



## FIS and USSA Alpine Update Summer 2008

Following are some of the major decisions made during the 2008 FIS Congress in South Africa and the 2008 USSA Congress in Park City this spring.

Athletes, coaches and officials are urged to review the FIS precisions and the USSA Competition Guide as well as the respective websites for more detail.

### Schedule of upcoming meetings

July 16 –18, 2008	USSA Partners Meeting	Park City
September 27-28, 2008	Alpine Eastern Club Symposium	Vermont
September 30 – October 5, 2008	FIS Fall Meetings	Zurich
October TBA, 2008	Alpine Executive Committee	Teleconference
October 24-26, 2008	Western FIS TD update	Salt Lake City
October 31- November 2, 2008	Eastern FIS TD update	Toronto
November 14, 2008	FIS Council Meeting	Levi, FIN
April TBA, 2009	USSA Athletic Staff Summit	Park City
May 11-12, 2009	USSA National Club Symposium	Park City
May 12-17, 2009	USSA Congress 2009	Park City
May 20-24, 2009	FIS Calendar Conference	Croatia

### Staff Update

- Congratulations to Shaun Goodwin, Eastern Alpine Coordinator, who has moved into a coaching and conditioning position with the women's D team.
- Allison Christy, Education Coordinator replaces Jenny Murano. Allison is based at the USSA Training Center in Park City.

### Information Resources

- USSA Rules: [ussa.org](http://ussa.org) > alpine > officials
- USSA Rankings: [ussa.org](http://ussa.org) > quick tools
- USSA National Development System: [ussa.org](http://ussa.org) > alpine > development
- FIS: [fisski.com](http://fisski.com)
- USSA members should look for the Alpine Competition Guides during the first week of October.

### Membership

- **On-Line:** USSA is very pleased to announce that we now have the ability to renew and register new USSA members on line. Please check our simple Q and A out here:

<http://www.ussa.org/magnoliaPublic/ussa/en/formembers/membership/faq/onlinereqfaq.html>

- **Multi-Sport Youth** discount program for the 2008-09 season. Beginning with the May renewal, those athletes holding more than one of the following youth memberships will receive a \$25 discount on their second and subsequent youth memberships.

Youth Memberships include:

### United States Ski and Snowboard Association



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**Alpine Youth Competitor  
Freestyle Youth Competitor  
Jumping/Nordic Kid (Youth)  
Cross Country Nordic Kid (Youth)**

- The discount will be offered for both new and existing members.

**Updating alpine competition rules and regulations**

USSA staff and key volunteer leadership will review new and modified FIS rules for inclusion in the USSA rules as appropriate. These rules will appear in your 2009 Alpine Competition Guide.

Remember that FIS will produce new ICRs this fall. Likewise USSA will be integrating the new ICR (International Competition Regulations) into our USSA ACR (Alpine Competition Regulations). New this fall will be a complete set of FIS Rules for Children to be integrated into the ICR. Remember that the ICR Children's Rules apply to International Children's Competition. USSA does not schedule any International Children's Races. Alpine leadership will be evaluating the new Children's rules for inclusion in the USSA ACR.

**USSA Alpine Congress Update**

- Course approvals - for the 2008-09 season, the working group will homologate courses for USSA GS and SL competitions for J3 championships and higher in addition to its customary work on re-homologation of FIS courses, all events, and USSA DH and SG courses, as well as new homologations, FIS and USSA, all events, as requested.
- Jury Members and Course Setters - Individuals serving as referees and course setters at USA Scored events must be current USSA coach or official members and are required to be certified Referees in season 2008-09 and beyond.
- USSA Auto-score - USSA has developed a system for automatically processing USSA Alpine race results when they are emailed to USSA. This system will process USA FIS, USSA Scored and USSA Non-Scored (listed) races when they are submitted using the appropriate xml format. This is an important resource in tracking not only athlete performance but also the work history of alpine officials. All race organizers should be submitting electronic results to USSA.
- Winter World University Games (WWUG) – the USOC and USSA will not field any teams this year to the WWUG in China.
- Development – NDS Junior Champions Camp (JCC) is being moved to better compliment the regions and clubs. This important J3 fundamentals project for invited athletes will be hosted at Loveland Basin November 9-15, 2008.
- Development – For non-scored events, allow the use of stubbie gates and age appropriate gates designed and manufactured for children. Allow the running of non-scored Kombi races per Kinder Kombi technical data.

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- Development – extensive discussion on the need to educate and train all course setters to set courses that are in compliance with FIS and USSA regulations.
- Equipment regulations – USSA follows a similar “phase-in” schedule with new equipment rules as the FIS. Due to the fact that FIS has postponed the rules for “new equipment” until 2009-10; USSA will likely implement new rules for USSA races in 2010-11. The logic with this schedule is insuring that the equipment and materials are available for purchase by USSA grassroots competitors.
- Team Captains Meetings – USSA confirmed the need and requirement for Team Captains meetings. These meetings are essential for thorough communication relative to schedules, program and instructions.

### FIS Alpine Update

The following are the most important items from the FIS Meetings in Cape Town (RSA), 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008.

### Sub-Committee for Classification of Alpine Competitors

#### New F Values

DH: 1320  
SL: 600  
GS: 880  
SG: 1060  
SC: 1240

### Quotas National Junior Race (NJR)

Special abbreviation NJR (National Junior Race ) for JUN races with limited participation (max. foreign quota 25). If more than 25 foreign competitors are present, the minimum quota will be 2 per-nation, irrespective of their national FIS quota.

### Injury Status Condition

- 4.6.1.1 “..After participation in more than eight ten (10) races, or a maximum of four (4 ) races per discipline, after the injury date.....”.

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## Sub-Committee for Rules and Control

### 801.2 Delayed Gates

801.2.3 A gate must have a minimum width of 4 m and a maximum of 6 m. The distance between gates within combinations (hairpin, vertical or delayed gates) may not be less than 0.75 m. The distance from turning pole to turning pole of successive open or closed gates may not be less than 6 m, nor more than 13 m (valid for all categories/levels).

803.2 A Slalom must contain horizontal (open) and vertical (closed) gates as well as a minimum of one and maximum of three vertical combinations consisting of three to four gates and at least three hairpin-combinations. Slalom must also contain a minimum of one and a maximum of three delayed gates . Delayed gates must have a minimum distance of 12 m and a maximum distance of 18 m from turning pole to turning pole.

## Art 701.1.1 and 701.1.2 Reduction Vertical Drop Downhill competitions

### 701.1 Vertical Drop

701.1.1 Men's Courses For Olympic Winter Games, FIS World Ski Championships, FIS World Cups and FIS Continental Cups  
- 800 m (in exceptional cases 750 m, for Continental Cups 550 m) - 1100 m.

For all other FIS races: ~~-500-450 m~~ - 1100 m (Junior 700 m) Sub-Committee for Alpine World Cup

701.1.2 Ladies' Courses For all competitions: - ~~500-450 m~~  
- 800 m (Junior 700 m)

701.1.3 Entry League Races (ENL) Ladies' and Men:

1 Run Race: -minimum 400 m - 500 m

2 Run Race: -minimum 350 m - 500 m

The course must be homologated for Downhill with the indication of start and finish positions for ENL.

706.2 Downhill in Two Runs

706.2.1 If the topography of a country does not permit a Downhill with the required vertical drop as stated in the ICR, a Downhill in two runs can be organized.

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706.2.2 The vertical drop must be at least ~~450~~ 400 m.

~~706.2.6 Each NSA may carry out two Downhill races in two runs without calculating a special penalty.~~

### Sub-Committee for Intercontinental Cup

#### Overall winners qualified for World Cup over the Continental Cups

Personal qualification for World Cup The winners of the different events, and Overall winners or best placed competitor(s) from that continent in the respective Continental Cups are personally qualified to compete in World Cup races in the event concerned for the season following their victory, with the exception of the World Cup Finals. The Overall winner receives this qualification only if in the corresponding Cup speed events are held. For the Southern Hemisphere this is the same season. A valid list is published in the Alpine World Cup Rules.

### Youth and Children's Questions

#### Giant Slalom in two Runs

Art 901.1.4 Giant Slalom for Children's II must consist of two runs, and for Children I this possibility should be granted.

#### Vertical Drop Super G

Art 1001.1.1.3 Children's Courses

- Children I: minimum ~~225~~ 250 m, maximum 350 m
- Children II: minimum 250m , maximum ~~450~~ 400 m

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## The Committee for Competition Equipment

On request of the Committee for Competition Equipment, the Council approved the following proposals:

### Changes to the Specifications for the Competition Equipment and Commercial Markings:

#### B. Alpine Competition Equipment

##### 1. Alpine racing ski

Extension of the tolerance for skis and boots at FIS and ENL levels (new rules were strictly applied to World Cup level from the 2007/08 and for Continental Cup from 2008/09 season).

- 1.2.1.1 Ski length Minimum length "developed" length (unwound length) in accordance with ISO Norm including a measurement tolerance of +/- 1 cm. The ski length has to be marked on the ski.

Downhill Ladies FIS: 210 cm / -5 cm tolerance Men FIS: 215 cm / -5 cm tolerance

Super-G Ladies FIS: 200 cm / -5 cm tolerance Men FIS: 205 cm / -5 cm tolerance For FIS and ENL events the maximum height is 55 mm

Giant Slalom Ladies FIS: 180 cm / -5 cm tolerance Men FIS: 185 cm / -5 cm tolerance

- 1.2.1.2 Profile width For FIS and ENL minimum 60 mm

- 1.2.1.3 Radius The radius has to be marked on the ski

Giant Slalom Ladies & Men (FIS & ENL): minimum 21 m

- 2.1.2 Maximum height:

- 3.2 Thickness of ski boot soles FIS, ENL, CHI I: maximum 45 mm

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## FIS & USSA Equipment Rules 2008-2009

		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">So-called "new rules"</div>									
		World Cup, Continental Cups and WJRs*	World Cup, Continental Cups and WJRs*	FIS and USSA 15 yrs old +	FIS and USSA 15 yrs old +	Children 2 FIS 13-14 yr old international races	Children 1 FIS 11-12 yr old international races	Junior 3 and younger USSA 14 yrs and younger	Masters **		
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Boys & Girls	Boys & Girls	Boys & Girls	Men & Women		
Minimum Ski Length	DH	215 cm	210 cm	210 cm <small>USSA may use SG skis</small>	205 cm <small>USSA may use SG skis</small>	no rule	no rule	no rule	see note below		
	SG	205 cm	200 cm	200 cm	195 cm	175 cm	no rule	no rule			
	GS	185 cm	180 cm	180 cm	175 cm	130 cm	130 cm	no rule			
	SL	165 cm	155 cm	165 cm (10 cm tolerance for J2 men)	155 cm	130 cm	130 cm	no rule			
Minimum Ski Radius	DH	45 m	45 m	45 m <small>USSA may use SG skis</small>	45 m <small>USSA may use SG skis</small>	no rule	no rule	no rule	see note below		
	SG	33 m	33 m	33 m	33 m	27 m	n/a	no rule			
	GS	27 m	23 m	21 m	21 m	17 m	14 m	no rule			
	SL	no rule	no rule	no rule	no rule	no rule	no rule	no rule			
Minimum Ski Waist Width	DH	67 mm	67 mm	60 mm	60 mm	60 mm	60 mm	no rule	see note below		
	SG	65 mm	65 mm	60 mm	60 mm	60 mm	60 mm	no rule			
	GS	65 mm	65 mm	60 mm	60 mm	60 mm	60 mm	no rule			
	SL	63 mm	63 mm	60 mm	60 mm	60 mm	60 mm	no rule			
Maxium Binding Stack Height		50 mm	50 mm	55 mm	55 mm	50 mm	50 mm	50 mm	55 mm		
<i>Measurement includes ski + plate + binding</i>											
Maxium Boot Height		43 mm	43 mm	45 mm	45 mm	45 mm	45 mm	45 mm	45 mm		
<i>Measurement from sole to top of foot bed</i>											

\* For FIS Masters Competitions, equipment rules are recommendations with the following exception: in SG races, the ski length may not be less than 185 cm for men and 180 cm for women. For the FIS recommendations for ski length, ski radius and ski waist width see the current FIS Specifications for

\* USSA Masters rules conform to the new 2008 FIS Masters equipment rules. USSA recommends that competitors in USSA Masters events compete on equipment designed for the particular discipline (DH, SL, GS, SG), but does not make any recommendations in regards to ski length.

\*\* Postponement (until 2009-10) of the ski length, radius and waist width rules as well as stack height and boot height for other FIS events.

**June 5, 2008: Pending FIS Council Approval:**

1. Postpone phase in of "new rules" for alpine equipment at FIS races until 2009-10.
2. Recommend that children competing in alpine should use backprotectors

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