



## CHIEF OF COURSE – ALPINE

2017-2018

### STUDY GUIDE

*This Study Guide\* is intended to be used as an educational and review aid for individuals interested in alpine officiating. Downloading, printing and reading the Study Guide must not be substituted for actual attendance at an Alpine Officials' approved clinic or used as a replacement for actual instruction at any Alpine Officials' approved clinic.*

*\*Alpine Officials' Manual, Chapter VII. "THE RACECOURSE", may be printed and used in conjunction with or in place of this Study Guide.*

#### REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS:

1. U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Regulations (ACR)\*
2. ICR of the FIS, Current Edition
3. ICR Precisions, if published
4. U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Officials' Manual

**\*NOTE:** ACR mirrors, when possible, ICR numbering. U.S. Ski & Snowboard exceptions have a “U” preceding the rule number; the “U” is a part of the number.

#### CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION:

Chief of Course Certification Examination will be available at Alpine Officials' approved clinics. Allowed time limit is 2.5 hours. The examination is open book and, unless an exception is granted by the respective AO Chair, it must be administered only at scheduled Clinics. It is NOT A TAKE HOME EXAM! Allowing use of computers in order to complete calculations or “search” rule books is strongly discouraged. Completed examinations must be retained by the clinic examiners; they are not returned to the individuals taking them. Please refer to Regional/Divisional/State publications for schedules. *The Study Guide is not intended as a replacement for taking notes for use during an open-book examination at any Alpine Officials' approved Clinic.*

**NOTE:** In addition to Competition Official (CO) certification requirement in place for all Alpine Officials, Level 1 Chief of Course (CC) certification requirements include:

- Attendance at a level 1 Chief of Course (CC) Clinic;
- Successful completion of Chief of Course (CC) Exam.

*If you have problems with this Study Guide or have suggestions for improvements, please contact the current Chairs of the Alpine Officials' Education Working Group. Thank you.*

The current Chair is: **Lucy Schram**  
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## U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD

# CHIEF OF COURSE - ALPINE

## 2017-2018

### I. PERSONNEL:

#### A. Membership Requirements

1. **U.S. Ski & Snowboard SANCTIONED NON-FIS EVENTS:** Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start & Finish Referees), Chief of Course, Course Setters, Chief of Timing and Calculations and Race Administrator are required to be *current, appropriately certified, members of U.S. Ski & Snowboard Coach or Official members. Qualified members of foreign federations recognized by FIS must hold a valid U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership in order to serve in the above positions at U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned non-FIS events.*
2. **U.S. Ski & Snowboard SANCTIONED FIS EVENTS:** Jury members, Jury Advisors (Start & Finish Referees), Chief of Course, Course Setters, Chief of Timing and Calculations and Race Administrator are required to be *current, appropriately certified Coach or Official U.S. Ski & Snowboard members.* If a foreign FIS Federation lists a foreign coach on their FIS entry form, the Federation is certifying that the coach has the knowledge and ability to fulfill the duties of a Team Captain: e.g. serve as a Jury member or set a course; *this satisfies the “qualified member of foreign federation” requirement for FIS events.*
3. **U.S. Ski & Snowboard** Coach or Officials members whose membership status is marked “PENDING”, may not have completed membership requirements, e.g. “Fast Start Coaching Course” and/or background screening, and they must not be appointed to serve as Jury members, Jury Advisors, Chief of Course or Course Setters.
4. Failure to comply with membership requirements will invalidate event liability insurance.
5. Learning the responsibilities and applications of the Chief of Course in the classroom setting is a bit like teaching swimming without a body of water. It is important that those wishing to become proficient to the task, seek multiple opportunities to work under regional “experts” on the race hill and gain knowledge that may be applicable to the ski area where you most often serve as Chief of Course.

**NOTE:** Except in specific instances where the event has been pre-approved, all coaches must have a current Coach membership in order to participate in any capacity at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event; e.g. on-hill coaching.

- B. **Chief of Course** must be familiar with local snow conditions on the terrain concerned. (601.3.2). The Chief of Course is responsible for the preparation of the event arena in accordance with the directives and decisions of the Jury and as indicated on the homologation report. The Chief of Course is often a ski-area employee and is the “local authority” regarding area weather patterns, availability of resources and existing snow conditions.

As the Referee provides the connection between the coaches and the Jury, the Chief of Course is generally the connection between the resort and the Jury.

1. Chief of Course needs to establish advance communication with ski area management, including Lift Operations, Snowmaking, Grooming, Race Department, Ski Patrol and Mountain Operations
  2. Chief of Course needs to know the racecourse and snow preparation and should be able to evaluate the racecourses set under their jurisdiction. Their responsibilities include the start and finish areas and the timing installations – as well as the actual race trail.
  3. Chief of Course must work with Course Setters and have ample help to assist the Course Setters for all runs. This includes supervising the cleanup immediately following the event.
  4. Successful completion of these responsibilities requires organization, leadership, personnel and equipment.
  5. Chief of Course should know and understand the rules and participate in Jury inspections and other Jury meetings.
  6. Chief of Course must be a current Coach or Official member of U.S. Ski & Snowboard and must be certified as a Chief of Course, Chief of Race, Referee or Technical Delegate.
  7. Chief of Course must attend a biennial Alpine Officials' Continuing Education Clinic (Update), in order to serve in the position and/or retain certification.
- C. **Course Setters** answer to the Jury for the particular competition. The Course Setters and the Chief of Course need to follow the directives of the Jury and, if the racecourse has been set prior to the Team Captains' meeting, they are required to make a report at the Team Captains' meeting concerning the course set.

Course Setters are obliged to set in accordance with the course protection plan set forth by the Jury and Chief of Course and rules governing course setting for the event being contested. It is strongly suggested that Course Setters take the time to familiarize themselves with the documented requirements contained in the respective Homologation Report prior to setting a course.

- D. **Chief of Course and Course Workers/Volunteers**
1. Properly trained and equipped for their tasks.
  2. Reasonable skiing skill necessary to perform work
  3. Ability to maneuver competently on steep slopes while carrying equipment and materials, including heavy loads
  4. Supervised by trained and experienced crew leaders
  5. Trained in proper radio communication procedures
  6. Aware of details for improved margin of racecourse security
    - a. Daily Program (schedule), including training, forerunner and racer start times

- b. Course inspection techniques authorized for competitors
- c. Start intervals for competitors
- d. "Start Stop" procedures
- e. Location of staging areas, e.g. replacement poles and/or equipment
- f. List of course positions and related terminology

## II. THE RACECOURSE AND THE TRACK

- A. Racecourse or the *piste*, is the trail or slope, where the competition is to be contested
  - 1. Proper preparation is essential for a good race!
    - a. Course preparation starts with clearing of brush, obstacles, and early season snowmaking, if available
      - 1.) Mixing snow types is critical in establishing consistent piste
      - 2.) Manage grooming throughout race season
    - a. Apply proper grooming techniques immediately prior to race day
      - 1.) Slow track speed
      - 2.) Tiller bar control
      - 3.) Reverse till
      - 4.) Down pressure
    - b. Managing snow depth
      - 1.) For adequate track condition
      - 2.) For adequate depth for fence installation
    - c. Staffing for piste preparation and maintenance
      - 1.) Fence Crews
      - 2.) Section Chiefs
      - 3.) Course Workers
      - 4.) Slip Crews: Figuring the #'s (lift time, intervals, sections, travel time) # of slippers per group X Lap time (to include# of slipper pullouts + time to lift base + time on lift) X Slipping interval + minimum reserve = # of slippers needed
      - 5.) Staff Training
    - d. Course Materials
      - 1.) Gates and panels
      - 2.) Fencing and protection devices
      - 3.) Drills
      - 4.) Snow Hardening Agents
      - 5.) Dye and sprayers
      - 6.) Shovels and rakes
      - 7.) Timing installations and security/protection
      - 8.) Additional equipment as needed
    - e. Snow plan staffing (additional people for initial preparation) which will require volunteer training and management
  - 2. Ideal racecourse should be maintained so that all competitors have equal opportunities regardless of their start position.
  - 3. After the race, the hill should be left clean of equipment and debris.
  - 4. On-hill security/protection installations require specific knowledge and experience and should basically follow this creed: **ADA**
    - a. Avoid the obstacle

- b. Deflect a fallen competitor away from an obstacle
  - c. Absorb the energy to stop a fallen competitor before he gets to the obstacle.
5. Sources for Security/protection installation information are as follows
- a. Homologation requirements
  - b. Jury inspection requests
  - c. Manufacturers' recommendations
  - d. Historical knowledge of the piste
  - e. Technical Advisors are named by FIS or U.S. Ski & Snowboard for upper-level competitions, e.g. World Cup, Continental Cup, National Championships, to work with the organizers in advance of competition to ensure condition of the racecourse and availability of necessary competitor security/protection equipment.
- B. Race *track* is the sequence of gates through which the competitors pass and are required to be set within U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS specifications for each type of event, DH, SG, GS, or SL:
1. Setting the Gates (Refer to USA Course Setting Specifications: Scored and Non-Scored; 2018 Alpine Competition Guide, U.S. Ski & Snowboard website or Miscellaneous Study Guide Tools)
    - a. U.S. Ski & Snowboard non-FIS events use current edition of course setting specifications available on website and in 2018 Alpine Competition Guide. Gate count is decided by distance between gates (turning poles); specific gate combinations may also be required.
    - b. FIS event SG, GS and SL gate counts are based on direction changes. The required number is calculated on a percentage of vertical drop. FIS DH gate count is based on what is required.
  2. Width between the poles of each gate
  3. Distance between successive gates
  4. Restrictions applied to vertical combinations (SL flushes, hairpins and delays)
  5. Track should:
    - a. Be set appropriate to the level of competition
    - b. Have a variety of turns that involve skillful use of terrain.
    - c. Difficult sections should not be set either right at the beginning or end of course
    - d. Be technically challenging
    - e. Should require complete turns
    - f. Have rhythm and the preferred line should be obvious
    - g. Should lead competitor through the center of the finish
    - h. Be legal but also fair and appropriate for all competitors
    - i. Be set in agreement with the on-hill competitors' security plan

### III. RACECOURSE, THE “TRACK” AND THE RULES

- A. Dimensions
1. Minimum and maximum vertical drop per U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR and FIS ICR
  2. Minimum width of the racecourse per U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR and FIS ICR

- 3. Width and separation of the gates per U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR and FIS ICR
- 4. Timing requirements (Manual and Electronic) per U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR, “FIS Timing Booklet” and FIS ICR
- B. Some applicable rules for review
  - 1. Single Pole Slalom and Single Gate Giant Slalom (Refer to current U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR and FIS ICR)
    - a. In what situations must you install both outside poles/gates and turning poles/gates?
    - b. What is the definition of “gate line” for Single Pole Slalom and Single Gate Giant Slalom?
    - c. In which events, and under what circumstances, is a competitor allowed to “hike”?
    - d. How far does a competitor have to hike in order to complete “clear passage” when they miss a single-pole gate?
    - e. How far does a competitor have to hike in order to complete “clear passage” when they miss a gate comprised of two poles or two panels?
  - 2. Differences between gate counts/setting for non-FIS and FIS events
  - 3. Start/Finish preparation and course setting for dual/parallel events
- C. Supervision of the Training
- D. Rights of the Jury During Competition
- E. The Start Area
- F. The Finish Area
- G. Homologations: Course, Gate Panels, Poles
- H. Preparing the Downhill racecourse, and its “dimensions”
- I. Preparing the Slalom racecourse, and its “dimensions”
- J. Preparing the Giant Slalom racecourse, and its “dimensions”
- K. Preparing the Super G racecourse, and its “dimensions”
- L. Preparing the Dual or Parallel racecourse, and “dimensions”
- M. Inspection and Training (on the racecourse)

#### **IV.**

#### **RACECOURSE HOMOLOGATION**

- A. U.S. Ski & Snowboard Course Approval (Inventory available on U.S. Ski & Snowboard /FIS websites)
  - 1. Required for all U.S. Ski & Snowboard Downhill (DH), Super G (SG), Giant Slalom (GS) and Slalom (SL) events, both scored and non-scored

- 2. Required for U.S. Ski & Snowboard Masters events
  - 3. Course setting needs to conform to the inspection report and U.S. Ski & Snowboard/FIS requirements
  - 4. FIS homologated trails are automatically accepted by U.S. Ski & Snowboard
- B. FIS Racecourse Homologation (Inventory on FIS website)
- 1. U.S. Ski & Snowboard and FIS calendared events are to be held on racecourses that are homologated (approved) in advance by the FIS.
  - 2. Homologation requests are directed to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard representative of the FIS Alpine Racecourses Subcommittee; *they are not sent to FIS Bureau.*
  - 3. Downhill (DH) and Super G (SG) courses must be re-homologated every 5 years.
  - 4. Slalom (SL) and Giant Slalom (GS) courses must be re-homologated every 10 years.
  - 5. All courses – DH, SG, GS, and SL – must be re-homologated whenever there have been major modifications to the hill including, but not limited to:
    - a. Erosion, landslides of overgrowth
    - b. Construction of buildings or lifts
    - c. Construction of shelters, parks, roads, tracks, etc.
    - d. Installation of snowmaking hydrants, snow retention fences or other significant hardware

**NOTE:** An Organizer should not depend entirely on the homologation of a racecourse by the FIS and ignore exceptional snow and weather conditions. Natural conditions like insufficient snow depth, unfavorable surface snow conditions, dense fog, heavy snow fall or rain may make the trail unsuitable for holding a specified competition.

## V. RACECOURSE MATERIALS

A. Suggested List of Supplies	
Poles:	Wrenches for screw-in gates
GS racecourse: adequate numbers	Wedges, hammers
SL racecourse: adequate numbers	Shovels and rakes
Tool kit (pliers, screwdriver, etc.)	Communications equipment
Barriers: As needed	Extra radio batteries and chargers
Drills/Auger for hard snow/ice	Snow hardening agents for snow treatment
Drill battery chargers/extr batteries	Buckets and spreaders
“Willy bags” & filling	Rope/pennants for crowd control
Air fences and inflating devices	Pine boughs/dye - course “paint” & sprayers
Tags/stickers for numbering gates	Plastic garbage bags
Dye - for gate/course marking	Heavy twine/baling wire
Tape - duct, electrical, friction, etc.	“Zip” ties
Official Notice Board(s)	Support for banners
Gate panels/banners DH/GS/SG	Signs (“Closed”, etc.)
Banners: Start, Finish, Sponsors	Timing equipment: electronic & manual/hand
Score Board	Finish sensor protection devices
Public Address System	Extra of everything!

- B. Factors to Consider for appropriate venue construction
  - 1. Type of event
  - 2. Number, age, size, speed and ability level of competitors
  - 3. Nature of racecourse
  - 4. Available personnel
  - 5. Snow conditions
  - 6. Anticipated weather

## **VI. START AREA, START LINE AND THE FINISH AREA**

- A. Start Area
  - 1. Integral and important part of the racecourse carefully planned and prepared
  - 2. Closed off from public
  - 3. Sheltered or near shelter
  - 4. Sufficient area for competitors, coaches, service personnel, extra clothing/equipment
  - 5. Exit other than through start gate
- B. Start Line and Start Gate
  - 1. Location should be well considered
  - 2. Level start line platform or area with restricted access
  - 3. Start gate preparation and equipment in accordance with rules
  - 4. Proper surface preparation to eliminate deterioration
  - 5. Start gate leads competitors onto the racecourse through the first gates
  - 6. Track from start line to first gate prepared and maintained as well as the rest of racecourse
- C. Finish Area and Finish Line
  - 1. Conforms to current requirements of U.S. Ski & Snowboard and/or FIS
  - 2. Enough length and width to allow competitors to stop
  - 3. Access and egress for officials and competitors
  - 4. Adjacent areas to accommodate timing, scoreboard, media and spectators
  - 5. Last gate directs competitors to middle of finish line

6. Vertical posts or banners may be installed to identify location; horizontal “FINISH” banner may be attached to vertical posts
7. Finish line clearly marked with coloring substance
8. All finish installations located and secured to protect competitors
9. Prepared and maintained as well as rest of racecourse

## VII. RACECOURSE PREPARATION SUGGESTIONS

- A. Advance work is a key element
  1. Organizing Committee should consider the recommendations of the area management and the consideration of the skiing public.
  2. Keep area management informed, involved and committed.
- B. Actual Preparation
  1. Clear obstacles from slope and course – prior to first snowfall
  2. Slopes used by recreational skiers groomed on regular basis; supply input on scheduling to ensure good density
  3. Surface as firm and smooth as possible prior to race day
    - a. Mogul cutting, use grooming machines well in advance of event
    - b. 12 hours required for reworked snow to properly “set”
    - c. Keep in mind it is often better to “wait” for conditions/temperatures to stabilize
  4. Mechanical preparations are dependent on the ski area “rolling stock”, the snow conditions and anticipated weather; the ski area employee in charge of grooming is generally the most knowledgeable source of information relative to the needs of the slope. Qualified personnel should discuss preparation of the racecourse well in advance of the event. This will ensure that the grooming staff is aware of current course preparation requirements. *The security of ski competitions demands recognition of the difference between snow preparation for competition and snow preparation for recreation.*
    - a. **Track Packing** can be used early in the season to develop a base. This provides initial compaction and provides a rough surface to which future snow can adhere. This may also help in consolidating deep, dry snowfalls until they can be worked more intensely. With care, track packing may provide enough consolidation and adhesion for new snow to adhere to a frozen base.
    - b. **Tiller Bar** is hydraulic powered to apply significant down pressure and tilling of the snow pack. It is the standard grooming device for most ski areas with modern grooming equipment. It leaves a smooth or slightly rippled surface, but if worked in very deep snowfalls, it may leave layers of compacted snow. Continuous packing is necessary during heavy storms or a sufficient period of time must be allowed after grooming to allow top layers to “set”.
    - c. **Cutter Bar or Blade** is used to “cut” moguls and move snow and should be followed up by finish grooming to leave a skiable surface. This type of grooming requires skilled operators.

- d. Certain level of events requires that racecourses be prepared with the use of a **Water Injection Bar or by spraying water on the track in conjunction with grooming**. These techniques add water to the racecourse and, when set, provides a firmer racing surface.
- 5. Mechanical Preparation Issues. Mechanical preparation is quick and usually effective, but machines do have their limitations.
  - a. Compacting power is diminished on very steep slopes
  - b. Control of the machine may be difficult in some conditions.
  - c. Some machines do not maneuver or pack well on a side-hill
  - d. Under some circumstances, can damage the prepared track
  - e. If insufficient time for the surface to be slipped by skis after working, machinery is best kept off of racecourses until the depth of new snow can no longer be handled by working on skis.
- 6. Manual Preparation. If machines are not available or their use would be ineffective
  - a. Snow cover is very thin
  - b. Slope is too steep for effective machine use
  - c. Crust layer will support skis but break under machines,
  - d. Racecourse is covered with old unpacked snow
  - e. Great depth of new snow on top of a prepared surface
- 7. Types of Manual Preparation
  - a. **Boot Packing** should be done several days in advance to be as effective as possible. When boot packing, several passes over the slope are usually needed. Boot holes should be left open and not packed or slipped over until two days before the event or beginning of training. The racecourse should then be ski packed on the day before the event, and the ridges should not be slipped.
  - b. **Ski Packing** is necessary when there is very thin snow cover, a racecourse needs smoothing after being boot packed, there are isolated areas that cannot be reached by machinery or machinery is not available.
  - c. **Side Slipping** is used for final smoothing of the racecourse and/or removing loose snow from the track.

*As may be apparent, the Chief of Course must be able to evaluate conditions and react appropriately. This is a critical piece for a successful event.*

## VIII. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- A. If New Snow Is Expected Overnight
  - 1. Defer course setting until morning.
  - 2. Cat crews should be constantly packing new snow as it falls
  - 3. Racecourse maintenance crews should be prepared to begin work on the racecourse as early as possible to move new snow off to the sides if it is not too deep or heavy
  - 4. Consider instigation of the designed “SNOW PLAN”

- B. Snow Cover is Thin
  - 1. Dry snow can be sprayed with water in order that available snow becomes more resistant to ski traffic
  - 2. Loose snow, when snow hardening agents are applied, will create a more durable racing surface in specific situations
- C. Ice Patches can either be:
  - 1. Tilled or aggressively raked to add “texture” to the ice
  - 2. Industrial-type propane torches can be used to partially melt relatively large areas that will also allow loose snow to adhere
- D. Snow hardening agents may be recommended. Snow hardening agents can be used when:
  - 1. Adequate moisture exists in the snowpack and/or
  - 2. Melting of ice is sufficient for new snow to adhere in a variety of situations including:
    - a. When snow is sticky
    - b. Snow is too soft or wet due to mild weather and/or rain

**NOTE:** Organizers should work with ski area management regarding types of snow hardening agents allowed by the area/local environmental agencies/regulations.

- E. Application of Snow Hardening Agents
  - 1. Upper layer of snow is ski packed and then smoothed with skis or rakes and shovels
  - 2. The section to be prepared is “salted” by hand or with a spreader
  - 3. Snow hardening agent is scattered on the surface and then covered with a thin layer of snow by side slipping or shoveling
  - 4. The treated area should extend beyond (outside) the track itself
  - 5. Start and finish areas should also be prepared in the same manner as the racecourse
  - 6. A treated racecourse may become smooth only after several skiers use it so advance preparation for an adequate number of forerunners will assist in providing an even surface for all competitors
  - 7. Warm-up/training areas should be treated in the same manner as the racecourse
- F. Snow Hardening Agent Preparation Issues. Preparation of the run with snow hardening agents, if done in due time, is more effective than applying water because it allows the snow to become moist and even. However, the following should be noted.
  - 1. Granular spring snow may be hardened by the use of additives
  - 2. With new snowfall, the snow needs to be treated and compressed during, or immediately after, the snowfall to take advantage of the humidity in the new snow
  - 3. When using snow hardening agents, **prepare several test patches** adjacent to the course in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the snow hardening agents

4. Snow hardening agents are generally not recommended for use with dry snow at low temperatures
5. When snow hardening agents are used, snow hardens differently at varying depths and last for differing amounts of time. Refer to historical reactions of snow hardening agents and test patches
6. When time is short, or if a run needs overnight preparation with cold and loose snow, water and snow hardening agents may be used in combination. In this case, the *piste*
  - a. Should be boot packed or track packed, wind rowed, or other means of “opening” the surface of the snow pack
  - b. Water should be applied to “open” surface of the snow pack
  - c. Working the run in small areas, this mixture of water should be immediately boot packed or tilled into the snow and then ski packed to make it smooth
7. Although snow hardening agents may be used in varying amounts on certain sections of GS, SG and DH racecourses, it is best to prepare an entire SL racecourse evenly
8. When there is damp or wet snow that does not freeze because of mild temperatures, compact snow may be obtained through the use of snow hardening agents. Such products may also be effective because of rain and/or a rise in temperature
9. Very wet, rippled snow is usually found in the spring when there is warm, rainy weather or when rainfall mixes with snow. The same substances used for wet snow are effective, but much deeper preparation is needed before snow hardening agents are spread and must be repeated after spreading. If the snow is very humid, it may be necessary to use a different snow hardening agent
10. A racecourse may need to be softened when rainfall is followed by a sudden freeze - a difficult situation that generally requires machine work by experienced operators
11. *Traces of some “snow hardening agents” can be transferred from on-hill clothing/equipment to travel clothing/equipment and may cause airport security alerts*

## **IX.**

### **RACECOURSE MAINTENANCE SUGGESTIONS**

- A. Racecourse maintenance begins with preparation of the slope that is to be used and ends after the last competitor has crossed the finish line and the racecourse has been removed
- B. Potential trouble areas should be anticipated and proper planning should be undertaken to avoid problems
- C. Constant racecourse maintenance work is necessary during the race to slip or shove out ruts, holes and “chatter marks” from the turning areas
- D. Objective is to make the racecourse as equitable for the last competitor out of the start gate as it was for the first competitor
- E. Maintenance of the start area and finish area is as important as the maintenance of the actual racecourse

- F. If prerace preparation has been successful, maintaining the racecourse during the race itself will be easier. Part of maintenance will be preparation for the next day's training or race
- G. As with other race operations, racecourse maintenance is easier, more enjoyable and more effective if:
  - 1. It is properly organized
  - 2. The workers are shown leadership, coordination, and are properly trained
  - 3. Communication is in place so that there is no delay in response or any error in assigned tasks
  - 4. Racecourse maintenance work is done by several crews under the direction of an experienced leader and staffed by skiers with sufficient weight and skill for the job
  - 5. Crews are assigned a section of the racecourse that they will work continuously, or they rotate down the racecourse and move from one section to another.
  - 6. If a rotation system is used, one crew should always be either already at the start or on the lift headed for the start.
- H. The security of all competition participants – Coaches, Competitors, Officials and Volunteers, as well as the efficiency of a racecourse crew are core concerns. Generally, the more qualified racecourse crew members who have access to radio communication, the better; however, every racecourse crew member, regardless of whether or not they have a radio, should be familiar with the race program/schedule.

Familiarity with the race program/schedule includes, but is not limited to the intervals between competitors' starts. *Fixed start interval competitions (GS, SG and DH) require that this information be published on the race program.* Knowing the amount of available time between competitors can permit the racecourse crew to make better use of their time, and preserve the margin of their security in the performance of their duties during the event.

- 1. Chief of Course should always be aware of actual start intervals: published and Jury-approved changes.
- 2. All racecourse crew members should be aware of changes to published/announced start intervals and must communicate that to other competition workers, e.g. Gate Judges, if they do not have radios.
- 3. It is common to have a longer start interval for the first group (usually 15 competitors); if the event is televised, this interval is lengthened.
- 4. During the main portion of the competition field, the start interval is often shortened; e.g. the minimum as dictated by the type of event: DH, SG, and GS.
- 5. It is common and recommended that the start interval for a final group of competitors (usually five), be lengthened in order to reduce the possibility of a rerun required by issues beyond the control of the competitor on course, e.g. obstruction created by a fallen competitor and/or required gate and/or course repairs.

- I. Repairing damage. With sufficient organization, it should not be necessary to interrupt the race for maintenance other than at brief predetermined intervals. Should an interruption be needed, the delay must be approved by the Jury and announced to all officials, competitors and coaches.
  - 1. Competitor inspections may damage a racecourse more than race or training runs will and may necessitate repair before the race or training run can start.
  - 2. Establish communication system to make sure racecourse is clear of all competitors so that maintenance work can start
  - 3. Turns, landing areas after jumps, flats and traverses are all areas that require regular maintenance. Some sections will only need side slipping, but others may require major work with shovels, torches, water and snow hardening agents
  - 4. Weather permitting, maintenance work should be done as soon as possible so a developing problem is not aggravated, and all major repair work should be completed after the last run of the day so the racecourse may “set” overnight
- J. Recent challenges due to extremes in weather/climate change have caused alterations to slope use, vertical drop, and location of start and timing installations. The Chief of Course should be aware of alternate racecourses, and range of race track within the Homologation.
  - 1. Anticipating future challenges may include consideration of higher start locations, higher finish/timing installations.
  - 2. Having additional timing/communication cables to allow greater range of timing/finish line locations.
  - 3. Other considerations can include alternate courses, even moving events to alternate nearby resorts.
  - 4. Off-season construction of mobile timing buildings should be considered if not already available.
  - 5. Coordination within the Organizing Committee can result in successful completion of events/schedule due to being prepared and knowing your alternatives.

**A good Chief of Course will anticipate problem areas and organize crews accordingly.**