hold C level or higher licenses prior to the start of the competition season. This list will be revised during the competition season as necessary.
- **8.2.4** The JEC is responsible for issuing licensing books/cards to all judges prior to the start of the competition season.
- **8.2.5** The Divisional Representatives are responsible for supplying input to the JEC to assist with judges' evaluations.
- **8.2.6** The JEC may request additional information from any judge in order to perform its review effectively.

9.0 TECHNICAL DELEGATES – Appointment, Replacement, Rights& Duties, Candidates Covering Moguls, Aerials, Halfpipe, Big Air, Slopestyle, SX

9.1 Appointment

For all national level competitions, the TD Working Group will appoint the TD. For division competitions, the TD shall be nominated by the division head TD to be appointed by the divisional chair.

In the case of a national level competition, the appointments should be decided 60 days before each competition and made known to the assigned TD and the organizing committee of the competition.

9.2 Technical Delegate Qualifications

9.2.1 A TD cannot be a member of the organizing committee, except at the divisional level.

9.3 Replacement of the Technical Delegate

For national level events, where a replacement is made, a report must be made and forwarded to the chair of the freestyle sports committee, the chair of rules and officials subcommittee, and the organizing committee of the event.

9.3.1 Before the Competition

For national level events, the rules and official's subcommittee chair will appoint a replacement after consulting with the chair of the freestyle sports committee, and the rules and officials subcommittee head TD.

For Divisional Level Events The division chair will appoint a replacement after consultation with the division head TD.

9.3.2 During the Competition

For National Level Events

The Freestyle Sport Committee chair should be contacted for a decision regarding replacement. If the chair cannot be contacted, the chair of the rules and official's subcommittee should be contacted. If they cannot be contacted a member of the freestyle sport committee should make the decision.

9.4 Duties of the Technical Delegate in the Jury

- 9.4.1 The Technical Delegate acts as technical consultant and chair of the jury.
- 9.4.2 If the competitors are subject to dangerous conditions, the TD must exercise his right to interrupt or cancel the official training or the competition. This may be done without consultation of the jury.
- 9.4.3 If the safety of a competitor is in danger because they lack the physical and/or technical abilities demanded by the course, the TD has the right, pending



approval of the jury, to remove the competitor from the competition. The competitor receives a DNS.

- 9.4.4 If the safety of a competitor is in danger because they lack the ability to complete certain aerial maneuvers, the TD has the right to suspend, reduce, or withdraw those qualifications, subject to agreement by the Jury.
- 9.4.5 If the safety of a competitor is in danger due to injury, the TD has the right, pending approval from the jury, to remove the competitor from competition. The competitor receives a DNS.

9.5 Duties of the Technical Delegate before the competition

- 9.5.1 The TD must inspect competitions courses at least 24 hours prior to the start of official training.
- 9.5.2 The inspection should cover the following:
 - The technical data of the courses in accordance with Freestyle technical specifications (see competition guide).
 - Proper preparation of the terrain of all courses and arrangements for all safety measures in accordance with the Freestyle competition guide.
 - Influence of the weather on the courses.
 - Choice and preparation of the start and finish areas.
 - Means of transporting the competitors to the start.
 - Communications between start and finish.
 - Medical service during and after the competitions.
 - Verification that the proper standards are applied for judges' stands requirements per the competition guide.
- 9.5.3 It is the duty of the TD to be ready and willing to advise the organizers, when necessary.
- 9.5.4 The organizers must keep the TD informed of the progress of technical preparations.The contact between the organizers and the TD is useful and should be continuous.
- 9.5.5 For national level events, the TD must arrive at the location of the competition at least 24 hours before the beginning of the official training.
- 9.5.6 The TD is responsible for the review of the TD reports from previous national level events on the same site, as well as competitions preceding it.
- 9.5.7 The TD will review the list, furnished by the organizing committee, of supplies and service personnel.



9.6 Duties of the Technical Delegate during Training and Competition

- 9.6.1 Observation of the training, as well as of the work of the organizing committee, and the competition officials.
- 9.6.2 Attend all meetings of the jury and the team captains' meeting. The TD is chair of the jury.
- 9.6.3 Supervision of the technical conduct of the entire competition.
- 9.6.4 The TD must advise the organizers on compliance with the rules, as well as decisions on questions, which may not be covered by the rules.
- 9.6.5 The TD is responsible for collaboration with the team captains and trainers.
- 9.6.6 The TD must be present at all times during competition.
- 9.6.7 The TD is responsible for the co-verification of the official results as outlined in the competition guide.
- 9.6.8 The TD is responsible for the training of TD candidates assigned to him during their appointment.

9.7 Duties of the Technical Delegate after the Competition

- 9.7.1 Submission of a final TD report must be sent to the rules and officials subcommittee Head TD in a timely manner.
- 9.7.2 As applicable, the TD will make a report on the TD candidates' technical abilities. This report must be sent to the chair of the rules and officials subcommittee.

9.8 Rights of the Technical Delegate

- 9.8.1 The TD is the chair of the jury has the deciding vote in case of a tie (including his vote).
- 9.8.2 Decisions will be made according to §9.4 of this guide.
- 9.8.3 If necessary, the TD will appoint qualified people as members of the jury.
- 9.8.4 All officials of freestyle events, who are current members in good standing, are covered under the existing liability policy carried when performing duties in conjunction with a specific sanctioned event. Each individual, whether an athlete or official, must carry his/her own medical coverage as U.S. Ski & Snowboard is not responsible for providing such coverage.
- 9.8.5 Reimbursement of travel expenses and all costs arising out of his duties at the inspections and competitions, as per the current policy of the freestyle rules and officials subcommittee (National events, or the division (Divisional events).
- 9.8.6 Complete briefing by the organizing committee through punctual dispatch of all documents on the conduct of the events, such as the official invitation,



program, bulletins, etc., as well as immediate information concerning the cancellation or postponement of an event.

9.8.7 The TD has the right to request the support of the organizing committee and its officials in all matters concerning the fulfillment of his duties.

9.9 Candidate Technical Delegates (Assistant TD)

- 9.9.1 For national level events, the assignment of the TD candidates is the responsibility of the head TD of the rules and official's subcommittee.
- 9.9.3 For national level events, the cost for food, lodging, and transportation shall not be borne by the host organizing committee or U.S. Ski and Snowboarding.
- 9.9.4 The TD candidate will make a report on the event in question which is too be sent to the head TD of the Rules and Officials subcommittee.

10.0 TECHNICAL DELEGATES – LICENSES

10.1 D Level (Regional) - U.S. Ski & Snowboard

This is an entry level regional license established and certified by the Head TD within each U.S. Ski & Snowboard division.

Level of Competition:

Regional Level Freestyle Events

Requirements for Certification:

Attend one regional or National TD clinic and fulfill any divisional requirements.

10.2 C Level (National) - U.S. Ski & Snowboard

This is a national level TD's license established and certified by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Rules and Officials TD Sub-Committee. TD's licensed at this level are certified for regional TD assignments. It is highly recommended that TD's at this level TD all types of events (mogul, halfpipe, etc.).

Level of Competition:

Regional, Interdivisional and Junior National Freestyle Events

Requirements for Certification:

To be considered certified as a C level TD, each TD must satisfy the following requirements for each type of competition (i.e. moguls, halfpipe, etc.):

- Attend one approved TD clinic in the current year. Clinic attended may include a local, National, or FIS level clinic.
- Must have TD'd a minimum of 5 (A Level Division) events.



- Successfully completed a C level or above TD assist.
- Must have the recommendation from their respective divisional head TD.
- Recommendations from divisional head TD should be sent in writing to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard's TD Sub-Committee by April 30 prior to the start of the competition season.

10.3 FIS TD

This is an international level TD license established and certified by FIS - the International Ski Federation.

Level of Competition:

All FIS Events

Requirements for Certification:

See FIS Freestyle Skiing Competition Rules (ICR) for further information.

10.4 License Notes

FIS Upgrades

Clinics are held September through December. A TD requesting an upgrade in the spring should have attended a clinic prior to that season.

The International Ski Federation (FIS) provides standards for and approves International TD licenses. If a nationally licensed TD wishes to be considered for an International license or upgrade, they must fill out and submit the appropriate license request (see appendix C) to U.S. Ski & Snowboard Freestyle TD Workgroup by April 15th in the year they are requesting an upgrade. This deadline is set so that all NSA approved upgrade request may be submitted to FIS prior to May 1 (before the spring FIS meeting or Congress). The application is to the TD Work Group Chair for review then forwarded to FIS.

10.5 License Maintenance

All TD's shall maintain their license levels as long as they remain current. It is recommended that they attend a clinic at the start of each season to be eligible to TD that season. An assist program may be a substitute for a clinic. If a TD misses a year (does not attend a clinic) they shall remain certified for the next year, presuming they attend a clinic the following year. If a TD misses two consecutive years they shall be ineligible to TD at their current license level. In the third or fourth year (a two (2) or three (3) year leave of absence), the TD must apply for reinstatement at a clinic and must work at a minimum of two events at a level lower than their highest achieved and can re-apply for their highest level achieved with the successful head TD evaluations from the events TD'd.



11.0 TD EVENT SELECTION PROCEDURES

11.1 U.S. Ski & Snowboard – TD Working Group (TDWG)

The TDWG is an advisory group of the rules and officials Subcommittee. The TDWG is authorized by the R&O committee to nominate and assign individual TD's for various levels of competition. TDWG is comprised of the following individuals:

- The Chair of the Rules and Officials Subcommittee
- U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Development Manager for Freestyle
- The Head TD of the Rules and Officials Subcommittee

11.2 General Selection Criteria

Below is a list of factors (in no particular order) that influence the groups' decisions on who is assigned to an event.

- Availability
- Past Event Performance
- Clinic performance
- Clinic attendance
- Cost
- Professionalism
- Ability to work with others

11.3 National, Continental and International Specific Selection Criteria & Procedures

11.3.1 FIS World Championships & Olympic Games

Recommendations for the Olympic Winter Games and World Championships will be selected from the pool of qualified FIS TD's. To be eligible for a World Championship or Olympic Games, a FIS TD shall have TD'd at least 4 seasons with a FIS license and TD'd a minimum of 6 World Cup events. Qualified candidates will be asked to submit an application which must include their TD history and resume. The TDWG will then consider all of the applications and select one candidate to submit to FIS for consideration. The final selection of candidates for World Cup judging panels are determined by FIS.

11.3.2 FIS World Cup Events

Recommendations for World cup events shall be made from the pool of FIS TD's. After reviewing all the available candidates, the TDWG will determine a candidate to submit to FIS for consideration for each assignment. The final selection of candidates for World Cup TD's is determined by FIS.

11.3.3 FIS Continental Cup Events



U.S. TD's for Continental Cups (Nor-Am), or other FIS events will be selected from the available pool of FIS license TD's. Approved candidates can submit their availability when invitations are sent out by the FIS North American TD Working Group (NATDWG) for assignment. Assignments are made per FIS Continental Cup criteria.

11.3.4 FIS Sanctioned National Events

Selection for the U.S. Freestyle FIS sanctioned events will be from the available pool of TD's who have a FIS TD license. Approved candidates can submit their availability when invitations are sent out by the Rules and Officials TDWG for assignment. Assignments are made per 11.0 TD Event Selection Procedure.

11.3.5 U.S. Junior National Championship

Selection for the U.S. Junior National Freestyle Championships shall be from the available pool of C license level TD's and above. Approved candidates can submit their availability when invitations are sent out by the Rules and Officials TDWG for assignment. Assignments are made per 11.0 TD Event Selection Procedure.

11.3.6 Divisional/Interdivisional Events

Selection for Divisional/Interdivisional competitions shall be made by the divisional head TD of the divisions involved.

12.0 TECHNICAL DELEGATES - TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

12.1 Administration and Purpose

The development and maintenance of training standards for all U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle TD's shall be the shared responsibility of the U.S. Judges chair and the U.S. FIS JAG representative.

The purpose of these standards will be to ensure that all TD's, regardless of division or level, are working under the same guidelines and criteria.

12.2 Responsibilities

- Provide direction and guidance for divisional TD training.
- Develop and continually revise, as needed, educational training aides for Divisional TD seminars.
- Develop and provide guidance for Head TD's.
- Offer information and concepts to help recruitment and develop regional level judges.



 Provide regional and national level judges with updates on FIS and National level TD programs and educational opportunities.

13.0 SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIALS

13.1 Introduction

These Social Media guidelines are specifically focused on communication through social media but should be considered in conjunction with other U.S. Ski & Snowboard conduct standards.

Regard social media communications as public at all times, even if created with private intentions. If you are going to use social media in any form, recognize that your communications might be read by anyone at any time and that postings on the internet may be permanent. Be careful in the sharing of your personal information, including photos. Adjust security settings accordingly.

13.2 Recommended Conduct

- 13.2.1 As an official you represent U.S. Ski & Snowboard at all times. Act accordingly.
- 13.2.2 Promote officiating in a positive light and with a general feeling of pride and professionalism. As an official, you are an ambassador for judges and freestyle at all times.
- 13.2.3 You have unique access to information. The same ethical restrictions that apply to any form of speech also apply to social media. It is inappropriate to communicate specifics about other officials, athletes, coaches, parents of athletes, club representatives, volunteers, or any related personnel, including employees of U.S. Ski & Snowboard as well as your assignments or other such decisions made by U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Be thoroughly familiar with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Conflict of Interest & Ethical Practices, Code of Conduct, SafeSport as well as any additional or updated U.S. Ski & Snowboard policies.
- 13.2.4 Do not engage in commentary or speculation on any specific evaluation or result, whether it is about an event you officiated, one that you witnessed, or in general about the impact of officials in any event.
- 13.2.5 Do not engage in negative or critical commentary on how a competition was run, how a competition was officiated, or any negative or critical comments regarding any specific official or group of officials at such an event. Should such concerns arise, there are appropriate channels where these concerns can be raised.
- 13.2.6 Communication among officials for learning purposes should be done privately and not through the use of social media. Be mindful that e-mail and other forms of direct communication might be made public



13.2.7 Any official whose acts, statements, or conduct violate the provisions of this Social Media Policy is subject to a review of their officiating privileges by the Judges Subcommittee and appropriate action under applicable rules, policies and procedures of U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

Guidelines adapted from the National Association of Sporting Officials – Social Media Guidelines

14.0 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICIALS

All officials are subject to U.S. Ski & Snowboard's official code of conduct which is published annually in the Freestyle and Freeskiing Competition Guide.

15.0 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR OFFICIALS

15.1 Purpose

As a representative and official of U.S. Ski & Snowboarding and given the subjective nature of freestyle, it is imperative that officials avoid situations that may cause a conflict of interest. Failure to avoid a conflict of interest may cast doubt on an individual official's integrity as well as jeopardize the integrity of the officials as a whole.

15.2 Definition

A conflict of interest can be defined as a situation that has the potential to undermine the impartiality of an official because of the possibility of a clash between the person's self-interest (financial and/or personal) and their professional interest.

Furthermore, a conflict of interest comprises anything that impedes or might be perceived to impede an official's ability to act impartially and in the best interest of the athletes, coaches and the freestyle community.

15.3 Potential Conflicts of Interest (Examples)

- **15.3.1** Direct employment by coach or athlete.
- **15.3.2** Coaching competitors within the past year.
- **15.3.3** Being a relative of competitor.
- **15.3.4** Gambling on freestyle events.
- **15.3.5** Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges or employment received from coaches, athletes or relatives of athletes.
- **15.3.6** Having a personal relationship with a coach, competitor or relative of a competitor.

15.4 Obligations



- **15.4.1** An official must inform the ORC of a conflict of interest as soon as they become aware of it, even if the official considers the conflict of interest to be remote, contingent or apparently insubstantial. Whenever possible, it is recommended that the official notify the ORC at least 45 days prior to any scheduled participation in an event.
- **15.4.2** If any alleged violation of this conflict of interest policy is reported by a party other than the official in question, the accused official shall be afforded an opportunity to review the assertion of a conflict of interest and add their own statements and information (in writing) for the ORC to review.
- **15.4.3** The ORC will promptly determine the materiality of any alleged conflict of interest disclosed by the official or other concerned party, taking into account whether the disclosed interest has the capacity to impact the officials' ability to remain impartial and/or to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

15.5 ORC Review

The Officials Review Committee may impose measures it sees fit and proper with relation to the resolution of a conflict of interest. All decisions must be reviewed and adjudicated in a timely manner and the outcome must be reported to the official in writing.

15.6 *Policy Outcomes*

The outcome of this conflict of interest policy is to provide the following:

- **15.6.1** To emphasize to all officials that the highest standards of ethics, fairness, honesty and integrity shall govern individuals appointed by U.S. Ski & Snowboarding.
- **15.6.2** To inspire the confidence of the participating athletes, the public and associations members.
- **15.6.3** To eliminate the appearance of impropriety of any freestyle official.



16.0 COMPENSATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OFFICIALS

16.1 Compensation

- 16.1.1 Officials at all competitions higher than divisional level will be compensated at a rate determined prior to the beginning of each season. Divisions will set their own rates of compensation for the payment of the officials (including interdivisional meets which they host). Divisional representatives shall provide to the JSC Chairperson their respective divisions judging rates of compensation by October 1 of each year. All officials rates mentioned herein will be published and made available to all U.S. Ski & Snowboard freestyle judges.
- **16.1.2** At higher level competitions such as NorAm and World Cup, rates shall be set by the NorAm committee and FIS.
- **16.1.3** The Technical Delegate, at all national level competitions, is to arrive at least 24 hours before the start of training. They shall receive compensation for travel days and training days in addition to competition days.
- 16.1.4 Officials shall be paid prior to the start of the last day of competition provided a completed expense sheet and receipts are submitted to the organizing committee two days prior. Payment may be in cash, check or electronic transfer. All FIS sanctioned events are permitted a 30 day window for payment.

16.2 Arrival/Departure & Accommodations

- **16.2.1** Accommodations vary for each level of competition. Divisions may set their own policies regarding accommodations at divisional and interdivisional competitions.
- 16.2.2 U.S. Freestyle Championships (including National Qualifiers) & Junior National Championships: The host organization is required to provide complete accommodations (see § 16.2.5) starting two nights prior to the first day of competition through the morning after the last day of competition. *Ex. Competition days are Saturday and Sunday then judges should arrive Thursday night and depart Monday morning.* If reasonable (judges are local or their travel time permits), judges may depart on the last day of the competition and would not require accommodations the night of the final competition day. The TD to be provided complete accommodations from one day before training through the morning after the last day of competition.
- **16.2.3** NorAm Competitions: Pertinent arrival/departure and accommodation information will be provided by the NorAm committee in the Continental Cup Rules published each fall by FIS.
- **16.2.4** Complete accommodations are defined as all meals, lodging, and transportation to and from the mountain (if required), lift passes, admission to all official



functions and transportation (if required) to those functions. Judges shall not be expected to share beds. Judges and TD's accommodations are for judges only.

In lieu of providing meals, the host organizing committee may provide judges with a per diem or meal allowance. The amount of the allowance shall reflect a reasonable cost of obtaining meals at appropriate times and locations (e.g., if the meals must be taken at the ski area, the reasonable cost may be relatively high). At a minimum, the meal allowances are set at \$10.00 for breakfast, \$15.00 for lunch, and \$25.00 for dinner. Judges and TD's receiving a per diem versus a meal plan shall receive meal funds immediately upon arrival at the event.

16.2.5 The host organizing committee has no responsibility to assist with accommodations for those traveling with a judge or TD. This is the responsibility of the individual judge or TD and should in no way jeopardize or interfere with the accommodations of the other judges.



17.0 OFFICIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE (ORC)

17.1 Status

The Officials Review Committee is a subcommittee of the United States Ski & Snowboards' Rules and Officials Subcommittee (R&O). The ORC is authorized by the FSC to take actions stated herein, and serves to advise the FSC in all discipline matters relevant to Freestyle Officials.

17.2 Structure of the ORC

17.2.1 The ORC shall consist of the following members:

- **17.2.1.1** The FSC Chairperson (Chairperson of the ORC)
- 17.2.1.2 The R&O Subcommittee Chairperson
- **17.2.1.3** The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Development Manager for Freestyle
- 17.2.1.4 The FIS Representative
- **17.2.1.5** The Judicial Committee Chairperson

17.3 Authority of the ORC

The ORC is authorized by the FSC to review and investigate complaints of alleged misconduct concerning freestyle officials.

17.4 Disciplinary Proceedings

- **17.4.1** The Officials Review Committee shall review and investigate any complaint of alleged misconduct concerning an official which is submitted to the ORC in writing, signed and dated by the complaining person(s). The ORC will not investigate anonymous complaints. The ORC shall make determinations if there is enough reason to send disciplinary matters to the FSC only after providing the official with a reasonable opportunity to respond, and after gathering and considering information from any reliable source, including statements or information provided by the official.
- 17.4.2 Misconduct (including but not limited to a violation of the rules, ethics, or duties set forth in this Handbook) by an official may be cause for disciplinary action. The ORC shall decide if misconduct has occurred and if any actions need to be implemented. Upon the completion of its investigation of the complaint, the ORC shall either (1) impose no discipline, in which case the complaint is listed as unfounded in the official records; or (2) take one of the following disciplinary actions:
 - **17.4.2.1** Reprimand: A written reprimand shall be issued to the judge noting the reason(s) for the reprimand and stating that subsequent misconduct will lead to more severe action by the ORC.



- **17.4.2.2** Suspension: An official may be suspended for a specified period of time, not to exceed two years, by the ORC. Violating a suspension order will result in the immediate revocation of all officiating privileges.
- **17.4.2.3** Demotion: An official may have his or her license level reduced.
- 17.4.2.4 Removal: An official may be indefinitely banned from officiating as a U.S. Ski & Snowboard licensed official; provided, however, that the official may petition the ORC for reinstatement after two years.
- **17.4.3** In the event any discipline is imposed, the judge shall be notified in writing of the alleged misconduct, the findings of the ORC, the specific nature of the discipline imposed, and the right of the judge to appeal the determination of the ORC.
- 17.4.4 To appeal any disciplinary action, the disciplined official must notify in writing the Chairman of the FSC within ten (10) days of notification of the disciplinary action. The FSC Chairman will forward to all members of the FSC for review. Any discipline imposed by the ORC is stayed pending the appeal process.

The appeal shall be presented in writing and shall state the basis for the appeal and the relief requested. If the FSC sustains the ORC decision, the original disciplinary action will immediately be reinstated. If the FSC overturns a disciplinary action of the ORC it shall be up to the FSC to either modify or vacate the disciplinary action.

To overturn a disciplinary action of the ORC, a 2/3 majority of the FSC is required.