



IFSA JUNIOR SERIES HANDBOOK REGION 2

[2019 – 2020]

www.freeskiers.org

Prepared by IFSA Board of Directors and Senior Judging Committee on September 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE IFSA

I. INTRODUCTION: IFSA HISTORY

In partnership with the Freeride World Tour (FWT), the International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association (IFSA) fosters competitive Big Mountain Freeride events for junior, collegiate, and adult athletes. The IFSA is a nonprofit athlete advocacy organization serving as the sanctioning, scheduling, registration, judging, ranking and educational organization for competitive Freeride events in Region 2. Competitive Freeride on a global level is broken down into two regions.

- **Region 1** - Asia, Europe, Oceania **(Operated by the Freeride World Tour)**
- **Region 2** - Canada, South America, United States **(Operated by the IFSA)**

The IFSA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1996 by freeskiing pioneer Shane McConkey. Freeskiing in the 1990s encompassed the disciplines of skiing outside of alpine racing. These included big mountain, slopestyle, halfpipe, big air, and skier-cross. McConkey believed that the various sports of freeskiing needed an athlete-driven governing body to ensure that the athletes had a voice in the development and governance of their sport. Since then, the disciplines of freeskiing have grown rapidly, evolving into strong individual sports, many at the Olympic level. Today the IFSA focuses on fostering athlete and series growth in the sport of Big Mountain Freeride.

II. INTRODUCTION: ABOUT THE IFSA

The IFSA is working to enhance the sport of competitive Big Mountain Freeride by creating a uniform set of guidelines to ensure consistent and credible competition. We are here to represent the needs and interests of Freeride competitors, allowing them to help shape their sport. The rules and standards of competition shall be enforced by the IFSA in cooperation with members, event organizers, technical directors, regional organizers, judges, and volunteers. The IFSA has built a network of events that enable junior and adult Freeriders to compete and qualify in regional, national, and global series tours. The phenomenal growth of Freeride presents opportunities for athletes to participate in one of the most substantial trends in snow sports; in a few short years consider:

- **The IFSA has established over 55 resort partners in Region 2**
- **The IFSA sanctions over 90 Junior and FWQ Adult competitions in Region 2**
- **The growing IFSA community includes more than 3200 active junior and adult athletes**

The IFSA organization is currently run by two part-time employees and a volunteer Board of Directors. Your IFSA membership fees fund the cost of event insurance coverage and compensate our two part-time employees. In addition, membership dues support the IFSA's effort to produce and maintain guidelines and event documents, create rules of competition, maintain a ranking system, train and certify judges and coaches, provide event registration, and coordinate and schedule an event calendar of over 90 stops.

The IFSA, in partnership with the Freeride World Tour (FWT), serves as the primary rule-making, sanctioning, and ranking organization for competitive Freeride within Region 2. The IFSA operates as a nonprofit, athlete advocacy organization; it does not execute or produce events. The overall execution of each event, and therefore the series, is dependent on the commitment of like-minded event production partners, regional directors, host mountains and the event organizer community. To ensure consistency, the IFSA and FWT have established a set of guidelines that all event organizers follow in each global region. These protocols set standards for event execution and judging while simultaneously showcasing the local character of each host mountain.

The IFSA reserves the authority to amend, add, or change the official guidelines of competition at any point in time. Event sanctioning and an active IFSA Membership are required for points earned by athletes to be included in tour/series standings and for invitational event qualification.

III. INTRODUCTION: IFSA MISSION & VALUES

The mission of the IFSA is to operate as an international sanctioning body for competitive Big Mountain Freeride. With input from its members, the IFSA sets sanctioning guidelines for event execution and judging parameters. The IFSA promotes a consistent competition format and represents the needs, interests, and safety of Freeride competitors. The IFSA provides a progressive path for athlete development from grassroots junior regional competition to adult qualification for the FWT. The IFSA pursues opportunities to enable athletes to compete, learn, train, and safely have fun. The IFSA upholds eight values in order to further the aspirations, goals, and development of the members of our community of coaches, parents, judges, event organizers, and junior, collegiate, and adult athletes. First and foremost, the IFSA emphasizes the safety and sound decision making of everyone involved in competitive Freeride events.

Our 8 core values as a community are as follows:

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

IV. INTRODUCTION: IFSA CODE OF CONDUCT

An IFSA Membership is a privilege, not a right. When attending or participating in an IFSA-sanctioned event, members must agree to conduct themselves according to the IFSA established Code of Conduct. All IFSA members are responsible for their actions and conduct while attending or participating in IFSA-sanctioned events. Good sportsmanship is expected and should be cultivated by all IFSA community members, coaches, parents, and event staff.

Good sportsmanship is defined as but not limited to respect for: competition officials, resort employees, IFSA employees and fellow competitors, the skiing and snowboarding public, and the resort facilities and operating procedures. The use of courtesy and good manners, acting responsibly and maturely, refraining from the use of profane or abusive language, and abstinence from illegal or immoderate use of alcohol and use of illegal or banned substances or drugs is required.

When an individual violates the IFSA Code of Conduct at an IFSA-sanctioned event, there will be consequences associated with that misconduct. Depending on how egregious the misconduct is, the IFSA Board of Directors has the authority to impose sanctions, suspension, or expulsion as determined on a case-by-case basis.

IFSA CODE OF CONDUCT

- IFSA athletes will abide by local, regional, state and federal law while participating in an IFSA event.
- Athletes will ride in control and obey all mountain signage when riding outside of the venue.
- Drug and alcohol use by IFSA athletes is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification and suspension.
- IFSA athletes must observe all rules and codes of conduct of the host mountain.
- Ducking any rope line or disobeying any obvious signage is prohibited.
- IFSA athletes must act in a professional manner and exercise good judgment.
- IFSA athletes will treat each other, event officials, mountain officials, promoters, event organizers, sponsors, coaches, parents, and the general public with respect and kindness.

- IFSA athletes will refrain from use of abusive language or behavior.
- IFSA athletes will not steal, deface, or destroy sponsor or organizer equipment, property, or signage.

1. IFSA JUNIOR FREERIDE SERIES - REGION 2

NOTE: The information in this document applies **ONLY** to Region 2 IFSA junior athletes and IFSA-sanctioned junior events. Region 1 riders and events follow the Freeride Junior Tour (FJT) Handbook, which can differ and is **located on the www.freerideworldtour.com website.**

1.1. IFSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Big Mountain Freeride competitions are activities with inherent risks of serious personal injury, disability, and/or death. It is the sole responsibility of IFSA members to honor all contracts entered upon willingly.

The fees collected by your IFSA membership cover the cost of producing guidelines and event documents, creating rules, maintaining a ranking system, funding liability insurance, training and certifying judges and coaches, managing registration and an event calendar of over 90 stops, and compensating the IFSA's two part-time employees. The IFSA operates as a volunteer-driven organization and revenue from fees are used to support series expansion, event insurance coverage, and other sanctioning or event-related necessities. Note that aside from a small head tax fee, the IFSA does not collect revenue from event registration fees.

In order to compete at any IFSA-sanctioned event, every junior rider will acquire an [IFSA Membership](#) **BEFORE** an event takes place. All competitors must have an active IFSA membership and will not be permitted to register or earn a score without a valid license. Memberships are non-refundable. The membership year runs from the third Saturday in April to the third Friday in April of the following year. (**Example:** A 2020 Membership is valid from April 20, 2019 until April 17, 2020. Memberships can be purchased through www.freeskiers.org.)

There are several different membership types:

I. Junior Athlete Membership: \$105 USD

The Junior Athlete membership is for athletes aged 12-18 who will compete in more than one IFSA event in the 2020 season. Athletes must be 12 years of age by December, 31, 2019 to purchase this membership. Once an athlete turns 19 years of age, they are no longer permitted to compete at the junior level and will graduate to an FWQ adult athlete. **See Section 1.3.**

II. Junior Athlete One-Time Membership: \$25 USD

The Junior Athlete One-Time membership is valid for participation in ONE EVENT ONLY during 2019-2020 season. If a rider who purchased a One-Time membership wishes to compete in more events they must upgrade to a full membership (paying the difference of \$80). A Junior Athlete Upgrade is **REQUIRED** if the athlete decides to compete in additional events.

III. Junior Athlete Upgrade: \$80 USD

The Junior Athlete Upgrade membership is for athletes who purchased a \$25 One-Time membership and wish to compete in one or more additional IFSA events in the 2019-2020 season. Athletes will not be permitted to register or participate in additional events without the \$80 Junior Athlete Upgrade. Please do not make the mistake of purchasing a second \$25 One-Time membership as this creates administrative difficulties and results in inaccurate rankings.

IV. U12 Athlete Membership: \$45 USD

The U12 IFSA Membership is for athletes 11 years in age or YOUNGER on or prior to December 31, 2019.

V. IFSA Coach Membership: \$60 USD

A current IFSA Coach Membership will be **MANDATORY** to enjoy resort ticketing benefits and access competition venues. Completion of L100 or L200 Coach Certification Course is **REQUIRED** to purchase an IFSA Coach Membership; (certification is good for 2 years). Upon completion of a L100 or L200 certification course, a passcode will be provided to renew or purchase the IFSA Coach Membership.

VI. 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's 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.

1.2. REGION 2 IFSA JUNIOR SERIES TOUR FORMAT

Each season for the IFSA Junior Freeride Series begins on the third Saturday in April each year and terminates on the third Friday in April the following year. We are currently in the 2019-2020 season and it is often referred to as the 2020 season. The season will run April 20, 2019 until April 17, 2020.

The IFSA Region 2 Junior Freeride Series includes more than 65 competitive opportunities for athletes ages 18 and under. These events provide young, developing athletes with the chance to hone their skills, progress, and earn points and a ranking within the IFSA-governed Region 2. Series events are classified as U12, Regional, National, Regional Championship, or World Championship. Event participants include both independent athletes and athletes traveling with a club or team. In all cases, these athletes should be coached on safety protocols and sound decision making prior to and during all competitive events. The focus on safety and personal responsibility provides a challenging, fun, and a safer competitive environment for the junior Freeride community.

Each year in April, the IFSA Junior Freeride Series in Region 2 culminates in the IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship 3* (NorAm Champs) and the U12 IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship (U12 Champs). Region 2 riders in the 12-14 and 15-18 age categories must accumulate points throughout the competitive season (June through March) and earn a high IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking to qualify for this invitation-only event in early April.

The IFSA currently has over 2,250 active junior athletes in Region 2. Hundreds of new athletes have entered the IFSA Junior competitive landscape over the last few seasons and this growth mirrors the momentum of the expansion of competitive Freeride on a global level.

The IFSA Junior Series consists of events with different point values from 1* to 3* culminating in the IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship 3* (NorAm Champs). Athletes earning top rankings after the conclusion of the NorAm Champs in April may qualify for the Freeride Junior World Championship (FJWC) in Europe, a 4* level event that takes place the following season. Note that the FJWC is not an event sanctioned by the IFSA and as such, points earned here are not added to an athlete's Region 2 IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking.

Event Progression

IFSA U12 Regional: No points awarded for U12 divisions

IFSA Junior Regional: 2* events

IFSA Junior National: 3* events

IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship: 3* (Hosted by the IFSA in Canada or the USA)

Freeride Junior World Championship: 4* (Hosted by the FJWC in Europe)

1.3. AGE CATEGORIES & DIVISIONS

Region 2 junior riders will be classified by their age, gender, and chosen discipline:

- Age Categories: U12, 12-14, or 15-18
- Male or Female
- Skiing or Snowboarding

The age category that an athlete is assigned to is determined by their age on December 31, 2019. **Under no circumstances are athletes permitted to compete in a different division other than that determined by their age on December 31. There are no exceptions to this rule.**

- **U12 Category:** Athletes 11 years of age or younger on December 31st, 2019 will compete as U12 athletes during the 2019-2020 competitive season. *See Point I. below for further information regarding the U12 age category and U12 Championship*
- **12-14 Category:** Athletes 12-14 years of age on or prior to December 31st, 2019 will compete in the 12-14 age category during the 2019-2020 competitive season.
- **15-18 Category:** Athletes 15 years of age or older on December 31st, 2019 will compete in the 15-18 age category during the 2019-2020 competitive season. *See Point II. below for recommendations on athletes who are/will be turning 18*

I. Under-12 (U12) Division Information

In 2014, the IFSA initiated the U12 Development Plan for all Freeride athletes under the age of 12. The goal of the IFSA is to provide U12 athletes with exposure to competitive Freeride in a safe, supportive environment. The IFSA encourages the inclusion of U12 divisions at all Regional Series events, however U12 inclusion is subject to unique terrain, safety, and insurance considerations and is therefore included at the discretion of the event organizer.

The U12 age category is included in many Regional and some National Series events, but is not included in the IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship 3* (NorAm Champs). Instead, all U12 athletes with

an active IFSA membership who have **competed at least once in an IFSA-sanctioned or 'Freeride Friendly' event during the same season** will receive an invitation to the U12 IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship (U12 Champs), held in late March or early April each year. To keep the emphasis on fun and safety, rankings for U12 athletes differ from the 12-14 and 15-18 age categories. ***Refer to Section 1.8. for further information***

II. Riders 18 & Up: Junior Graduation to the FWQ Series

Athletes 18 years of age may remain in the IFSA Junior series **OR** move forward and compete in Freeride World Qualifier (FWQ) Adult and/or the Collegiate Series events. ***It is not permitted to compete in both series.*** When an athlete of 18 competes in a FWQ Adult event, they are no longer eligible to compete in the Junior Series. When an athlete turns 19 years of age, they are no longer permitted to compete in the IFSA Junior Series and are automatically considered an IFSA Adult FWQ athlete. Athletes who have previously competed in the IFSA Junior Series will see their IFSA junior points converted to an FWQ Global Seeding List ranking. It is up to the athlete to determine if they wish to compete as an IFSA junior or FWQ adult according to the guidelines above. ***Refer to Section 1.12 for information on age guidelines for attending the Freeride Junior World Championship in Europe and refer to Appendix III to view the Junior to FWQ Point Conversion Table***

1.4. IFSA GEOGRAPHIC REGION IDENTIFICATION

All IFSA Junior Freeriders are assigned to a geographical region. A geographic region is determined by the location of the provinces/states where an athlete will compete most often. If you live in one region but mainly compete in another, keep in mind that only **ONE** out-of-region finish from a Regional Series event will count toward your IFSA ranking if you are a 12-14 or 15-18 age category rider. For this reason, choose the geographical region where you will compete in the greatest number of Regional Series events.

Note that to provide better cohesiveness between events, improve coordination, and manage a region, some IFSA regions may opt to collect regional dues and employ a coordinator or volunteer to act as the regional director.

All IFSA athletes within the 12-14 and 15-18 age categories and divisions will earn an IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking within Region 2 in their division. Riders also have the ability to compare their IFSA Overall Ranking to those earned by riders in the same division within their geographical region. Geographical regions may also opt to declare Regional Champions. It is the sole responsibility of the geographical region (not the IFSA) to provide awards or conduct a ceremony to recognize Regional Champions. ***Refer to Section 1.8. for further information about points and ranking***

IFSA Junior Geographic Regions

Canada: Alberta, British Columbia

Pacific Northwest: Alaska, Oregon, Washington (and Schweitzer, ID)

Far West: California, Nevada

Northern: Montana, Wyoming

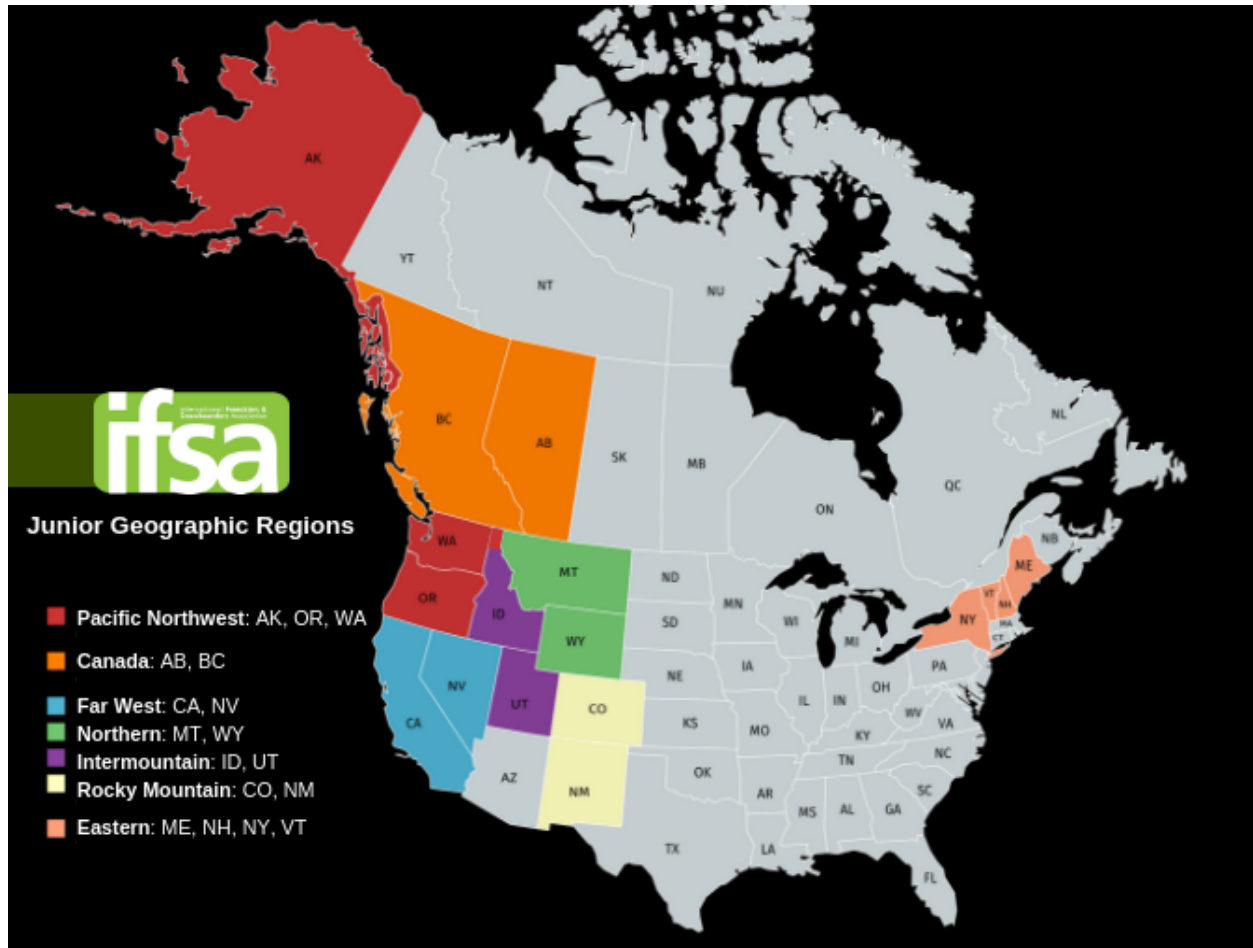
Intermountain: Idaho, Utah

Rocky Mountain: Colorado, New Mexico

Eastern: New Hampshire, New York, Maine, Vermont

NOTE: Teams and athletes out of Sandpoint, ID and Schweitzer Mountain Resort have been assigned to the Pacific Northwest geographic region rather than the Intermountain geographic region. The 2020 Schweitzer Mountain

Junior Regional 2* will be considered a Pacific Northwest Regional Series event.



1.5. FREERIDE PROGRESSION

The IFSA seeks to foster a lifelong pursuit of the joy of Freeride and has developed a progressive system to continue to engage athletes as they enter the adult Freeride World Qualifier (FWQ) Freeride community. The well-established FWQ Tour and the Collegiate Freeride Series (CFS) provide competitive opportunities for adult athletes to compete and qualify for the Freeride World Tour (FWT). Athletes must be 18 years of age or older to compete in FWQ events. **There are NO exceptions to this rule.**

FWQ Divisions

- SKI WOMEN
- SKI MEN
- SNOWBOARD WOMEN
- SNOWBOARD MEN

FWQ events are ranked as 1*, 2*, 3*, & 4* level events; points are awarded relative to each event level. The CFS (Collegiate Freeride Series) is designed to allow collegiate Freeriders to build points towards both their personal ranking and overall collegiate titles on behalf of their IFSA-affiliated university or college team/club. The FWQ Collegiate Membership is open to athletes 25 or younger as of December 31st of each season. ***Refer to the 2020 IFSA FWQ Adult Handbook – Region 2 for further information***

Similar to the Junior Freeride Series, FWQ events are operated by mountain partners and event organizers, with support and sanctioning from the IFSA and the Freeride World Tour. Currently there are more than 50 FWQ events globally. Nearly 2,500 athletes across the globe in Regions 1 & 2 possess an FWQ competition license. These individuals are highly motivated and actively seeking opportunities to compete across the globe. For many athletes, qualification for the Freeride World Tour (FWT) is the ultimate goal. Featuring the top 40-50 adult (18+) Freeriders on the planet, the FWT currently consists of five stops across Europe, Japan, and Canada. Athletes can qualify for a spot on the FWT by competing in FWQ events. *See Appendix I. for visual diagram*

1.6. WORLDWIDE RANKING/REGIONS

Junior riders can earn a ranking within two global regions worldwide:

- **Region 1:** Asia, Europe, Oceania (**Operated by the Freeride Junior Tour, FJT of the FWT**)
- **Region 2:** Canada and The United States (**Operated by the IFSA**)

Junior riders may compete anywhere in the world but can only collect points in one region. To clarify, a Region 2 junior athlete cannot earn points towards their Region 2 ranking when they compete in Region 1 events and vice versa. A Region 2 athlete is welcome to compete in Region 1, however any points earned will not be added to their Region 2 IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Rankings. *See Section 1.8. Point IV. for more information*

1.7. TOUR TITLES & IFSA SERIES BREAKDOWN

The winner of Region 1 earns the title of “**Freeride Junior Tour Champion: Europe - Oceania**”
The winner of Region 2 earns the title of “**IFSA North American Junior Freeride Champion**”

The IFSA will calculate an IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking for all Region 2 athletes in the 12-14 and 15-18 age categories. Each IFSA geographical region may also elect to recognize Regional Champions, but this is at the discretion of each geographical region and is not handled or managed by the IFSA. Regions are encouraged to develop cooperative series tours and award regional series titles. (Example: The Far West Series (TJFS) offers a TJFS championship title for Far West region riders based on results from all TJFS Regional Series finishes.

The following event types comprise the IFSA Region 2 Junior Series, culminating in the IFSA NorAm Champs and U12 Champs to award the IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship titles.

- **U12 Events:** These fun and low-pressure events are designed to introduce riders under the age of 12 to competitive Freeriding with an emphasis on safety, community, and sportsmanship.
- **Regional Series 2*:** Entry-level competitions with 60-140 competitors where local athletes or those new to Freeride can gain exposure to the competitive Freeride format and hone their skills.
- **National Series 3*:** A high-level competition with 110-180 participants designed for experienced athletes looking for the opportunity to compete alongside athletes from other regions.
- **IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship 3* (NorAm Champs):** An INVITATION ONLY championship held in April. Invitations are based on an athlete's IFSA Overall Ranking. Wild Card or petitioned invitations are not offered. Only the highest-ranking athletes in the 12-14 & 15-18 age categories will qualify. *(Note that invitations are allocated across eight divisions and are typically extended to less than 10% of the total athlete population.)* Directly following NorAm Champs, the points awarded will be used to calculate and announce the IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship winners in each 12-14 and 15-18 division.
- **U12 IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship (U12 Champs):** All active U12 athletes who have participated in at least one IFSA-sanctioned event in the current season will receive an invitation to the U12 Champs event. Following U12 Champs, the IFSA U12 North American Junior Freeride Championship winners are announced. Note that there are no overall titles condensing

the season's results for U12 athletes because they do not earn points and are not ranked. **See Section 1.8. Point III. For further U12 ranking information**

1.8. POINTS & RANKING

For riders in the 12-14 and 15-18 age categories, an athlete's IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking will include points earned from National and Regional Series events and the NorAm Championship event. To earn a ranking, a valid IFSA Athlete Membership is required for participation in ALL IFSA-sanctioned events. The IFSA will track all athlete's event finishes and provide a ranking. **To view the Junior Series Points Table, see Appendix II**

NOTE: In the 2018-2019 season, the IFSA made an alteration to the ranking calculation rules for the 12-14 and 15-18 age categories, adding one point to an athlete's score for each individual they beat within their division at an event. The Plus 1 rule will remain in effect for the 2019-2020 season. **See below**

Plus 1 Rule

Athletes in the 12-14 and 15-18 age categories will earn additional points based on the number of athletes a rider beats within their division at an IFSA-sanctioned event. In addition to being awarded points for the place earned, an athlete will also earn 1 additional point for each rider they beat in their division at all Regional, National, and NorAm level competitions. The intent of this change is to reward an athlete for the accomplishment of beating more participants at events with a greater depth of field.

Example: If a rider earns 1st place out of 20 riders in their division at a Regional Series event, they will earn 519 points in total. The rider has earned 500 points for their 1st place finish and 19 additional points for beating 19 individuals in their division at this event. A rider who earned 1st place in a division with 4 total competitors at a Regional Series event would earn a total of 503 points, 500 for earning 1st place and 3 for beating the 3 other participants in their division.

I. National Series Points

Athletes are permitted to register for a maximum of three National Series events in any IFSA geographical region. Consistent with feedback from the coaching community over the past 5 seasons, athletes are only permitted to compete in a maximum of 3 National Series events. Due to the high demand for starts, it is **not permitted** to register for more than three National Series events.

For 12-14 and 15-18 age category athletes, the BEST TWO of THREE National Series finishes will count towards their IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking.

NEW RANKING RULE FOR 2019-2020 NATIONAL SERIES EVENTS

In a National Series event, if a division lacks 3 or more registered competitors, the competitors in that division will earn a reduced number of points.

- If there are 3 or more registered participants in a division, this rule will not go into effect. An athlete is still to be counted as a competitor if they earn a DNS, DNF, or DQ.
- If there are 2 registered competitors in a National Series division, the athlete scoring 1st place shall earn the points of 2nd place and +1 for beating one competitor: 836 points.
The athlete scoring 2nd place shall earn the points of 3rd place: 738 points.

- If there is just one registered competitor in a Nationals Series division, they win by default and shall earn the point value of 3rd place: 738 points.

II. Regional Series Points

A Regional Series finish for 12-14 and 15-18 age categories will receive 50% of the points allocated to a National Series finish. ***See Appendix II. for the IFSA Junior Series Points Table***

For 12-14 and 15-18 age category athletes, the best TWO of an athlete's FIRST THREE Regional Series finishes will count towards their IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking.

Athletes are welcome to compete in Regional Series events outside of their assigned geographic region. HOWEVER, only the FIRST out-of-region finish will count toward an athlete's ranking. This finish must also be ONE of the athlete's FIRST THREE Regional Series finishes of the season in order to count toward their IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking.

III. U12 Ranking

To preserve the aspects of fun and safety for our youngest competitors, an IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Ranking will not be calculated for the U12 age category. However, each IFSA geographical region may opt to calculate the scores of U12 athletes within their region. If ranked, U12 athletes should only be ranked within their designated region. If the regional director determines that U12 rankings should be calculated for their region, the IFSA will provide the information, but a U12 ranking will not be displayed on the IFSA website. We will continue to hold an IFSA U12 Championship event with a podium ceremony to honor the U12 Championship event winners.

U12 athletes shall still be provided with a podium/awards ceremony by the event organizer at each event that includes this age category. If ranked within their geographic region, points for U12 athletes are calculated using the following criteria:

U12 finishes in both Regional and National Series events will be awarded Regional Series points.

IV. Competing in Region 1

Junior riders can compete anywhere in the world but can only collect points in one region. (**Example:** A Region 2 rider may compete at a Region 1 event in New Zealand, however no points would be earned toward their IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking.) A rider may only qualify for the FJWC 4* World Championship event via their home region (based on nationality).

1.9. NATIONAL SERIES EVENTS & REGISTRATION

The 2019-2020 IFSA Junior North American Series includes 14 Junior National Series stops. The event schedule is typically announced in September each year. To view events, navigate to www.freeskiers.org and find the 'Events' menu item, then select '[2020 IFSA Junior Events Schedule](#)'. The IFSA event pages will contain current information provided to the IFSA by the event organizer. If you have an event-specific question, contact information for the event organizer will be included on the event webpage. ***Please do not contact the IFSA for event-specific or scheduling questions – reach out to the listed event organizer.***

IFSA National Series events are designed to serve experienced athletes seeking a more competitive environment featuring riders from different regions. Athletes should have prior competition experience. National Series events present an opportunity to earn higher point values and registration preference is awarded to athletes with higher results from competitive wins in the season previous.

I. National Series Registration Protocol

Athletes are permitted to register for a maximum of 3 National Series events across any IFSA geographic region. Due to limited availability, athletes may register for no more than 3 events. Registration will take place in early

December of each season using a 3-phase registration process that unfolds as follows:

- Pre-qualified Athletes (age categories 12-14 & 15-18 only)
- Freeride Team Quota Athletes (age categories 12-14 & 15-18 only)
- Open Registration Athletes (first come, first served basis)

Timetables and details are published in mid-November on the IFSA website (under the '[NEWS](#)' section), broadcast to all members via email, and posted on all social media channels (Instagram, Facebook, & Twitter). It is the athlete's responsibility to check back frequently to avoid missing important deadlines. Registration for IFSA National Series events must abide by IFSA registration protocols and will take place on The Driven platform, typically beginning in early December. Pre-Qualified athletes will register first, followed by Team Quota registration. The remaining spots will be available to all other IFSA athletes on a first come, first served basis during Open Registration.

II. National Series Pre-Qualified Registration

Pre-Qualified status is based on an athlete's Region 2 IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking from the prior season. The total number of Pre-Qualified athlete spots is adjusted annually based on the size of the division in the previous season and the total athlete population. Upon athlete request and IFSA Board of Director approval, an injured Pre-Qualified athlete that finished two or less events in the previous season may defer their Pre-Qualified status to the following season. There are to be no Wild Cards or petitioned requests for Pre-Qualified status. With the exception of an injury waiver, all allocations are based solely on the IFSA Overall Ranking. If a rider should miss their Pre-Qualified registration deadline, they must wait and register during the Open Registration period. ***Note that only approximately 100 IFSA athletes across 8 divisions earn Pre-Qualified registration priority.***

III. National Series Freeride Team Quota Registration

The Team Quota allotment is designed to support the teams, clubs, and programs that actively train and strive to attend multiple IFSA events. To ensure the most equitable registration process possible the IFSA reserves the right to fluctuate quota allocations dependent on availability and demand. To qualify for Team Quota spots a team must have L100 or L200 certified coach(es) with active IFSA Coach Membership(s). The National Series Freeride Team Quota allocations are based on program size. For every 7 athletes participating in a program, one quota spot will be awarded to the team. Allocated spots will not exceed four per freeride team/program. Eligible program participants for program size must be over the age of 12 and must train more than 9 full days per year with a team to be considered. Quota determination will take place October through November. Based on event capacity and demand, quotas per event may fluctuate higher or lower. Coaches MUST be responsible for checking email communication from IFSA in October regarding Team Quota registration and requests. If a coach misses the established quota request deadline of November 1, the IFSA may be unable to accommodate the request. The IFSA does not engage with individual athletes in this process, all communication regarding quota allocations should be directed to an athlete's coach. If a rider should miss their Team Quota registration deadline, they must wait and register during the Open Registration period.

IV. National Series Open Registration

Open Registration will begin on The Driven platform after Pre-Qualified and Team Quota registration phases are complete. Open Registration will take place in mid-December. If events sell out, athletes may opt to add themselves to a waitlist. Your credit card will not be charged unless the athlete is moved off the waitlist onto the participant list by the event organizer. Registration opening dates and times will be published on the IFSA website under the '[Events](#)' menu item, sent by email to all members with an active 2020 IFSA Membership, and announced on the IFSA's social media accounts.

1.10. REGIONAL SERIES EVENTS & REGISTRATION

The IFSA will sanction over 55 Junior Regional Series stops during the 2019-2020 season. The event schedule is typically announced in September of each year. To view events, navigate to www.freeski.org and find the '[Events](#)' menu item, then select '[2020 IFSA Junior Events Schedule](#)'. The IFSA pages will contain the most current

information provided to the IFSA by the event organizer. If you have an event-specific question, contact information for the event organizer will be included on the event page.

IFSA Regional Series events are designed to serve as a starting point for young and new athletes entering the IFSA competitive environment. These events are intended to provide a cost-effective, close-to-home method of experiencing competitive Freeride. Regions are encouraged to manage their respective Regional Series event calendar.

I. Regional Series Registration Protocol

Regional event registration is conducted by open registration on a first come, first served basis. Event organizers are encouraged to open registration six weeks before the event date. An event organizer may opt to open a waitlist for Regional Series events. When using The Driven platform to register, your credit card will not be charged unless an athlete is moved off the waitlist onto the participation list.

Regarding registration for IFSA Regional Series events: the IFSA is committed to providing a fair and accessible registration experience for ALL athlete members. It is against the policy of the IFSA to allow event organizers to award wild cards or reserve slots for certain individuals, teams, or local competitors. All prospective competitors shall have a fair and equal chance to register for all Regional Series events as registration will be conducted on a first come, first served basis. No special preference or registration priority may be provided to any individual or teams. To cover the cost of Regional Series administration, certain regions may apply regional dues and/or membership and employ a regional director.

1.11. IFSA CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

U12 IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship

All U12 age category athletes who have participated in at least one IFSA-sanctioned event in the current season will receive an invitation to the U12 Champs event. Following U12 Champs, the IFSA U12 North American Junior Freeride Championship winners are announced. Because U12 points are not calculated, there will be no ranking for an IFSA Overall U12 Champion based on results from the season, only championship event winners.

IFSA North American Junior Freeride Championship

All NorAm Champs invitations will be based on a rider's IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking. There will be no team quotas or regional qualifiers. An athlete will not qualify for a IFSA NorAm invitation if they have not competed in an IFSA-sanctioned National Series event in Region 2 within the same season.

ATTN: For information on CHANGES to the IFSA Nationals Series ranking calculation for the 2020 season, please see Section 1.8., Section I. Nationals Series Points

Invitations will be issued for the IFSA NorAm Champs in mid-March. Families and athletes will be provided with time to make travel arrangements and the championship will take place in early April. If an athlete fails to register within the allocated window, their spot will be awarded to the next qualifying athlete in the same division. **DO NOT MISS REGISTRATION!** Check your emails often during this time frame to be informed and aware of registration protocol and deadlines.

At 4-5 days in length, the NorAm Championship in April is considered the last event of the IFSA competitive season in Region 2. Consistent with input from the IFSA Coaches Advisory Board, this event will be designed to accommodate the top ranked athletes from each division.

1.12. FREERIDE JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 4* (FJWC)

The FJWC is a one-day event in Europe that takes place the following season to crown the Freeride Junior World Champions within the following divisions:

MALE SKI
FEMALE SKI
MALE SNOWBOARD
FEMALE SNOWBOARD

The FJWC is produced by the Freeride World Tour in Region 1 and as such, is not an IFSA-sanctioned event. Invited riders must take the time to review and understand the rules and handbook applicable to Region 1. Only riders in the 15-18 division age category will receive an invitation to compete at the FJWC. Qualification for the FJWC is based on an athlete's IFSA Overall Ranking. A rider may only qualify for the FJWC 4* event in their home region (based on their nationality). (Example: A Region 2 rider may not qualify for a Region 1 FJWC invitation based on event results earned in Region 1 events.)

An athlete will not qualify for a FJWC World Championship invitation if they have not competed in an IFSA-Sanctioned National Series event in Region 2 in the previous season. (Example: If an athlete did not compete in an IFSA National Series Event in the 2018-2019 season they would not be eligible for a 2020 FJWC invitation).

Eighteen-year-old riders will respect the rules maintained by each region. Therefore, any IFSA athlete turning 19 before the FJWC competition date will not be eligible to compete. Depending on the FJWC event date, 18-year-old riders may opt to participate in the FJWC and then move on to the FWQ Adult Series that season. Athletes attending FJWC are not permitted to compete in FWQ events prior to the FJWC event. FWT Management will issue invitations for both Region 1 and Region 2 riders. The IFSA will provide FWT Management with the invitation list for Region 2 according to the past year's IFSA Overall Ranking results and the quota allotment determined for Region 2 by FWT.

FJWC results **will not** count toward the title of **IFSA North American Junior Freeride Champion**. Instead, FJWC competitors will be awarded with 4* junior level points which will be converted to their FWQ Global Seeding List ranking when they graduate to the FWQ Adult Series. **See the FWQ Point Conversion Table in Appendix III**

1.13. FREERIDE WORLD TOUR (FWQ) QUALIFICATION

Athletes are no longer eligible to compete at the IFSA junior level the day they turn 19 years of age and will graduate to the Freeride World Qualifier (FWQ) Tour. Athletes 18 years of age have the option to compete as an IFSA Junior or FWQ adult and must declare their intent. **Refer to Section 1.3. Point II. for further information regarding athlete graduation from the Junior Series to the FWQ.** When an IFSA junior turns 18 years of age, their results from participation in the IFSA Junior Series will automatically be converted to points on the FWQ Global Seeding List. This way, a junior will have earned a ranking on the FWQ Global Seeding List to and registration priority to assist with registration at 3* and 4* level FWQ events. **See the FWQ Point Conversion Table in Appendix III**

1.14. IFSA TOUR RANKING TIES

When declaring a championship winner, in the occurrence of a division tie within the top 5 places of the IFSA Overall Junior Freeride Series Ranking, a tie splitter will be utilized to determine a single winner. The tie for a championship title will be broken based on this order of the following criteria:

- Best result at The NorAm Champs event
- Best IFSA Overall Ranking Score prior to the NorAm Champs event
- Best result between tied riders at the same National Series event, head-to-head
- Best result between tied riders at the same Regional Series event, head-to-head
- Best average of results between tied riders at their two best National Series events
- Best average of results between tied riders at their two best Regional Series events

1.15. GLOBAL SEEDING LIST

Unlike Region 1, The IFSA Junior Series in Region 2 does not utilize a seeding list to facilitate event registration. For further information, *refer to Sections 1.9 and 1.10 regarding Region 2 event registration.*

1.16. EVENT REGISTRATION & WAITLIST

Registration for IFSA Junior events is conducted online through the IFSA website, www.freeskiers.org. An active IFSA Membership will be required to complete registration. To locate the registration link, visit the appropriate event page on the www.freeskiers.org website under the '[2020 IFSA Junior Events](#)' tab.

In the case that an event organizer permits on-site registration, IFSA membership must either be verified or purchased before registration. Registration fees will be collected in person by the event organizer, or via the IFSA-approved registration platform.

Event registration for IFSA Junior National Series events will begin in early December with the announcement of Pre-Qualified riders. It is solely the responsibility of the athlete and/or the team coach to pay attention to all email/news/social media communication from the IFSA regarding National Series registration deadlines. *See Section 1.9 for more information*

The IFSA encourages event organizers to open registration for Regional Series events six weeks prior to the event date. Registration for Regional Series events is run on a first come, first served basis. *See Section 1.10 for more information*

If a division or event is sold out, a waitlist may be utilized by the event organizer to admit additional riders in the event of a cancellation. The event organizer and not the IFSA manages the waitlist, *please direct questions to the event organizer (find contact information on the IFSA event page)*. If a rider opts to join the waitlist, an authorization is placed on the credit card. The credit card will only be charged if the rider is admitted to the competition. The credit card authorization will drop off the credit card if a waitlisted rider is not admitted to the competition, though the time frame depends upon your banking institution.

1.17. HEALTH INSURANCE

Big Mountain Freeride competitions are activities with inherent risks of serious personal injury, disability, and/or death. It is the sole responsibility that IFSA members will honor all contracts entered upon willingly. Competitors in Region 2 are required to have personal health insurance during all events.

In order to compete in an IFSA-sanctioned Junior Series event:

- All Release of Liability waivers must be signed by a legal guardian if the athlete is under the age of 18 in the United States or under the age of 19 in Canada.
- A Release of Liability waiver **MAY NOT** be signed by a coach
- All riders must attend the **MANDATORY** athlete meetings
- Riders must have personal health insurance for the duration of any event in which they are competing.
- Riders must have proof of individual insurance at athlete check-in and have it available for the duration of the competition.
- During their competition run, all riders must meet the equipment requirements set by the IFSA (helmet and back protector) in addition to any equipment requirements set by the event organizer.

1.18. INJURY, ILLNESS, & PREGNANCY STATUS

If a rider with Pre-Qualified status to register for National Series events becomes ill, injured, or pregnant early in the season, a rider may petition the IFSA Board of Directors to defer their Pre-Qualified status to the following season. (This only pertains to riders who will still be of age to compete at the IFSA junior level). To be eligible for petition, the athlete must have finished two or fewer events in the season to defer their Pre-Qualified status to the following season.

1.19. WILD CARDS

Unlike Region 1, the IFSA does not permit event organizers to administer Wild Card positions for IFSA Junior Events. In Region 2, Wild Card positions are only awarded to adults in the FWQ Tour Series.

2. IFSA JUNIOR EVENT FORMAT - REGION 2

The overall execution of each IFSA-sanctioned event is dependent on the commitment of like-minded event production partners and the resort community. The event organizer is ultimately responsible for adhering to and following all safety protocol outlined and established by the IFSA.

2.1. IFSA ROLES

Event Organizer: The event organizer is an individual, working either for a local mountain or organization that produces and promotes events approved by the IFSA. The event organizer is ultimately responsible for adhering to and following all safety protocol and guidelines outlined and established by the IFSA.

Technical Director: Under the direction of the event organizer, the technical director (TD) is responsible for the competition aspect of each event. TDs are experienced and competent in event management, safety guidelines, and following IFSA rules and best operating practices. The TD, with input from the head judge, has the final authority on the safety of the event as well as any issues resulting in conflict. This includes any interpretation of rules and protocols laid out in the IFSA handbook such as venue features and closures. The event organizer and TD will interface with ski patrol to establish that an emergency response plan is in place.

Head Judge: The head judge is responsible for ensuring consistency in judging and managing the activities of the other judges. 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. The head judge in conjunction with technical director will determine athlete cuts for successive competition rounds. All cuts shall be discussed with the judge panel to assure fair and natural cuts are made. The head judge, along with the TD, has the authority to disqualify an athlete for breaking any IFSA rules, event organizer rules, resort or host mountain rules, or for poor sportsmanship.

Judge Panel: At least two judges work under the direction of the head judge and offer individual perspectives of each athlete's run. All judges provide independent scores for each athlete's run. Judges are advocates for safety under the direction of the head judge.

Scorekeeper: The scorekeeper is responsible for the input and recording of scores provided by the judges in a timely manner. Scorekeepers are required to operate and use the IFSA scorekeeping tool and shall be trained ahead of time, well before the event date. It is essential that the scorekeeper prepare the materials and become familiar with the software prior to the event date.

Starter: The starter shall be an experienced individual who controls the timing of each athlete's drop into the venue. They will be in communication with the TD and judge panel at all times. The starter must verify the athlete's identity and relay their drop status to event personnel.

Forerunner: A course forerunner will be used to prepare the judging panel and begin the event. Under no circumstances may a coach with a registered athlete serve as forerunner.

Ski Ninja: A minimum of 2 ski ninjas shall be onsite and ready to perform gear retrieval at all times (clicked into bindings and ready to swiftly and safely navigate to the competitor). Snowboarders should not be used as Ski Ninjas. Coaches should only be used as ninjas if all their athlete(s) have already completed their competition runs.

Regional Director: The regional director is a community member (either paid or volunteer) who assists the IFSA Administrative Team in managing and organizing Freeride events within a region. Regional directors work with event organizer partners to coordinate a series schedule with minimal overlaps, recruit new host mountains, facilitate and assist the IFSA with communication, and help to implement and communicate all IFSA rules and best practices.

Volunteers: As a nonprofit organization, volunteers are the lifeblood of the IFSA. Individuals may volunteer in many capacities; directly for the IFSA Board of Directors or an Advisory Board, or with an event organizer. Individuals can also volunteer to support the regional director with judging coordination, scorekeeping, athlete check-in, and other tasks.

2.2. COACHES ACCOMPANYING JUNIOR RIDERS

It is recommended that an IFSA-certified coach or parent accompany all junior riders aged 14 and under.

2.3. EVENT FORMAT

There could be various types of event formats:

- **A one-day, one run event**
- **A one-day, two run event**
- **Two-day events with a qualification day and a finals day**
- **Two-day events combining scores of both days, with or without a cut after day 1**

If an event is made up of two competition days and riders cannot run on day 2 (due to weather, snow conditions, extenuating circumstances, etc.), their first run will count as their final score. It should be made clear in the athlete meeting that this scenario is a possibility if a second day of competition appears unlikely. ***See Section 2.9. for more information***

In a 2-day event with a qualification day and a final day, riders not making the cut for the final day will be added at the end of the result list based on their first run performance. They will earn points according to the event's result list after the final day.

2.4. JUNIOR VENUE INSPECTION

The most important facet of all IFSA Junior competitive Freeride events, venue inspection is a **MANDATORY** requirement for all riders. Inspection is conducted, first and foremost, to maintain the safety of competitive Freeride and to allow the athlete to make sound, responsible decisions regarding their line choice within the limitations of their ability, skill level, weather, and the snow conditions at the time of competition. Venue inspection is **MANDATORY** for all IFSA-sanctioned competitions.

Clear communication of venue inspection protocol, boundaries, closed features, etc. must be communicated to the athletes during the athlete meeting(s) and prior to inspection closure. For this reason, attendance at the athlete meeting is **MANDATORY** (See Section 2.16). The Inspection procedures are described below.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Once the venue has been officially closed for competition, only athletes, staff, event personnel, or certified coaches are permitted venue access. Valid credentials will be **MANDATORY** for anyone to obtain access to the venue in the 2019-2020 season.

- Athletes will be required to display a credential (i.e. a bib, band, badge, sticker, or number) provided by the event organizer, signifying that they are a registered participant on the event roster. Individuals or athletes not competing on that date or venue are not permitted access.
- Coaches seeking venue access are **REQUIRED** to have current IFSA Coach Certification and a current IFSA Coach Membership.

JUNIOR INSPECTION PROTOCOL

- Venue inspection is **MANDATORY** for all athletes at all events in Region 2.
- Any manner of terrain enhancement or alteration is not permitted unless clearly stated otherwise by event officials. **See section 2.5 below.** Terrain enhancement by either coaches or athletes is strictly prohibited. This behavior will result in immediate disqualification of the athlete or suspension of the coach by the head judge or TD.
- During inspection, athletes must be aware of everyone else around them.
- 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.
- Slow riding/skiing is **MANDATORY** during venue inspection.
- The technical director and/or head judge will disqualify a competitor from the competition for riding fast or recklessly during inspection.
- Athletes may not practice, session, or rehearse a line during inspection or jump/drop any features within the venue boundary. This behavior will result in immediate disqualification.
- In blind areas, athletes shall verbally announce themselves to make others aware of their presence and intended next move/position.
- Athletes are to be respectful of fellow athletes, coaches, and officials during inspection.
- Athletes and coaches must respect the snow coverage while inspecting. Consider the rest of the competitors before you slide repeatedly in an area or access snow in a takeoff or landing zone. Never set a traverse across a landing zone as riders following your line will create a rut in the snow that will become

a safety hazard. Whenever possible, use a side step motion instead of sliding or skidding to a stop. Riders may ski through a zone to check snow but traversing shall be avoided.

- Note that an inspection closure is defined as an area that cannot be accessed during inspection. These are areas that may not withstand inspection pressure. To conduct the competition safely, inspection closures must be limited to inspection and reevaluated as potential venue options before the competition by the head judge and TD.
- Reckless behavior or infractions of inspection rules will result in immediate disqualification from the event at the discretion of the TD and head judge.

2.5. TERRAIN ENHANCEMENT

Terrain enhancement or alteration by athletes is not permitted unless clearly stated otherwise by the technical director. ***See below for specifications.*** Terrain enhancement or alteration by either coaches or athletes is strictly prohibited. This behavior will result in immediate disqualification of the athlete or suspension of the coach by the head judge or technical director.

Under special circumstances an event organizer and technical director may need to employ terrain manipulation to enhance the venue. If this is the case, it must be completed and clearly communicated prior to the beginning of venue inspection.

- If a venue has limited features and/or the conditions dictate, the TD/event organizer 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 is permitted.
- Any level of enhancement will be clearly posted and/or communicated to all athletes and coaches by the event organizer or TD. The enhancement must be completed prior to the first inspection run of the competition day and communicated and announced to athletes and coaches. This is just one reason why athlete meeting attendance is **MANDATORY**.
- Due to snow conditions or safety concerns, an event organizer and TD may allow for terrain enhancement by coaches, athletes, event staff or volunteers in specific scenarios. However, this is restricted to situations where snow compaction is needed in the case of breakable crust, icy conditions, etc.
- It must be emphasized that athletes enhancing or manipulating the terrain during inspection or on the day of the event will be disqualified.
- It must be emphasized that coaches enhancing or manipulating the terrain during inspection or on the day of the event will be stripped of their coaching credentials and their IFSA Coach Membership shall be suspended until a satisfactory response to the IFSA Board of Directors is submitted.

2.6. NATURAL vs MAN-MADE VENUES

There can be different types of Freeride competitions:

- Pure Big Mountain: The face is untouched and the athletes ride it as it is
- Man-made Venue: Venues with man-made kickers may be included in the IFSA Junior Series

2.7. IFSA REGION 2 SCORING

To be on the podium, the athletes must have earned a score. In the event that less than three riders earn scores, the podium could consist of one or two riders only. If all riders earn a DNS, DQ, or DNF, there will be no podium winners for that division and all the riders (excluding DQs) will tie for last place. **(Example:** All riders receive the points of 7th place in an event with 7 riders who all earn a DNF score and there were no DQs.)

NEW FOR 2019-2020

To earn a score, every competitor **MUST** exit the venue through the finish corral. If an athlete exits the venue boundary at any point, a DQ will be awarded, even if a DNF score was initially earned. To maintain the safety of the event, if an athlete leaves the start gate it is now **MANDATORY** that they exit the venue through the finish corral.

IFSA Scorekeeping Codes

The following codes are used by Region 2 judges when score competitive Freeride Runs:

DNS: Did Not Start

A rider who does not show up at the start gate or who showed up at the start gate but was missing any **MANDATORY** equipment (i.e. helmet or back protector), will earn a DNS (Did Not Start). They will not earn any points. A DNS does not count against a rider's allotted 3 National Series or 3 Regional Series events. In the case of an event with two days of competition, the rider will not receive any points if the DNS occurred on the qualifying day. If a rider qualified for day two, but for any reason was absent at the start of the second day of competition, they will earn a DNS and no points on day two; however, they will still be awarded a place and ranking points according to their first run results.

DNF: Did Not Finish

If a rider loses their ski or board and/or requires assistance from a ski ninja or a member of ski patrol, a Did Not Finish (DNF) score will be awarded. A DNF will be awarded if a rider crosses the finish line without both skis or their snowboard. In the event that DNF criteria is met, an uninjured athlete must ride to the bottom via the most direct route in a safe, expedient manner without performing any tricks or drops; they may not exit the venue boundary and must complete their run through the finish corral in order to earn DNF points. If a DNF rider leaves the venue boundary or fails to exit the venue through the designated finish area, they will instead earn a DQ and zero points instead of a DNF and last place points.

Tied for Last Place Rule: Riders who earn DNF scores shall all be tied and awarded points for last place. **(Example:** In an event's final day with 20 riders in which 4 riders crashed and did not complete their runs, the 4 riders all tie in 16th place and all will earn the points of 16th place.)

DQ: Disqualification

A rider receiving a DQ (Disqualification) will be ranked last, after all DNF riders. In addition, the event will count as one of a rider's three allotted Regional Series or National Series finishes and a score of zero points will be assigned.

A rider could receive a DQ for any one of the following actions:

- Executing an inverted maneuver. Front flips and backflips are prohibited in junior competition, worldwide. Horizontal spins (helicopters) or flat spins are still accepted as long as the feet do not raise higher than the rider's head. Inverts are NOT permitted in any IFSA Junior competition. **See Section 2.8.**
- Entering the finish area in a manner that compromises personal safety of other athletes, spectators or crew.

- Entering a closed area or violating any clearly marked venue boundaries.
- Infraction of venue inspection protocol during inspection such as: violating terrain enhancement rules riding fast or recklessly, sessioning a line, or hitting/dropping any features.
- The TD and head judge have the authority to DQ a competitor for breaking any IFSA rules, resort, organizer, or venue rules, and for poor sportsmanship or violations of the IFSA Code of Conduct.
- If the organizer decides to close the venue prior to the event and a rider accesses the venue, the TD, head judges, or event organizer has the authority to DQ the rider.
- If the rider exits the venue boundary or fails to exit the venue by way of the designated finish corral after a significant crash, equipment loss, or injury.
- If a rider should continue their planned run after a DNF event, **they are subject to disqualification (DQ) from the current event and suspension from future events at the discretion of the IFSA Board of Directors.**

NS: No Score

This is a scorekeeping code utilized in Region 1 and it is not employed by the IFSA judges in Region 2.

2.8. FLIPS & SPINS RULE

The focus for IFSA Juniors is to learn sound decision making and promote safety. As such, inverts (front flip or back flip) will not be permitted in any IFSA-sanctioned junior competition. This rule applies to all IFSA juniors regardless of gender, division, or age category. Horizontal spins (helicopters) or flat spins are still accepted as long as the feet do not raise higher than the rider's head. Riders executing a spin with feet higher than head will be awarded a DQ, earning zero points. **See Section 2.7. above**

NOTE This rule prohibiting inverts also applies to the Freeride Junior World Championship 4*, U12 Championship, and NorAm Championship 3* events.

2.9. WEATHER RULE

If weather or visibility is unfavorable, the technical director and head judge may opt to utilize a split judging format. If judges are separated throughout a venue, radios will be used to communicate and establish a clear venue. In split judging, judges will score all categories in their respective zones, turning in one or two scores per zone. The use of split judging in Region 2 rule is in contrast to Region 1, which uses the 2/3rd rule in place of split judging.

The technical director may cancel a division or a competition day due to weather and/or visibility. If possible, the announcement of cancelation should be performed after the completion of a division. Each athlete in an entire division must have the opportunity to complete their run for the division results to be validated. If the competition is stopped due to weather conditions or any other occurrence without completion of a division, those results will be invalid. The decision to halt the competition is made by the technical director with input from the head judge. Results for a division will be validated upon completion of the entire division and this can vary between divisions depending on current conditions, extenuating circumstances or time constraints.

If a division is incomplete and weather or current conditions indicate that the completion of the division is unlikely, the TD, with input from the head judge, may opt to rerun the entire division with split judging in place to validate the results. It is not permitted to switch to a split judging format mid-division when some but not all riders have completed their competition run.

A TD may decide to organize a rerun for all competitors in a division. This decision is at the TD's sole discretion after gathering information from the event organizer, head judge, ski patrol, current weather forecast etc.

For a two-day competition format, if the weather doesn't allow for a second day or if divisions from day one are not completed, the TD will decide upon one of several scenarios:

- Results are validated on a division by division basis as they are completed.
- In the event that it is impossible to complete a final run for a division when qualification runs were completed, the qualifying run results are validated and these scores will serve as the final score for the event.
- If a division is not completed and a finals run competition day is possible with a sufficient weather window, the TD may elect to rerun the entire qualification runs for an incomplete division. If a finals run is not possible, then the scores from the qualifying run will serve as the final results for the event.
- If it is impossible to complete a particular division within the event window, results are not counted and points will not be earned by the athlete. This event will not count against an athlete's allotted count of three Regional Series and three National Series events.

2.10. EVENT CANCELTION/POSTPONEMENT & REFUND

Cancellation policies are established at the discretion of each individual event organizer for IFSA Junior events. The cancellation policy will be posted on every IFSA event page. When completing registration for each event, riders agree to the cancellation policy set by the event organizer. Refunds will not be provided once an event has taken place.

Scenario 1: If the event organizer must cancel the event due to lack of snow or poor conditions prior to the arrival of the riders, the event organizer shall refund a portion of the registration fee to each rider. Funds may be withheld to cover transaction fees and various event expenditures.

Scenario 2: If the event organizer must cancel the event on the scheduled day because it could not be held during the weather window due to bad weather or other circumstances, registered riders will not be refunded. This is because the event organizer has compensated judges, employees, ski patrol, event staff, paid for awards and swag, and absorbed the cost of discounted lift tickets.

Scenario 3: If a registered rider is sick or injured and must cancel registration, a full refund (minus the transaction fee) will be provided. To receive a refund, the rider must present a valid medical certificate to the event organizer and the IFSA Administrative Team. The rider shall contact the IFSA and the event organizer as soon as possible so that a replacement rider can be added to the roster. To receive a refund, the medical certificate must be sent no later than 3 days after the event to the event organizer and the IFSA Administration.

Scenario 4: If an event organizer must postpone or reschedule the event, any rider who must cancel their registration because they are unable to attend the new event date will receive a full refund (minus the transaction fee). If the event is postponed, all registered riders will be admitted to the rescheduled competition. Any remaining spots will be filled from the waiting list. If the rescheduled event is not yet full, registration will reopen.

Scenario 5: If a registered rider requests a cancellation due to a scheduling conflict or other extenuating circumstance it is up to the event organizer to determine the refund amount. The event organizer must provide a cancellation policy to the IFSA prior to the opening of event registration. The IFSA recommends the following cancellation policy:

- If a rider requests a refund more than two weeks prior to the event date, a full refund (minus transaction fees) will be issued.
- If a rider requests a refund less than two weeks before the event date, a 50% refund (minus transaction fees) will be issued.
- No refund will be provided for cancellations made less than one week before the event date.
- It is at the sole discretion of the event organizer, and not the IFSA, when and under what circumstances a refund will be issued.

2.11. POINTS FOR CANCELED EVENTS

If an event is canceled for any reason, riders will not receive any points in Region 2 and this event will not be included in a rider's allotted event count for Regional or National Series events.

2.12. CANCELED DIVISIONS

There are currently no restrictions in place for a required minimum number of registered riders to run a division. If fair warning is provided to any registered athlete(s), an event organizer may cancel or eliminate a division with few or no registrations. It is at the sole discretion of the event organizer to determine which divisions and age categories are included in an event.

NOTE: There is a NEW RULE in place for the 2019-2020 season regarding Nationals Series events where a division has less than three registered participants. *See Section 1.8., Point 1.*

2.13. TRAINING ON COMPETITION VENUES

The event organizer will determine when the competition venue(s) shall be closed prior to competition. The IFSA recommends closing the venue as far in advance as possible, especially in the event of fresh snowfall.

If competitors ride the competition venue(s) after the event organizer has decided to close it, and the closure is clearly marked and communicated, the event organizer, the TD, or head judge has the authority to disqualify these riders. Riding the competition venue(s) before they are officially closed is permitted. However, keep in mind that excessive sessioning may negatively impact the venue quality on competition day. Please consider this before using the venue prior to the official inspection closure. Also consider that event officials, the technical director, and/or the head judge may be on the venue in the days leading up to the competition to determine closures, establish features, and delineate boundaries. Reckless riding by registered participants endangers the individuals responsible for executing this critical component of event preparation.

2.14. DRONE FILMING ON COMPETITION VENUES

It is forbidden for riders to use personal drones to film any venue face 30 days prior to the competition date. Only drone footage/pictures provided by the event organizer can be given to all competitors.

2.15. ATHLETE COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

Big Mountain Freeride 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. The following items are required in order for an athlete to compete in an IFSA-sanctioned event:

- The IFSA Release of Liability Waiver (ROL) for juniors under the age of 18 must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. The waiver MAY NOT be signed by a coach. Riders 18 years of age or older in the USA and 19 years of age or older in Canada must sign their own waivers.
- The event ROL waiver must be signed for each event, even if there are multiple events at the same mountain in the same year/season.
- Competitors 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.
- Attendance at athlete meetings is **MANDATORY**. The technical director, event organizer, and judges are not responsible for providing information to absentees.
- Attendance during athlete venue inspection is **MANDATORY**.
- Athlete safety equipment requirements are **MANDATORY**. Athletes not in possession of required safety equipment will be assigned a DNS score. Athletes who attempt to compete without the **MANDATORY** safety equipment as specified by both the IFSA and the event organizer will earn a DNS. **See Section 2.18 for more information**
- Athletes must adhere to the IFSA Code of Conduct for the entirety of a competition at the host mountain. Athletes must also remember they represent the IFSA community and as such, should conduct themselves in a responsible, respectful manner that presents Freeride in a positive light. **See the IFSA Code of Conduct in the Introduction**
- It is the responsibility of the competitor to make their start time.
- If an athlete may miss their start list position by more than 5 riders, they must communicate their tardiness with the TD or event organizer and describe the circumstances preventing them from making their start time. If an athlete should miss their division entirely, they will earn a DNS. It is the decision of the TD/starter where to place the rider in the event they miss their start. Repeated infractions of missing start times will result in a DNS or DQ score at the discretion of the head judge and/or TD.
- 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 a DQ.
- If an athlete crashes and may be injured, the athlete should stay down and wait for patrol to assist them.
- 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 (DNF) they can then proceed to grab their gear or wait for assistance from a ski ninja. In either case, they should refrain from riding additional features that may cause another crash and further delay the competition. The rider must exit the venue via the finish corral, avoiding significant features, drops, or airs. Should the rider exit the venue boundary, hit airs, drops, or ride in a reckless manner as deemed by the TD and/or head judge, or fail to exit through the designated finish area, the DNF score will be converted to a DQ and no points will be earned.

- In the event of a crash, equipment loss, DNF, or DQ an athlete must remain within the venue boundary and shall always exit via the finish corral. If the athlete exits a venue boundary or fails to exit through the designated finish area the DNF score will be converted to a DQ and zero points will be earned.
- Competitor bib/sticker must be worn during inspection and competition.
- Video review of competition runs may only be used for the purpose of developmental feedback for individual athletes. Any persons promoting video content that may be deemed by the BOD to have adverse impact on any aspect of the Freeride competition community or IFSA judging is considered unacceptable. Actions taken are at the sole discretion of the IFSA BOD

2.16. ATHLETE MEETING

*Athlete meetings are held before the competition and are **MANDATORY** for all riders.*

The athlete meeting is **MANDATORY** to ensure the safety of all riders and preserve the integrity of the competition. Riders must be informed about snow conditions, potential venue closures, venue boundaries, resort policies and/or rules, access to the start gate, the event schedule, and any **MANDATORY** safety gear. ***Riders who cannot attend the athlete meeting for valid reasons MUST coordinate beforehand with the event organizer and technical director to receive their security speech and bib number at some other time.***

2.17. ATHLETE BIBS

Athlete bibs, numbers, or stickers will be randomly assigned during athlete check-in and must be visible during inspection and competition runs.

2.18. ATHLETE SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Athletes failing to meet equipment requirements set by both the IFSA and the event organizer will not be permitted to start and will be awarded a DNS (Did Not Start) score, earning no points. DNS riders will not receive a refund for the registration fee.

- Helmets are **MANDATORY** when inspecting, competing, or riding within the venue. Coaches must also wear a helmet when accessing the venue.
- **NEW FOR 2019-2020 SEASON** – It is **MANDATORY** that an athlete wear a back protector during their competition run(s).
- The IFSA strongly recommends additional protective gear when training or competing in Freeride such as but not limited to: hip, knee, and elbow pads, and a mouth guard.
- The event organizer may require additional protective and/or safety equipment beyond the items mentioned above, including but not limited to an avalanche transceiver, probe, shovel, and avalanche airbag, or avalung device.

2.19. AWARDS/PODIUM CEREMONY

An awards or podium ceremony is a requirement for all IFSA-sanctioned events. The size and extent of the award ceremony is at the sole discretion of the event organizer. Award ceremonies should model the values of the IFSA and be a positive reflection on the IFSA, the athletes, and the host mountain with an emphasis on good sportsmanship. The IFSA works as an advocate for athletes and on occasion, may provide prizes, though this responsibility primarily falls to the event organizer. Event organizers should strive to partner with sponsors or organizations who may be willing to contribute gift certificates, swag, gear, and/or trophies. Note that cash prizes are not acceptable at IFSA junior level competitions.

3. IFSA POINTS SYSTEM & TIEBREAKING

3.1. IFSA JUNIOR POINT TABLES

All IFSA athletes are awarded points for their participation and ranking in sanctioned Freeride events. The number of points awarded depends on the event type: Regional, National, Championship, U12 Championship, or World Championship. **For IFSA Junior Point Table, see Appendix II and for information on the IFSA Junior Series scoring system, see Section 1.8.**

3.2. TIEBREAKING PROTOCOL

In the occurrence of a tie within the top five place-holding riders, a tiebreak protocol will be performed by the judge panel. The tiebreak should first be determined by which rider scored higher in the control criteria. A higher control score will earn a higher placement, breaking the tie. If the tie cannot be broken using the control score, then the technique score will be used.

If athletes should earn the same score outside of the top five places, the tied riders are awarded the same place and number of points as the highest of the two tied scores. The next place is then skipped for the next non-tied athlete in the ranking. (Example: If two athletes tied for 7th place the sequence of places awarded goes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 7, 9, etc. and the tied athletes each earn the points of 7th place.

4. CALENDAR

For the southern hemisphere competitions, the event name/dates/location/star attribution will be announced before the end of June. For the northern hemisphere competitions, the event name/dates/location/star attribution will be announced before the end of November.

Note that additional events could be announced during the season. The IFSA will always post any available updates from event organizer on the IFSA event pages. Visit www.freeskiers.org and click the **'Events'** option from the menu bar. Then select **'2020 IFSA Junior Events'** to view current event offerings.

5. JUDGING

A panel of judges consists of at least two judges and one head judge. Athletes competing in IFSA-sanctioned competitive Freeride events are judged on their performance within five different categories. For a basic overview of the five judging categories, see below.

- **Line Choice:** Each competitor chooses their line or route down the course. Higher scores are given for choosing more difficult routes. Difficulty is determined by steepness, exposure, air, snow and venue 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 will negatively impact scores 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 their chosen line or route. Style focuses on the fluid execution of maneuvers. This is an overall impression.

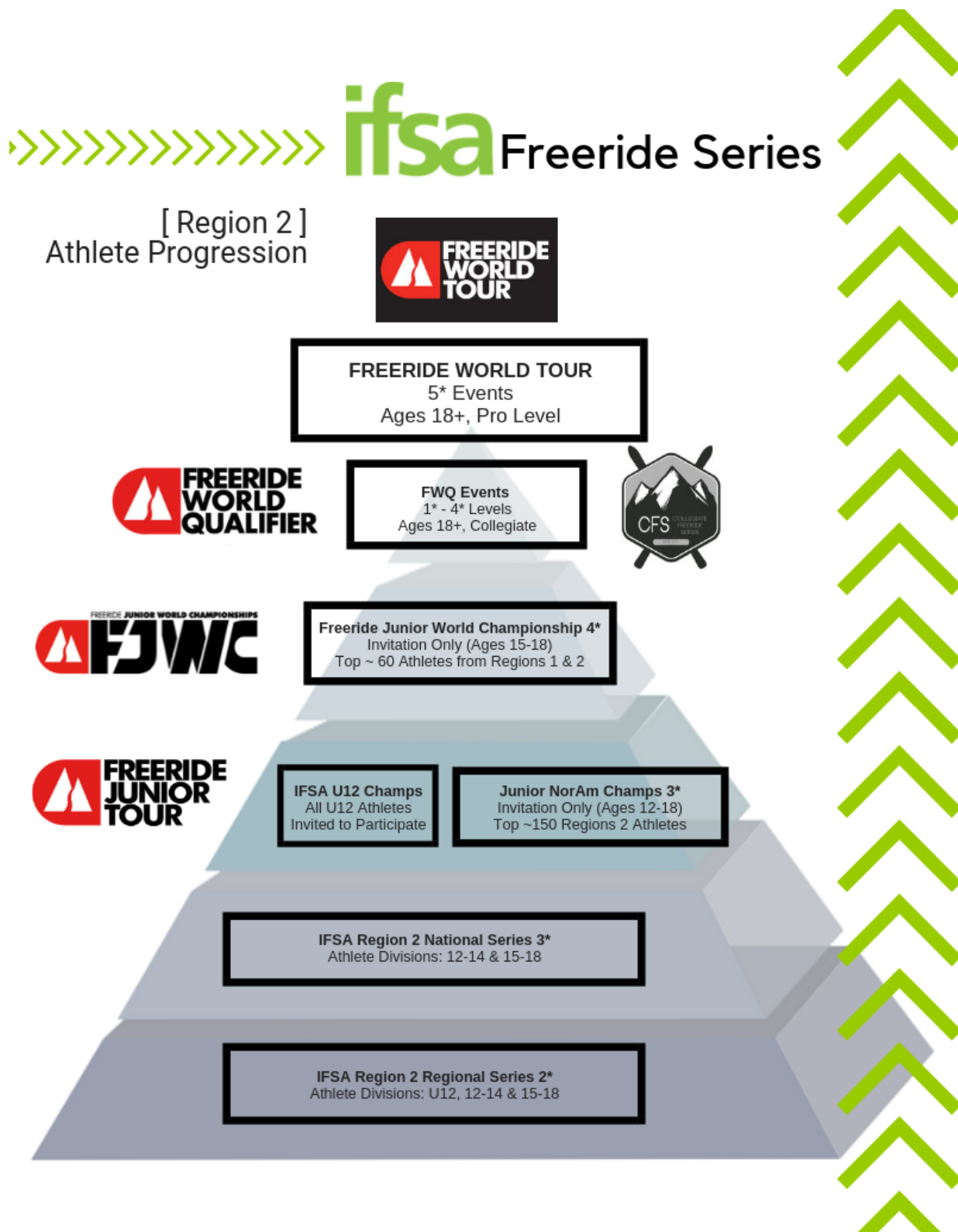
6. SCORING COMPLAINTS & ATHLETE PROTESTS

The following information pertains to athlete protests and scoring complaints:

- Protests may be filed due to run interference and must be brought to the attention of the TD immediately after the run.
- Protest against disqualifications and or/clerical order must be made within 15 minutes after the posting of final results.
- It is the responsibility of the competitor to substantiate their protest.
- No protests against scoring are allowed. All scores are final. Scores will not be changed or adjusted.
- The technical director may grant a provisional rerun due to interference on a case-by-case basis.
- If the technical director cannot make the determination of a provisional rerun, it is up to the discretion of the head judge.
- Once the decision to award a rerun is made by the TD, the score for the first run is permanently removed from record and the rerun becomes the only score of record.
- Under no circumstances may a competitor protest directly to the IFSA judges. All protests must be addressed to the technical director.
- If the protest is unsubstantiated by another competitor, it will be automatically denied.

APPENDIX

I. FREERIDE PROGRESSION TABLE



II. REGION 2 IFSA JUNIOR POINTS TABLE

Points are awarded for all finishes at all IFSA-sanctioned Freeride events. The point spread will include differentiating point values up to a finish of 44th place; all remaining finishes will receive the base point value indicated below. Effective the 2018-2019 season, all athletes will earn the base point value for their finish, plus 1 point for each athlete they beat within their division. ***See Section 1.8. for more detailed information.***

Finish/Position	North American Champs	National Series	Regional Series
1	1250	1000	500
2	1044	835	417
3	923	738	369
4	837	670	335
5	771	617	308
6	717	573	287
7	671	537	268
8	631	505	252
9	596	477	238
10	565	452	226
11	536	429	215
12	510	408	204
13	487	389	195
14	465	372	186
15	444	355	178
16	425	340	170
17	407	325	163
18	390	312	156
19	374	299	149
20	358	287	143
21	344	275	138
22	330	264	132
23	317	253	127
24	304	243	122
25	292	234	117
26	280	224	112
27	269	215	108
28	258	207	103
29	248	198	99
30	238	190	95
31	228	182	91
32	219	175	87
33	209	167	84
34	200	160	80
35	192	153	77
36	183	147	73

37	175	140	70
38	167	134	67
39	160	128	64
40	152	122	61
41	145	116	58
42	138	110	55
43	131	104	52
44	125	100	50
45 - 100	125	100	50

III. FWQ POINTS CONVERSION TABLE

When an IFSA Junior turns 18 years of age, their results from participation in the IFSA Junior Series will automatically be converted to points on the FWQ Global Seeding List. This way, a junior has earned a ranking on the FWQ Global Seeding List to assist with registration at 3* and 4* level FWQ events.

Note that the point values differ between divisions and you must locate the appropriate table to view points. To view the tables in full, locate the FJT Rider's Rules document on the www.freerideworldtour.com website.

SNOWBOARD WOMEN FWQ POINT CONVERSION TABLE

FJT 4****		FJT 3***		FJT 2**		FJT 1*	
ranking	points	ranking	points	ranking	points	ranking	points
1	1300	1	800	1	480	1	260
2	1020	2	650	2	360	2	190
3	840	3	500	3	280	3	145
4	700	4	400	4	230	4	120
5	590	5	350	5	200	5	105
6	500	6	300	6	175	6	92
7	430	7	265	7	155	7	80
8	380	8	240	8	135	8	70
9	330	9	210	9	115	9	62
10	290	10	180	10	98	10	54
11	255	11	160	11	83	11	48
12	225	12	140	12	73	12	42
13	195	13	122	13	70	13	37
14	170	14	105	14	64	14	33
15	145	15	90	15	58	15	29
16	125	16	80	16	53	16	26
17	105	17	71	17	49	17	23
18	90	18	64	18	46	18	21
19	85	19	58	19	43	19	19
20*	80	20	53	20	40	20	18

* To view additional point values, use the FJT Region 1 Riders Rules on the www.freerideworldtour.com website.

SKI MEN FWQ POINT CONVERSION TABLE

FJT 4****		FJT 3***		FJT 2**		FJT 1*	
<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>
1	1300	1	800	1	480	1	260
2	1020	2	640	2	360	2	190
3	840	3	500	3	280	3	145
4	700	4	410	4	230	4	120
5	600	5	360	5	200	5	105
6	520	6	315	6	175	6	95
7	450	7	275	7	160	7	90
8	400	8	245	8	150	8	88
9	370	9	225	9	140	9	86
10	345	10	210	10	135	10	85
11	325	11	195	11	130	11	84
12	310	12	185	12	125	12	83
13	295	13	175	13	120	13	82
14	285	14	170	14	115	14	81
15	275	15	165	15	110	15	80
16	266	16	160	16	108	16	79
17	258	17	158	17	106	17	78
18	250	18	156	18	104	18	77
19	243	19	154	19	102	19	76
20	237	20	152	20	100	20	75
21	232	21	150	21	99	21	74
22	227	22	148	22	98	22	73
23	222	23	146	23	97	23	72
24	218	24	144	24	96	24	71
25	214	25	142	25	95	25	70
26	210	26	140	26	94	26	69
27	207	27	138	27	93	27	68
28	204	28	136	28	92	28	67
29	201	29	134	29	91	29	66
30	198	30	132	30	90	30	65
31	195	31	130	31	89	31	64
32	192	32	128	32	88	32	63
33	189	33	126	33	87	33	62
34	186	34	124	34	86	34	61
35	183	35	122	35	85	35	60
36	180	36	120	36	84	36	59
37	177	37	118	37	83	37	58
38	174	38	116	38	82	38	57
39	171	39	114	39	81	39	56
40	168	40	112	40	80	40	55

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41	166	41	110	41	79	41	54
42	164	42	108	42	78	42	53
43	162	43	106	43	77	43	52
44	160	44	104	44	76	44	51
45*	158	45	102	45	75	45	50

* To view additional point values, use the FJT Region 1 Riders Rules on the www.freerideworldtour.com website.

SKI WOMEN & SNOWBOARD MEN FWQ POINT CONVERSION TABLE

FJT 4****		FJT 3***		FJT 2**		FJT 1*	
ranking	points	ranking	points	ranking	points	ranking	points
1	1300	1	800	1	480	1	260
2	1020	2	640	2	360	2	190
3	840	3	500	3	280	3	145
4	700	4	410	4	230	4	120
5	620	5	360	5	200	5	105
6	560	6	315	6	175	6	95
7	500	7	275	7	160	7	85
8	450	8	245	8	150	8	75
9	400	9	225	9	140	9	70
10	350	10	210	10	130	10	65
11	310	11	195	11	120	11	62
12	285	12	180	12	110	12	59
13	255	13	165	13	105	13	56
14	230	14	150	14	100	14	53
15	210	15	140	15	95	15	50
16	195	16	130	16	90	16	47
17	180	17	120	17	85	17	44
18	170	18	110	18	80	18	42
19	160	19	100	19	75	19	40
20	150	20	95	20	71	20	38
21	140	21	90	21	67	21	36
22	130	22	85	22	63	22	34
23	125	23	80	23	59	23	32
24	120	24	75	24	55	24	30
25	115	25	70	25	51	25	28
26	110	26	67	26	47	26	26
27	105	27	64	27	45	27	24
28	100	28	61	28	43	28	22
29	95	29	58	29	41	29	20
30*	90	30	55	30	39	30	19

* To view additional point values, use the FJT Region 1 Riders Rules on the www.freerideworldtour.com website.