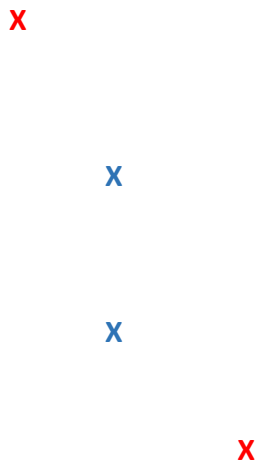
The focus of the debate is the maximum distance between the turning gates (poles) for a U16 -14 GS that is 27m. The confusion or misunderstanding is the use of a combination gate, also known as a hairpin, banana, undergate gate and through gate, which is not a turning gate.

If you are setting open gates in a U16 – 14 event the maximum distance is 27m between the successive turning gates, this also applies to a combination gate where you have included a through (combination / delay) gate, as the maximum distance between the successive turning gates has not changed. **The position of the through 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.**

Using the three-gate combination description, the minimum distance between the turning gates 1 and 3 can be 10m and the maximum is 27m. Gate 2 can be placed anywhere between gates 1 and 3.



Min 10m – Max 27 between red gate and red gate (gates 1 & 3)

Blue gate (gate 2) can be placed anywhere between the two 'red' turning gates

Extracts:

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 U16 - U14 competition the distance **between turning pole and turning pole must be not more than 27m**.

903.1.2 The skilful use of the ground when setting a Giant Slalom is, in most cases, even more important than for a Slalom, since combinations play a less important role owing to the prescribed width of the gates and the greater distances between them. It is therefore, better to set mainly single gates, while exploiting the ground to the utmost. Combinations can be set, but mainly on uninteresting terrain.