

# SNOWBOARDING GENERAL RULES

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics snowboarding competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has developed these rules based upon Federation Internationale de Skie (FIS) rules for snowboarding. FIS rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply. For more information, visit [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com).

## **OFFICIAL EVENTS OFFERED**

1. Slalom
2. Giant Slalom
3. Unified Slalom
4. Unified Giant Slalom
4. Super Glide\*

ATHLETES MAY ENTER A MAXIMUM OF FOUR EVENTS

\*The super glide event is for athletes who can only snowboard on beginner runs (green circle). Athletes registered for super glide may not compete in other alpine events.

## **SECTION A – COLD WEATHER SAFETY**

As per Special Olympics, Inc., the International Ski Federation and the United States Ski Association Joint Regulations:

- a. There are three main factors to be considered by the jury regarding cold weather safety: the temperature, the duration of the exposure, and clothing and other protection against cold weather. These factors together with any other relevant information, such as the "wind chill factor," must be taken into consideration when a decision is made regarding cold weather.

## **SECTION B – RULES OF COMPETITION**

1. General Rules and Modifications
  - a. During competition, if a competitor should move out of the general direction of the line of the course (fall, miss a gate, etc.) he/she shall have two minutes from the time of deviation to re-enter the course.
  - b. Race Procedures
    - 1) Athlete leaves on start command "5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 – GO"
    - 2) When the front boot crosses the start line or the athlete's leg activates the start wand, the timer starts.
    - 3) The timer stops when the athlete's front boot crosses the finish line.
  - c. Gate Line: The gate line in giant slalom, where a gate consists of two pairs of poles holding panels between them, is the imaginary shortest line between the two inner poles at ground (snow) level. The gate line in the slalom is the imaginary shortest line between the turning pole and the outside pole at ground (snow) level.
  - d. Correct Passage: A gate has been passed correctly when the competitor's snowboard tip and both feet have passed by the gate. The start and finish lines are the same as two gate lines.

- e. In the event that a competitor removes a pole from its vertical position before the competitor's snowboard tip and both feet have passed the gate line, the snowboard tip and heel must pass the original gate.
- 2. Divisioning
  - a. If time permits, time trials shall be held on a modified giant slalom course for divisioning in all events.
    - 1) Individual events will be divisioned based on the athlete's time during time trials.
    - 2) Unified events will be divisioned based on the combined time from the athlete and unified partner during time trials.
  - b. If no time trials are conducted, the athlete's fastest time from the Giant Slalom event will be used for divisioning in all events.
- 3. Event Modifications
  - a. Slalom and Giant Slalom competition will consist of two timed runs. The combined times will determine the results for awards.
  - b. Unified Slalom and Unified Giant Slalom shall consist of two runs – one run by the athlete and one run by the unified partner. Final finish shall be determined by the combined times.

### **SECTION C – FACILITIES**

- 1. All races shall be run on the same courses as the alpine ski races.
- 2. Slopes must be suitable in length, width and difficulty to accommodate snowboarders' abilities. All race and training venues must be safe.
- 3. The finish area for all races shall allow enough room for a competitor to safely come to a stop. Whenever possible, all finish areas shall be fenced to keep spectators off the venue.

### **SECTION D – EQUIPMENT**

- 1. Helmet
  - a. Helmets are required for all forerunners and competitions in official training and competition for all ability levels. Under the new regulations, helmets must bear a CE mark and conform to recognized and appropriate standards such as CEH.Din1077, ASTM F2040, SNELL S98 or RS 98.
  - b. Helmets must have a conformity label affixed by the manufacturer in a non-removable way, at the back of the helmet, in a position where it is not covered by the goggle strap. The conformity label must contain the text "Conform to FIS Specifications RH 2013".
  - c. Helmets must cover the head and ears. Helmets with spoilers or edges that stick out are not permitted. Protective features, such as chin guards on SL helmets are permitted. Soft ear protection is only permitted for helmets used in SL.
  - d. Helmet mounted cameras are not allowed on helmets during official training or competition.