

Hello Coaches and Officials,

We have had a great start to the season. All ages groups have raced and after this weekend all mountains will of hosted a event.

At the all-hands meeting in November we indicated that we would be asking for Race Quality Reports this season. These reports are completed following each race by the Referee, Chief of Race and TD independently. We have received most of the reports (but not all) and have created this summary to highlight some areas that collectively we need to improve upon moving forward.

In summary, all the races are being run very well, generally on time and no significant issues or sanctions have been reported.

Summary of areas to improve:

- Course Inspection: Athletes should be allowed to inspect a course from the start gate through the finish line.(ICR 614.3.2)
- GS/PSL Gate Panels: Gate panels differ among the clubs, please advise course crew that the "tightened" side of the panel is on the non-turning gate. Gate panels should release from the pole when a competitor gets caught by it. (ICR 690).
 - Ensure gate panels are placed at least, 1meter above the ground.
 - Ensure adequate course crew is available to fix gate panels quickly.
 - take note of gate panel width when course setter is drilling holes.

- Forerunners: The organizer is required to provide at least 3 forerunners.....(ICR 605) We should limit forerunners to 3-4 before ladies run and only if necessary have forerunners before the men's run.
- Awards: An SQA initiative this year is to have the awards ceremony, 30min after the last racer. Please evaluate the barriers that is preventing this and look for opportunities to achieve the SQA goal.
- Fence transport: At the 2014 FIS update the safety committee strongly recommends that b-netting **IS NOT** carried on the shoulder and only 1 roll is transported at a time. Athletes **should never** transport rolls of netting on a chairlift, as this represents a significant safety risk.
- Start referee: (ICR 601.3.3) The Start Referee must remain at the start from the beginning of the official inspection time and until the end of the training/event. If the start referee leaves his position (i.e. between runs) it is a safety issue to the public and may lead to unauthorized access to the course. Some hills relieve the Start Referee with another Level II official for lunch break.
- Referee and Gate cards: (ICR 601.4.10) This is the referee's duty and should be done by the referee immediately following each run. It is not the responsibility of the jury, the TD may assist if requested.
- Course setters: be familiar with Can-Am rules as this applies to all U14-16 races and will avoid course/gate re-setting. Please ensure you bring a drill and "range" devise when setting.
- DNFs: Jury member announces "#35 did not finish"over the radio, timing acknowledges, "#35 did not finish". This ensures

timing records the DNF and that the racer will not cross the finish line.

- Course crew: a few close calls between racers on course and course crew. Please remind course crew of appropriate protocol for slipping and course repairs.
- Chief of Gates: ensure gate keepers have adequately knowledge of correct passage and able to confidently complete gate judge cards with pictures.
- Communication, radio protocol: Can always be improved: excessive course clears, not enough course clears, too much chatter, radio silence protocol during stop-start, course crew on separate channel than Jury.
- Skills and Drills: all coaches are responsible for helping during this portion of the day.
- Suggestions:
 - Course maintenance: top of course and mid stations should be considered: tools, gates, panels, drill and course crew member.
 - continues slip crews of 2 crew members at a time in some cases may be better then stopping for a group slip.
 - Remind athletes that excessive speed outside of the race course (i.e. runs open to the public) will not be tolerated
 - Large "sandwich board" with race schedule is a great tool. This provides key information to course crew, athletes, coaches, parents, etc.

- Due to extreme cold weather at MSM, Jury decided that the race would be delayed 1 hour so that athletes could warm up after inspection.

I hope this helps.

Good Luck and have a great race!

Julie Klotz

613-852-5553