



Race Notes

Gate Judging

All Events

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SPAA Safety Preparation Awareness and Assessment Program

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1. INTRODUCTION

This **Race Notes** is intended as a summary of protocols for Gate Judging. It is desirable that it be handed on race day to every person at the event, including racers, coaches, officials, ski patrol, spectators, trainers, area staff, media and sponsor rep's.

The gate judge is the most important official of the race. A gate Judges is the only objective determiner other than the timing clock as to who wins a ski race.

See **Race Notes – Speed Protocols** concerning movement, course clearance, yellow flags, and racer down protocols.

2. Start Interval

Slalom:

Racers will be started at an irregular interval of not less than about 30 seconds depending of the length of the course, visibility, snow conditions and ability of the field. The interval will be determined and announced by the jury.

Other:

Racers will be started at a regular interval of not less than about 40 seconds and not more than 1 minute. The interval will be determined and announced by the jury.

3. Responsibility

A gate judge is responsible for judging the passage of each competitor through the gates and deciding whether the passage was correct. If there is any doubt, the advantage must always go the competitor. Incorrect passage results in a disqualification.

The duties of a gate judge begin with the approach of the competitor to the first gate in the judge's section and ends when the competitor has passed through the last gate in that section. In Downhill and Super G, gate judges watch the entire stretch visible above and below their stations.

Other functions of gate judges other than recording disqualifications may include:

- ✓ Observing and documenting racer interference.
- ✓ Resetting the poles in a vertical position. A leaning pole could aid or hinder a racer.
- ✓ Replacing poles that have been knocked down in their exact spot. A coloured spot in the snow indicates this spot.
- ✓ Replacing or re-attaching flags that have been knocked off.
- ✓ Replacing poles that have been broken, making sure to use the same colour as the broken one (blue or red). The broken pieces of pole must be picked up and placed out of the way so they cause no danger to the racers or spectators.
- ✓ Repairing the sections of the course under their control if it has been decided prior to the start of the race that this will be one of his duties.
- ✓ Making sure the course is "CLEAR".

4. Positioning

Gate judges should position themselves so they have a clear view of the line between the turning gate and the outside gate for all the gates in their section. They should be looking uphill for 1 or 2, and downhill for 1 or 2.

Gate judges should be close enough that they can run to their gates quickly to check tracks, expedite repair and clear debris in a safe manner. They should ensure that they, and spectators, aren't in the racer's way or they are obstacles / hazards for racers who fall or leave the course.

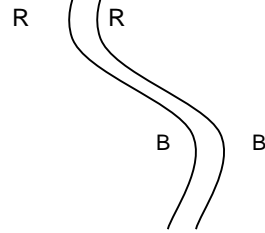
5. Proper Passage

Both of a racer's feet and ski tips must pass from any direction through the imaginary line between the turning pole and the outside pole. It is this simple. There is no requirement as to how a racer does this but skiing the gate cleanly is the fastest technique.

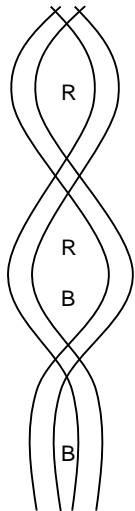
N.B.: The finish line is not a 'gate'. It is ok for racers to literally run, slide, stumble or fall across the finish line without equipment provided they get their feet across (timing stops upon breaking the line with any body part.)

Slalom:

Open Gates



Closed Gates



Racers may ski a course on one ski if they have cleared with two skis gates entered on two skis.

In the absence of a gate pole because of displacement, a racer may choose to ski the apparent course such that feet and ski tips must pass on the inside of the dye spot. In choosing to ski the apparent course, failure to ski the apparent line is grounds for disqualification for incorrect passage.

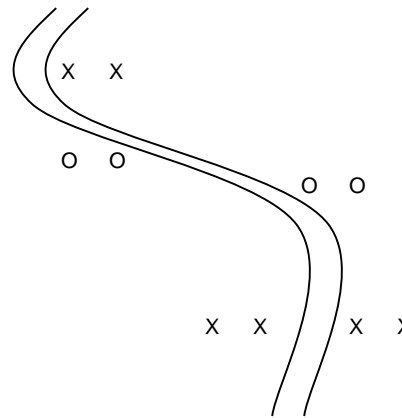
'Straddling':

Straddling of a gate means that one ski tip or a ski boot or both did not pass on the inside of the gate. Straddling is a disqualification unless the racer stops, climbs back to the gate and passes the remaining tip/boot/ski through or over the gate inside of the dye spot.

Other:

X X

Delay Gate



Communication:

Gate judges should communicate the racer's status to the fallen or off course racer. Make eye contact and give clear, simple direction:

"GO" if the racer has passed the gate correctly.
"BACK – (blue gate, red closed)" as applicable if the racer missed a gate. Give the go signal when you are satisfied they have made the gate.

However, if a racer commits a fault that would make that racer susceptible to a disqualification, the gate judge, if possible, must inform the racer.

6. Interference

In short, interference is anything outside of the racer's control (like movement, debris, obstruction) that materially lengthens the racer's time on course or creates a disadvantage. Body language is the best indicator.

A racer seeking relief for interference must STOP in the proximity of the interference and report to the nearest gate judge. The gate judge is to direct the racer to report to the finish referee to request a provisional re-rerun. The gate judge is to record the incident on the control card.

In the absence of a gate pole because of displacement, the racer may choose to stop at the site of the missing gate pole and request a re-run.

Racers who fall and are aided are to be disqualified. Removal of their dislodged equipment from the track for the safety of an oncoming race is appropriate and should not constitute aid if no material advantage is created for the fallen/passed racer.

Some entry-level and local league rules provide for a timed course re-entry window, so police the time. A racer may re-enter the course only when it is safe to do so. K, J and FIS races do not have a re-entry window rule. K, J and FIS racers normally should not continue after falling and not after a fall in a speed event including GS.

Fallen racers must give way to oncoming racers. Failure to give way is unsafe, may interfere with the oncoming racer and is grounds for disqualification.

7. Documentation

The following information is required on a gate judge card:

- The name of the gate judge
- The number of the gate or gates he/she is responsible for.
- A notation as to whether it is the first or the second run, men or women.

Faults are to be note with:

- The racers start number:
- The number of the gate where the fault was committed:
- The type of fault committed; and
- A clear diagram.

8. Protests

Gate judges are to remain available to the jury (usually at the finish hut) after each run until released by the Chief Gate Judge.

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