

Snowsport
outh

Summer Series Race

Rules

Version 1.4

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SNOWSPORT SOUTH SUMMER SERIES RACE RULES.

1 Introduction

This set of rules has been written to remove any ambiguity in the way that races organised by Snowsport South are run. It is intended that this document is a living document that will evolve as situations arise and clarifications are sought by team managers and race officials.

The rules governing ski racing on artificial slopes in the UK are documented in the British Competition Rules (BCR) and British Artificial Competition Rules (BACR) documents. Races organised by Snowsport South respect these rules but as a regional race series intended for less experienced racers and designed to be fun but safe, it has been necessary to make subtle modifications.

1.1 Issue Control

Version	Comments
Draft 0.1	Initial draft for discussion by Snowsport South committee.
Draft 0.2	Incorporation of feedback from reviews.
Version 1.0	First released copy for publication on Snowsport South website.
Version 1.1	Updated to incorporate further feedback.
Version 1.2	Updated for 2017 Summer Series
Version 1.3	Updated to incorporate feedback
Version 1.4	Updated for 2025 Summer Series

1.2 Principles

The overriding principle is that the racer / team will always get the benefit of doubt. This places a responsibility on racers to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike way and on clubs to promote sportsmanship.

Snowsport South events are intended to be competitive but enjoyable for all participants and application of these rules should be made in this spirit.

1.3 Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct applies to racers and parents. Failure to adhere to these points by a racer could lead to disqualification from the event and, in extreme circumstances, exclusion from other Snowsport South events.

- Where a parent or guest of a racer is the offender the same range of penalties can be applied to the racer. In the case of a team race, the penalties will apply to the team.
- Language deemed to be offensive will not be tolerated.
- Abuse of race officials will not be tolerated. Any issues with an individual official should be raised with the Chief of Race. Issues with the Chief of Race should be taken up with any Snowsport South committee member.

- All racers should comply with the rules of the ski slope and comply with any requests from the slope staff. Where these requests are deemed unreasonable this should be taken up with the Chief of Race.
- Any wilful damage of slope equipment or property will not be tolerated and the region will support claims for damages against individuals by the slope management
- Abuse of race equipment and in particular slalom poles is not acceptable.
- Theft of equipment or wilful damage of other competitors' equipment will not be tolerated.
- Whilst a competitive atmosphere is to be encouraged, inappropriate or unsportsmanlike behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Please be considerate to other racers. Music should only be played through headphones or at a low volume whilst the race is in progress to allow competitors to focus on the race and hear announcements.

Examples of such behaviour include: equipment abuse, swearing, aggressive behaviour, discrimination of any form, heated arguments, disrespect shown to any official or volunteer. All Snowsport South events are "family friendly" environments with appropriate behaviour to be demonstrated at all times.

1.4 Enforcement of Rules

The Chief of Race is responsible for the enforcement of both the code of conduct and the race rules. Where there is a dispute about a specific case or where clarification is needed a race jury can be formed comprising of the Chief of Race and at least two Snowsport South committee members.

Where wider agreement of a rule change is required a team managers meeting can be called with one representative from each club along with the race jury. Only one representative from each club is allowed so if a club member is in the race jury that person will be deemed to be the club representative.

1.5 Age Categories

For the 2025 season the following age categories will be used:

- Under 8 – Athletes born in 2018 and later
- Under 10 – Athletes born in 2017 and 2016
- Under 12 – Athletes born in 2015 and 2014
- Under 14 – Athletes born in 2013 and 2012
- Under 16 – Athletes born in 2010 and 2011
- Under 18 – Athletes born in 2009 and 2008
- Under 21 – Athletes born in 2007, 2006 and 2005
- Senior – Athletes born between 1996 and 2004
- Masters 1 – Athletes born between 1975 and 1993
- Masters 2 – Athletes born in 1974 or before

2 Summer Series Organisation

1. Summer Series races shall consist of a round of individual timed runs, a round of individual head to head parallel slalom races, a round of team parallel slalom races.
2. To determine the overall end of season positions, 4 races will count towards the overall series results. This will be adjusted yearly depending on the number of races to be run. Prizes will only be awarded to athletes who complete a minimum of 3 events.
3. There will be up to one club team dual slalom competitions running throughout the season.
 - The Open Club event where members can be any age. The teams will consist of 4 members.
4. Team managers are to be appointed by their club chairman and notified to the race organisers before race day.
5. Team selection policy is the responsibility of the club team manager but each club can only enter up to two teams in each category.
6. There will be no scratch teams for club team competitions and all team members must be registered with the club team they are racing for. Racers belonging to more than one club can only race for the club under which their entry is registered and if there is a need to change clubs this must be done before the day of the race.
7. Racers who compete in the club team competitions should not compete in the fun team competition. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the race jury in extreme situations.
8. A form will be provided to each team which must be returned to the race office before the completion of the 3rd individual run. This should indicate, for each racer, whether they will be racing in the Club Team, Fun Team or No Team.
9. Complaints should be directed to the club's team manager to raise with the committee. If a racer has no club manager (as they may be the only racer), then please refer directly to the committee.

2.1 Race Day Organisation

10. The running order of events on race day is as follows:-
 - Course Setting for Individual Slalom
 - Open Practice through the course
 - Team Managers Meeting
 - Race Briefing to racers (first race only)
 - Individual Slalom – 3 runs through the same course with the best 2 times to count (best time for under 12 and below)
 - Course Setting for Dual Slalom
 - Individual head to head arranged in blocks of 4 racers
 - Team Dual Slalom Competitions – under 12, under 16 and Open
 - Fun Team Dual Slalom competition
 - Prize Giving Ceremony

11. This order can be changed by the organising club / Snowsport South committee and events can be dropped if the overall event is running late or there are any incidents which necessitate a change.
12. Course setters to be appointed by the region and should represent at least 2 clubs from the region.
13. Any racer registered and paid can race, even if they are late, while the timed course is available. Racers who abuse this concession may lose it.
14. All race volunteers will be required to wear high visibility vests on the slope. Only racers, officials and authorised photographers will be allowed on the slope during competition.
15. If a club requires compensation for damaged equipment such as poles, the items in question should be stored in a suitable location such as the timing hut until after the event. At the end of the event the items should be shown to an independent Snowsport South committee member and the extent of the damage agreed.
16. Bibs must be worn properly during open practice and competing – except for open club dual slalom. Bibs must not be hanging out of pockets or loosely around a competitor's neck.
17. Training for new officials will be provided on race day, but clubs are encouraged to brief their volunteers before race day.
18. Medals are to be awarded using the pool of volunteers during the day

2.2 Individual Slalom

19. The individual slalom shall be a single gate course with alternating red and blue gates set according to BACR principles.
20. Racers in the U12 age group or younger will ski through stubbies.
21. Any racer who is late into the starting gate will be able to race when ready. Such events though do disrupt the smooth running of the event and therefore impact everyone else at the event so abuse of this concession will be dealt with by the Chief of Race. This rule applies only to late appearance within a single run.
22. After the starter deems that the racer can start the racer has up to 10 seconds to start his run.
23. In the timed runs a racer can request a reset of the timing wand if unsure whether the timing equipment has been pre-triggered. If necessary a re-run will be allowed.
24. If a racer believes they has been impeded in any way they should stop immediately then ski to the finish and report to the race office or an official. A racer who does this will more than likely be offered a re-run. A racer that continues through the course and then requests a re-run will not get one.
25. The time to be considered as the total time for a racer will be the best individual time through the course.
26. As per FIS rules, if a racer stops or hikes back up the course they will be disqualified.

2.3 Head to Head Races

27. Head to Head races will be drawn from the fastest racer to the slowest into groups of 4 racers. Each individual will race each of the other three competitors in the group.

28. Racers will be seeded on best individual time (whether it was achieved through stubbies or full poles).
29. Racers in Group A (the slowest group) will be allowed a practice down the head to head course. This will be a bunny run immediately followed by their first round of head-to-heads. If racers require a bunny run, please inform the race organisers immediately after the individual slalom.
30. The winner of a race will be awarded one point towards their overall seasons individual total. The loser will not receive a point for the race. In the event of a dead heat, both racers will receive a point.
31. In individual dual slaloms each racer is allowed one false start per race.
32. If both racers in a head to head fail to complete the course the person who travelled further through the course legally will be deemed to have won.
33. If one racer is not present for the start of their head to head then the other racer shall be awarded a 'bye' and will receive the race point provided that they start the race.
34. The starting procedure will be as follows:-
 - A wand will be present in both the red and blue courses. When invited to enter the start gate the racer will put his poles on the course side of the wand and prepare for the start. When the poles are over the wand the starter will assume the racer is ready to start.
 - If for any reason the racer is not ready to start or distracted they must remove his poles from the course side of the wand and raise his concerns with the starter.
 - The starter will issue the instruction "Ready on the Red, Ready on the Blue" and then either say "Go" or blow a whistle. If using electronic timing, the Go signal will be issued from the system's horn. No other form of the instruction should be used.
 - Racers can move before the start signal but must not hit the wand before it is given. If the wand is hit before the start signal is given it will be deemed to be a false start.
35. The Chief of Race must ensure that the start officials are fully briefed on their roles and responsibilities and on the starting procedure.
36. If any racer skis out or is disqualified, they will lose and an automatic win will be given to the other racer.
37. Initial resolution of any dispute should be sought between the starter, start marshals' and teams involved. All disputes should recognise the principles of Snowsport South events. Any Team manager can dispute a claim or call through the Chief of Race and if necessary the race jury can be quickly convened.
38. If a pole comes out of the course or is folded under the mat the race should be stopped and re-run.
39. No persons except the starter, start marshall and team manager / coach are allowed near racers in the start areas.
40. As per FIS rules, if a racer stops or hikes back up the course they will be disqualified.

2.4 Team Slalom (Club and Fun)

2.4.1 General Rules

41. Club teams consist of 4 individuals of any age and any gender combination.
42. Fun teams will be drawn with 5 racers per team in a way that seeks to minimise the difference between each team, based on the fastest time in the individual runs.
43. Races will be run in relay format with a signal (visual and/or audio) provided as each racer crosses the finish line indicating that the subsequent racer may commence.
44. The order in which the individual members of each team run shall be determined at the start of the competition and shall remain the same throughout the competition.
45. The competitions will be run in a knockout format.
46. A Final, and a 3rd/4th place final, will be run if time permits.
47. The allocation of courses for both finals will be made by a random selection mechanism (e.g. coin toss).
48. In the event of the head to head not being run or being abandoned all racers will be awarded the maximum 3 points.
49. For the Club race, there will be a maximum of two teams per club.
50. If any of the Club competitions are not run then the 'result' will be decided using the aggregate of a club's best times from the individual runs added together.
51. Hiking is allowed in team races.

2.4.2 The Start

52. The starter shall close the course when they first get to the start of the course. This prevents teams from continually skiing the course and assembles teams ready for the start of the race.
53. The starter shall marshal the teams to be ready in race order for each race and ensure all team members are in order and ready to race.
54. A team must be ready to start within 3 minutes of the last team member's finishing the run in the previous round. If the team is not ready within the time, it may be disqualified.
55. The starter is responsible for ensuring that everyone in the start area is ready and that the finish officials are in position, aware a race is about to start and that the flags are clearly visible.
56. Pre-movement of a racer in the gate is permitted providing that the start line is not crossed.
57. The starter will normally stand below and between the first two racers for the start of a race.
58. The starting procedure will be as follows:-
 - A wand will be present in both the red and blue courses. When invited to enter the start gate the first racer will put his poles on the course side of the wand and prepare for the start. When the poles are over the wand the starter will assume the racer is ready to start.
 - If for any reason the racer is not ready to start or distracted they must remove his poles from the course side of the wand and raise his concerns with the starter.

- The starter will issue the instruction “Ready on the Red, Ready on the Blue” and then a signal (audio and/or visual) will be given.
- Racers can move before the start signal but must not hit the wand before it is given. If the wand is hit before the start signal is given it will be deemed to be a false start. The onus is on the racer to ensure they do not start their run before the start signal is given.

59. In a team race the second, third and fourth racers will be allowed to start when the finish signal for their course is given. They are allowed to move before the flag moves but must not hit the wand or it will be deemed to be a false start. If there are concerns about the delay in the finish line flag being raised the team manager must raise them with the starter. To this end the starter is encouraged to watch the finishing racers rather than the starting racers. This places additional responsibility on the start marshalls as their decision on the legitimacy of a start will be final.

60. In Team Championship and Fun Team races the first racer is allowed one false start per race. False starts from subsequent racers will result in any further racers having their start signal delayed. A false start from the final competitor will result in the disqualification of the team from that race.

61. In any team races the first team that skis out or is disqualified will lose and an automatic win will be given to the other team.

62. Excessive delay at the start makes a team subject to disqualification.

2.4.3 During the Run

63. The Starter and Finish referee are to watch both carefully to ensure no infringements of the rules take place.

64. The starter is responsible for witnessing any infringement at the top of the slope and the finish referee for the bottom of the slope.

65. If racers from both teams cross the finish line after having both made an incorrect passage of the course, the team which travelled furthest down the course before the incorrect passage shall be deemed to be the winner of the race.

If a member of a team straddles a gate or is seemingly disqualified in any other way, the Starter and/or Finish referee, depending on who witnesses the infringement, must make the race recorder aware.

2.4.4 Correct Passage

66. A correct passage is made when a racer passes on alternate sides of poles throughout the course in accordance with the pre-determined race line dictated by the course.

67. It must be clear to the racers which side of the first pole the racers must pass.

68. Racers must be prepared to ski around a pole even when the pole is missing. If the pole is missing or damaged then the racer should follow a path that closely reflects the initial course set and must visibly show a change of direction.

2.4.5 The Finish

69. Where possible, the Finish referee shall get all teams to the start of the course from the bottom before the start can begin.

70. The finish referee shall ensure the point at which a racer is deemed to have crossed the finish line on the slope is constant for both courses and for all races.

2.4.6 Protest Against Disqualification

71. Disqualification may result from:

- Late arrival at the start.
- A second false start by the first racer in the same race they first false started in.
- A racer starting when being held back by the starter due to a false start by the preceding racer.
- A false start by the final racer.
- Incorrect passage of a gate.
- Obstructing an opponent voluntarily or involuntarily.
- Unsporting behaviour.

72. Poles knocked into the opposing team's course can constitute obstructing an opponent. Teams cannot protest against being obstructed by poles from their own course.

73. If racers consider they have been obstructed, they must ski out at the point of obstruction and report to the nearest official.

74. If a protest against obstruction is not upheld, the team registering the protest is deemed to have lost.

2.5 Season Positioning

For each individual racer, the overall season rankings are calculated within each age category for each gender. Points are scored at each event for both the individual slalom and the head-to-head races. The maximum point score for each race is 28 Points.

The following points will be awarded towards the season long rankings:

2.5.1 Individual Slalom

1st Place: 25 Points

2nd Place: 21 Points

3rd Place: 18 Points

4th Place: 16 Points

And then each subsequent position will score 1 point less. Racers placed below 20th position will, therefore, not score any points

2.5.2 Head-to-Head Races

Each head to head won will score one point. A loss will score zero points. In a dead heat, both racers will receive a point.

2.5.3 Tie Break

At the end of the season, a racer's best four results are counted. If a racer has done more than four races, then 1/100th of their points in these races is added (giving totals such as 84.19). This allows a decision to be made in the event of a tie.

2.5.4 Club Team Results

Points will be allocated for the first 4 places (8 for first place, 5 for second, 3 for third and 1 for fourth). These will be totalled over the season for the end of the season ranking. If a club has entered more than one team in the event, only the higher ranking team will score points towards the end of season rankings. (e.g. If the day's results were TSN B 1st, BRS 2nd, ASR 3rd, TSN A 4th, TSN would receive 8 points only – and no club would be awarded the single point for 4th.)