

CHAPTER 2

SNOWBOARD COMPETITION AND RACING RULES

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CHAPTER 2

SNOWBOARD COMPETITION AND RACING RULES

0201. Introduction

It is appreciated that the rules for Snowboard racing are complex and not always easy to follow especially for novice riders, however, it is in the interests of all competitors to know them. The rules set out below are based on the Federation International du Ski (FIS – Ski and Snowboard racing’s governing body) - International Competition Rules (ICR). The ICR booklet can be obtained from the FIS website: <http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/disciplines/snowboard-rules/snowboard-rules/competitionrules.html>

0202. Snowboard Races – Eligibility**Table 2-1. Snowboard Races - Eligibility**

RACE TITLE	PARTICIPANTS (see Para 0204 below)
Parallel Giant Slalom (PGS)	All exempt Beginner
Slopestyle (SS)	All exempt Beginner
Boardercross Week 1&2	All exempt Beginner
Beginners’ Race Week 1&2	Beginner only

0203. Individual Racing Categories**Table 2-2. Individual Racing Categories**

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	DESCRIPTION
Expert	EXP	Riders who have represented the Royal Navy at Inter Service level.
Advanced	ADV	Riders with eight weeks or more experience on snow. Can ride any terrain with full confidence.
Intermediate	INT	Riders with between two and eight weeks experience on snow. Able to link turns competently and complete a Red run fully under control.
Novice	NOV	Riders with up to two weeks riding experience on snow.
Beginner	BEG	Never ridden on snow before but may have up to four hours dry slope experience prior to the Championships. Beginners must complete Beginner’s Instruction classes otherwise Race Entry will be denied.

0204. Race Rules General

a. **Bibs.** Bibs are to worn by riders, during the race, with the numbers fully visible, at front and rear and unaltered in any way, and in accordance with the start order list. Bibs must also be visible when racers are inspecting the courses. This latter rule is to ensure that only authorised riders are on the course during inspection. Riders are to note that they risk disqualification if they fail to obey the Race Committee instructions or ride/shadow the course during inspection. Riders are only allowed on the course during the official inspection times which will be announced at the Race Brief. Bibs are normally issued on the day of the race or as announced at the Race Brief.

b. **Personal Equipment.** Riders must be correctly attired at the start by wearing full clothing cover (shorts, short sleeves, sunglasses, iPod, rucksacks etc. will not be allowed). Goggles are recommended and if spectacles have to be worn, goggles must be worn over these. A helmet designed for racing is mandatory for all events and those who do not have their own should hire in resort. Alpine Boards must be fitted with a leash, which is attached securely prior to competing.

c. **The Start Order.** This will be drawn manually prior to the Race Brief. Any rider not present at the Race Brief will be discounted from the event, unless their extenuating circumstances are notified to the Jury. In events which have 2 runs, the second run will have the running order reversed. Where the Start List is more than 30 competitors this will be broken down into 2 or more blocks with running order reversed within each block.

d. **Course Inspections.** Course Inspections are programmed for each run of each event and times will be announced at the Race Brief. Race officials will control the inspection and instructions for the inspection will be given at the start. Riders may be asked to 'sideslip' the course to flatten the snow in preparation for the race. Riders may be disqualified if they ride or shadow any part of the course during inspection. Subject to availability, a warm up slope may be allocated. Course inspection is strongly recommended!

e. **The Jury.** The Start Referee is in charge of the start area and is responsible for calling forward the riders in start list (bib) order. Riders will not receive any assistance at the start (e.g. pushed through the start gate) and riders who fail to show at the start gate in their bib start order will be recorded and sanctioned. The timing equipment will start as the rider opens the gate wand with the lower leg on passing through the start gate.

The Jury will consist of:

- (1) Technical Delegate.
- (2) Chief of Race.
- (3) Start Referee.
- (4) Assistant Referee (if appointed).

Duties of the Jury include checking the course for safety and compliance with the rules, deciding on disqualifications and appeals against disqualification, checking medical support is in place and monitoring all race procedures. The Referee is the riders' representative on the Jury and may be contacted, by riders, in the event of a dispute or clarification of rules.

f. **PGS Start.** The Start Procedure for PGS has no set timing. Riders will be asked 'Red Course Ready?', 'Blue Course Ready?' Once both riders have confirmed they are ready the Start Referee will call 'Riders Ready', and will follow this with a variable pause of 1-5 seconds, before shouting 'Go' and simultaneously dropping the start gate. Red and Blue courses will be independently timed by a wand and light beam.

Note. Qualifying runs will be timed to establish the start order for the main race.

g. **Boardercross Start.** The Start Procedure for Boardercross has no set timing. Riders will be asked in turn by Gate Number if they are 'Ready?' Once all riders have confirmed they are ready the Start Referee will call 'Riders Ready', and will follow this with a variable pause of 1-5 seconds, before shouting 'Go' and simultaneously dropping the start gate. Any rider deemed to have 'jumped' the start may be appealed against and be subject to penalisation on the decision of the Jury. NB - Qualifying runs will be timed to establish the start order for the main race.

h. **Gates.** The Passing of Gates is of critical importance to the rider and the following should be studied carefully. A gate consists of two poles of the same colour connected by one panel, which may be conical, triangular or rectangular in appearance. A breakaway pole is used for the turning pole, which is a pole no less than 180 cm above the snow for Slalom or a stubbie with a length of 20-45 cm above the hinge for GS. The placing of horizontal, vertical, delayed (banana) and slanting gates is permitted. Should a rider fail to pass a gate correctly, then the rider can go back up the hill to pass the gate correctly (in either direction) and then carry on. Every group of gates has a Gate Judge monitoring it and the rider may ask the Gate Judge if the gate has been passed correctly. The Gate Judge will answer either "Go on" or "Go back up". If a rider misses a gate, he/she no longer has the right to continue on down the course and must either go back to the missed gate or ride out of the course. A rider who incorrectly passes 2 or more consecutive gates will be deemed to be aware that he/she has missed gates. In all events, a rider abandoning the course must descend via the side of the course and not ride through the finish.

i. **Slopestyle Start.** The start procedure for Slopestyle has no set timing. Riders will be called into the Start Gate by the Start Referee in bib order and released into the course in turn. Riders will be asked 'Ready?'. Once the rider has confirmed they are ready the Start Referee will call 'Rider ready... Go'. Riders should then leave the Start gate within 10 seconds.

j. **The Finish.** The Finish must be crossed in one of the following ways:

(1) On the rider's board, upright

(2) On the ground, but still attached to the board, although this will be accepted only where a rider falls within the finish area (i.e. between the last gate and the finish line) and the momentum of the fall carries the rider through the finish. The finish line is fitted with a light sensing device which triggers the recording of the rider's time. Riders whose board detaches in a fall must re-attach it securely when he/she comes to rest before continuing down the course.

k. **Re-runs.** Re-runs will be awarded to riders who are obstructed (e.g. by another rider, official, broken pole etc) if the rider follows the correct procedure; i.e. when obstructed, the rider must leave the course immediately, ride down the side of the course and not through the finish and report to a race official, normally the Finish Referee, and explain the cause of the obstruction. A provisional re-run will normally be given and the rider should immediately report to the Start Referee to re-run. Depending on the evaluation of the obstruction, the Jury may subsequently decide that the re-run is valid or the rider disqualified. A rider who has been disqualified prior to the obstruction will not be given a valid re-run. If a rider is obstructed and continues with the run, a re-run will not be given and the rider is deemed to have accepted the obstruction.

l. **The Results.** The Results (provisional) are published after the Jury meeting on completion of each run, at the finish hut. Once the provisional results are published, Team Captains/riders have 5 mins to appeal against any disqualifications. The appeal must be accompanied by £20.00 (or 25 Euros) which is returned only if the appeal is upheld. No further opportunity exists for appeals against disqualification. Individual prizes will be awarded on completion of the race. The official results are published, later, at the Race Office.

m. **Rules For Separate Disciplines**

(1) *PGS.* For the PGS event, the vertical drop must be a minimum of 180 metres with the number of gates being determined by 10-13% of the vertical drop. The distance between the gates is 20-25 metres. The distance between the 2 courses is 6 - 8 metres. The courses should be as even as possible to permit identical gate setting.

(2) *Boardercross.* All riders must be of Intermediate standard or above (see [Para 0203](#) for categories). For reasons safety, the use of Alpine-style boards with square tails is not permitted. Boardercross is a non-contact discipline and any intentional contact will result in disqualification. All riders must have championship approved insurance to cover snowboard racing (see [Para 0204, sub para n](#) for insurance requirements). Arms and legs must be completely covered with suitable clothing. Heats will consist of four riders and the first two to finish will qualify for the next round. There will be no re-runs of heats. If there is a protest it will be investigated by the Jury and the rider deemed to be at fault will be disqualified.

n. **Registration, Insurance and Medical Fitness.** All riders MUST be registered before racing. All riders must also be insured for racing and have adequate cover for accident and injury whilst racing. The Medical Fitness of riders is the responsibility of the individual and no rider should race if they are not fit. All riders must also sign an "Athlete's Declaration Form" and these are distributed with the entry forms.

0205. Snowboard Prizes, Trophies and Presentations

a. During the Championships race week, major trophies and prizes will be awarded in 2 distinct locations, firstly on the piste daily after racing and secondly at the Prizegiving and Closing Ceremony. The following tables detail the type of trophies and prizes and the location for their award. If you think you have won a prize or trophy it is in your interest to remain at/return to the Finish Area of the race piste in sufficient time to be awarded your prize – there will be no miss-musters. Check at the Race Office for Overall and Combined results.

b. A special prize will be awarded to the winner of the snowboard beginners' race each week. To be eligible for this prize the competitor must be aged 16 or above on 1st January 2008 and have completed the RNWSA Snowboard Beginners Class in the week of competition.

c. The Beginners and Youth Race prizes will be presented at the bottom of the race piste on completion of racing. All other prizes will be presented on the day of the race at the bottom of the race Piste.

d. Separate prizes will be awarded for male and female competitors in each individual category (i.e. non team prizes).

Table 2-3. Snowboard Prizes, Trophies and Presentations

RACE	PRIZES AND TROPHIES
Beginners (Race run in both weeks)	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
GS "B" Week One	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Male & Female
GS "C" Both Weeks	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Male & Female
Parallel Giant Slalom	Expert – 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Advanced – 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Intermediate - 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Novice - 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Snowboardcross Week 1	Overall – 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Snowboardcross Week 2	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Male & Female (Winners receive Mens and Ladies Boardercross Salvers)
Slopestyle	Expert – 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Advanced – 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Intermediate - 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Novice - 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd

Table 2-4. Final Prizegiving & Closing Ceremony

Male Champion (Mens Snowboard Salver)	Winner + Runner Up
Female Champion (Women's Snowboard Salver)	Winner + Runner Up
Plate Champion – best overall non-expert (one category) (Mens and Ladies Snowboard Plates)	Winner + Runner Up(male and female)

0206. Changes to the Rules

Any variations or amendments to the above-stated rules will be promulgated at the race brief prior to each event.