

British Alpine Ski Competitions
British Artificial Competition Rules
BACR Book VIII
Homologation
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1. General

This document is part of the British Artificial Competition Rules (BACR), and contains the regulations covering the Calendar and Homologation requirements that apply to events which are run as 'recognised' British artificial slope races. Refer to BACR Book I for overall details about BACR and its application.

2. Rules regarding the Homologation of the Courses

2.1. General

2.1.1. Principles

The principles of homologation are to ensure that the course meets the required technical specifications, and that all appropriate security measures are in place, and therefore that races run on the course may be considered for seeding.

2.1.2. Homologation Controller

The TD Forum shall name a designated 'Homologation Controller' to oversee course homologations, manage the processing of homologation requests, and maintain the list of homologated courses.

2.1.3. Calendar Competitions

British Calendar competitions may only take place on homologated courses.

2.1.4. Exceptions

Exceptions may be granted on request. Only the TD Forum Homologation Group can grant exceptions or deviations from the prescribed technical data. If an exception is granted then that exception is valid from the date of approval until the expiry date if one is stated, or until the exception is revoked, whichever is the earlier.

2.2. Slope Criteria

2.2.1. Providing the average angle of slope is seventeen degrees or less, the length between start and finish line should be at least 100 metres for a Club National or other Club race and at least 140 metres for a GBR Series, or other National or Championship race.

If the average angle is greater than seventeen degrees, the minimum length required will be proportionally longer. If the slope is shorter than the ideal, the Homologation Request must be fully justified in writing and endorsed in writing by the relevant HNGB.

2.2.2. Most of the slope must be at least 10.8 metres wide. Part of the slope may be a minimum of 7.2 metres wide.

2.2.3. The top of the slope should allow quick acceleration from a horizontal starting position and should give adequate room for skiers waiting to start and for their coaches.

2.2.4. The finish area must provide adequate deceleration area for at least 10 metres from the finish line.

2.2.5. No part of the slope should be so shallow that it causes significant deceleration and the slope's contours should be judged appropriate by the person homologating.

2.2.6. Uplift must be efficient without interfering with the race or the race organisation.

2.2.7. There must be an area for issue of bibs, which may also be used as a race office.

2.2.8. There must be provision for locating timing personnel and PA in a private location with a good view of the slope.

2.2.9. The slope must either have efficient and reliable PA and timing systems or arrange for them to be available for the race. Unreliable timing will be sufficient cause to withdraw homologation. Slopes will be required to have a suitable weatherproof timing hut, situated close to, and with a good view of, the finish. Power supply, plus room for at least three officials behind a working surface and viewing window, will be required.

2.2.10. There must be a private room available for use by the Jury.

2.3. Homologation Request

2.3.1. The request for the homologation of a slope is to be directed to the Homologation Controller.

2.3.2. Requests can be made by slope owners, managers, operators, clubs, governing bodies or other interested parties.

2.3.3. In the case of a request made by someone other than the slope owner or operator, the agreement of the slope owner or operator must be obtained before the request can be submitted. Much of the technical information required for completion of the request will in any case have to be provided by the slope owner/operator so their agreement is an integral part of the process.

2.4. Completeness

2.4.1. Requests for homologation should be accompanied by a properly completed set of documents as outlined below. Incomplete documentation may be grounds for the request to be rejected or delayed.

2.4.2. If any guidance is required on the completion of any of the documents, the Homologation Controller should be contacted for advice.

2.5. Documents

2.5.1. The request for the homologation of a course must be accompanied by the six documents described below. These documents make up the "Homologation Request Pack".

2.5.2. Homologation Request Application Form, containing:-

Name of the venue

Full address including postcode

Contact details of applicant

Contact details for slope manager/operator if different to above

Discipline(s) for which homologation is being sought

2.5.3. A description of the course, containing:-

Start point expressed in metres above sea level

Finish point expressed in metres above sea level

Surface run length expressed in metres

Surface width(s) expressed in metres

Minimum, maximum and average gradients expressed as percentages

A description of the access to the start and finish areas

A description of the uphill transport, and access to the uplift points

A description of the start and finish areas including:-

- Access for competitors, coaches and spectators
- Crowd control measures
- Installations in start such as start ramp
- Protection measures in place in the finish area

A description of any other places requiring safety nets or other protection

An indication of the locations of the loudspeakers for the public address system

A description of the communication system showing:-

- Permanent and temporary cables
- Connections between start and finish, between finish and timing

- Location of electricity supply
- Access points for emergency evacuation
- Lubrication system style, supply, run time, coverage
- Type of running surface (snow, Dendix, other)
- Type of poles that can be used
- Provision for locating timing team, commentator with view of slope
- Provision of separate room for Jury meetings, race office

2.5.4. A profile diagram indicating the vertical drop and length of the course.

2.5.5. A detailed sketch or diagram of the course, including such items as:-

- Lift pylons, roof supports, trees and other obstacles,
- Permanent and temporary protection measures

2.5.6. Photographs of the course. These must be of sufficient number and clarity as to detail all parts of the course including start and finish area and all safety installations.

2.5.7. A completed Event Medical Plan.

2.6. Inspectors

2.6.1. Pre-requisites

A Homologation Inspector must be a currently qualified TD, and must have current experience of events on artificial slopes including acting as TD for British Calendar events for at least 5 years.

2.6.2. Selection

The TD Forum is solely responsible for designating Homologation Inspectors. The Homologation Group will assign a suitably qualified TD to undertake an Inspection.

2.6.3. Expiration of the Application

If any work requested has not been completed within six months after the inspection is carried out and the homologation cannot be granted, the course will be removed from the list of pending homologations. A new Homologation Request would then be required for the course to be considered for homologation, and another Homologation Inspection would also be needed.

2.6.4. Validity of the Homologation Certificate

The Certificate is valid for a period of ten years from the date of issue. After that, a re-homologation must be carried out.

2.6.5. Homologation File

The Inspection Report, together with the Homologation Request Pack and any supplementary or subsequent reports or other documents, make up the "Homologation File" for the course.

The Homologation File will be made available for review by any TD assigned to an event on that course.

2.7. Alterations to a Homologated Slope

Where alterations to the course are made, or the conditions of the course, site, security measures or other factors change, they must be notified to the Homologation Controller immediately.

2.7.1. Suspension

Having been notified of alterations to the course, the Homologation Controller may at their discretion require that the homologation of the course be suspended until such time as another inspection has been carried out.

2.7.2. Minor alterations

If the Homologation Controller is satisfied that the alterations do not warrant a re-inspection, they may stipulate that the existing homologation can remain in force

subject to the TD assigned to the next event on that course ratifying that the description of the alterations is accurate.

2.7.3. Record of alterations

Any alterations notified to the Homologation Controller will be recorded in the Homologation File and will thus be available for review by any TD assigned to an event on that course.

2.8. Renewal

To renew an existing homologation upon expiry of its homologation Certificate, a re-inspection is necessary, regardless of whether or not any alterations have been made to the course.

2.9. Withdrawal

It should be noted that due to improving standards or for other reasons, an existing homologation may be withdrawn or suspended at any time by a Technical Delegate, Homologation Controller or Homologation Inspector, pending re-inspection and/or remedial action.

3. Homologation Procedure

3.1. The Application

3.1.1. As soon as the required documents are ready, the applicant will send the Homologation Request to the Homologation Controller.

3.1.2. The Homologation Controller will review the documents, and when satisfied that the documents are complete will then appoint an Inspector.

3.2. The Inspector and the Inspection Visit

3.2.1. The Inspector will be provided with a copy of all the documents as described above.

3.2.2. The Inspector will then contact the applicant to agree a suitable date and time for the inspection visit. This visit must also be agreed with the site owner/operator if they are not the applicant, as full access to the site will be required for the inspection to be carried out.

3.2.3. The Inspector's travel expenses must be paid to them directly by the applicant.

3.2.4. The inspection visit will take place, and the inspection carried out in accordance with the Homologation Inspection Guidelines.

3.2.5. It should be noted that the Inspector is free to recommend that a slope is not suitable for running seeded races even if the above criteria are met.

3.3. Inspection Report

3.3.1. After the inspection, the Inspector will write an Inspection Report including marking or otherwise indicating any improvements or changes that are required. This report will be sent to the Homologation Controller.

3.3.2. If improvements or changes are required, it is left to the discretion of the Inspector to decide whether a further inspection visit would be required once those changes have been made, or whether it would be sufficient for the TD appointed to the next event at that venue to verify that the changes have been made. In either case, this decision must be noted on the Inspection Report.

3.3.3. The Report will include the Inspector's decision that the slope be:

- Granted Homologation,
- Granted Homologation subject to specified conditions, or
- Refused Homologation

3.3.4. The Homologation Controller will send a copy of the completed Inspection Report to the originator of the Homologation Request.

3.4. Issue of the Homologation Certificate

3.4.1. If the Inspection Report indicates that the Homologation Request is approved and no further work is needed, the Homologation Inspector will produce the Homologation Certificate, sending the original to the Applicant and retaining a PDF copy with the Homologation File.

3.4.2. The Certificate itself sets out the name of the course, the basic technical data, and the disciplines for which the homologation has been approved. The registration number of the Certificate (the "homologation number") indicates the total number of homologated courses, and the month and year in which the Certificate was issued. The expiry date is also indicated on the Certificate.

3.4.3. The Homologation Controller will send a copy of the Certificate to the originator of the Homologation Request.

3.4.4. The Homologation Controller will also add the relevant details, including the registration number and expiry date, to the published list of homologated courses.

4. Guidelines for the Homologation Process

4.1. General

This section includes background information to assist with various parts of the Homologation process.

4.2. Duties and Responsibilities

4.2.1. A variety of legislation, regulations and guidelines exist that places the onus on the slope operator to ensure that slope design and maintenance includes all the necessary safety measures. This includes: Health and Safety at Work Act 1974; Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (HSE L21); Health and Safety in Ski Slope Operations (HSE INDG371).

4.2.2. The assessment carried out during the course of the inspection, and any advice given, alterations requested, or issues raised by the Homologation Inspector, in no way relieves the slope operator of their various obligations and statutory duties in the design, construction or operation of the slope.

4.2.3. It is the duty of the Homologation Inspector to assess whether the slope conforms to the criteria laid down for a homologated slope, and thus whether it is deemed to be suitable as a venue for Alpine competitions.

4.2.4. The Homologation Inspector may advise the slope operator on technical matters relating to any issues or alterations that might be required for homologation to be granted. The Homologation Inspector accepts no liability for any advice given, and the slope operator should always consider seeking professional advice on matters relating to the construction, maintenance and operation of the slope.

4.3. Homologation Request

4.3.1. The Homologation Request Pack ("the Request") consists of a set of documents that are intended to provide basis of the homologation file. These include all the basic technical data about the slope, and should provide the Homologation Controller with enough information to assess whether the slope or course appears suitable for the disciplines for which homologation is being sought.

4.3.2. As there are only a small number of slopes within the UK, personal knowledge of those slopes within the Homologation Group may mean that there is some leeway in how complete the Request needs to be before it is deemed fit to use as the basis for an Inspection. For example, it may not be necessary to include a full set of photographs with the initial Request, as these can be taken during the Inspection Visit.

4.3.3. Any incomplete or missing items in the Request should be added during the Inspection Visit or on completion of the Inspection Report. If any information is still missing then the reason for its absence should be noted, and this will be taken into account when determining whether or not to grant the Homologation.

4.4. Inspection

4.4.1. The Inspection Visit ("the Inspection") will be carried out by an appropriate person as specified in section 2.6 ("the Inspector"). The Inspector will complete an Inspection Report ("the Report") as a record of the Visit.

4.4.2. All elements of the course as laid out in the Course Description Form will be verified by the Inspector. This includes start and finish heights, slope widths, start and finish area characteristics and all security measures. Some aspects such as running length and gradients can be difficult to verify on the slope itself, in which case they must be checked by referring to the diagrams provided in the Request.

4.4.3. As might be expected, particular attention will be paid to the security measures on and around the slope. This will include not only those specified in the Course Description but also any additional hazards identified during the Inspection. This will include (but is not limited to) the following:-

- Protection applied to posts, trees, pylons, fences or other such structures which lie in the potential fall zone of a skier travelling at racing speed, including arriving in the finish area.
- Protection for any spectators in the vicinity.
- Safe passage of competitors requiring access to the uplift while the race is in progress.
- Condition of the slope surface, particularly on outdoor slopes and in the finish area on all slopes.

4.5. Follow-up Inspections

4.5.1. Where Homologation is granted 'subject to conditions' such as completion of specified alterations, further checks will be necessary to ensure that those conditions are met before any races can be held on the slope.

4.5.2. If the Inspector has determined that a further Inspection Visit would be necessary, then the application should contact the Inspector to arrange a visit.

4.5.3. However, if the Inspector has determined that the TD appointed to the next event at the slope would be able to verify that the conditions have been met, then the appropriate information will be supplied to that TD in advance of the event.

5. Document History

Edition	Date	Description of changes
2007	15-Nov-2006	Approved by TD Forum for use in 2007 season onwards.
Dec 13	10-Dec-2013	Section dealing with Calendar moved to Book IV.
		Complete re-write of section dealing with Homologation.
Nov 15	15-Nov-15	Additional rule for the withdrawal of homologation due to improving standards or other reasons.
Nov 20	15-Nov-20	Gender neutral amendments.