

International Ski Federation (F.I.S.)

**I n t e r n a t i o n a l  
C o m p e t i t i o n R u l e s  
f o r S l a l o m a n d D o w n h i l l R a c e s**

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as established

at the XI. International Ski Congress  
in Oslo and Finse (Norway) 1930

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Translation from the German Origin by Martin John Leach /  
Andermatt SUI, December 2016  
(See *final explanations* last page – for translation and comments)

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The XI. International Ski Congress in Oslo (1930), has in an extension of its International Competition Rules, regulated “Downhill and Slalom races”. The new wording of § 3 of the “International Competition Rules” is:

International Ski Competitions may only be announced as:

- a) Jumping Competitions.
- b) Cross-country Races 15-18 km.
- c) Long Distance Races 30-60 km.
- d) Combined Events. Jumping and Cross-country (15-18 km).

Additionally, the following can be announced and organised:

- e) Downhill Races.
- f) Slalom Races.
- g) Combined Events, Downhill and Slalom and Team Races.

In International Competitions, it is not necessary to announce all above mentioned competitions from a - g, however where possible a Combined Competition and a Cross-country must be announced.

INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION (F.I.S.)  
**COMPETITION RULES**  
for Slalom and Downhill Races.

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**I. Organisation and Officials.**

§ 1.

The Competition Jury is the responsible authority that takes care about the execution of Slalom and Downhill Races. The composition of the Competition Jury is a matter for the Organisation.

§ 2.

The Competition Jury makes decisions based on absolute majority. The President votes with and has the casting vote. The Competition Jury decides about all alternative Regulations of these Competition Rules.

§ 3.

The special tasks of the Competition Jury and its assistants, which are to be appointed, are as follows:

*1. The Referee.*

He makes decisions on all disagreements which cannot be decided by the Rules. The Referee has the right to postpone a race, should he believe the execution could be dangerous or if visibility is such that the execution is not possible. The Referee is also responsible for informing competitors of special Competition Jury decisions before the Race.

*2. The Setter.*

The Setter shall mark the course in accordance with the general instructions of the Competition Jury. The Competition Jury is responsible for the general principles of course marking: for the Slalom, he determines the slope on which the Slalom will be held as well as the vertical drop. Furthermore he decides the Downhill slope and marks the positions where possible Danger and Control flags are to be placed. The Setter alone is responsible for Advisory flags and One-way sections flags.

(See § 7 and 9.). The Setter is responsible before and during the complete race for the maintenance of the course. (See § 34.)

### 3. *Starter and Assistant Starter*

Starter and Assistant Starter are responsible for the correct execution of the Start. (see § 13 to § 16.).

### 4. *The Official Timekeeper*

stands by the Finishing-posts. The time he takes is considered official unless contested by the Assistant Timekeeper: in this case the Referee decides. Small discrepancies between the time taken by the Official Timekeeper and the Assistant Timekeeper will not be considered.

### 5. *The Assistant Timekeeper*

checks the times taken by the Official Timekeeper. He has the right, in differences of opinion, to call the Referee.

### 6. *The Timing Supervisor*

decides the sequence of the arrived competitors.

### 7. *The Recorder*

notes the times given by the Timekeepers. At important competitions, more than one recorder should be available.

### 8. *The Flag-keepers*

At Downhill competitions, there must be a Flag-keeper standing at each pair of Control flags (Advisory or Danger Flags). At Slalom competitions, a Flag-keeper should stand by each pair of flags. If sufficient experienced Flag-keepers are not available, then a Flag-keeper may monitor more than one pair of flags. (See § 27 to § 30.)

The imposition of penalties is the responsibility of the Flag-keeper. A Flag-keeper's power to impose penalties begins when the Competitor has passed through the last and lowest of the flags for which the Flag-keeper immediately above him on the slope is responsible, and ends when the Competitor has passed through the last pair of flags for which the Flag-keeper in question is responsible.

### 9. *Judges*

watch over the course during Downhill and observe compliance of the Rules governing these competitions.

§ 4.

*Protests* must be with the Competition Jury within 12 hours of the end of the race, in writing and reasoned and when possible before the Prize Giving. To be included with the Protest is a sum (of money) as decided by the Competition Jury to be deposited, which will be forfeit if the protest fails. Objections to a competitor entering a competition are to be raised before the start.

§ 5.

The Competition Jury will deal with Objections and answer them before Prize Giving. Appeals against the decision can be raised with the National Association organising the competition.

An appeal against the decision of the National Association can be made to the Council of the F.I.S. whose verdict is final.

§ 6.

Protests against the incorrect calculation of the results according to the Competition Rules, must be received in written form and by registered post within 7 days of the Prize Giving. If the Protest is justified, the correct result must be published immediately and the prizes accordingly redistributed.

No Objections will be considered if not initiated within 7 days after the Prize Giving.

## **II Flags.**

§7.

To mark the Downhill course the following three colours will be used:

*Red* flags are Advisory Flags.

Advisory Flags show the competitor the shortest, safest, and best route; they are placed singly.

*Blue* flags or *blue-white* flags are Control Flags.

Control Flags are used to set a particular course (Course Control Flags). All Control Flags are placed in pairs through which the competitor must pass. A competitor will be disqualified when both of his feet do not cross the line between both Control Flags. (Exception § 29.)

*Yellow* flags are Danger Flags;  
these warn competitors against excessive speed.  
Competitors who do not respect the Advisory and Danger Flags do so on  
their own responsibility.

See also § 9. *Blue-red* Flags marking One-way sections.

§ 8.

The Finish-posts for Downhill and Slalom Competitions must be  
connected by a strip of cloth of red or any other striking colour.  
No competitor has completed the race until both of his feet have crossed  
the line between the Finish-posts.

**III One-way sections.**

§ 9.

Any tracked part of the competition course, the use of which is obviously  
much faster than untracked snow, is called a One-way section. The  
beginning and end of this One-way section will be marked by Double  
Flags in order that the competitor is quite clear which part of the  
competition course the following competition regulations are in force. A  
Double Flag consists of a red flag crossed with a blue flag.

§ 10.

If a competitor is going to overtake another competitor in a One-way  
section he is to call out "Clear Course", whereby the competitor in front  
is to immediately leave the track.

A competitor who does not leave the track when called upon to do so will  
be disqualified.

§ 11.

One-way sections will be watched over by Judges. The Setter is  
responsible for defining the One-way section.

§ 12.

One-way sections are to be properly tracked prior to the Race and the  
competitors must be informed about them.

## **IV The Start.**

### **§ 13.**

The following different start methods are used:

1. **The Simultaneous Start.** Start positions will be defined by draw. All competitors start simultaneously.
2. **Interval Start.** The competitors start at intervals of one minute (or more or less).
3. **The Team Start.** In team competitions, where simultaneous or individual starts are not used, Team Captains place their team members in the order of qualification of each individual competitor. Before the Race the Captains are to give the Starter a list with the order of their competitors. Teams start in groups. The first group to start shall consist of the best competitors in the teams and shall be followed by the other groups. Between each group shall be a time interval of at least one minute.
4. **The Group Start.** Competitors can either be drawn by lot or the Competition Jury can divide groups of two or more. Groups will start at intervals of at least one minute.
5. **The Slalom Start.** Before a competitor has completed the Slalom Course a further competitor may not start.
6. **The Forerun Start.** The competition is divided into two parts whereby the first part is a forerun and the second part is the main competition. The starting order in the Forerun is decided by draw. The competitors start in the forerun in intervals of at least 30 seconds and in the second run according to their times achieved in the forerun, whereby the best time is Start number 1, the second best time, Start number 2 etc. The start interval in the second run between the first competitor and the second competitor is the same time as the difference between the first competitor and the second competitor in the forerun. The start intervals between the other competitors is analog the time difference that separated them in the forerun.

### **§ 14.**

Any competitor that is not at the Start at the correct time is considered to have started. For calculations, the start time is decisive that defines

the start number. Exceptions to this rule, and only with convincing reasons, can be decided by the Referee.

§ 15.

A competitor who makes a false start will be called back. In order to avoid false starts, the Starter should make contact with the competitor (touch a piece of clothing or belt) as a sign to start.

§ 16.

With electric or normal timing the start must be as follows:

Ready! (called approx. 3 seconds before the start.)

Go! (as start order.)

A count-down will not be called at the Start.

## **V General Regulations for Downhill and Slalom Competitions.**

§ 17.

Competitors may only repair their equipment (skis, poles, straps etc.) with repair tools or replace parts that he or in the case of a Team Competition, other members of the team, carry on themselves during the competition. No competitor may borrow a part of his equipment from a spectator. Exceptions are competitions that consist of two parts (see § 22. lit. 2.) or by those that have a Forerun (see § 13. lit. 6.): here competitors are allowed, on completion of the Forerun, to replace any part of their equipment that was lost, broken or damaged during the Forerun in order that they may start in the main competition. In this case, they may borrow items of equipment from spectators.

§ 18.

A competitor who loses or breaks a ski during a competition may complete the run on one ski. A competitor who goes through the Finish without skis will be disqualified. A competitor who deliberately uses his skis as a sledge or who walks all or part of the competition course will be disqualified.

§ 19.

Every competitor in a Slalom or Downhill competition will be



disqualified who uses one or both ski-poles to brake using both hands or when he, in any other form, deliberately attempts to negate this rule that forbids the use of ski-poles as brakes.

§ 20.

For Downhill and Slalom competitions, the times taken will be to the fifth of a second.

§ 21.

When possible the competitors are to be lead down the marked Downhill and Slalom courses before the competition. Without a guide and a permission, the marked course may not be passed. The Slalom Course may only be skied with the explicit permission of the Course Setter. The Downhill Course should, when possible, be known in general terms ten days before the competition and until the course is set be open.

**VI Special Regulations for Downhill Competitions.**

§ 22.

Downhill competitions should not contain flat or uphill parts, except in cases where small, flat places and short uphill parts would hinder an otherwise suitable Downhill course. In Team Competitions, small flat sections and short uphill parts may only be included, when all the Captains of competing teams give their approval.

§ 23.

If at any part of the course the snow is soft and heavy, that may bring a disadvantage to leading competitors, the Referee is to arrange for this part to be tracked before the race starts.

§ 24.

The Downhill course should where possible have the highest possible vertical drop (if possible 800 meters). With regard to snow conditions and terrain the Competition Jury may decide to divide the Downhill in two parts. In this case the same course can only be used once. The courses should have different terrain characters. In the second run the same

starting order as in the first will be used unless the Competition Jury decides to run in the order of the results in the first run using the same time intervals as in the first run. The times of both runs will be added together.

## **VII Special Regulations for Slalom Competitions.**

### **§ 25.**

A Slalom Race is a Competition where the competitors must follow a marked course defined by flags.

### **§ 26.**

A Slalom Course consists of two parts. In exceptional circumstances a Slalom Course may consist of one run. In such cases the course shall be exceptionally long. It rests with the Flag-keepers to adjust the flag positions for the second part, and in this case the additional penalties for both runs will be determined separately. (See § 29.)

### **§ 27.**

A Slalom is marked by pairs of flags, through which the competitor must pass. A competitor will be disqualified who:

Before the competition experimentally passes through any pair of flags or if no part of both of his skis crosses the line between the base point of the pair of flags.

### **§ 28.**

The Flags must be skied in their correct sequence. A competitor who misses a pair of flags has not correctly crossed the following pair of flags before he has passed through the missed flag pair.

### **§ 29.**

For each error the following Penalties will be applied to a competitor's results (See also § 26.):

#### **a) *Single Penalty:***

15% of the best penalty-free time, however at least 3 and at the most 6

seconds when only one foot of the competitor crosses the line between the ground mark of a pair of flags. The Penalty will be rounded up to the  $\frac{1}{2}$  second.

b) *Double Penalty:*

Double the Single Penalty, however at least 6 and at the most 12 seconds, when none of the competitor's feet cross the line between the ground mark of a pair of flags, providing that part of his skis crosses the line between the ground mark of a pair of flags. Should no part of his skis cross the line between the ground mark of a pair of flags then the competitor will be disqualified. \*1)

\*1) For clarity the following examples are used to calculate the Penalty:

Best penalty-free time	// 15% of the Best penalty free time	// Rounded-up single Penalty
24.8 sec	3.72 sec	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ sec.
25 “	3.75 “	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ “
34.8 “	5.22 “	5 “
35 “	5.25 “	5 “
36 “	5.40 “	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ “

§ 30.

The Flag-keeper is only permitted to inform the competitor whether he is disqualified. The Flag-keeper may not give any indication of the type of Penalty. It is the responsibility of the Flag-keeper to inform the Competition Jury of all breaches of these regulations.

§ 31.

Each competitor may only start once in each run unless when another decision is made. As a Slalom is primarily a test of judgment and control of skis, winning must not come from the best result of one of the two runs over the same course. Both runs together determine the end result.

§ 32.

A competitor who makes a false start will be called back.

§ 33.

When an unusually large number of competitors take part in a Slalom competition the Competition Jury can designate the first run as a

Forerun. For the second run the Competition Jury can exclude all the competitors who did not qualify. The number of competitors who can compete in the second run will be announced before the first run by either the Referee or the Setter. Both times define the Result.

§ 34.

The Slalom course will be run on stamped snow. The Setter decides when the snow is stamped sufficiently hard. The snow should, if possible, be so hard that no holes are made, when competitors fall. The Setter is responsible for a perfect and consistent maintenance of the Slalom course throughout the complete race. He is to arrange that possible holes are stamped immediately. He must be supplied with the necessary number of people throughout the complete race. If snow falls during the race, the Setter has the right to stamp down the fallen snow, to equalize the course.

§ 35.

A Slalom Race shall not be discontinued unless the light becomes so bad that the competitor cannot clearly see each pair of flags from the preceding pair of flags. In this case the Referee is to postpone the race until the light improves. If it is impossible to complete the Slalom race on the same day the race shall be decided on the first part, if the first part was completed. If no part was completed, the Result is canceled; the competition will either be postponed or will not be run at all.

§ 36.

The order of starting in the first run down shall be decided either by lot or is defined by the rankings of the Downhill race. The order of starting in the second run is the same as that of the first run.

§ 37.

Should both Downhill and Slalom race be organized, the Downhill shall count as an elimination race for the Slalom. The Competition Jury decides on the number of starters in the Slalom and announces this *prior* to the Downhill. The Competition Jury has the right to limit the number of participants to compete, if published in the advance announcement. The advance announcement can insist that each nation or club competing can only delegate a particular given number of competitors to that race.

The limitation may not be less than six, for Team Races (Club Races) not less than three.

In the Downhill, whoever, due to broken ski or bindings, cannot complete the race may, with the agreement of the Competition Jury, start in the Slalom.

### **VIII Calculation and Combination.**

#### **§ 38.**

The winner of the Downhill race (resp. Slalom race) receives 100 points, and the following competitors receive a proportional deduction relevant to their time according to the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Best time} \times 100}{\text{Time}}$$

The Points for Individual and Team races will only be rounded up or down to 2 decimal places (0.004 = 0.00 : 0.005 = 0.01)

#### **§ 39.**

Should Downhill and Slalom be combined then both races count as 100 points. The Result will be divided by two for the final score. In the Combination, should the results of two competitors be equal (ex aequo) the competitor with the best Downhill result receives primacy.

#### **§ 40.**

If a combined race cannot be completed, the results to that point count, except when neither Downhill or Slalom race is completed. In this case the race counts as not run.

### **IX Regulations for Team Races in Downhill and Slalom**

#### **§ 41.**

Each member of a team receives a number. One team draws uneven numbers 1. 3. 5. 7. 9... and the other team the even numbers 2. 4. 6. 8...

§ 42.

Captains chose their numbers by lot. The winner of the draw assigns the uneven numbers to his team. The line-up of the team follows in the order of their numbers. Number 1 has the first choice. Number 2 the second choice etc.

§ 43.

In the Slalom race the winner of the draw decides whether his team receives the uneven number in the first or second run. The team that chooses the uneven numbers in the first run receives the even numbers in the second run. The Captains decide the starting order of their team competitors. They can change the order for the second run. In Combined Competitions based on a Slalom and a Downhill race, the start order of each team member is to be drawn by the Captains before the start of the Downhill and Slalom race. Where more than two teams compete in the Downhill the order of start, when intervals are used, or the order of the team when the teams start together, will be decided by the draw of the Captains of the teams.

The order of start and the teams is explained in the following example: Three teams are to start: A, B, C. The draw decides that Team A has the first choice. Team B the second and Team C the third choice. The order of start is as follows:

A 1, B 1, C 1: A 2, B 2, C 2: A 3, B 3, C 3: A 4, B 4, C 4 etc.

In Slalom the same modus is used whereby each run will be drawn separately.

§ 44.

The choice of course and the Setter is decided by the Club in whose neighborhood the competition will be carried out providing no other agreement has been made. The Referee and the Starter will be decided by the team (or teams) that have not chosen the Setter.

The Official Timekeeper will be decided by the team that chooses the Course Setter; the assistant Timekeeper and Timing Supervisor by the other team.

The Captains of each team decide proportionally on the Flag-keepers. At Team Competitions, no one may be appointed as a Flag-keeper unless he has already filled this position at a notable Slalom race before. When it is

not possible for Captains to appoint competent Flag-keepers the Referee has the right to do so.

§ 45.

The results of a Team Competition shall be determined as follows: The times of each member of a team will be added together whereby the worst time of a member of the team will not be included. No team competitor will have his time used that is greater than twice the time of the best competitor in the team, irrelevant whether he did not end the race or was disqualified. The Team with the shortest total time receives 100 points and the other teams receive a proportional deduction.

A Slalom race will be carried out in a similar matter.

In consideration that the worst result of a competitor in each team will not count it is recommended that all teams allow their reserves to start. For instance, when it is agreed that each team shall consist of 5 competitors then actually in each team 6 competitors should start (one reserve). In Team Competitions where more than one race is carried out the Points of each race should be added together and divided by the number of Races.

§ 46.

In the case of a race where the result is decided by only one run and where two or more teams have the same number of Points, the winner is the team whose member is the individual winner. If the race is decided by a combination of Downhill and Slalom races and similarly two or more teams have the same number of Points, the winner is the team that won the Downhill. When two or more teams have the same number of Points to the decimal point, the race is drawn.

§ 47.

In Combined competitions, the same teams must start in the Downhill and Slalom races. During the races the teams may only replace members when a member is prevented from starting by way of accident, illness, or some other unforeseen reason. No change of the members of a team is permitted without the agreement of the Referee.

§ 48.

The Competition Rules for Slalom and Downhill competitions are valid for Team Competitions taking into account the above-mentioned modifications.

**X General.**

§ 49.

Insofar as these Regulations so not state otherwise the general Regulations of the F.I.S. are valid as well.

January 1931.



## FINAL EXPLANATIONS

### Comments about translation by Martin John Leach:

*The only source of the FIS International Competition Rules of 1930 available was in German language. Some words needed to be translated by using the FIS International Competition Rules of 1932 in English language (a translation from the origin German language in 1932 by Mr. Alexander Keiller). To be noted:*

- \* 1932. Downhill originally was translated as “Straight Race”. For easier reading and understanding, the common word “Downhill” as a specific type of alpine event was kept for the 1930 translation.*
- \* 1932. Cross-country was translated as “Long Distance Race”. For easier reading and understanding, the common word “Cross-country” as a specific discipline in wintersports was kept for the 1930 translation.*
- \* 1932. First run and second run was translated as “First part and second part”. For easier reading and understanding, the common word “First run and second run” as a specific description of both parts of a Slalom was kept for the 1930 translation.*
- \* 1930. The German expression “Flaggenwart” was translated in 1932 as “Flag-keeper”. Even this error of translation was corrected in the past (Gate Judge), the original English expression was kept for the 1930 translation.*
- \* 1930. The German expression “Streckenwart” was translated in 1932 as “The Setter”. In today’s rules, the duty of this official is divided between two persons (Chief of Course and Course Setter). To highlight, that at the beginning of Alpine Rules this duty was done by one person, the original English expression was kept for the 1930 translation.*
- \* 1930. The German expression “Einspurstrecke” was translated in 1932 as “One-way section” and was kept this way for the 1930 translation.*
- \* 1930. The German expression about the different type of flags was kept as translated in 1932.*

*Rote Flaggen = Richtungsflaggen = Advisory Flags*

*Blaue Flaggen = Kontrollflaggen = Control Flags*

*Gelbe Flaggen = Warnungsflaggen = Danger Flags*

*M.J. Leach, January 8th 2017*

Further general comments by Michael Dr. Huber

*As Chairman of the FIS Sub-committee for Alpine Rules, and President of the Kitzbuehel Ski Club K.S.C., Michael Huber was in search of the missing first and other past FIS Rules of the Alpine Discipline for many years. Reason was, to get more background information and understanding of the present Alpine Rules, if getting a look on past Alpine Rules Origins. The following People and Organisations are to be thanked for their contribution in reaching this goal:*

- \* This German Origin of the first FIS International Competition Rules for Slalom and Downhill Races was printed in 1931 as an insertion to the “Schneehase Nr. 4” – Yearbook of the Swiss Academic Skiclub (SAS)*
- \* The Insertion was detected in the Fall of 2016 by the former editor of the “Schneehase” Raoul Imseng, and sent by the current editor Ivan Wagner to Michael Huber, Chairman of the FIS Sub-committee for Alpine Rules, and translated by the long-serving member of the Sub-committee Martin Leach.*
- \* Supported by ISHA (International Skiing History Association) Chairman John Fry, other FIS International Competition Rules Alpine were detected by E. John B. Allen in the New England Ski Museum (USA) of the periods 1930s – 1980s, copied and sent to Europe (K.S.C.).*
- \* All past Rulebooks were scanned and digitalized through organization by Barbara Thaler, Kitzbuehel Ski Club (K.S.C.), including some of the 1980s and 1990s Rules, provided by Christian Poley, the predecessor of M. Huber.*
- \* Supported by FIS Secretary General Sarah Lewis, the International Ski Federation will publish a Digital Alpine Rules Archive for the public in future.*

*M.Dr.Huber, February 12<sup>th</sup> 2017*