Alpine Officials' Training Pathway

Aims of the Alpine Pathway

The Snowsport England Alpine Officials' Pathway aims to:

1. Provide appropriate, enjoyable and accessible training for any interested in acting as an official at events run or supported by Snowsport England.
2. Provide a progression pathway for those interested in volunteering for more challenging roles on the hill, in the timing hut or race office.
3. Provide support for coach education and development to foster a full and up-to-date awareness of race regulations and protocols.
4. Provide a necessary progression for those aspiring to be accepted as a candidate TD.
5. Provide Officials with regular, accessible CPD. This is based around the Level 1 Course and the Annual Update, which covers all hill roles.
6. Celebrate the contribution of volunteers to our sport

The skills covered by the pathway are transferrable and will allow participants to offer their services to other race organisers at club, local and national levels.

Overview

The Alpine Officials' Pathway accredits Officials at 5 levels.

The Pathway also allows officials to validate for specific roles at a higher level before gaining accreditation at that level.

In order to be on the Alpine Officials' Pathway, participants must:

1. Be registered with Snowsport England as an Official
2. Opt-in to the Alpine Officials' Log

Alpine Official L1

Level 1

Level 1 provides an introduction to Alpine ski races with a focus on Slalom. This includes:

- The layout of a race hill
- A basic understanding of courses, including:
- Gates
- Combinations
- An understanding of rules relating to:
    - Correct passage
    - Climbing
    - Denying a start
    - Start procedures
    - Legal finish

Level 1 includes a general introduction to all roles and a more detailed introduction to:

- Start Marshal
- Gate Judge
- Finish Marshal

Level 1 courses can be delivered by an [1]accredited tutor or a TD. The course must cover the elements listed above but the format is flexible. Courses run within a club may, for example, split the course time between

[1] ***Accredited Tutor A*** *current TD or an accredited L5 Official*

classroom and on-slope, using official paperwork. Any course format is acceptable providing it covers the elements listed and is delivered by an accredited tutor.

Re-accreditation at Level 1

If a candidate has not progressed to Level 2 within three years of achieving Level 1 Accreditation, revalidation is by re-taking the Level 1 course.

Level 2

Alpine Official L2

Once accredited at Level 1, a participant moves to Level 2 by:

- Volunteering as Gate Judge in 2 occasions
    - The first time must be within 12 months of the L1 course
- Volunteering as Start Marshal or Finish Marshal once

Re-accreditation at Level 2

- Volunteer at least 3 times in the three years since the course
    - One of the times must be as Gate Judge
- Re-take the L1 course every three years

The volunteering for accreditation and re-validation may be at a qualifying event or at a club or regional event providing:
1. Current paperwork and protocols are followed
2. The event is overseen by a L4, L5 or TD

Progression beyond Level 2

Once accredited at Level 2, participants can attend further courses, be validated for specific hill roles and seek accreditation at higher levels.
Further courses are modular and are role specific. Participants achieve validation in one or more roles which, cumulatively, lead to higher accreditation levels. As with Level 2, the process is to take a course and then gain experience.

The following courses are available beyond Level 2 and lead to Level 3:

1. Start Referee
2. Finish Referee
3. Referee
4. Chief Gate Judge



Course Structure

Pre-Course

- Read the relevant sections of ICR (and BCR)
- Read the briefing notes
- Download the paperwork
    - This is about becoming familiar with the forms in advance of the course

Course

The courses are tutor-led and can be online or face-to-face. The course material is not in the public domain but the briefing notes are designed to provide both introduction and revision of the course contents

Post-Course

After the course the participants will be sent an open-book, multiple-choice quiz. The pass mark is 80%. Candidates below 80% receive a remedial tutorial.

Shadowing

- Must be a [2]qualifying race (i.e., with a TD)
- Must be an opportunity to observe an Accredited Official
- Must not be left unattended
    - But may have the opportunity to perform the role under supervision for the second run (NB not for CGJ in a CN)
- Is an attend, not a pass/fail

Validation

- Must be a qualifying race (i.e., with a TD)
- Must perform the role for a whole run, including the paperwork *so not appropriate for CGJ taking over for the second run or a CN after the GJs have been briefed and positioned for the first run*
- Post-race is signed off by the TD who will make the final accreditation decision, answering one simple question; "Was X competent?"

Completion of the above for each role confers the following validation



Example

Re-validation

To re-validate, participants must be accredited at Level 2, and perform the role at least once every three years from the date of validation. If unable to do so, they must re-take the course but to not need to re-gain the experience.

Level 3



Accreditation at Level 3 is the product of being accredited at Level 2 and being currently validated for the following roles:

- Start Referee
- Finish Referee
- Referee
- Chief Gate Judge

Re-accreditation at Level 3

Participants remain accredited at Level 3 if they remain validated for the relevant roles (including the requirement to remain accredited at Level 2. If accredited at Level 3, Officials are no longer required to re-take the Level 11 course as part of maintaining their Level 2 Accreditation if they have attended an Annual Update Course within the past 3 years..

Level 4



The following courses make up accreditation at Level 4. They should be taken in this order:

- The Jury - *this course has no requirement for post-course experience*
- Chief of Race

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[2] ***Qualifying Race Any*** *Race with a TD run according to ICR (or ICR as modified by BCR)*

Re-accreditation at Level 4 (re-validation as CoR)

- Be accredited at level 3 - not required for re-validation only
- Be Chief of Race at least once every 3 years or retake the courses. Officials re-taking the course do not need to re-gain the experience.
- Attend an Annual Update Course within the past 3 years.

On a case-by-case basis, individuals with a proven track record of acting as CoR will be deemed to have L4 status for races run for their own club or academy or for an event shared with another club or academy.

Alpine Official L5

Level 5

Experience Level 4 Officials may be added to a list of those accredited at Level 5. This confers the right to lead act as sole tutor on L1 Courses and co-tutor on other courses.

Other Courses

Timing

Timing is a practical course which introduces the mechanics of setting up a timing system for a race. As a practical course, it can only be run as a ski centre using a genuine timing system. The course covers setting the start gate, the finish beam and wiring/relaying both back to the timing hut. The course also covers troubleshooting timing problems caused by technical faults and environment. Validation is by course completion and there is no re-validation requirement – though participants who have not been involved for some time may wish to re-take the course as a refresher. The Course also covers acting as starter, but this role can also be performed by someone trained on the day.

Calculations

Calculations is an online or face-to-face tutor-led course. It deals with all the data management and report generation required for a race from competitor input to results. The course can only be led using set material by a pool of trainers, drawn from experience officials. The course also covers training the starter and Back-up timers.

Race Secretary

Race Secretary is an online or face-to-face, tutor-led course. The course takes approximately 2 hours and uses prescribed material. The course can only be led by officials who are in a pool of experience Race Secretaries. Validation follows a similar process as for hill roles. After taking the course, participants should shadow/assist an experience Race Secretary. Validation follows successfully acting as Race secretary under the mentoring of an experience race secretary (not necessarily a member of the trainers' pool). Re-validation is by attending an Annual Update course, at least once every 3 years.

Safeguarding

In order to act as Safeguarding Officer for a race, participants must hold a current DBS check and have attended the "Time to Listen" course. These are also the requirements for continued validation

Roles with “on the day” training

Starter

Back-up timing

Provisional Times Board

Commentator

Course crew

Current list of Level 5 Officials (active TDs are all Level 5)

Andrew Hjort
Stephen Methringham
Gareth Case
David Chapman
Dave Eaves
Jane Lee