



FIS CROSS-COUNTRY GUIDELINES FOR JURY WORK

EDITION 2010/2011

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(Version October 2010)

1. Preparation for the jury

The jury has to prepare their procedure for handling the upcoming cases. These guidelines are meant to be used by the jury to improve the work and consistency of the decisions. The jury leader must make sure that all the other jury members know these guidelines and they should be used as a part of the preparation in the jury meeting before the competition starts. This is a description of possible infractions and guidelines for the jury are handling of them.

2. Most common infractions

The most common infractions are; rough skiing in sprints, rough skiing in mass starts, skating in classical race, false start and course discipline (athletes, coaches, service staff, industry).

a. Rough skiing in sprints

The most common infraction the jury has to deal with is crashes/ accidents between competitors in sprint competitions.

The first things to consider are the gain for the offender and the consequences for the offended competitor(s). Without any advantage for the offender the sanction should be a written reprimand.

If the gain for the offender is sufficient then the jury should decide if the obstruction was intentional or not. An intentional offence leads to a dsq. It follows from 360.3.9 that this is the only time the jury has the possibility to let the offended athlete proceed to the next round. However, deciding whether something is done intentionally is difficult.

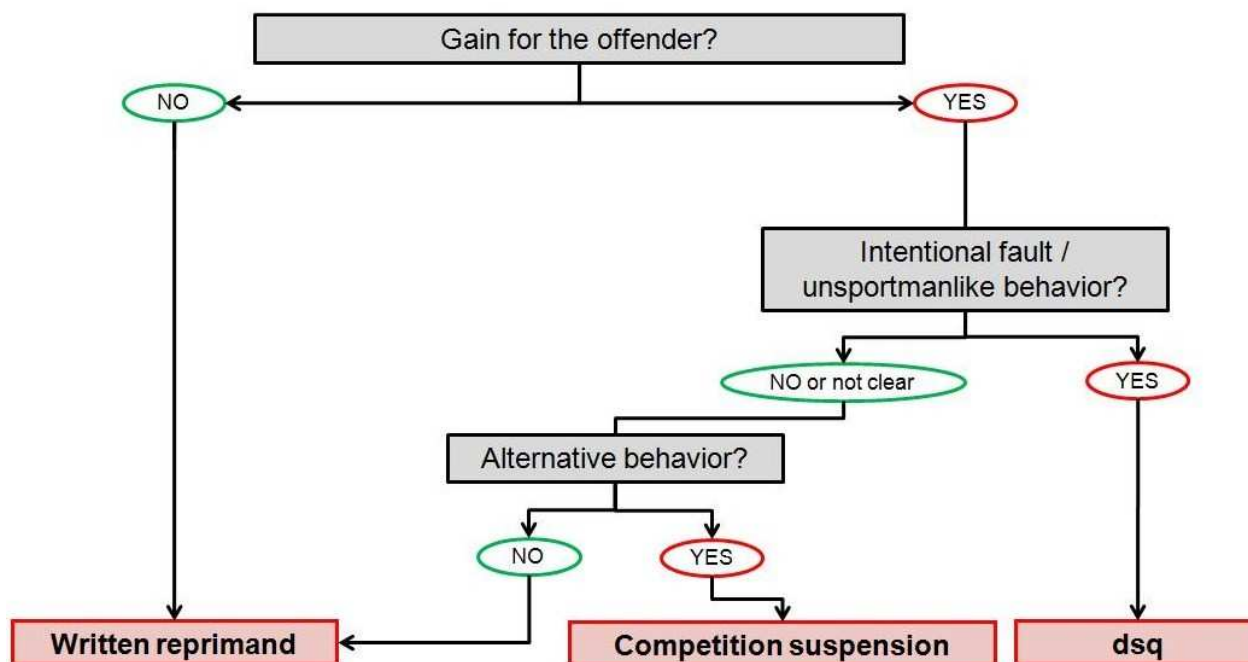
If the intention is not clearly apparent, the jury should consider if an alternative behaviour was possible or not. Using a dsq as a sanction the athlete should clearly show unsportsmanlike behaviour act grossly negligently, ruthlessly and/or by doing so try to gain some advantage.

223.3.3 A competitor shall only be disqualified if his mistake would result in an advantage for him with regard to the end result, unless the Rules state otherwise in an individual case

The next level of sanction is competition suspension (ranking the competitor last in his heat). Also this sanction should only be used when a skier takes an unreasonably high risk towards another athlete and shows unsportsmanlike behaviour, including accidents caused by taking too high risk. The responsibility for a correct passing without obstruction is on the overtaking skier. The overtaking skier must have his/her skis in front of the skis of the overtaken skier before skiing a best line.

For the two sanctions mentioned above the jury has to make its decision before the start of the next round. For other sanctions such as written or verbal warnings the jury can wait until after the competition is finished to make a decision.

Decision chart for rough skiing in Sprints:



360.3.9 *If an obstruction leads to disqualification, and the obstruction caused another athlete not to advance to the next round, he will be allowed to proceed into the next round. In this case the competitor concerned will start in a second row, 6 m behind. This rule will only be applied in exceptional cases where the obstruction was intentional (see Art. 223.1.3)*

360.3.10 *Obstructions can also be sanctioned by competition suspension (ranking the competitor in last place of the relevant heat) accompanied by a written reprimand (see art. 223.3)*

223.1.3 *In determining whether conduct constitutes an offence consideration should be given to:*
- *whether the conduct was intentional or unintentional,*

b. Rough skiing in mass starts

In competitions with mass start rough skiing appears quite often. Most common are crashes when one skier tries to pass another one. With the introduction of bonus sprints, positioning during the race is even more important. The responsibility for a passing is on the overtaking skier. The overtaking skier must have his/her skis in front of the skis of the overtaken skier before skiing a best line.

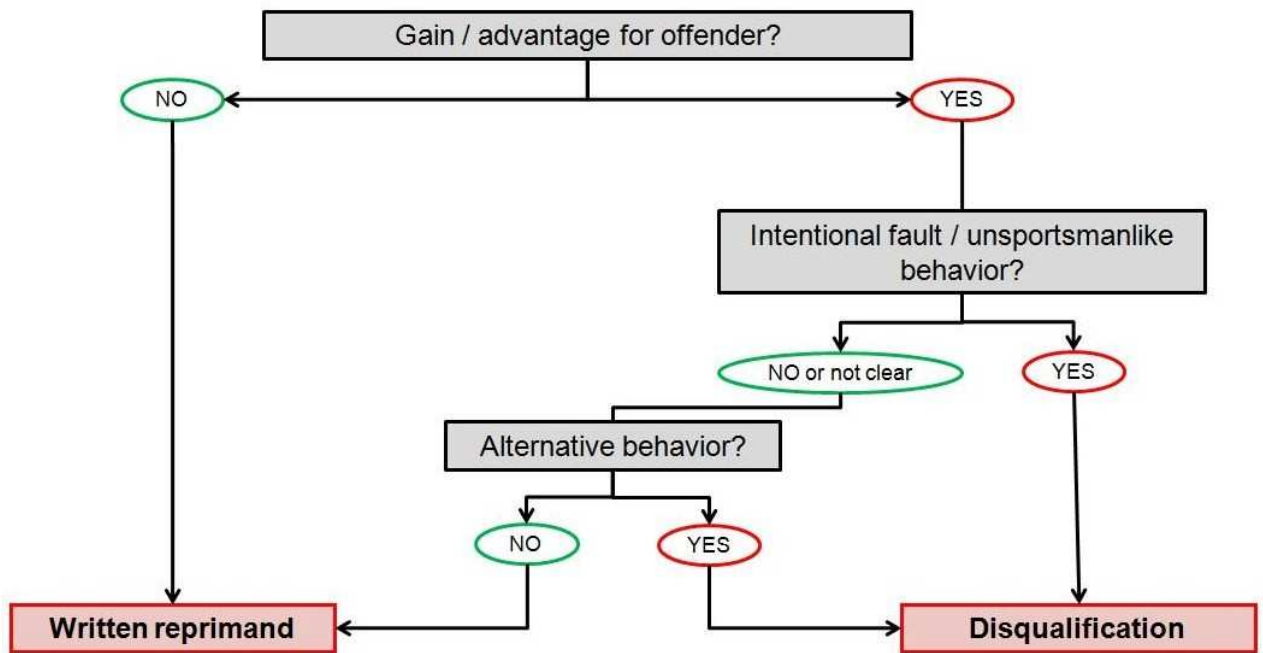
The first things to consider are the gain for the offender and the consequences for the offended competitor(s). Without any advantage for the offender the sanction should be a written reprimand.

If the gain for the offender is sufficient then the jury has to decide if the obstruction was intentional or not. An intentional offence normally leads to a dsq. However, deciding whether something is done intentionally is difficult.

If the intention is not clearly apparent, the jury should consider if an alternative behaviour was possible or not. Using a dsq as a sanction the athlete should clearly show unsportsmanlike behaviour act grossly negligently, ruthlessly and/or by doing so try to gain some advantage.

223.3.3 A competitor shall only be disqualified if his mistake would result in an advantage for him with regard to the end result, unless the Rules state otherwise in an individual case

Decision chart for rough skiing in Mass Starts:



c. Skating in classic races

According to the following rule skating in competitions in classical technique normally leads to a dsq:

314.1.1 *Classical technique includes the diagonal techniques, the double poling techniques, herringbone technique without a gliding phase, downhill techniques and turning techniques. Single or double-skating is not allowed. Turning techniques comprise steps and pushes in order to change directions. Where there is a set track, turning techniques with pushing are NOT allowed. This will also apply to competitors skiing outside of the set track.*

392 *Disqualifications*
The jury must meet and decide if a competitor is to be disqualified (see art. 223.3.3)

However, we have seen cases where disqualification can be too hard as a sanction, and where, for example, a written warning could be a message to athletes that his/ her technique is on the borderline. This can be:

- Against younger racers that should get the chance to be educated/ get a warning
(392: The Jury must also take into account the level of the competition and the age of the Competitors)
- In sections of the course where there is no set track, can be cases where it is difficult to decide whether it is skating or turning technique and how much the athlete is pushing
- In cases where the jury and the organiser can be blamed for unclear track setting

In such cases a written or verbal warning can be considered a proper sanction.

And in the end, every disqualification must be discussed in accordance with

223.3.3 *A competitor shall only be disqualified if his mistake would result in an advantage for him with regard to the end result, unless the Rules state otherwise in an individual case*

d. False start

For all our start formats it is the responsibility of the competitor to start at the correct time. In sprint competitions a second false start will automatically lead to a competition suspension. In other race formats where time is gained by a false start a dsq will be the sanction (except in multistage events see point 3.b).

e. Course discipline (athletes and coaches/service staff/industry)

In cases against athletes sanctions from verbal warning to dsq can be used.

In cases against ski industry, service personnel or coaches and trainers a monetary fine or withdrawal of accreditation for a certain period should be used.

In cases where someone is interfering with an athlete in competition during feeding or coaching, intentionally or by accident, the strongest possible sanction must be considered.

3. Most common sanctions against athletes

a. Reprimand – written or verbal

b. Time penalty

Time penalty is a new sanction in our rules, introduced first time during a multistage event. The opinion of the jury was that an offence that in a normal race should have led to a dsq was a too hard sanction because it was not only a dsq for one race but for eight races.

Using dsq or time penalty will be the jury's decision. However the priority will be given to time penalties in multistage events. Time penalty as a sanction must only be used in multistage events.

For a false start (early start): the time penalty should be equal to time gained + 30 seconds minimum.

In cases where a dsq is discussed: the athlete should be ranked last in the stage (competition time of the last athlete + 1").

c. Disqualification

In Sprint competitions (heats), 2 different dsq levels are used:

- DSQ: out of the final result list (but still ranked in the qualification list)
- Competition suspension: ranked last in the heat.

4. Evidence material

For World Cup and World Ski Championship races every jury sanction must be substantiated by a video showing the actual case. For other races it is also recommended but a jury can also react on reports from officially appointed controllers or jury members. A jury should not act on base of comments from athletes or team leaders.

224.7 *Prior to the imposition of a penalty (except in sprint competitions and cases of reprimands and withdrawal of accreditation according to 223.5 and 224.2), the person accused of an offence shall be given the opportunity to present a defence at hearing, orally or in writing.*

5. Procedural Guidelines (ICR 224):

1. the Jury is required to consider all relevant evidence
2. witnesses to testify also video recordings /TV pictures (224.5)
3. consider any mitigating and aggravating circumstances
4. Prior to the imposition of a penalty the person accused of an offence shall be given the opportunity to present a defence at a hearing orally or in writing (except in cases of reprimands and withdrawal of accreditation) 224.7
5. penalty appropriate to the offence
6. all Jury decisions must be recorded in writing (competition secretary) and shall include:
 - The offence alleged to have been committed
 - The evidence of the offence
 - The rule (s) or Jury directives that have been violated
 - The penalty imposed
7. the persons sanctioned must be informed that they have the right of appeal
8. Written Penalty decisions must be sent to the offender, the offenders NSA and FIS (223.7)
9. Any DSQ shall be recorded in the TD Report (223.8)
10. All penalties shall be recorded in the TD Report (223.9)

Reminder: duties of TD and Jury concerning course preparation and stadium setup. See ICR 304