



ALPINE CANADA

## Racer Down Protocol

At some ski races there have been instances where well meaning, but untrained individuals have attempted to assist athletes following an on-course incident without first ensuring that the race has been stopped and it is safe to proceed on to the race track. This type of situation is to be avoided and the following protocol is to be **strictly** adhered to.

Person(s) not complying with this protocol may be subject to sanction by the jury.

1. The Jury member closest to the incident site will call a “Stop Start”.
2. The Start Referee will confirm immediately on Jury channel “Start is stopped, holding racer number (#) in start, racer(s) number (#) on course”.
3. The person calling the “Stop Start” will then call, on Jury channel, “Racer down at .....(position)”, “Yellow Flag # (1, 2 or 3)” will be called if necessary.  
It is important that the incident position and the Yellow flag number(s) be clearly stated to avoid having a racer that is already **below** the accident Yellow flagged unnecessarily.
4. In the event that a racer is Yellow flagged, the Flag Person will confirm **as soon as possible** on Jury channel “Racer # Flagged and Stopped at .....(position)”.
5. **No** person is to move onto the course or approach the racer down, until ordered to do so by either, a member of the Jury **or** the Chief of Medical who will have heard the confirmation that the start is stopped and the on-course racer(s) has been flagged and is stopped.
6. **Any** person, other than the Ski Patrol attending at the incident site, may **only** remove “debris” from the racecourse and may **only** assist the athlete under the **specific** direction of the Ski Patrol person in charge of the incident site. Under no circumstances, other than life threatening circumstances (remember, a broken limb is not a life threatening situation), is **any** person other than the Ski Patrol person in charge of the incident site, to attempt to remove athlete’s equipment, remove the athlete from nets or attempt to move the athlete in any way.
7. The ski patrol member will communicate **only** as per established Ski Patrol radio protocol and **any** other person attending the incident site will **only** communicate with the Chief of Race or the Jury member closest to the incident site.
8. During the time immediately following the “Stop Start” call; **all** persons will clear **all** radio channels until advised by dispatch that normal radio communications may resume. It may be **vital** to the rescue effort that this simple rule is complied with. During this time, the only expected radio traffic on the race communications system will be, to and from the Chief of Medical, to and from the Chief of Race or, to and from the Jury Member closest to the accident site. **No Exceptions.**
9. The Jury members will identify themselves to the Ski Patrol members at their assigned stations, each day, before the commencement of training or racing. Jury members should be aware that, throughout the event, Ski Patrol members may rotate out of their position. There is therefore, a need to be sure that the Ski Patrol on station knows, at all times, just exactly who the Jury person is, who may be directing them onto the race track.

10. The Jury member closest to the incident site will be responsible for the orderly conduct of the rescue. Care should be taken to control the number and status of those persons attending at the site. Strictly apply a “need to be there” rule.
11. During the conduct of the rescue, the Chief of Ski Patrol will reposition, as necessary, Ski Patrol personnel to ensure adequate coverage upon recommencement of the event.
12. Immediately upon the incident site being clear and safe for the event to recommence, the Jury member closest to the site will advise the Race Director/Chief of Race.
13. The Race Director will commence a “Course Clearance” from the bottom up and then, as soon as it is safe to do so, will direct the Start Referee to re-start the event.
14. At this time, the Chief of Race will advise Dispatch that normal radio communications may resume.
15. Chief of Medical will advise Chief of Race on private channel, destination and status of injured athlete and disposition of ski patrol members involved in the rescue as soon as this information is known.