

## **Objectives:**

**#1 to provide racers the feeling of excitement that results from head to head competition**

**#2 to give every racer a maximum opportunity to participate and succeed. No DQ's, no DNF's**

**#3 to make ski racing fun, efficient, affordable and spectator friendly.**

**#4 to provide a tool to assist in the development of junior alpine ski racers.**

## **Overview:**

This is a modified version of the FIS parallel slalom. It is not a single elimination format rather it is to provide the maximum number of runs to the all athletes.

This “pro” start dual format is just intended to be a simplistic as possible in an effort to reach the desired objective outlined above.

It is designed to be conducted with from 2 to 4 heats where each heat consists of 2 runs by each athlete. The number of heats can vary based on the number of athletes or the allotted time available or both. In the final analysis the sum total of the 2-3-4 heats (four, six, eight runs determines the winner.

## **The Parallel Slalom Event**

### **Definition**

The parallel race is a competition where two competitors race simultaneously side by side down courses. The setting of the courses, the configuration of the hill and the preparation of the snow are to be as identical as possible. The race could be sanctioned for two, three or four heats (four, six, eight runs) based on the number of race entries.

### **Vertical Drop**

The vertical drop of the course should be between 80 and 120 m. There should be between 20 and 30 gates, not counting the start and finish.

### **Choice and Preparation of the Course**

1. Choose a slope wide enough to permit two courses safely, preferably slightly concave (permitting a view of the whole course from any point). The terrain variations must be the same across the surface of the slope. The course layouts must have the same profile and the same difficulties. For junior skiers there should be no jump.

2. Over the full width of the chosen slope, the (snow) surface should be consistently hard, and must offer equal race conditions on both courses.

3. The course should be entirely closed off by B-netting. It is recommended to fence off reserved places intended for trainers, competitors and servicemen.

### **The Courses**

1. Each course is designated by a series of gates, each gate is composed of two slalom poles with a GS gate panel stretched between them and fastened in such a way so as to tear or break away according to FIS specifications,

2. Poles and panels are red for the course on the left and blue for the other course on skiers right. The bottom of the panel must be approx. 1 m above the snow.

3. The same course setter establishes the courses and makes sure they are identical and parallel. The course setter must ensure that the course flow is smooth and that there is variety in the curves (very pronounced curves) and that the course causes rhythm changes. In no case should this event resemble a long straight run from top to bottom.

4. The first gate in each course should be placed no less than 8m and no more than 15 m from the start. Distance between consecutive gates on the same course should be no less than 10m and no more than 15m in a parallel slalom. (For a GS, no less than 20m and no more than 25m)

5. The separation between courses must be no less than 8m.

6. Shortly before the finish line, after the last gate, the separation between the two courses must be well marked so that they direct each competitor towards the middle part of the respective finish.

### **Distance between the Two Courses**

1. The distance between two corresponding gates (from turning pole to turning pole) should be no less than 8m and no more than 10m.

2. The distance between the starting gates should be the same as between the two courses.

### **Start**

#### **1. Start Gates**

The distance between the starting gates should be the same as between the two courses. The gate itself resemble any mechanical device (horse gate or drop down) capable of simultaneous opening of both sides and initiating a signal to start the clock for both courses.

## **2. Start Intervals**

If the start takes place at irregular intervals, the chief of timing and calculations or his assistant tells the starter when each competitor should start, in agreement with the Jury. Otherwise, the competitors on the two courses must have passed the finish line before the next competitors starts.

## **3. Start control**

The Jury and the starter together will control the start. The start signal can only be given after the Jury has given the competitors permission to start. Any starting system can be employed provided that the system guarantees a simultaneous start.

## **False Starts**

If the competitor(s) goes through the gate before the start command, the starter will call “BACK” and the competitors are restarted.

## **Start Command**

Before the starter gives the command he must first ensure that the competitors are ready. The standard command would be:

“blue course ready - red course ready - course is clear - racers ready” followed by the gate opening. However the command might be modified (liberty of organizer) if different start device is used.

## **Finish**

The finish areas must be symmetrical. The line into the finish should direct the competitor to his/her center of their respective finish lines.

It is necessary to set up visually separate finish approaches and to keep the courses separated after the finish line.

The running clock is stopped individually by each competitor and the time is recorded.

## **Jury and Course Setter**

**The Jury consists of as follows:**

1. The Technical Delegate
2. The Referee
3. The Chief of Race

The course setter is designated by the competition Jury (if he/she is not chosen by the FIS). Before setting the parallel course, he/she should conduct an inspection and study of the hill in the presence of the Jury and those responsible for the course.

The course might be reset after the first, second or third heat by jury decision. Subsequent heat course resets should be done by re-directing the gates to maintain the characteristics of the first course.

### **Timing**

Each run of each competitor is independently recorded

### **Execution**

Race is determined by total time of two or more heats. Each heat between two competitors consists of two runs, the two competitors change courses for the second run of the heat.

### **Seeding procedure**

When appropriate, the first run of first heat will be generated by direct order of FIS or USSA slalom points. Lowest point holder will start on red course, second lowest point holder on blue course, third in point order on red course.....

For a non-sanctioned event, competitors should be paired according to ability and past performance in descending order. Fastest against the fastest, etc.

### **First heat**

Pairs will start by the order of the board or start list with odd number on the red course and even number on the blue course. Odd competitor in the field will start last and alone on the red course.

1. The sum of time of two runs of the first heat will determine the start order of second heat.
2. In a three heat race third heat start order will be determined by sum of times of first two heats.
3. In a four heat race the fourth heat start order will be determined by sum of times of previous three heats.
4. Entire field will reverse for a first run of second heat with the fastest pairs always starting last. The same procedure remains if there is to be a third or fourth heat.
5. In case of odd number of competitors for second (third, fourth) heat the odd (slowest) racer would start solo first on red course.

### **Forgives rule and penalty.**

If a DNF or DSQ occurs to one of racers, the racer will remain in the race on a “forgives” rule, however his recorded time will be the time of his opponent plus applicable penalty.

If both racers do not finish the run, the time of faster racer of the previous couple and the applicable penalty will be recorded for both competitors.

If the racer becomes the victim of interference, he/she will continue in the race with a faster time of previous couple.

### **Penalty**

Two second penalty for unfinished or otherwise irregular run would apply for course up to 30 gates. Three seconds penalty for course with 30+ gates.j

### **Disqualification**

**Intentional Cross blocking and malicious interference is prohibited.**

**Any disruptive or non sportsmanship behavior would be considered dangerous and would be subject of disqualification.**

**It should be a liberty of Jury and organizer to modify the above rules to accommodate existing conditions.**