



December 2 – 4, 2021
Steamboat, Colorado



VISA BIG AIR OFFICIAL INVITATION



On behalf of the organizing committee, we are pleased to invite your nation to the 2021-22 Visa Big Air – FIS Freeski & Snowboard World Cup Big Air event at Steamboat, CO!

The Visa Big Air is sanctioned as a FIS World Cup event. Athletes must meet minimum criteria for invitation to participate in the Visa Big Air – FIS World Cup.

The health and safety of all the event attendees is of the utmost importance to the LOC. The LOC alongside with FIS is proactively working with local Health Department on the Covid-19 safety plan and is continuing to monitor all developments. These competitions will operate under FIS and local State and County health Covid-19 protocol guidelines. All competitors must have their own medical insurance (ICR art 212) which shall cover COVID-19 medical treatment expenses.

We look forward to seeing you in Steamboat, CO!

**Nick Alexakos Event
Director**

**Dave Hunter & Katie Brown
Co-OC Chairs**



VISA BIG AIR CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Information for the Organizing Committee (OC):

US Ski & Snowboard

1 Victory Lane, Park City, UT 84060

For any event related questions, please contact:

Nick Alexakos, Event Director-

nick.alexakos@usskiandsnowboard.org

Sarah Emery, Event Manager-

sarah.emery@usskiandsnowboard.org

Entries & General Information:

Lyndsay Gang, Event Administration-

lyndsay.gang@usskiandsnowboard.org

COVID-19 Coordinator:

C19Coordinator@usskiandsnowboard.org



Index



1. Registration – Entries
2. Event Registration/Accreditation
3. FIS WC Covid-19 Mitigation & Protocols
4. Inbound Travel- National Interest Exemption Waiver
5. Accommodations/Transportation/Parking
6. Bibs/Awards Ceremonies
7. Team App/Team Captains Meetings
8. Prizes
9. Medical Plan/Anti-Doping
10. Liability/Accident Insurance
11. Schedule Overview





1. Registration - Entries

Team Entries are only accepted using the FIS Online Entry System. NGBs can access the online system through the “Member Section” of the FIS homepage [Click Here](#)

Freeski Deadlines:

Provisional Entry: **October 4, 2021**
Final Entry: **November 23, 2021**

Snowboard Deadlines:

Provisional Entry: **October 3, 2021**
Final Entry: **November 22, 2021**

QUOTAS:

Reference the FIS World Cup rule 2.3 to review Nations quota rules and quota spot allocation system [Click Here.](#)

TEAM LEADER:

All teams **MUST** identify a single team leader as the onsite contact when submitting team entry through the FIS system. Please distinguish this person as the “On Venue Contact” and include on-site phone and email information. This person will be responsible for all communication to/from the LOC prior to and during the event. This is **extremely important** to facilitate the National Interest Exemption (NIE) letters, new registration process, accreditation pick-up, and Covid-19 procedures.

2. Event Registration/Accreditation

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL:

All Team entries must be submitted prior to the deadlines listed above. Team Leaders are responsible for all communication to/from the OC and submission of all documentation and waivers. Document and waiver links will be sent to Team Leader after the final deadline.

Please ensure that all athletes, coaches, and service staff, whose accreditation the Team Leader is responsible for picking up, have completed the following tasks:

- Competition Liability Waiver signed and submitted
Any participant under 18 years old will need a parent/guardian to sign their waiver
- FIS Passport Registration. [Register Here](#)
- Negative PCR Covid-19 test uploaded to FIS Passport
- Athlete Bio (**Athletes only**)

Accreditation will not be issued if all above forms have not been completed. There are a limited number of appointments available, and additional appointments may not be available.



2. Event Registration/Accreditation Continued

ONSITE ACCREDITATION:

Registration and accreditation pick-up will be available by appointment only and follow all State/County health guidelines. The Event Registration Manager, Lyndsay Gang, will schedule one appointment for the Team Leader to pick up accreditation for the entire team, including all service staff. At this time they will receive all credentials, lift tickets, and athlete bibs. Due to Covid-19 limitations, only one Team Leader will be allowed inside the Race Office at a time, during their scheduled appointment time.

Accreditation appointment times will be emailed directly to Team Leaders following the Final Entry Deadline.

Please arrive on time as additional appointments may not be available. If you will be late or need to reschedule your appointment, please contact Lyndsay Gang immediately at Lyndsay.gang@usskiandsnowboard.org.

3. Covid-19 Mitigation & Protocols

Detailed Covid-19 Protocols for the Visa Big Air at Steamboat will be distributed to Team Leaders.

Responsibility of all persons:

It is the responsibility of every person to adhere to the Covid-19 policy, follow all procedures and instructions, and always behave in a disciplined manner throughout the competition. As referenced above, each Nation must designate one Team Leader to facilitate protocols, including reporting. In order to ensure the FIS World Cup and an event is not placed at risk from a Covid-19 outbreak and consequences, it is the responsibility of every person to adhere to this policy, follow all procedures and instructions and behave in a disciplined manner at all times. A breach of discipline protocol will lead to withdrawal of accreditation.

Prior to arrival at Steamboat:

Every person who wishes to access a FIS World Cup Event must have and present a negative Covid-19 RT-PCR Test (saliva/swab test) result carried out prior to arrival/accreditation (72 hours) and complete a Health Questionnaire (see Annex 1). Exceptions are normally a proof of a previous infection. The type of proof will be distributed by the LOC in its protocol.

While in Steamboat:

- Update FIS Passport
- Daily- Whats App/ Web Form Health Screening Questionnaire
- In case of COVID-19 symptoms do not travel to the venue and report to the onsite FIS Contest Director, onsite COVID Coordinator, and c19support@fisski.com.
- Any positive COVID-19 tests during competition week will be subject to local/state health quarantine requirements.
- Venue access will be limited for coaches and service personal as defined by local State/County health guidelines.
- Credentials and armband identification will be required when applicable.
- All attendees must be accredited to access the venue.



4. Inbound Travel- National Interest Exemption Waiver

All athletes, coaches, service staff attending the competition **MUST** be included on both the Preliminary entry and the National Interest Exemption (NIE) waiver request. **Deadline: *October 28, 2021.***

Below are instructions on how to request a National Interest Exemption (NIE) Waiver for entry into the United States for the 2021-22 Visa Big Air:

1. Complete the waiver request spreadsheet (attached) including each athlete, staff and delegation that has been submitted on your preliminary entry on 1 single spreadsheet **Note:** Teams must submit NIE Waiver request to Lyndsay Gang, Event Administrative Coordinator Lyndsay.Gang@usskiandsnowboard.org
2. The LOC will notify the Team Leader of the waiver status for each traveler and provide a personalized confirmation letter, once approved, as evidence of the National Interest Exemption waiver.
3. Advise the traveler(s) to check the information on the U.S. Embassy website in the country where they reside. Each embassy may have specific instructions for individuals to travel on a National Interest Exemption. If asked, the traveler(s) should provide the National Interest waiver confirmation letter that was provided by the LOC.
4. Once the traveler(s) has the necessary documentation (proper Visa or ESTA authorization), they may proceed to check-in for their flight.



4. Inbound Travel- National Interest Exemption Waiver

Additional Information:

- Most U.S. Embassies and Consulates are experiencing extreme appointment backlogs due to COVID-19, so we would encourage anyone who needs a visa to apply as soon as possible and get registered in the consulate's system; For anyone who can travel on an ESTA, you may use that as an option. For details on the Visa Waiver Program, [Click Here](#)
- The waiver, if granted, does not exempt travelers from inspection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or exempt them from standard entry requirements, including visa, passport, and any other necessary documentation requirements.
- At this time, all athletes and coaches are receiving waivers valid for one-year from issue date, with multiple entries.
- It is recommended to bring a physical copy of the NIE waiver when traveling.



5. Accommodations/ Transportation & Parking

ACCOMODATIONS

Due to Covid-19 Local Organizing Committee will not be able to offer the FIS accommodation package. Below is info for discounted lodging rates.

DISCOUNTED LODGING RESERVATION INFORMATION

Discounted lodging in Steamboat details will be sent to Team Leaders.

TRANSPORTATION

Teams are responsible for their own transportation.

PARKING

Parking will be provided for use in designated areas at Steamboat throughout the event. More information about parking will be distributed to the Team Leader prior to the event.

6. Bibs/Award Ceremonies

BIBS

All competitors must wear bibs appropriately during all scheduled trainings, competition and at the awards ceremony. Bibs will be picked up by the Team Leader at accreditation pick-up.

AWARD CEREMONIES

The award ceremony will be held immediately following finals in the Venue Finish Areas following all local and County health regulations. To receive prize money, all competitors must attend and wear bibs during award ceremony.





7. Team App/ Team Captains Meetings

TEAM APP

All event communications and the most current information leading up to and during the event will be posted on Team App. This will be the place to find details regarding schedule updates, start lists, results, Covid-19 resources, and more.

“Team App Instructions” for joining the correct team and turning notifications on will be sent to Team Leaders following Final Entry Deadline.

TEAM CAPTAINS MEETINGS

Team Captain’s meetings will be held virtually. Meeting link and details will be sent out the the Team Leader prior to each meeting.

The first Team Captains meetings will be held at the times below. Refer to the event schedule for more details.

Freeski: Monday, November 29th

Snowboard: Monday, November 29th





8. Prizes

All prize money will be issued following the new FIS prize money process. NSAs must manage all information required for prize money using the FIS Athlete Registration module in the FIS member section. All bank information MUST be uploaded to the FIS database **prior to Finals**. Athletes without the correct bank information uploaded to the FIS system will experience a delay in prize money bank transfer.

The winners will receive prize money via bank transfer only (no checks). In order to process the prize money, all winners must provide valid bank details, identification, and complete appropriate tax documentation (see link below).

International Athletes- W8BEN: [Click Here](#)

US Athletes- W9: [Click Here](#)

To review World Cup FIS Prize Money Breakdown, rules- [Click Here](#) (WC Rules sec. 2.4)

*Taxes will be withheld from total prize money in accordance with international tax law.

8. Prizes

A total prize purse of 50,000 CHF will be awarded for each Men & Women's FIS World Cup Big Air event. 25,000 CHF will be awarded per gender, for each event. Prize money will be awarded to the top 10 men and top 10 women.

Men's & Women's

| | |
|------------|--------|
| 1st Place | 45% |
| 2nd Place | 23.50% |
| 3rd Place | 12.50% |
| 4th Place | 6% |
| 5th Place | 3% |
| 6th Place | 2.50% |
| 7th Place | 2.25% |
| 8th Place | 2% |
| 9th Place | 1.75% |
| 10th Place | 1.50% |



9. Medical Plan/Anti-Doping

MEDICAL PLAN

The medical plan will be reviewed at the first Team Captain's meeting. Copies of the medical plan will also be available on Team App.

ANTI-DOPING

Anti-doping control may be conducted for this event.





10. Liability/Accident Insurance

LIABILITY

All athletes, officials and members of National Associations who attend and participate in the event shall do so at their own risk. The Organizing Committee, sponsors, suppliers, their agents, employees and volunteers, the FIS and U.S. Ski and Snowboard shall not be responsible for any losses or injuries incurred or suffered by any athlete, official or other person in conjunction with the organizing and staging of the event.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

All competitors must have their own medical insurance. The Organizing Committee, sponsors, suppliers, their agents, employees and volunteers, the FIS and U.S. Ski and Snowboard decline any responsibility for accidents, damaged or lost equipment and second and third party claims during the event.

11. Schedule Overview

Training and competitions are scheduled as below:

Snowboard Big Air

November 30 & December 1- Training

December 2- Snowboard BA Qualifiers

December 4- Snowboard BA Finals

Freeski Big Air

November 30 & December 1- Training

December 3- Freeski BA Qualifiers

December 4- Freeski BA Finals

For more details, reference the FIS schedules:

Snowboard- [HERE](#)

Freeski- [HERE](#)

