Alpine Race Bulletin
November 2023

BCR and BACR Rule Change - No Stepping Back (Hiking) in Slalom

The ICR Rules have been changed with regard to not allowing any climbing back in SL after coming to a stop, to bring it into line with other disciplines. This has been introduced for 2023/24 season for FIS events now published on the FIS website. This was in place for the FIS races in the Southern Hemisphere during this summer and were also applied for some children's races in Austria during last winter season, with no issues reported.

The Northern Hemisphere precisions in relation to this are posted on GBSki.com and the rule changes in relation to this are included below:

Complete stop for Slalom events

614.2.3 Interdiction to Continue after a competitor stops
If competitors come to a complete stop (e.g. after a fall), they must no longer continue through previous or further gates.. ~~This interdiction is valid in all events with a fixed start interval (Downhill, Super-G, Giant Slalom, Parallel). Only exception is for Slalom (art. 661.4.1), as long as the competitor:~~
~~- does not interfere with the run of the next competitor or,~~
~~- have not been passed by the next competitor.~~

661.4.1 A gate has been passed correctly when both the competitor's ski tips and both feet have crossed the gate line. If a competitor loses a ski, without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must have crossed the gate line. ~~This rule also applies when a competitor has to climb back up to a gate. (art. 614.2.3)~~

804.3 Where there is no outside pole, both feet and ski tips must have passed the turning pole on the same side, following the normal race line of the slalom crossing the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole. If competitors lose a ski, without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must meet both requirements. ~~If competitors have not correctly crossed the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole and does not follow the normal race line, they have to climb back up and pass around the missed turning pole.~~ Where there is an outside pole (first and last gate, delayed gate, and combinations (hairpin, vertical) art. 661.4.1. is valid.

It was agreed that the FIS rule changes that disallow stepping back (hiking) in Slalom (614.2.3, 661.4.1, 804.3) will be applied at all BASS seeded calendar races (and any accompanying U10/12 races). No changes are needed in BCR rule books as we have no British precisions for these ICR articles, but education needs to be widespread to ensure the message is clear to all coaches, racers and parents.

The changes described above under ICR will also apply in the same way to **all** BARTS (artificial slope) seeded calendar races and any accompanying U10/12 races during the 2024 artificial season.

It was also agreed that for other events (for example, unseeded, club or regional races, or team competitions where failure to complete a run can influence team results) may allow stepping back (Hiking), but the organisers must ensure this is clearly explained in pre-race information.

Clarification on the use of delay gates in U14/U16 GS Courses

It is felt that there needs to be some clarification when setting delay gates in GS courses for U14/U16s

The distance between turning gates (poles) for a U14/16 GS is a maximum of 27m. When setting a delay gate, which is not a turning gate, within a course, the maximum distance is 27m between the successive turning gates. It is proposed that this should also apply when including a delay gate, as the maximum distance between the successive turning gates has not changed. **The position of the delay gate can be placed anywhere in that 27m distance and is not constrained by the minimum 10m rule, as it is not a turning gate.**

This ensures compliance with the ICR

901.2.3 The gates must be at least 4 m and at most 8 m wide. The distance between the **nearest turning poles** of two successive gates **must not be less than 10 m**. In U14/U16 competition the distance **between turning pole and turning pole must be not more than 27m**.

Race Entry Fees – 2024 Artificial Season

As a result of rising costs that have been experienced by all involved in the ski racing community, we have had to take the steps to increase entry fees for races for 2024.

For 2024, for all CNs and GBR races, Clubs can decide their own entry fees up to a maximum of £30 for outdoor races and £42 for indoor races.

It is the intention that for 2024, the GBR and Championship races run by Snowsport England that entry fees will be £28 for outdoor and £38 for Indoor races.

Club National Races – Para athlete entries

For the 2023 artificial season GBR races invitations included a paragraph stating that entries would be welcomed from para athletes to GBR races. This was explained with the following wording:

There will be a special category for para skiers. Para entries may be in any age category, and do not need to have seed points, but must comply with the other eligibility criteria for the event. Para athletes will ski the same courses set for the GBR event and would run as first racer(s) down the relevant courses for each run. Awards will be made for the para category by gender.

If Clubs wish to introduce this provision in their invitations for Club National races, then it is proposed that similar wording is used. Of course, as has previously been the case, para athletes may wish to be included with all the other athletes in the seeded races and this will continue.

Lloyd Jenkins
Chair, Alpine Committee