

Alpine Officials Certification Matrix SEASON 2026 (CHANGES IN BLUE FONT)

MISSION STATEMENT: It is the mission and the goal of the U. S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Officials to strive for excellence in race officiating in order to provide quality competitions for all athletes.

The U. S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Officials Certification Matrix has been developed to illustrate the pathway for Alpine Officials to develop and progress through the system. This matrix contains suggested competency based criteria. An individual's past experiences and opportunities should be taken into account when considering promotion. Ultimately, advancement should recognize proven judgment, ability, and service.

SPECIALTY CATEGORY	PREREQUISITES	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
	GETTING STARTED	ACQUIRE BASIC KNOWLEDGE	REFINE KNOWLEDGE / SPECIALIZATION	MASTER COMPETENCIES	RECOGNIZE SERVICE	HONORABLE RETIREMENT
COMPETITION OFFICIAL-CO	Entry Level	Attend basic clinic; online clinic acceptable upon availability	Work 10 days as a CO at sanctioned competitions	Should work additional 10 days in area of specialization	Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Competition	Continue U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership
	CO certification required prior to specialty-area certification; e.g. JA, CR, CC, RA, RF	Individuals desiring to pursue positions of Start and/or Finish Referee, must attend a RF or JA Clinic and pass the JA exam	Develop skills needed for position (e.g. gate judge, manual timekeeping, course preparation and maintenance)	Demonstrate ability to train and lead others in area of specialization	Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional AO Committee	Move from active to inactive status as CO
	Advancement in Competition Official certification (CO) is available for non-trackable specialty areas as follows: Assistant to CC, CR, RA, TC, e.g.: Gate Judging, course maintenance, manual time keeping, Jury Secretary, Assistant Starter, etc. Record of days worked must be tracked on the AO Personal Activity Record and submitted to the appropriate AO Chair.			Receive favorable recommendation from 2 level 4 officials	Receive approval of U.S. Ski & Snowboard National WG's & Committees	
JURY ADVISOR-JA (Start/Finish Referee)	Attendance at CO Clinic	Attend Level 1 RF clinic	Work 10 days as JA at sanctioned competitions	Should work 10 additional days as JA; events should be scored events	Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Jury Advisor	Continue U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership
	Recommended Level 1 CR and Level 1 TC		Handle paperwork timely, accurately	Serve as speed event Jury Advisor	Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional AO Committee	Move from active to inactive status as JA
		Pass Level 1 JA exam	Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level supervising officials (not including CO4)	Receive favorable recommendation from 2 Level 4 officials (not including CO4)	Receive approval of U.S. Ski & Snowboard National WG's & Committees	
A Jury Advisor must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Jury Advisor certification level.						
TECHNICAL DELEGATE-TD	Level 1 TC, Level 2 RF OR Level 1 TC, Level 1 CR and Level 2 JA OR Level 1 TC, Level 2 CR and Level 1 JA	Attend level 1 TD clinic (if offered)	Work 10 days as TD at sanctioned competitions	Should work 10 additional days as TD, RF, or CR with emphasis on well-rounded experience; events should be scored events. A minimum of one event should be outside of Division/Region or at an event assigned by respective AO Chair.	Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Technical Delegate	Continue U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership
		Pass level 1 TD exam	Demonstrate ability to lead	Demonstrate ability to build consensus as a TD, to understand and comply with Jury procedures, to organize all facets of an event in accordance with current rules and procedures.	Should include out-of-Division/Region events; should include speed events	Move from active to inactive status as TD
	Proven leadership ability	Shadow U.S. Ski & Snowboard Level 3 or Level 4 or FIS TD at 2 U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned events.	Conduct administrative controls e.g. check homologations, TD RF and timing reports, technical course data	Demonstrate ability to make sound judgments in expected and unexpected situations.	Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional AO Committee and the TDAG. *	
	Proven skiing ability	Serve as TD under supervision of U.S. Ski & Snowboard Level 3 or Level 4 or FIS TD	Conduct technical controls e.g. radios, medical services, timing, course setting and protection	Proven ability to handle responsibilities of position of TD, RF, or CR in a professional, accurate manner with emphasis on well-rounded experience.	Must also receive approval of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's AOEWG, Technical SC, and the Alpine Sport Committee	
	Must have 1 nomination and 2 seconds from Level 3 TD's. (Forms available)	Receive favorable written evaluation from each of the 3 supervising TD's.	Submit accurate and timely race documentation	Pass level 3 exam (80%)		
			Receive favorable written recommendation from 2 higher level TD's	Shadow U.S. Ski & Snowboard Level 3 or Level 4 or FIS TD at one U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned speed event and receive favorable written evaluation from the supervising TD		
				Receive favorable written recommendation from 2 Level 4 or FIS TD's, Divisional and/or Regional AO Committee, and the TDAG. * Must also receive approval of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's AOEWG, Technical SC, and Alpine Sport Committee	* TDAG is a Technical Delegates' Advisory Group to the AOEWG. It was formerly the U.S. Technical Delegate Working Group.	
<p>Unless excused by Division/Region AO Chair, prior to serving, a Technical Delegate must attend a seasonal Technical Delegates' Workshop (or equivalent). They must attend a Workshop every two years in order to retain current certification level. A U.S. Ski & Snowboard TD should work as an assigned TD a minimum of two days every season and must work as an assigned TD at least once every two years in order to retain certification level. PLEASE REFER TO ACR RULES: 602.1.2 (Responsibility), 602.1.3 (Prerequisites), 602.1.4 (Development), and U602.1.5.11 (Advancement) plus additional ACR rules regarding participation to maintain TD certification.</p>						

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	GETTING STARTED	ACQUIRE BASIC KNOWLEDGE	REFINE KNOWLEDGE / SPECIALIZATION	MASTER COMPETENCIES	RECOGNIZE SERVICE	HONORABLE RETIREMENT
REFEREE-RF Provided for new Referees. Required path for coaches who have previously completed Level 100 or higher Coach Certification requirements but are not currently certified AO Referees.	Attendance at CO Clinic	Attend Level 1 RF clinic	Work 10 days as RF at sanctioned competitions	Should work 10 additional days as RF; events should be scored events	Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Referee	Continue U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership
	Recommended Level 1 CR	Pass level 1 RF exam	Handle paperwork timely, accurately	Serve as speed event RF or Asst RF	Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional AO Committee	Move from active to inactive status as RF
	Proven skiing ability	A minimum of 1 shadow assignment must be successfully completed under the supervision of a U.S. Ski & Snowboard Level 3 Alpine RF or TD (minimum Level 2 RF/TD), or FIS TD. AO recommendation form must be submitted to the respective Divisional AO chair.	Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level supervising officials: RF, TD, or CR	Receive favorable recommendation from 2 Level 4 officials (not including CO4 and JA4)	Receive approval of U.S. Ski & Snowboard National WG's & Committees	
	A Referee must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Referee certification level. PLEASE NOTE: Coaches must also attend a separate Continuing Education Clinic developed and tracked by the Coaches' Education Department.					
CHIEF OF RACE-CR	Attendance at CO clinic	Attend Level 1 CR clinic	Work 10 days as a CR at sanctioned competitions	Should work 10 additional days as CR; events should be scored events	Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Chief of Race	Continue U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership
	Good organizational & leadership skills	Pass Level 1 CR exam	Learn skills to be productive jury member	Demonstrate ability to make sound decisions in variety of situations	Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional	Move from active to inactive status as CR
	Proven skiing ability		Learn skills to be effective leader of race committee	Demonstrate ability to lead others effectively	Receive approval of U.S. Ski & Snowboard National WG's & Committees	
	Proven leadership ability		Serve as CR for different levels of competition	Demonstrate ability to delegate responsibilities		
			Attend Level 1 RF clinic and pass Level 1 RF exam	Receive favorable recommendation from 2 Level 4 officials (not including CO4 and JA4)		
			Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level supervising officials: CR or TD			
A Chief of Race must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Chief of Race certification level.						
CHIEF OF COURSE-CC	Attendance at CO clinic	Attend level 1 CC clinic	Work 10 days as a CC at sanctioned competitions	Should work 10 additional days as CC; events should be scored events	Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Chief of Course	Continue U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership
	Proven knowledge of local snow conditions and terrain	Pass level 1 CC exam	Learn different snow prep techniques	Demonstrate ability to work cooperatively with jury	Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional AO committee	Move from active to inactive status as CC
	Good organizational & leadership skills		Become knowledgeable of snow prep chemicals	Demonstrate knowledge regarding protection issues	Receive approval of U.S. Ski & Snowboard National WG's & Committees	
	Able to meet physical demands of job		Learn to install various protection devices in appropriate locations	Demonstrate effective snow and course prep		
	Proven skiing ability		Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level supervising officials: TD, RF, CR, or CC	Receive favorable recommendation from 2 Level 4 officials (not including CO4 and JA4)		
	Receive favorable written recommendation from L3 or higher RF, CC, CR or TD.					
A Chief of Course must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Chief of Course certification level.						

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TIMING and CALCULATIONS-TC	Attendance at CO clinic	Attend introductory TC clinic	Work 10 days in various TC positions at sanctioned competitions	Should work 10 additional days as TC; events should be scored events	Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 in Timing &	Continue U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership
	Aptitude for math/numbers	Pass Level 1 TC exam	Learn and understand electronic timing equipment	Demonstrate good management skills under varying conditions	Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional AO committee	Move from active to inactive status as TC
	Computer skills to operate timing/scoring programs		Calculate EET's accurately & prepare Timing Technical Report and Report by the Referee forms	Handle all calculations accurately/confidently. Demonstrate understanding of connecting electronic timing equipment, wiring and time bases to computers.	Receive approval of U.S. Ski & Snowboard National WG's & Committees	
			Demonstrate ability to instruct/run manual timing crew	Serve as Chief of TC under supervision of Senior TC		
			Receive favorable recommendation by 2 higher level supervising TC officials	To qualify for the exam, receive favorable recommendation from the same senior TC		
			Recommended: Skiing ability to access/ descend race course	Required: Skiing ability to access/ descend race course		
				Pass Level 3 TC exam (75%)		
A Chief of Timing & Calculations must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Chief of Timing & Calculations certification level.						
RACE ADMINISTRATOR-RA (includes EVENT DATA MANAGEMENT)	Good organizational & leadership skills	Attend Level 1 RA/DM clinic	Work 10 days in race administration at sanctioned competitions	Should work 10 additional days as RA; events should be scored events	Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 in Race Administration	Continue U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership
	Appropriate computer skills	Pass Level 1 RA exam	Demonstrate knowledge of race administration requirements and prepare accurate documents: entry list, start list, results	Demonstrate ability to handle all race administration functions accurately, competently	Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional AO Committee	Move from active to inactive status as RA
	Attend RA/DM clinic OR apprentice with experienced RA or receive Division/State approval		Set up for Team Captains Meeting; draw board, attendance, minutes, program, etc.	Demonstrate ability to work well with others in varied circumstances	Receive approval of U.S. Ski & Snowboard National WG's & Committees	
	Competency with required timing/scoring programs		Produce end-of-race packet including accurate calculation of head tax	Demonstrate ability to successfully handle highest Level U.S. Ski & Snowboard/FIS races		
	<i>Race Administration may also referred to as Race Secretariat or Race Secretary</i>		Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level RA's, Level 3 or Level 4 U.S. Ski & Snowboard TD, or FIS TD.	Receive favorable recommendation from 2 Level 4 supervising officials: TD, CR, or RA		
	Unless excused by Division/Region AO Chair, prior to serving, a Race Administrator must attend a seasonal Race Administrators' Workshop (or equivalent) in order to retain current Race Administrator certification level.					
ALL recommendations must note event/date of evaluation as well as official capacity of official making recommendation.						
RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE WITHIN 2 (TWO) SEASONS FOR TECHNICAL EVENTS AND 3 (THREE) SEASONS FOR SPEED EVENTS.						