



## Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding – Sport Rules Modifications, Interpretations, and Points of Emphasis

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Alpine Skiing and Snowboarding dated June 2016 will be in effect for the 2017-2018 program year. This section is intended to be used in conjunction with the United State Ski and Snowboard Association rules and SOI Rules; therefore, those rules are not repeated here but they will be enforced unless in direct conflict to SONC modifications.

### Appropriate Attire and Equipment

- Skis, snowboard, ski boots, ski pants, winter jacket, bib, warm underclothing, toboggan, earmuffs, gloves.
- Official snowboard or ski helmets are required for all levels of snowboarding and skiing.<sup>1</sup>
- Jeans are not allowed under any circumstances.
- Only one pair of socks should be worn at any time.
- Skiing-related items may be rented at the facility, including ski helmets

### Competition Interpretations and Modifications

- The Special Olympics athletes competing in the SONC Alpine Skiing Competition have a wide range of ability levels. Due to this range and the variety of terrain needed for each level, some modifications have been made to help the athletes be successful and at the same time retain their level of independence.
- During competition, if a competitor should move out of the general direction of the line of course (fall, miss a gate, ski comes off, etc.), he/she shall have 2 minutes from the time of the deviation to re-enter the course. A competitor who fails to adhere to this 2 minute time limit or receives assistance of any kind shall be disqualified. Disqualification shall be determined by the gate judge assigned to the gate closest to where the infraction(s) occurred.
- A competitor is disqualified if he/she fails to complete the course on both skis with the following exceptions: 1) He/she finishes on one ski from the last gate before the finish line or 2) when a competitor falls in the immediate finish area, he/she must cross the finish line with both feet. In this case, the time counts when any part of the body or equipment stops the electronic timekeeping. For this time to be valid, the competitor must immediately cross the line between the posts with both feet. With hand timing, the time is taken when the competitor's foot crosses the line. The finish referee is responsible for all such decisions.
- **Assisted Competition:** Athletes who require assistance during competition will be assigned to the yellow 3 group. Yellow is the universal color for "caution". Athletes in the yellow 3 group can be assisted. Assistance during a race may not be given in the yellow 1 or 2, green, blue, or black groups.
- **Timing Competition:** Timers for the competition will be selected by the Games Director from people having experience in timing race events. Timing on the advanced course will be electronic timing if the equipment is available. All other competitions will be timed with handheld equipment.
- **Course Design:** Courses will be designed for skiers of differing ability levels. The courses will be challenging, yet minimize undue trauma or risk. Slalom and Special Slalom are traditional events at the state-level competition.

### Special Notes

- SONC local programs will have the opportunity to register athletes for Southeast Winter Games – Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding at the conclusion of the SONC Winter Games Alpine event.
- All athletes must participate in the divisioning after Opening Ceremonies at SONC Winter Games – Alpine, and Southeast Winter Games - Alpine. If athletes do not participate, they will not be permitted to compete during the rest of the event.

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<sup>1</sup> SOI rule change effective March 2014.

- Coaches are not allowed to make level changes for athletes, only the Games Management Team and instructors are allowed to do so during training.
- Make sure athletes are at the starting area several minutes before their time trials or competition begins.
- Coaches may watch the competition from the start or finish areas. It is a distraction for coaches to observe along the race course.
- If the athlete is making more than one run, please make sure they return to the start area after their first run.
- After all runs are completed for a division, that division must report to the awards staging area. Please to not remove your athlete from their division.
- Direct any questions about rules to a member of the Games Management Team.