VERMONT HIGH SCHOOL ALPINE SKI GUIDE 2018-2019

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*IMPORTANT INFORMATION*

VPA Policies Art. III, Sec. 3, Part B Non-School Competition (6/6/14 ASC) aka: Loyalty Clause

A member of a school team is a student athlete who is regularly present for, and actively participates in ALL team try-outs, practices and competitions. Bona fide members of a school team are prevented from missing a high school practice or competition to compete with an out-of-school team, practice or competition to include tournaments, showcases, combines or other athletic events.

Whenever a conflict arises between the high school team practice/competition and an out-of-school practice/competition on the same day, the high school practice/competition shall be honored by the student athlete. Priority MUST be given at all times to the high school team, its practices, and its contests unless permission has been granted by the school. It is expressly understood that permission shall not be granted on a regular basis and shall only be granted in extraordinary circumstances.

1. Competition

a.) Rules and Regulations will conform to the Vermont Principals' Association Alpine Guide. For a printable copy of this guide go to www.vpaonline.org
b.1.) The NVAC & SVC District Championships will combine boys and girls for the 2018-2019 season. One day will be for slalom, where both the boys and the girls compete. Another day will be for giant slalom, again both boys and girls will compete. Both events will be 2 runs.
b.2.) The State Championships will combine boys and girls for the 2018-2019 season. One day will be for slalom, where both the boys and the girls compete. Another day will be for giant slalom, again both boys and girls will compete. Both events will be 2 runs.
c.) Participants must have participated in 50% of the interscholastic school regular season races (exclusive of injury) which the school participates in prior to entering the districts. Independent and Home School students must meet the same requirement.
c.1.) Waivers: If a student does not meet the 50% rule due to extenuating circumstances, a waiver can be requested through the VPA office. Hardship Waiver: If a racer has competed all season and consistently placed in top 15 finishes, but due to illness or family emergency this racer cannot compete at the districts and his/her team does not qualify to go to The State Championships, this racer is out of The State Championships, but may apply to The Ski Committee to be eligible. To be voted on by The Ski Committee, with recommendation of the VPA coach representatives.
d.) Any events beyond the Vermont State Championships, the VPA has no affiliation. This includes The Eastern High School Championships.
e.) Schools entering a district race shall enter the district in which they compete (NVAC or SVC). If a school does not compete in either the NVAC or SVC, email the VPA office for an assignment.
Schools should declare their intentions (in Spring) for district competition for a two year period. 50% of the schools schedule will be within their district.

f.) In order to qualify, a school must start at least four racers for a full team the day of the event. If someone is injured during the competition, they remain a team and assume a dummy score.

g.) Individuals that ski as independents in a VPA school may compete, but their scores will not count.

h.) The top 25% of the starting field (including independents) from the NVAC district event (whose team does not qualify) will qualify to go to the State Championships. SVAC athletes must be in the top 10 to qualify for states if their team does not qualify. If a student qualifies in one district event, then he/she qualifies for both State Championship events. The TD will determine the qualifying numbers the morning of the event.

i.) The top 75% of teams in district competition will qualify for the State Championship. (boys & girls)

A minimum of three (3) teams will qualify from each district meet.

j.) Each school may enter 6 names for each event with four to count for score.

k.) In the spirit of high school sports, all racers are required to practice and participate with their team on a regular basis. This includes Independent racers. Students enrolled in tutorial programs to enhance their ski skills are not allowed in high school programs. (Bylaws Section 3(L). Please refer to forms for independent and home schooled students.

l.) On district and State Championships application blanks, list the entrants in order you want them to run for each event. Substitutes will be allowed from your original list of entries, but order may not be changed.

m.) Each school with a team will be responsible for securing two qualified, gatekeepers (strongly recommend adults) for districts and State Championships. These names are to be submitted on the application in advance of the competition. Failure to provide qualified gatekeepers will result in a fine of $100 per gatekeeper payable at registration prior to competition.

n.1.) Missed Starts: If a racer misses his/her start the racer will run at the end of that run. If a lift malfunction was the cause of the missed start, then the racer must report to the start referee. The start referee will make a ruling. The same rule holds true when using the bibo system.

n.2.) Forgotten Bib: If a racer arrives at the start in a timely fashion for their run without his/her bib, they must report to the start referee. The racer will be given a numbered spare bib for his/her run and be inserted in order.

o.) Obstructions in Course: If a racer is interfered with during the progress of a run, due to another racer, gatekeeper, gate obstruction, loose or dislodged gate, etc, he/she must immediately ski out of the course and report to the closest gatekeeper. The gatekeeper should record the obstruction and the racer should report to the finish referee or hike to the start and ask the start referee for a provisional rerun. The provisional rerun should be allowed as soon as the racer is at the start and ready to race. If in the event the racer who was obstructed had been dq’d prior to the obstruction, the referee and jury should be notified of the previous dq.

p.) Course Lengths: For championship events challenging courses should be set for the best skiers in the field. The slalom and giant slalom will be 2 run combined time. A bibo flip 15 will be used for 2- runs.

q.) Course Inspection: Prior to each run of a race, sufficient time must be allowed for course inspection. If the Chief of Course or TD feels it is necessary, side slipping and snowplowing may be allowed to help prepare the course, or for general inspection. "Shadowing" or skiing parallel and close to the course is not allowed and can result in a dq. Bibs must be on the racer at all times while inspecting courses.

r.) Course Expectations: The Chief of Course and TD are responsible for the course and are to oversee the course setting, B netting, start and finish areas. If a coach or coaches has concerns, they should go to the TD to express their concerns.

s.) Start Commands: SL “racer plant your poles, ready, go” – GS “racer plant your poles, 10 seconds, 5,4,3,2,1 go”……10 seconds to leave start.
t.) If a racer loses a ski during a race run they must clear the course and are considered a DNF.

u.) Both the racers ski tips and boots must go around the gate and be attached. In the case they miss a gate, the racer must hike to the missed gate and go around it in either direction. In the case of the first, last, combination or under gate, the racer must break the plane with their ski tips and boots created by the two same color gates. This can be done in any direction. The hiking racer must give way to any oncoming racers. Once passed, they may continue on course.

v.) The start gate and finish line are not considered gates.

w.) Start stops will normally only occur for racer injury, racer passed or course maintenance.

x.) Use of video to determine whether a racer is disqualified or not is not allowed.

y.) Forerunners: Final approval of the course is the responsibility of the TD. The recommended number of forerunners is 3, based on the TD ‘s discretion and forerunners should be of comparable ability to the racers. Forerunners should report to the finish referee at the conclusion of their run. Forerunners times should never be announced or posted. Forerunners may only communicate course reports to race officials.

z.) By the listed entry deadlines, District and State Championship team rosters and independents must be sent, using the appropriate online form, to the following host schools:

2019 NORTHERN DISTRICT SLALOM: Monday, Feb. 25 @ Jay Peak
*ENTRY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 19, 2019
Meet Director: David Marlow - AD
Mt. Mansfield UHS

TD: John Kresser

2019 NORTHERN DISTRICT GIANT SLALOM: Tuesday, Feb. 26 @ Jay Peak
*ENTRY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 19, 2019
Meet Director: David Marlow - AD
Mt. Mansfield UHS

TD: Ryan Sheredy

2019 SOUTHERN DISTRICTS: Tuesday, Feb. 26 @ Bromley - SL + GS
*ENTRY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 19, 2019
Meet Director: Dave Miceli - AD
Burr and Burton Academy
dmiceli@burrburton.org

TD: Trey Spencer

2019 GIANT SLALOM STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Monday, March 4 @ Burke Mtn.
*ENTRY DEADLINE: 4PM FEBRUARY 28, 2019
Meet Director: Paul Wheeler - AD
Lyndon Institute
paul.wheeler@lyndoninstitute.org

TD: Fred Dieffenbach
2019 SLALOM STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Tuesday, March 5 @ Burke Mtn.

*ENTRY DEADLINE: 4PM FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Meet Director: Paul Wheeler - AD
Lyndon Institute
paul.wheeler@lyndoninstitute.org

TD: Fred Dieffenbach

Coaches, The separate District and State meet entry forms will shut down at the deadlines posted above. Please bring a copy of your forms to the Districts and State Championships. Independent athletes must be entered by their host school on the same form and labeled as such.

2. USSA Parallels

a.) Vertical gate distances will conform to current USSA/VPA standards. The TD will oversee and approve all course settings.

b.) Slalom: The gates must have a minimum width of 4m and a maximum width of 6m. The distance from turning pole to turning pole of successive gates must not be less than 6m and not more than 13m. The distance between gate combinations (hairpin or vertical) must not be less than .75m and not more than 1m. The gates in hairpin or vertical combinations must be set in a straight line. Delayed gates must have a minimum distance of 12m and a maximum distance of 18m from turning pole to turning pole. The distance from turning pole to the top of a delay must be a minimum of 6m.

c.) Giant Slalom: The gates must have a minimum width of 4 meters and a maximum width of 8 meters. The minimum distance between two turning gates is 10 meters.

d.) Protective headgear (a manufactured ski racing helmet) is required for all events for both practices and competition. SL helmets must be able to accept a chin guard. The helmet must meet the current USSA/VPA standards and be properly fitted. In addition, chin guard protectors are not allowed for the giant slalom. They must be removed.

e.) The VPA Ski Committee has adopted an Adaptive Skier policy and procedures. The VPA will follow guidelines and procedures established by the FIS/USSA/IPC Committees. Schools with adaptive skiers need to contact the VPA if the skier plans on participating in interscholastic meets.

3. Officials

a.) Technical Delegate (TD) - Helps race organizers and assures that the race is run according to the rules and alpine guide (represents the VPA Ski Committee); Is responsible for courses, course preparation, appointing the referee and for scoring the event.

b.) Meet Director - Coordinate all aspects of race.

c.) Chief Gatekeeper - Organize gatekeepers. Meets with referee immediately after each run with dq’s.

d.) Finish Referee - To be at the finish during the race to observe finish area. Informs timer when racer has been passed and what bib numbers are finishing. The finish referee may grant provisional re-runs.
e.) Start Referee - Makes judgements at start. The start referee may appoint assistant starter. He or she may grant provisional re-runs.
f.) Chief of Course - May be the course setter, if not will observe the setting and marking of courses, numbering gates, schedule slippers, have tools, clean course after it is closed, shovel around base of gates, etc.
g.) Timer - To oversee and/or run timing equipment.
h.) Referee – Appoints jury of 4. Posts dq's after each run with 15 minute protest period. Oversees and runs jury in case of protests. In a juried situation, the referee should first inform jury how the rule reads, then along with the jury ask the gatekeeper what they saw, then ask racer what they remember. Make sure bib number and gate numbers coincide and the gate keepers card is inspected. Referee may ask gatekeeper and/or racer back for 2nd opinion. Provisional re-runs are not valid until ratified by jury.
Referee lets coach, racer and race administration know of decision.
i. ) Jury – assigned by referee to resolve any protests that may arise during the competition.
Jury selection for districts: 4 coaches. Jury selection for State Championships: 2 coaches from north 2 coaches from south. In case of a 2-2 decision, the referee will break the tie. Whenever possible, the jury will meet after each run.

4. Scoring

a.) The top four finishing racers on a team score in each event. Slalom and giant slalom are scored separately, the scores are added together to determine the winner, low score wins. If after the final event of the meet teams are tied for first or runners up, the fifth place racers in both events will be used to break the tie.
To be considered a team, a team must start 4 racers in the event. Others are considered independents and care must be taken to not score them in the team results. If a team starts with 4 or more racers and finishes with less than 4, the scoring will go as follows: Take 1 more number than the last starting team racer in the event and add that to the team for scoring. This same number will be used for any team needing a "dummy" score. In the scoring of a race, all 6 team racers actually enter into the scoring.
While the top 4 skiers score points, the 5th and 6th team racers displace or keep other team racers from scoring a lower place. However, these may be scored as a tiebreaker. The final scoring results must show the four scoring places of the team racers in each event with a grid, with two event and team totals indicating the final standings. Independent racers must be removed from the team scoring. It is recommended to include a set of results that show team racers only, to easily reference the place points of the team racers in each event.

5. Seeding

a.) For districts: Each seed will contain one racer from each team. Within each seed a separate draw will occur. Separate draws will be made for slalom and giant slalom at the districts and State Championships. The first seed is for team racers, with the second seed for independent racers. Racers on teams that may not be complete (less than four racers) will be seeded in with the regular team racers. Definition of team racers: Racers whose school has a recognized alpine ski program. Independent racers are those who affiliate and train with another school, a recognized team and abides by the same rules and procedures as a team skier.
b.) For State Championships: Independent racers not skiing for a team will be seeded after the first seed of team racers. If a school has more than one independent racer competing, they would be seeded after the second seed of team racers.

c.) If a school is hosting the State Championships and did not qualify as a team, they are eligible to enter their team in that event.

6. Gatekeepers

a.) Prior to the race the, The Chief Gatekeeper will give a general description and outline the duties to the gatekeepers. Coaches need to prepare in advance their students or adult gatekeepers as to the importance of their duties and how to gatekeeper correctly.

b.) Items to be covered in gatekeepers meeting by Chief Gatekeeper or race host to the gatekeepers:
- Thank You! Your job as gatekeepers today is very important!
- Stand where you can see all your gates and be ready to respond to a racer needing help, a panel off a gate or a gate knocked out of snow or leaning.
- All gatekeepers should be on same side of course (preferably away from spectators) and be in place 15 min prior to first racer.
- **Electronic devices may not be used at any time.**
  - All gatekeepers must be easily identifiable by racer with a pinnie or bib.
  - Both ski tips and boots must go around gate. Racers cannot step on a gate.
  - You can actively give a racer help. They do not need to ask. Speak clearly and loud, “back to red/blue” then “go” when they legally completed the gate(s) you are advising them on.
  - If a racer misses a gate, they must hike up and around gate in either direction. (see diagram A)
  - If a racer is hiking they must be told by you (the gatekeeper) to make way for the oncoming racer and the racer must pull away from the course. Once they have been passed, tell them they may continue racing after making a legal passage of the course.
  - Gatekeeper may remove equipment from the course that has fallen off racer.
  - You may inspect racers tracks to verify where they went.
  - Record only dq’s with a brief description of fault and a sketch on your card. Record bib number and gate number. You may be asked later to recall the fault. You can pre-diagram your gates in advance on your card.
  - Stay in place after last racer. The chief gatekeeper will come to you and get your clipboard. Inform him/her of any faults.
  - If a racer is interfered with (gate down, another racer, etc) they may stop and ask you for a re-run. Mark down the bib number and direct them to the finish or start referee. Inform them NOT to go through the finish.
  - Make notes and take the bib number of any misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - If you observe a fault not in your assigned gates, make a note of it.
  - Replace any broken gates, fix loose giant slalom panels and maintain your section of gates or ask for assistance from a course worker.
  - Don’t discuss any faults with anyone except the head gatekeeper.
  - Make notes about unsportsmanlike behavior.

Diagram A:
Where there is no outside pole, both feet and ski tips must have passed the turning pole on the same side, following the natural race line of the slalom. The natural race line is an imaginary line from the turning pole to the outside pole, which the racer has to cross. If the racer has not correctly passed the natural race line, then he has to climb back up and pass around the missed turning pole.

Racer passed around the pole, crossing the natural line.

Both ski tips and both feet have not crossed the gate line. The gate line in Slalom is the imaginary shortest line between the turning pole and the outside pole.

Racer missed the red gate, hiked back up, crossed the natural line but did not pass around the pole.

Racer has made legal passage. Both ski tips & both feet have crossed the gate line (CR 661.4.1) Where there is an outside pole art 661.4.1 is valid.

Racer passed around the pole, crossing the natural line.

Single Pole Slalom has no outside pole, except for the first and last gate, a delay gate and combinations.

Racer did not pass the turning pole following the natural line.

Course Setter D. Clayes
Referee P. Van Slyke
Version 1.0

References: USCA 810.15
International Federation, 2018
USSA and USSA-SIBAER
c.) Information for Chief Gatekeeper only:
- Have gatekeepers meeting as early as possible in a quiet place and go over above info with all gatekeepers.
- Have all gatekeepers sign in on sign in sheet.
- Assign gatekeepers for 1st run (boys and girls). Assign other gatekeepers for 2nd run and tell them where and when to meet. Make notes with name and school of who is on what run.
- Take 1st run gatekeepers and have them meet you at start 30 minutes before the start of the race.
- From the start, take them all at once and assign gates as you descend. Keep track of gate numbers and gatekeepers names on way down and be clear about what gate numbers they have.
- Place experienced gatekeepers at under gates, combinations or difficult sections.
- 2nd run is bibo and the numbers will not be in order

7. Sportsmanship

a.) A racer may be warned or disqualified from an event for vulgar language, misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct. A warning or a disqualification may be issued upon arrival at the event through departure. Violations may be reported by gatekeepers or race officials to the referee, protestable through the jury. The jury must meet on all reported violations. The jury may warn the racer with no penalty, disqualify the racer or take no action on the reported violation. A second warned offense at the same event results in disqualification from that event and the next event. If a racer is disqualified, his result in that event will not count. If a racer is disqualified after the first event has been completed, the results of that event stand. The racer, coach and TD must be notified of the violation(s) and the ruling made by the jury. The rules apply during the regular season, districts and State Championships. If a racer has received a warning during regular season, that racer enters the districts with that warning. Thus, a second violation will result in a DQ for the remainder of that event. A warning at districts carries into State Championships. Per VPA rules, if an athlete is disqualified from an event they will miss the next VPA sponsored competition. The disqualification will essentially act as a red card. Names will be sent to Bob Johnson at the VPA.

8. Hosting/Awards

a.) Hosting Checklist: TD______Ref_______Jury______-______-______-______CG______
Course Setters______,______,______,CR____Starter____Course Clearing____,Start
Ref______,Registration______,______,Gatekeepers______,______,______,______,______
b.) Do you have...bib ready, running orders, scoreboard, lift tickets, extra gates & drills on hill, ski patrol, crowd control. Coaches meeting should address the day at hand. Inspection, sideslipping, intervals, weather, start time. Are all officials in place and identifiable with armbands? Do key people (TD, starter, finish referee, timer, course clear/intervals person) have radios?

c.) Districts Awards: Top two teams (girls/boys) receive a plaque or trophy. Top 10 individuals in each event receive a medal. Total cost is paid for by schools participating. Host school is responsible to order and charge award fee. There will be team and individual season long sportsmanship awards given at awards for NVAC and SVAC.

d.) State Championship Awards: The VPA will provide plaques for top two teams (boys/girls). A revolving male / female combined winner team trophy will be given out beginning this year. Awards will be given out to the top ten racers in each event. This cost will be charged to the teams participating. The host school is responsible to order these awards. All other costs involved will be borne by the participating schools. Any school hosting a district or State Championship event must ascertain what costs may be involved in the meet (timing, lift tickets, etc.) and then notify the participating schools of these charges and bill each school their equalized share. If lift fees are to be charged by the mountain, participating schools should be made aware of this before the scheduled race.

9. Coaches Directory & Ski Committee

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Advisory Members: Peter McNealus-Burr & Burton, John Kresser-Lyndon, Dawn Adams-Rutland
Technical Delegates - Mike Goodrich, Mike Minnerly, John Kresser, Ryan Sheredy, Trey Spencer, Fred Dieffenbach