



2018 IFSA Handbook

Prepared by IFSA BOD & Senior Judging Committee December 1, 2016

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The IFSA

1. History of the IFSA

1. The International Freeskiers Association (IFSA) was established in 1996 by freeskiing pioneer Shane McConkey. Freeskiing in the 1990s was described as different specifications of the alpine ski sport such as big mountain, slope-style, half-pipe, big air, and skier-cross. McConkey believed that the sports in freeskiing needed an athlete driven governing body. Since then, the sport of freeskiing has grown rapidly and each of the disciplines have evolved into strong individual sports. Today the IFSA is centered on junior and adult big mountain freeskiing and snowboarding competitions.

2. Founder

1. Shane McConkey (December 30, 1969 – March 26, 2009) was a professional skier. He was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, and was based in Squaw Valley, California. He won numerous awards and competitions. McConkey started as a competitive ski racer, but moved on to be featured in a long line of ski films. McConkey went to Burke Mountain Academy. He was also known for his contributions to ski design, notably being the father of reverse sidecut and reverse camber skis (aka: skis with rocker); originally mounting bindings onto water skis for use in Alaska. On April 2, 2011 Shane McConkey was inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of fame.

3. About the IFSA

1. The IFSA, now the International Freeskiers & Snowboarders Association, is working to enhance the sport of competitive big mountain freeriding by creating a uniform set of guidelines to ensure consistent and credible competition. We are here to represent the needs and interests of freeriding competitors and to allow competitors to have a voice in their sport. Our position is also to govern events for competitors, organizers, sponsors, promoters and the general public. It is our intent to support the industry and to encourage competition growth and knowledge of freeriding. By providing a unified professional body, IFSA enhances the overall image of freeriding with credible criteria and measurable judging formats while providing athletes the international recognition vital to the growth of our sport.
2. The rules and standards of competition shall be enforced by the IFSA in cooperation with members, event organizers, technical directors, judges and volunteers.
3. The IFSA reserves the right to amend, add to or change the official guidelines of competition. Event sanctioning is required for athlete points to be included in tour standings or for invitational event qualification.

4. Mission of the IFSA

The mission of the IFSA is to operate as the international sanctioning body for big mountain freeriding. With input from its members, the IFSA sets sanctioning guidelines for event execution and judging to ensure consistent competitions and represent the needs, interests, and safety of freeride competitors. The IFSA pursues every opportunity to enable athletes to compete, learn, train, have fun, and achieve their freeriding goals.

2. Affiliate Organization Governance

1. For the purpose of this document the IFSA is deemed to have governance over all sanctioned events unless otherwise noted.

3. Values

1. Safety
2. Accessibility
3. Education
4. Consistency
5. Diversity
6. Progression
7. Sustainability
8. FUN!

4. Member Responsibility

1. Athletes

1. Athlete Membership

1. Big mountain ski competitions are activities with inherent risks of serious personal injury, disability and death. It is the sole responsibility that IFSA members will honor all contracts entered upon willingly.
2. All competitors who compete in an IFSA event must be registered members of the IFSA for that membership year
3. The membership year is from October 1-September 30 of the following year.

4. Membership fees are non refundable.
5. The IFSA board will set the membership fee of each year. Members may register as both a snowboarder and a skier under new membership number.
6. Association members agree to complete all forms and paperwork accurately.
7. IFSA Transgender Policy - Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction after declaring his gender as male. Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions: The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years. The athlete must submit a physician note stating that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to her first competition. This note must also verify a plan to maintain those serum testosterone levels during the period of competition.

2. Required to compete

1. The IFSA Release of Liability Waiver (ROL) must be signed by parent or legal guardian (unless 18 YOA US/19 YOA Canada). Waiver may not be signed by a coach.
2. The event ROL waiver must be signed at every event even if there are multiple events at the same mountain in the same year.
3. Association members will have personal health insurance during all events. Athlete must have proof of individual insurance at check-in and have it available for the duration of the competition.
4. Attendance at athlete meetings is mandatory. TD/Host Mountain/Jury is not responsible to provide information to absentees

3. Athlete Safety Equipment

1. Helmets are required at all times when inspecting, competing, or riding within the venue.
2. Additional protective gear is highly recommended. It is up to the athlete to wear proper protective equipment such as hip pads, back protector, and mouth guard
3. The Event Host has the right to require additional protective and/or safety equipment including protective gear and beacon, probe, shovel and avalanche avalung or bag. The following safety equipment is encouraged: back protectors, hip pads, and mouth guards.
4. Athletes must wear the Event Host's required equipment in order to compete.

4. Athlete Code of Conduct

1. IFSA athletes will abide by local, regional, state and federal law while participating in an IFSA event.

2. Drug and alcohol use by IFSA athletes is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification and suspension.
3. The IFSA reserves the right to impose suspension or expulsion of any IFSA athlete as determined on a case-by-case basis.
4. IFSA athletes must observe all rules and codes of conduct of the host mountain.
5. Ducking any rope line is prohibited.
6. IFSA athletes must act in a professional manner and exercise good judgment.
7. IFSA athletes will treat each other, event officials, mountain officials, promoters, organizers, sponsors, coaches, parents and the general public with respect.
8. IFSA athletes will refrain from use of abusive language or behavior.
9. IFSA athletes will not steal, deface, or destroy sponsor or organizer equipment or signage.

5. Venue Inspection

1. Venue inspection is mandatory for all athletes at all event.
2. During inspection, athletes must be aware of everyone else around them.
3. On the day of competition athletes must have an opportunity to have access to the competition venue to inspect the terrain and features within the venue. If the venue must be changed or altered significantly, after the initial venue inspection, athletes must have an opportunity for another inspection.
4. Slow riding/skiing is mandatory during venue inspection.
5. The technical director and/or head judge may disqualify a competitor from the competition for riding fast or recklessly during inspection
6. Athletes may not practice, session or rehearse a line during inspection or jump/drop any features within the venue boundary.
7. In blind areas it is advised that athletes verbally announce themselves to make others aware of their presence and intended next move/position.
8. Athletes are to be respectful of fellow athletes, coaches, and officials during inspection.
9. Athletes should be kind to the snow while inspecting.
10. Terrain Enhancement is not permitted unless clearly stated otherwise by event officials. (See section VIII below)
11. Infractions of inspection rules may result in disqualification from the event .

6. Terrain Enhancement

1. Terrain Enhancement is not allowed. Under special circumstances event officials/host may need to enhance the venue.
2. TD/Host Mountain/Jury may allow for terrain enhancement due to conditions and safety concerns but are limited in scope to one of the following:
 - None: No alteration of terrain
 - Soft: Under direct supervision, athletes may make minor alterations, to the terrain with equipment on their feet (i.e. side stepping an in-run or landing) so long as it does not interfere with another athlete's potential line and has been cleared by the TD/Host Mountain/Jury prior to execution. No shovels.
3. If a venue has limited features and/or the conditions dictate, the TD/Host Mountain/Jury may enhance the venue to create a more challenging and safe venue. No athlete participation in shovel or tool manipulated terrain.
4. Any level of enhancement will be clearly posted and/or communicated to all athletes and coaches by TD/Host Mountain/Jury.
5. Athlete terrain enhancement during inspection or competition is grounds for DQ.

7. Competitor Responsibility During Competition

1. It is the responsibility of the competitor to make their start time.
2. Competitors who miss their start and believe it was due to circumstances outside of their control must refer to the starter. The starter will consult with the technical director. The technical director has the final say if an athlete may run after the final competitor.
3. Athletes must understand their riding ability level and be aware of all IFSA governing rules.
4. Junior athletes shall consult with their coach about line choice and intended execution of the line.
5. Athletes must understand the location of all start and finish lines/corral for their competitive division. Weather, number of athletes and time constraints may have an effect on where these are placed. Failure to comply with start and finish lines/corral during competitive run will result in DQ
6. If an athlete crashes and may be injured, the athlete should stay down and wait for patrol to assist them
7. In the case of a crash where there is no concern of injury, the athlete shall give a head tap letting everyone know they are ok. If there is a loss of equipment they can then proceed to grab their gear. If they need assistance getting their gear, they will be Time Disqualified (TDQ). In either case, they should refrain from riding additional features that may cause another crash and further delay the competition.

8. Helmets are required at all times when inspecting, competing ,or riding within the venue.
9. Competitor bib/sticker must be worn during inspection and competition.
10. Ride in control and obey all slow signs when riding outside of the venue.

8. Athlete Protests

1. Protests are to be filed only due to run interference.
2. Protests against disqualifications and/or clerical error must be made with in 15 minutes after the posting of final results.
3. No protests against scoring are allowed. All scores are final. Scores will not be changed or adjusted.
4. The only protest concerning scoring will be if the athlete wishes to pay the protest fee of \$25 to check addition of scoring.
5. Competitor protests cost \$25 immediately following the competitor s run.
6. It is the responsibility of the competitor to contact the technical director at the finish area and pay \$25.
7. If the technical director cannot make the determination of a provisional rerun, it is up to the discretion of the head judge.
8. The technical director will decide the completion of the run or day if the provisional re-run will stand.
9. If the re-run stands, the athlete may not chose to change his/her mind and take the score of the first run.
10. If protest is unsubstantiated by another competitor it will be automatically denied.
11. The technical director may grant a provisional re-run on a case by case bases only after the collection of the protest fee.
12. It is the responsibility of the competitor to substantiate their protest.
13. Under no circumstances may a competitor protest to the judges.

2. Programs

1. Programs are defined as ski and snowboard clubs and teams.
2. A program must be formally organized with leadership and a roster of team members.

3. Programs should be focused on Big Mountain Freeriding and developing smart decision making skills for use throughout an athlete's freeride career.
4. Each program will appoint a single individual to be the voice or representative of the program to the IFSA.
5. Programs are charged with ensuring that the athletes of their program follow all safety protocols and others standards set by IFSA.
6. Programs may host events as an event organizer, however the technical director must not be acting as a coach during the event to avoid any conflicts of interest. The head judge may act as the technical director. However a TD's event day responsibilities should not conflict with their abilities to run a safe event.. IE DJ/Announce/coach.
7. Programs are charged with assisting the IFSA in promoting and educating the sport of big mountain freeriding.
8. Programs and their members are responsible to be familiar with the IFSA handbook. Programs are encouraged to cover the content of the Handbook at the beginning of the season.
9. Programs are charged with bringing the sport to new individuals, venues and markets.
10. Programs are responsible for communicating with the IFSA board of new trends and good operating practices relating to the sport of big mountain freeriding.
11. Programs are responsible to foster a culture of positive sportsmanship and excitement around the sport of big mountain freeriding.

5. Event organizer

1. Purpose

1. The event organizer is an individual, working either for the local mountain or organization that produces and promotes events approved by the IFSA.
2. The event organizer carries all liability for any event they produce and will complete necessary IFSA paperwork.

2. Responsibilities

1. The event organizer is responsible for hiring and compensation of the technical director.
2. The event organizer is responsible for hiring the technical director (TD) and a TD's event day responsibilities should not conflict with their abilities to run a safe event.
3. In conjunction with the technical director the event organizer is responsible for hiring the head judge and judges.
4. The event organizer is responsible for the compensation of the head judge and judges.

5. The event organizer is responsible for ensuring that the head judge and judges are certified by the IFSA.
6. The event organizer is responsible for properly staffing the event with volunteers or paid staff. Paid staff are not employees of the IFSA.
7. Positions that need to be filled are, but not inclusive to a scorekeeper, registration staff, starter, operations staff, announcers and equipment retrieval team.
8. The event organizer is responsible for knowing, understanding and following the IFSA handbook. The event organizer coordinates with the IFSA on all aspects of competition.
9. The event organizer holds the ultimate responsibility that all safety protocols are strictly adhered to. These safety protocols include IFSA good operating practices as well as enforcing resort or venue host rules. When there is a conflicting stance by both the IFSA and the resort or venue host the event organizer will adopt the most conservative of the two protocols.
10. Event organizers need to use prudence in making the event accessible to athletes as laid out by the standards of the IFSA.
11. Registration fees should be reasonable and coincide with the caliber of the event.
12. Event organizers not directly employed by the resort shall work with the resort/event host to acquire discounts for IFSA members, such as lift tickets, room and board and any other discounts deemed necessary.
13. In the event of an off-venue unresolved conflict between event organizer and technical director, the event organizer will make final decision.

6. Technical directors

1. Purpose

1. Under the direction of the event organizer, the technical director is responsible for the competition aspect of each event.
2. Technical directors are experienced and competent in event management, safety guidelines, and following IFSA good operating practices.
3. The technical director and head judges both have the final say on the safety of the event as well as any issues resulting in conflict. This includes any interpretation of protocols laid out in the IFSA handbook. This also includes venue features and closures.

2. Responsibilities

1. The technical director and head judge are both responsible for managing the venue (start position, finish position, venue selection, venue/feature closures) and determining the safety of the event. The technical director must enlist the assistance of the head judge in this charge. This may entail arriving in the days prior to an event to select venues, establish any closures, and take

pictures for map deployment. The technical director will be in the employ of, or under contract with, the event host.

2. A TD's event day responsibilities should not conflict with their abilities to run a safe event.. IE DJ/Announce/coach.
3. The technical director or event coordinator may both manage all event staff; paid or volunteer. The technical director is responsible for knowing, understanding and following the IFSA handbook.
4. The technical director is responsible for ensuring that all IFSA safety protocols are followed.
5. The technical director must ensure the flow of the event and keep the event on track.
6. The technical director is to work closely with ski patrol, mountain operations of the resort or host venue to ensure safety as well as creating a positive experience for the resort or host venue and its guests.
7. The technical director, head judge and event coordinator are responsible for all athlete meetings.
8. The technical director and head judge have the ability to start, stop, hold and sets emergency response on all venues. While competition is underway these duties should fall to the technical director.
9. In the event of an on venue unresolved conflict between event organizer and technical director, the technical director in conjunction with head judge shall make final decision.
10. The technical director is responsible for ensuring ski patrol is on hand (minimum of two at top at all times) and have direct radio contact with them.

7. Head Judges

1. Purpose

1. The head judge is responsible for ensuring consistency in judging and managing the activities of the other judges.
2. The head judge should set the tone of every event in regards to safety, including severely penalizing athletes for poor decision making and/or execution in the development/performance of their line.

2. Responsibilities

1. The head judge ensures that the judging panel is communicating and discussing the runs of each athlete.
2. They must stay focused and unbiased throughout the competition.

3. The head judge in conjunction with technical director, will decide athlete cuts for the successive competition rounds. All cuts shall be discussed with the judges panel to assure fair and natural cuts are made.
4. The head judge is responsible for knowing, understanding and following the IFSA handbook.
5. The head judge should be an expert on the execution of IFSA judging standards as well as rules associated with competition.
6. The head judge has the right to disqualify an athlete for breaking any IFSA rules, resort or host venue rules and for poor sportsmanship.
7. The head judge must attend and speak at all athlete meetings, help with venue selection and related closures, and be one of the monitors of safety while judging.
8. The head judge has the control to cancel an event if found unsafe once the competition has started.

8. Judges

1. Purpose

1. Judges work under the direction of the head judge and give a rounded out perspective of each athletes run.
2. Judges are also advocates for safety under the direction of the head judge.

2. Responsibilities

1. Judges are responsible for working with the head judge to determine a score for each athlete.
2. They must stay focused and unbiased throughout the competition.
3. Judges may fill in for the head judge at athlete meetings if necessity requires.
4. Judges are responsible for knowing, understanding and following the IFSA handbook.
5. Must be open to discussion and be accountable for there scores.
6. Judges may be coaches, however the coach must not have any athletes participating in an event they are judging to avoid any conflicts of interest.

9. Scorekeeper

1. Purpose

1. The scorekeeper is responsible for input and recording of scores provided by the judges.
2. The scorekeeper shall create all start orders and results in a timely manner.

2. Responsibilities

1. The designated scorekeeper should be in contact with IFSA staff prior to event to ensure competency. The IFSA conducts periodic scorekeeper training opportunities throughout the season and maintains access to training videos and documents. The designated scorekeeper should be in contact with IFSA staff prior to event to ensure competency. If no qualified scorekeeper is identified prior to the event the IFSA reserves the right to designate a qualified scorekeeper for the event at the expense of the event host.
2. The scorekeeper must either be onsite to manage and input all scores or have dedicated runners to bring score sheet into a indoor location (recommended).
3. The scorekeeper must allow the judges to review scores before disseminating results.
4. The scorekeeper shall make the head judge aware of any numerical errors.
5. The scorekeeper shall file all hard copies of score sheets.
6. IFSA score sheets are carbon copies. It's recommended that judges keep yellow copy on venue.
7. The IFSA provides a standardized score tabulation formula that is to be used at all events, sanctioned by the IFSA. The scorekeeper must know how to use a computer and the IFSA spread sheet template to do their designated job.
8. The IFSA may audit scores via faxed hard copies if members find inconsistencies.
9. If competency is lacking, a scorekeeper should attend one of the IFSA scorekeeper training sessions.

3. Scorekeeping Codes

Use the following scores on the scorecard to accurately convey event results to the IFSA team. Using correct codes ensures accurate rankings calculation for Junior and Adult Riders.

1. **NS** : No Score does not apply in North America. Judges continue to score.
2. **Tied For Last Place Rule** : This means in the following that Riders still earn the points of the last placed rider. For example, in an event's final day with 20 riders in which 4 riders did not start, the 4 riders all tie in twentieth place and all will score the points of 20th place.
3. **DNS** : A registered rider who fails to show up at the start will get a DNS (Did Not Start) on the final ranking list. If it is a 2-run event, the rider will not receive any ranking points if it happened on the qualifying day. The athlete will be ranked based on their first run score if there was a DNS on the finals day.
4. **DNF** : A rider who can't finish his run in the event of injury will get a DNF (Did Not Finish) on the final ranking list. She will be tied for last place.
5. **TDQ**: Each course is assigned a generous time limit by the judges after the forerunners. The time limit must be communicated to the starter and to the athletes. Competitors who do not cross the finish line in the allotted time will receive a time disqualification.
6. **DQ** : A Rider receiving a DQ will be ranked last, after all NS, DNF and DNS and will not score any points. A rider could be DQ (Disqualified) if;

- Does Inverts when not permitted by Event Host

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- Entering the finish area in a manner that affects spectators, crew or personal safety
- Rides through a closed area or goes outside the clearly marked venue boundaries
- Shows up at the start without mandatory gear specified for the event by the Event Host
- A rider does not cross the finish line with both skis they will receive a DQ. The ski doesn't have to be on the foot of the athlete and can be carried across the finish line to not receive a DQ
- Infractions of venue inspection rules during inspection, such as violating terrain enhancement rule of the day, rides fast or reckless, sessions a line or jump/drops any features
- The Head Judge has the right to DQ a Rider for breaking any IFSA rules, resort or host venue rules and for poor sportsmanship
- If the organizer decides to close the venue (to maintain a snow condition) prior to the event and a rider skiers the venue, the organizer has the right to DQ the rider

7. Volunteers

1. Purpose

- As a nonprofit organization, volunteers are the lifeblood of the IFSA. Individuals may volunteer in two capacities; directly for the executive directors of the IFSA, on committees of the board of directors of the IFSA or with an event organizer.

- **Responsibilities**

1. Responsibilities will vary based on which the capacity the individual is volunteering.
2. All volunteers must adhere to and follow IFSA standards as well as standards of the event organizer.
3. Volunteers should have access to and become familiar with the IFSA handbook.

8. Judging

1. Judging Overview

- There will be a total of at least 2 judges and 1 Head judge during the competition.
- Judges will judge all five categories.
- Judges will score competitor immediately following the competitor's run.
- All Categories are judged on a scale of 1 to 10 (Lowest to Highest). Line score should be 3-7.
- 0 (zero) is only used in the case of time dis-qualification (TDQ.)
- Scores will be determined as an average of all judge's scores not to exceed 50 points.
- The judges will inspect every run and discuss possible routes and conditions.
- Judges will also discuss the forerunners' runs and the scoring of their runs.
- When the first competitor starts, discussions will be at a minimum.
- Judges shall not be biased.

2. Judging Panel

- The judging panel is made up on one head judge and at least two other judges.
- The role of the head judge is to create line score and make sure other judges are staying consistent within their range of scores.
- The head judge must attend and speak at all athlete meetings, help with venue selection and related closures, and be one of the monitors of safety while judging.
- The head judge has the control to cancel an event if found unsafe once the competition has started.

3. Judging Categories

- Line Choice: Each competitor chooses his/her line or route down the course. High scores are given for choosing difficult routes. Difficulty is determined by steepness, exposure, air, snow and course conditions.
- Control: Competitors must remain in control at all times. Any loss of control will result in a lower score.
- Fluidity: Constant direction towards a goal. This includes continuity, pace, and smooth transitions between sections of the course. Falling or stopping can have a negative impact in this category.
- Technique: Competitors are judged on style and turn quality relating to big mountain freeriding.

- **Style & energy:** This encompasses the pace, energy and creativity with which a competitor attacks or descends his/her chosen line or route. Style focuses on freestyle execution of maneuvers. This is an overall impression.

4. Format

- Line choice score will be established by the head judge and concurred by the rest of the judging panel. Line choice is not relative to how it is ridden. Line Choice is the difficulty of the terrain. All other scores are directly related to Line Choice score.
- **Style 1.** The Head Judge will call out the line score during the athletes run, The other scoring judges will assist, but will primarily score the execution categories.
- **Style 2.** All three judges will call out the line score and the head judge will make the final call. As the head judge calls the number all three judges should be doing the addition in the moment. By the time the athlete reaches the finish corral the line score should be solidified. The venue size and head judge preference may dictate which style the judges use.
- Scores in the other categories control, fluidity, technique, and style & energy may only exceed the line score by 3 points.
- Falling and unsuccessfully landing jumps, cliff drops or airs of any kind will have a significant negative impact on judging categories control, fluidity and technique, style and energy.
- Major crashes and falls should be penalized in every category, a crash should essentially eliminate an athlete from making a cut.
- Tricks, and freestyle maneuvers may be awarded in style & energy, technique, fluidity and control categories. Poor execution of these maneuvers will have a negative impact in all categories. Juniors may only go 3 above in these categories.
- Control is the second category judged. If a competitor loses control in a critical zone or has a large fall, determined by the head judge and judges, scores in the remaining categories will not exceed the Control points by 2 points.
- When judging control, major and minor issues may effect all categories.
- No fall zones are not allowed in junior events. If an area has enough consequence to be considered a no fall zone it should be closed to juniors.
- The technical director with input from the head judge will make competitor cuts after every run.
- Inverted aerials are not allowed in Junior IFSA events. Inverted Aerials are defined by an athlete's boots going over the head of the athlete. Athlete can spin a corked 360 but if boots are overhead athlete is inverted and will be DQ'd.
- Inverted aerials are up to the discretion of the host site/organizer for Adult competitions.
- Inverted aerials are not permitted in Junior competitions.

- Judging continues into the finish area. Competitors must come to a controlled stop in the finish area, falling or entering the finish area out of control will be scored as a loss of control and will negatively affect all other scoring categories other than line. This for the safety of the competitor/s, staff and spectators.
- Competitors will not enter the finish area in a manner that affects spectators, crew or personal safety.
- Competitors must know where the start(s) and finish(es) are located for each competitive division. All start(s) and finish(es) should be clearly marked on the venue map and discussed at the athlete meeting.
- Competitors must finish their run in the finish area and time will not stop until the athlete does so.
- Starting positions will be determined by a random sort and not reflect the number assigned.
- A competitor will be disqualified for riding in a closed area, which includes missing a finish. The competitor will be notified of a disqualification by the Host/TD or other event official.
- Each course is assigned a generous time limit by the judges after the forerunners. The time limit must be communicated to the starter and to the athletes. Competitors who do not cross the finish line in the allotted time will receive a time disqualification (TDQ).
- Competitors who do not cross the finish line with both skis will be disqualified. The ski doesn't have to be on the foot of the athlete and can be carried across the finish line.
- If an athlete ejects from skis or snowboard they have 20 seconds to get there equipment or they are automatically DQ'd. If they are injured they must stay down and wait for assistance. If they are not injured give a head tap and exit the venue immediately.
- Poles, goggles, helmet cams, etc. may be left behind on venue without penalty. Helmets must be worn the entire venue to the finish.
- In the case of poor visibility judges must wait until the athlete is visible for the whole run.
- Judging locations should be carefully considered to provide a clear field of view and eliminate blind spots if possible.
- Judges will give the competitor scores to a scorekeeper throughout the competition for score tabulation.
- All decisions made by the judges are final. Scores are reviewed at the end of the day before they are made public. This is to identify any clerical errors. Scores may not be changed based on preference or subjectivity.
- The technical director and head judge may cancel a run or day due to weather and/or visibility. The announcement of cancellation should be performed at the completion of an entire run or before the start of a run.

- If the circumstance arises that it is necessary to cancel the remaining athletes in a division part way through the field, the technical director will be allowed to resume competition the following day in the same order as the previous day by running the entire division.

5. Format – Split Judging

- In the case of large blind spots or poor visibility split judging should be considered.
- If judges are separated throughout the venue, each judge will score all categories, including line in their respective zone.
- Zones and blindspots should be clearly defined amongst the judge panel so there will be no overlap to keep consistency.
- Judges must be able to see the entirety of the venue or their individual section making sure not to overlap sections. If they cannot, judging ninjas (spotters) may be put in place to cover blind spots.
- There are two types of split judging: 1) The venue is divided into three sections with roughly equal terrain and each venue/judge is weighted equally. Each judge judges their own section and their scores are added and averaged, or 2) The venue is divided into two sections (sometimes terrain dictates that this is the best option). The scores are weighted equally (either by averaging for the section that has two judges or by only using two judges and the third is a scoring ninja - meaning positioned to have eyes on a blind spot and communicate with the other judges by radio.
- When split judging is used, judges must use one consistent format for the entirety of a category.

9. Age Groups & Disciplines

1. The age group that the athlete is assigned to is based on their age on January 1-preceding the start of the first event.
2. All age groups include male and female competitors.
3. All age groups include the disciplines of skiing and snowboarding.
4. Skiers do not compete against snowboarders.
5. Males of the same age group do not compete against females of the same age group.
6. There should be no venue variation based on gender.
7. Progressive Venues, based on age categories should be used in all competitions

2. Junior Division

1. U12 Division - Athletes are 11 years old or younger

2. 12-14 Division - Athletes are 12 to 14 years old.
3. 15-18 Division - Athletes are 15 to 18 years old.
4. 18 year old athletes may advance to the collegiate or adult divisions. Once an athlete chooses to advance, they may no longer compete in junior class events.

3. Collegiate Class

1. Collegiate class athletes are 19 to 24 years old.
2. An athlete does not need to be enrolled in college or an equivalent to compete in the collegiate class.

4. Adult Class

1. Adult class athletes are 19 and up.

10. IFSA Ranking

1. An athlete's ranking will be determined by their top finishes as described in Appendix A Series Guidelines. Changes to this ranking system may be adjusted at the beginning of each season.
2. Tours may have their own internal ranking systems independent from the IFSA, but the IFSA's ranking is what will be used to determine invitational events and overall champions.

11. Events & Tours

1. Events

- IFSA Events are big mountain freeride competitions that have been approved by the IFSA.
- IFSA Event applications must be submitted 2 months prior to the event.
- All IFSA event applications will be approved as long as IFSA protocols are adhered to.
- The event organizer has the right to choose what age groups and disciplines will be involved in the event in conjunction with the IFSA.
- Outside of the junior pro-class and pro-class category, invitation only events will only be approved for the last month of the competitive season.
- The IFSA name and branding is not required in the title or name of any event. Rather it should be treated like one of the sponsors of the event in branding and exposure.
- If an event is to be cancelled, the event organizer must give 2 weeks notice.

2. Venue Selection & Approval

- Progressive Venues should be chosen based on the age groups and disciplines participating in the event. Awareness of "secondary hazards" should be exhibited; i.e. exposure to a fall on one hazard which could result in a continuation of a fall into/over another hazard (rocks, trees, second

cliff). So a solution may be to close off an upper feature when exposure is significant to an additional hazard below.

- The IFSA reserves the right to decline an event application if the venue proposed is not appropriate for the participating age group or discipline. The board of directors will make this decision.
- Venues should be identified and mapped (for competitor review) at least one day (preferably two days) prior to the competition on said venue(s) to allow for inspection the day before and the day of the competition. All closures shall be marked on venue and on competitor maps not later than the athlete meeting and prior to the final inspection run.

3. Registration

- IFSA approved events will use the IFSA as the resource for event registration.
- Event registration must be active 1 month prior to the event.
- In the case of open events, initial registration priority will be based on the athletes current ranking with the IFSA. After one week, the event will become open and any applicable IFSA member will be allowed to register for the event.
- An athlete registration room must be established and communicated to the athletes at least one day prior to being onsite.

4. Inspection

- One venue inspection is mandatory for all athletes at all events.
- On the day of competition athletes must have an opportunity to have full access to the competition venue to stand on top of the terrain that they wish to ski in their competition run. If the venue must be changed or altered significantly after the initial venue inspection athletes must have an opportunity for another inspection.
- Resorts should strive to have the venue open for inspection for a period of time the day before competition. However snow conditions and logistics play a factor and may limit accessibility. On the day of competition all athletes will receive an official mandatory inspection.
- Safety is a main concern when inspection is going on.
- During inspection athletes must be aware of everyone else around them.
- Slow riding, is mandatory during venue inspection.
- The technical director and/or head judge may disqualify a competitor from the competition for riding fast or reckless during inspection.
- Athletes may not session a line during inspection or jump/drop any features on the venue. In blind areas it is advised that athletes verbally announce themselves to make others aware of their presence.

- Athletes are to be respectful of fellow athletes, coaches and officials during inspection as this accounts for the highest level of traffic on the venue.
- Athletes must always be kind to the snow during inspection. Think of the rest of the competitors before you slide repeatedly in an area or stomp a take off or landing.
- Infractions of inspection rules may result in disqualification from the event.

5. Terrain Enhancement

Terrain Enhancement is not allowed. Under special circumstances event officials/host may need to enhance the venue.

- Event host/TD may allow for terrain enhancement due to conditions and safety concerns but are limited in scope to one of the following -
 - None - No alteration of terrain. Be light on the snow, no sliding out, stomping out or other modification of the snow. This is preferable style of all inspection.
 - Soft - Athletes may alter terrain with equipment on their feet (ie. sidestepping an in-run or landing, moving snow with skis or snowboard still on, very minor alterations to terrain) so long as it does not interfere with other athletes potential line. No shovel work.
- Enhancement construction must be completed the day before the event is to take place.
- If a venue has limited features and/or the conditions dictate, the TD/Host may enhance the venue to create a more challenging and safe venue. Safety must be the first concern when altering venues. No athlete participation in shovel or tool manipulated terrain.
- Any level of enhancement will be clearly posted and/or communicated to all athletes and coaches by host/TD.
- Athlete terrain enhancement during inspection or on the day of the event is grounds for Disqualification. This should be emphasized at the athlete meeting.
- **Competition**
 1. During the competition the technical director is in charge of safety, flow, staff and all other aspects of the event.
 2. If resources allow, multiple venues may be run at the same time as long as all participants in each discipline and or age group is competes on the same venue.
 3. Ski Patrol must be onsite prior to starting competition. It is required that at least two mountain ski patrol staff are stationed on top of the venue at all times, with a third patroller able to respond within two minutes of an accident. Ski patrol must be equipped with c-spine, backboard, o2, sled, and advanced life support (ALS) on venue. If ski patrol does not have enough staff to provide two patrollers on venue the competition must be halted until two patrollers can be back in position.

4. An athlete meeting must be held each evening/morning before competition to communicate updates and protocols.
5. Boundaries and closures, starts and finishes must be clearly defined (marked) and leave no room for question. Any athlete leaving the venue or through a closure or missing the finish during their run will be automatically disqualified.
6. All press which desire access to the venue (and to determine their placement on the venue) must be approved by the technical director.
7. PRESS will be told by the technical director of approved areas to station. The TD and Head judge will communicate to all press when on the venue and direct them when they move.
8. All media on course must adhere to the same safety protocols as the athletes.
9. The technical director must provide the media with credentials for identification.
10. The technical director must provide all staff with credentials for identification.

- **Results**

1. Results are final and can only be changed due to clerical error. The scorekeeper works with the head judge and technical director to accomplish this task.
2. Scores are not to be changed for any reason other than clerical errors.
3. Results must be forwarded to the IFSA in a timely manner in the official results submission format.

- **Awards Ceremonies**

1. Award ceremonies should accompany every event. The size and extent of the award ceremony is at the sole discretion of the event organizer.
2. Award ceremonies should model the values of the IFSA and be a positive reflection on the IFSA and the event organizer.

12. Competitive Season

1. All events must be scheduled in their respective competitive season.

Appendix A

Series Guidelines:

[2018 IFSA North American Junior Freeride Series 2018](#)

[IFSA Collegiate Freeride Series](#)

[2018 FWQ Series Region 2 Rules and Tools](#)