



## **2024 IFSA JUDGING HANDBOOK REGION 2**

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# 1 - EVENT PERSONNEL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of IFSA Head Judge (HJ) carries a high degree of responsibility for the sport of Big Mountain Freeride. Working in conjunction with the Technical Director (TD) the HJ is responsible for providing a safe environment for athletes to compete in. The HJ ensures that events are executed in accordance with IFSA rules and best practices. The HJ maintains the positive culture of Freeride through friendly and organized execution of judging protocol, accurate scorekeeping and the enforcement of the [IFSA code of conduct](#). The Head Judge is responsible for disseminating the judging criteria and any clarification regarding judging positions during athlete meetings. The HJ fosters and maintains the positive relationships and clear lines of communication between judges, athletes, coaches, and families. Through all of these actions, our HJs ensure consistency and quality of events and the longevity of the sport of Big Mountain Freeride across the Americas Region.

Typical candidates for judges include former athletes and coaches, team parents whose children no longer compete, event organizers, TDs, patrol, and snow sports instructors. Anyone with the technical acumen to recognize good skiing and riding, and knowledge and passion for the sport of Big Mountain Freeride. Judges are not permitted to judge at events where family members are participating. Active coaches of junior athletes are not permitted to judge at junior events. Active coaches of adult athletes are not permitted to judge at adult events.

## 1.1 - Head Judge

The coordination between the HJ and TD is critical to the safety and consistency of the event. Venue choice, progressive venue options, feature closures, inspection protocol, split judging locations, boundaries and pace of the event are decided upon between the TD and HJ. When dealing with complex venues, snow conditions and unstable weather forecasts, the HJ may need to be on site two days prior to competition. The HJ is expected to have expert knowledge of IFSA judging criteria through training, judging experience, and continual education. The HJ is required to have comprehensive knowledge of IFSA rules as documented in the current year [IFSA Athlete Handbooks](#) and should have the appropriate handbook (junior or adult series) on hand during the competition for reference in protest situations. See, [Attachment A](#) for the IFSA Judging Methodology. TDs and judges' roles complement and support each other. IFSA rules allow for the Head Judge to act simultaneously as the TD, but having an assistant TD is recommended for larger fields and events with multiple venue options. On event

morning, the HJ performs an inspection with the support judges to make sure they understand all aspects and line choices, any course boundaries and closures, and to familiarize with primary and backup judging locations. During forerunner runs the HJ leads the judging discussion to determine line score and to coordinate execution scoring communication. After the last competitor runs, the HJ leads the judges in the scorekeeping review and finalization of results and provides input to the TD for 2<sup>nd</sup> run cut line decisions (when applicable). The HJ is expected to attend the awards ceremony and to spend time reviewing judging breakdowns with athletes and coaches following the awards ceremony. See [Attachment B](#) for a HJ Guidelines General Outline. The HJ is stationary and on venue for the entire duration of the event and should therefore carry a backpack to the venue containing the recommended items in [Attachment C](#).

## 1.2 - Support Judge

The coordination and communication between the HJ and Support Judges is critical to the consistency and accuracy of the judging for each event. Support judges are expected to understand and be comfortable executing IFSA judging criteria outlined in [Attachment A](#), through the IFSA judging workshop, training videos and/or through shadowing in the judges pit. On event morning, the judges perform an inspection together under the direction of the HJ to make sure they understand all aspects and line choices, any course boundaries and closures, and to familiarize with the primary and backup judging location(s). The Support Judges communicate together and provide input to the HJ on Line Score and in formulating execution scores. The value of support judges is to diversify the observation of athlete's runs - removing bias - and in recall of previous runs when forming execution score - increasing accuracy and consistency. The Support Judges assist the HJ during scorekeeping review and finalization of results. The Support Judges are expected to attend the awards ceremony and spend time reviewing judging breakdowns with athletes and coaches following the awards ceremony. The Support Judge is stationary and on venue for the entire duration of the event and should therefore carry a backpack to the venue containing the recommended items in [Attachment C](#).

## 1.3 - Technical Director

In coordination with the Event Organizer (EO), TD is responsible for the competition aspect of each event. TDs are experienced and competent in event management, safety guidelines, and following IFSA rules and best operating practices as defined in the IFSA TD Handbook. The TD, with input from the head judge (HJ), has the final authority on the

safety of the event as well as any issues resulting in conflict. This includes any interpretation of rules and protocols laid out in the [IFSA handbook](#) such as venue features and closures. The TD will interact and coordinate with all other stakeholders of the event including but not limited to; Patrol, EO/Venue Staff, Marketing, Media, Operations, Administration and Judges. The TD will support patrol in establishing a safety/security plan, including location of resources at top and bottom of venue, as well as mid venue when applicable. The TD is required to have comprehensive knowledge of IFSA rules as documented in the current [IFSA Athlete Handbooks](#) year and should have the appropriate handbook (junior or adult series) on hand during the competition for reference in protest situations. The TD is expected to formally report any incidents/injuries as well as a TD report for each day of competition to the IFSA and therefore must be fully aware and alert throughout the entire competition. The TD or Assistant TD, and HJ is expected to watch every athlete during the competition and respond accordingly should any instance warrant.

#### **1.4 - Patrol**

Generally, the event host will assign a patrol liaison for the event who then directs the patrol staff. Pre-event the TD and patrol liaison, sometimes including the Head Judge, must review possible venues, boundaries, feature closures, inspection closures, communication and response plan and possible locations for sleds and/or anchors if necessary. This meeting should be within a time frame where possible environmental factors (snowpack and weather) are known within reason, not to exceed 10 days prior. Electronic communication (pictures) is encouraged beyond 10 days prior to the event. During the event, the TD communicates with patrol to ensure that the appropriate number of patrollers are always at the top of the venue and ready to respond if necessary in conjunction with the mountain's response protocols.

#### **1.5 - Event Organizer (EO) and Venue Staff**

In addition to the TD, Judges and assistant TD, the EO is responsible to hire or obtain (volunteers) the venue staff. When dealing with complex venues it is important for the TD, Head Judge, regional series director and the EO to work together to staff the event in a manner that supports each role to execute their responsibilities appropriately. Head Judge and support judge compensation fees are outlined as follows.

## COMPENSATION TABLE

	Head Judge Day Rate	Head Judge Travel Day	Per Diem	Mileage (Overnight Traveling Judge)
Regional/ Adult 2*	\$230 USD, \$305 CAD	\$125 USD, \$165 CAD	\$50 USD, \$68 CAD	65.5 per mile
National/ Adult 3*/ Adult 4*	\$300 USD, \$400 CAD	\$125 USD, \$165 CAD	\$50 USD, \$68 CAD	65.5 per mile
	Alt. Judge Day Rate	Alt. Judge Travel Day	Per Diem	Mileage (Overnight Traveling Judge)
Regional/ Adult 2*	\$150 USD, \$200 CAD	\$125 USD, \$165 CAD	\$50 USD, \$68 CAD	65.5 per mile
National/ Adult 2*/ Adult 4*	\$200 USD, \$265 CAD	\$125 USD, \$165 CAD	\$50 USD, \$68 CAD	65.5 per mile

Venue staff generally includes starters, ninjas, scorekeeper (off venue), scorecard runners and setup and teardown personnel. Venue staff must be competent skiers or riders and be capable of navigating the venue. Ski retrieval staff (ninjas) must also be competent and comfortable going anywhere on the venue and are recommended to be skiers as they are at times expected to side step uphill.

Patrol, and venue staff may work together with the TD when setting the venue.

Prior to opening registration for the event, there should be communication with the event organizer regarding a realistic competition field size. While this decision is the responsibility of the EO, it is important that the TD, HJ, and Regional Series Director have input to the decision. Consideration should be placed on maximum division size for reasonable judging, venue length, caliber of the competition field, whether or not early loads are possible, weather day scheduled or not, inspection time, lift cycle and time in the season the event is scheduled (daylight and weather potential impacts) and factor in any possible delays. The larger the field the more demand is placed on all involved. The TD and EO must consider at what point possibly would there be too many competitors.

The EO is responsible for supplying a starter. It is recommended that 2 people share this role so that they can rotate each other out for warmth and hospitality considerations. The assistant starter can assist in managing the start list/ athlete run order to ensure the next 5 athletes are ready for their start. **The HJ or TD will ensure that the starter announces each rider consistently over the radio to the judges. Standard protocol following a judge's ready is, "bib #1... bib #1... dropping in 3,2,1... bib#1 on course".** It is recommended that athlete names not be announced over the event radio to ensure impartiality. (It is allowed for the event announcer to announce the athletes name as part of the production of the event.) The HJ or TD will direct the starter to manage the start area, ensuring that the judges clearly know where the athletes are dropping from. This

may require athletes to stage a certain distance from the start flag or gate. The starter must make sure that the next 5 athletes are always ready to drop. The starter also assists with deploying ninjas or ski patrol at the request of the TD or HJ.

The EO is responsible for supplying gear retrieval personnel (ninjas). 4-5 Ninjas are generally required and must continually rotate back to the start area or wherever directed by the TD. Ninjas must be expert skiers or riders able to respond to any location on the venue. It is recommended that ninjas carry event radios. Ninjas are signaled to respond onto the venue to retrieve an athlete's gear by the TD, HJ or starter. Ninjas may also be asked to help smooth out any areas adversely affected by a patrol response or their own response or to reset a boundary or closure.

## 1.6 - Mountain Operations

This relationship is one of the most critical in ensuring not only a successful event but future events as well. Considering that Mountain Management and Operations has the highest authority in whether or not an event takes place, the interactions with the TD and HJ are expected to be and remain on the most professional levels possible. Direct communications should occur with mountain operations on any grooming that needs to be done for the finish area and or judges tent area. This may be included as part of the afternoon mountain operations meetings in prior days to the competition to get it on the grooming schedule. Also, these mountain operations meetings usually have every mountain head involved from the mountain manager, head of patrol, head of marketing, head of events, head of grooming, head of services etc., so it is a great place to get the whole mountain operations on the same page with the needs of the competition and to discuss any concerns or issues from all sides. Daily meetings, many times both before each competition day and after, are expected to discuss the ongoing execution of the event. Many times, Patrol is also part of this process.

## 1.7 - Scorekeeper

The Scorekeeper plays a critical role in ensuring accurate input of judges scores as well as accurate computation and distribution of results. The Scorekeeper is required to complete training in use of the Live Heats system, and must ensure that each event database is set up properly for the specific event requirements. Some considerations include number of competition days, age and gender divisions, number of athletes in each division, as well as defining normal vs. split judging and number of judges. The Scorekeeper and Assistant Scorekeeper should check each other's data entries against



the judge's scoresheets, flag all unclear or illegible handwritten entries, ensure that all judges have the same line score for each athlete run, and flag all inconsistent execution scores greater than 0.5 points between judges for the same athlete. After the judges complete their review, the Scorekeeper must quickly update errors in Live Heats, prepare podium lists for the awards ceremony, and prepare full result lists for public viewing following the awards ceremony. The Scorekeeper must remain on site following awards in case a scoring error is identified by an athlete or coach during awards or judging breakdown discussions.

### **1.8 - Scoresheet Runner**

The Scoresheet Runner is required to carry paper scoresheets from the judges pit to the scorekeeper. Normally there are several Scoresheet Runners to ensure that scoresheets are delivered as soon as they are filled. In this way, the Scorekeeper is able to enter results as the event is proceeding, and should be able to complete the results entry by the time the judges arrive to review the results following the last athlete. Eligible Scoresheet Runners must be able to ski or ride the route to access the judges pit, and from the judges pit to the Scorekeeper location. Competitors and coaches who are participating in the event may not act as Scoresheet Runners.

### **1.9 - Starter**

The starter's primary role is to organize the athletes in the most efficient manner to facilitate an organized start order, communicate the next athlete bib number, and to send the athlete onto the course at the HJ's command. The starter is required to ensure that each athlete is wearing a helmet and back protector. The starter is required to communicate each athlete's DNS to the HJ and TD so that they can mark it on their scoresheets next to the athlete's bib number. The starter ensures that only authorized personnel are allowed on the venue. The starter organizes inspection so that the venue isn't overloaded with athletes and coaches at any one time, and to ensure that all athletes get adequate time to inspect.

## **2 - PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS**

*During an incident, it is critical to provide the proper communication and information regarding health and safety to individuals who need it as well as any media, including social platforms. Having guidelines to follow during an incident goes a long way towards*

*comforting those in distress and providing viable information while also being sensitive to liability concerns.*

An incident may include medical response or may be a technical situation like canceling a competition or any other matter that may require a high level of care and sensitivity (avalanche, chairlift malfunction, etc.). The Head Judge is responsible for assisting the Technical Director during incident management. It is essential for the Head Judge to be in connection and communication regarding debriefing of any incidents and also be aware of the Technical Director's communication plan. IFSA Series Managers are available for supporting communication plans for incidents, and should be at minimum copied on communications to provide consistent information to members of our community. It is essential to keep in mind that the Head Judge is under contract to the resort and IFSA event official, and therefore the Head Judge is representing and speaking for those entities. Any personal commentary must be carefully considered and represented as such.

Situations can become very stressful during an incident and the HJ must remain calm and focused in supporting the event team and the competition community. When talking with parents, coaches or other staff try to instill calmness through your energy and actions as providing strong leadership goes along ways towards containing further complications.

During public relations, the HJ must stick to 100% fact and general descriptions, and contain comments within the scope of the HJ responsibilities. Provide general statements as in the following example, "There was an athlete injured due to loss of control during their competition run. Skier lost control and struck an object and needed assistance from patrol off of the venue. Skier has been taken to Abracadabra Hospital in Magicsville and we are awaiting further status reports from the doctors." The HJ should not speculate on injury diagnosis, and if asked for further details refer to the EO, Ski Patrol, or the medical emergency response team. For questions on the framework and interior functions of the IFSA, refer to the IFSA Series Managers and Executive Board.

In the case of an injury situation, the HJ should give careful consideration, to liability concerns if asked to address venue suitability, weather and snow conditions, effectiveness of boundaries and closures, athlete ability vs. venue complexity, Patrol response time, and other topics that address decision making and execution of responsibilities of the TD, HJ, Patrol, athlete, or coaches.

Do not speculate about the incident and do not permit any unauthorized access to sensitive information. It is essential that we do not mislead anyone and we only give the facts without admitting, giving or placing blame and responsibility on any individuals or parties.

## **3 - MANDATORY MEETINGS**

### **3.1 - Athlete Meeting**

Mandatory athlete meetings are critical to the success and safety of an event. It is the TD's responsibility to conduct the athlete meetings, and the HJ should also speak during the meeting. Meetings should take place the evening prior to the competition or the day of the event after the TD and HJ have had the ability to assess the venue(s) conditions. If the meeting takes place the evening before, a supplemental meeting may need to take place to confirm or change any information once the venue has been assessed. A supplemental meeting can also take place following inspection if conditions dictate.

The primary athlete meeting should take place indoors and in person with access to audio/visual equipment so that the athlete meeting template can be utilized. Specific situations may determine that an online meeting is a functional contingency. Athlete meetings are mandatory for all competitors but it is at the discretion of the TD for any exceptions. It can be difficult to monitor attendance at these meetings, especially for online meetings. Some TD's require roll call. Missing the athlete meeting cannot be used as an excuse for misunderstanding the rules or event specific instructions provided during the athlete meeting. TDs may wish to record the meeting for athletes and coaches who are unable to attend (with a suitable excuse), rather than repeating the meeting.

It is important for the TD and HJ to set appropriate expectations regarding the condition and quality of the venue that is available for competition on the given day. Due to weather and snow conditions or other factors that are out of the control of the event staff, the athletes may be required to compete on a less desirable venue than the one they planned to compete on. The TD and HJ should set the tone by explaining why the venue was selected. And most of the time athletes would rather compete on a lesser venue and earn points toward their ranking, rather than rescheduling or canceling the event.

The HJ should speak at the athlete meeting to set the tone for safety and decision making, to review judging criteria, explain normal or split judging configuration, and identify location of judges in a split judging scenario.

### **3.2 - Officials Meeting**

Officials meetings take place prior to each competition day between the EO, TD, HJ, starter(s), ninjas and may include patrol or other resort personnel and scorecard runners. These meetings are to ensure clear communication protocol between TD and HJ, Patrol, starter, and ninjas and other officials during the competition period. This is also another opportunity for the EO to interface with officials about their roles during the competition period.

### **3.3 - Judges Meeting**

On each competition day, prior to inspection, the HJ should run a judge's meeting to review the schedule for the day, judging criteria, venue details, and communication protocol. The HJ hands out score sheets and other materials required for judging.

## **4 - VENUE SELECTION AND SET UP**

It is the TD's responsibility with input from the HJ to select and set up each venue. Recommendations from patrol, assistant TD, and EO are also considered. For resorts that have Freeride teams, the TD may get valuable input from coaches regarding features that the athletes use during training and how they use them, as well as age appropriate closures. Venues are selected after considering weather and conditions, competition level and field size and whether or not there are qualifier and finals runs. Progressive venues where the venue can change either within itself or entirely to a new venue for multiple run events are encouraged. Differences within a venue from age group to age group are necessary and at the discretion of the TD. For example, U12 athletes should have substantially easier features/terrain compared to U-15 and U-18 year old athletes to account for physical ability as well as decision making capability. Venues must have clear start and finish areas as well as boundaries and closed areas. Feature closures must also be clearly marked with bamboo, ribbon and rope if necessary. Feature closures for one age division must be removed prior to the other age divisions running and must be clearly communicated during the athlete meetings. Venue differences are only allowed from one age division to another. Male and Female venues must be the same. Physical

closures and boundaries always trump venue maps and all closures must be in place before inspection opens to competitors.

In conjunction with the HJ, the TD decides where judges will be placed for plan A full venue if weather is good, considering line of sight, weather exposure, comfort (flat vs side hill, etc.), and proximity to (separation from) spectators. See [Attachment D](#) for guidelines for Judging Pit Setup. Mark the judge's position with a bamboo X on the mountain and also on the venue maps. Also mark the plan B split judging locations in case visibility is poor and judges need to mobilize on slope for split judging. Any split judge locations and possible venue boundary changes must be communicated during the athlete meetings. All closures and split judge's positions are to be marked on the venue maps and be available for review at the start gate on pre competition day inspection but marked "subject to change" before day of competition inspection. Inspection closures should also be considered when competition field size, ability levels and conditions dictate that an area should be closed during inspection but open during competition. Special consideration should be given to inspection closures for anticipated high traffic areas where degradation during inspection would have an adverse effect on the safety and quality of the venue. Inspection closures should not impede an athlete's ability to inspect required trajectory off of or around features. Inspection closures must also be clearly communicated during athlete meetings and in place prior to inspection. A comprehensive guide for Venue Selection and Preparation is provided in [Attachment E](#).

## **5 - VENUE INSPECTION**

All competitors in Region 2 are required to complete an on-venue inspection in order to be eligible to compete. The TD and HJ have the authority to disqualify an athlete for not following inspection protocol and/or the terrain enhancement policy. This includes any reckless skiing or riding, practicing their line, stomping in take-offs, boundary infractions, or code of conduct violations.

The HJ or TD communicates with the starter and announcer to ensure that age group inspections are managed closely to ensure that all divisions receive adequate time for inspection, and that inspection is closed on time and adequate time is allowed for coaches and athletes to complete inspection and be cleared from the venue to avoid delays of the competition schedule. During the athlete meeting the TD should instruct coaches to ensure that athletes keep moving down the venue and avoid spending

excessive time on individual features causing backups and delays for subsequent groups.

## **6 - COMPETITION EXECUTION**

Once the venue is cleared of inspectors, the TD will verify that all officials and judges are in place and ready. The TD will verify that patrol is in place and ready for the competition to begin according to their communicated response plan. In the event of a patrol response, the TD will ensure that patrol has replaced their resources prior to the competition resuming.

Several forerunners are typically used so the judging team can get in sync and HJ or TD can practice communications with the Starter. The HJ or TD should instruct the forerunners that the purpose of their run is to get a baseline of conditions and average time to ski/ride the venue. There should be no large airs or difficult tricks, as falls or injuries cause delays and can place the competition in jeopardy. Forerunners must do a venue inspection prior to their run and should participate in the first wave of inspection to ensure timely return to the start gate. Forerunners should be known individuals who can manage the competition terrain and who understand the rules and safety protocol. Coaches and athletes participating in the event on the same day cannot be used as forerunners as this gives them an unfair advantage. Athletes cannot forerun on the same venue that they will be competing on in subsequent days of the event. Forerunners can also be helpful in relaying venue conditions to the athletes when soft inspection protocols are in place.

It is the HJ's responsibility in conjunction with the TD to keep a realistic pace to the event, balancing the schedule demands with quality production value including judges scoring. Ensure that judges work at a reasonable pace and remain diligent about time management in order to get through the day's start list. Continually check actual time against schedule and communicate status with the TD and patrol leads. Take quick breaks between divisions as needed to allow judges to make any scoring adjustments, take nature breaks, eat and drink, add or remove layers, etc.

The TD and/or HJ may place a course hold on the event due to weather conditions and visibility issues. It is advisable to gather coaches (or competitors in adult events) to review the situation and determine path forward. In the event that a division is not completed, the entire division must restart the following day. If there is no following day,

the division is either limited to scoring the first run, or cancellation if a single run was not completed. The TD in conjunction with the HJ has the discretion to alter the run order for the following day in order to ensure all divisions complete at least 1 run and should prioritize completing at least one run for every division before allowing a second run for any division. The TD and HJ also have the discretion to cancel a division during the competition day due to unsafe conditions or time. For example, the U12 division was scheduled to run first but firm conditions with anticipated softening required the TD to either move that division to the end of the day or the following day. These anticipated scenarios are expected to be communicated at the athlete meetings by the TD with the decision communicated at any supplemental athlete meeting that follows inspection.

The TD instructs the Starter to do a back protector check on each athlete prior to entering the start gate. The Starter should not physically touch the athletes, but instead should ask the athlete to give a self-tap or unzip their jacket enough to show the back protector. The Starter may also use a ski pole grip end to gently tap the athlete's back. If an athlete is not wearing a back protector they will not be allowed to compete, and the Starter will announce to the TD/HJ that the athlete receives a DNS due to lack of required safety gear.

Immediately following the competition, the HJ leads the judges' scoring review. The TD is expected to attend the judges scoring review meeting to review scores and determine the cut line for multi-day events. The TD assists the HJ in settling any scoring issues or discrepancies, and plays a key role in determining the cut line in consideration of next day venue length, terrain complexity, and snow conditions, forecast weather conditions, and any other schedule considerations.

## **7 - SCORESHEET NOTES AND ATHLETE COMMUNICATION**

In addition to filling out score sheets for each athlete, each judge is expected to take notes for each athlete. Many judges have a short hand for entering common observations. These notes serve several purposes and are very helpful for large divisions when looking back through scoresheets to compare athlete scores. Also helpful during Live Heats review for errors and discrepancies. And especially helpful when reviewing breakdowns with athletes and coaches following awards.

## 8 - JUDGE CREDENTIAL LEVELS FOR JUNIOR & ADULT EVENTS

The role of IFSA Judge is critical to having safe and well-run Big Mountain Freeride events, where all athletes are treated fairly and required to follow the rules as defined in the IFSA and Adult Qualifier [Athlete Handbooks](#). The IFSA has four levels of judges including Judge 1 through 5. Additionally, each IFSA Region shall have a Regional Head Judge who is responsible for coordinating the judging staff within the Region. Below are the definitions of each judge's credential level. Judge Credential Level Signoff Checklists are provided in [Attachment F](#).

### Judge 1

The J1 is considered an entry level judge. The J1 can act as a support judge up to IFSA 2\* level events when signed off by a SHJ.

### Judge 2

The J2 can act as a support judge up to the IFSA 3\* events and can Head Judge 1\* events when signed off by a SHJ.

### Judge 3

The J3 is an experienced judge capable of supporting all event levels. J3's can act as Head Judge for up to IFSA 2\* level events.

### Judge 4

The J4 can support all IFSA event levels and can act as Head Judge for 3\* events when signed off by a RHJ.

### Judge 5 – Regional Head Judge

The J5 has been signed off by the Judging committee and are qualified to Head Judge NorAm's, and Adult Challenger 4\* Finals series events. Level 5 SHJs are the most experienced judges in the Americas Region. RHJ's are the "greybeard" members of the IFSA Judging Committee. J5's are responsible for overseeing and maintaining the consistency and quality of judging, and for evolving the judging process.



## **Regional Head Judge (RHJ)**

The RHJ is responsible for coordinating the judging, judge training and assignments within their respective Region in conjunction with Regional Directors. The RHJ is the primary point of contact for Event Organizers when assembling judging staff for their events. RHJ's are acting members of the IFSA Judging Committee. The RHJ is responsible for providing feedback to the committee from their respective region and briefing their Regional judging staff on IFSA Judging Committee meetings.

# ATTACHMENT A - IFSA Judging Methodology

## Overview

There are typically three judges in a single judging pit, including the HJ and two Support Judges. All Judges must watch the athletes' entire run from start to finish. All judges will judge all five categories for each competitor, immediately following the competitor's run. All Categories except Line are judged on a scale of .1 to 10 (Lowest to Highest). The Line score is judged on a scale of 3 to 7. Overall score will be determined as an average of all judge's scores not to exceed 47 points.

The judges shall inspect the competition venue during athlete inspection to discuss possible lines and conditions and accurately determine Line Score(s). Judges should also scale the venue from the judging location to set high and low lines as well as identifying any line score zonal points. During forerunners, Judges will discuss the runs to ensure they are in agreement on Line score determination, and to practice communication protocol in the pit and scoring of the Execution Categories.

During each competitor's run, the judges should discuss their observations during the entire run to make sure they are all seeing the same things. And when there is disagreement, they will discuss and resolve rather than having vastly different scores. The head judge should verify that all judges' scores are within plus or minus 0.5 points in each Execution Category.

Judges will give the competitor scoresheets to a scorekeeper throughout the competition for score tabulation, to enable the tabulation to be complete by the time the judges arrive at the scorekeeper's table at the end of the day to review results.

## Judging Categories

- Line Choice: Each competitor chooses his/her line or route down the course. High scores are given for choosing difficult routes. Difficulty is determined by steepness, exposure, air, snow and course conditions.
- Control: Competitors must remain in control at all times. Any loss of control will result in a lower score.
- Technique: Competitors are judged on turn quality relating to big mountain freeriding.

- Fluidity: Constant direction towards a goal. This includes continuity, pace, and smooth transitions between sections of the course. Falling or stopping will have a negative impact in this category.
- Style & Energy: This encompasses the pace, energy and creativity with which a competitor attacks or descends his/her chosen line or route. Style focuses on freestyle execution of maneuvers. This is an overall impression.

Line score will be established by the HJ and concurred by the rest of the judging panel. Line choice is not relative to how it is ridden. Line Choice is the difficulty of the terrain. All other scores are directly related to Line Choice score. Line score shall be awarded a value between a low of 3 and a high of 7 to allow the execution scores to vary from line score by a maximum of +/- 3 points. In determining the line score, all three judges will call out the line score and the HJ will make the final call. By the time the athlete reaches the finish corral, the line score should be solidified. All judges are required to record the same Line Score. It is our most objective judging category.

After we score the athlete's Line, we utilize the 4 execution categories to determine the degree of Control, Technique, Fluidity and Style and Energy the athlete rode the line with. Keeping in mind the rider cannot score more than 3 points higher than the line score in each execution category. Falling and unsuccessfully landing jumps, cliff drops or airs of any kind will have a significant negative impact on judging categories control, technique, fluidity and style and energy. Major crashes and falls should be penalized in every category. Falls are defined as follows.

**Major fall (2 below line score in each execution category)**

A major fall can be determined when the athlete's body connects with the snow significantly while in a tomahawk (punch front) or 360-degree rotation either vertically or horizontally.

**Fast fall (2 down in control and technique, 1 down in fluidity and style and energy)**

Fast falls can be determined when the athlete's body connects with the snow significantly but the athlete does not tomahawk, roll over or rotate 360 degrees and is quick to get to their feet.

Tricks and freestyle maneuvers should be rewarded primarily in the control, style and energy, and technique categories. Poor execution of tricks and maneuvers will have a negative impact in all categories.

Using overall impression of Control, Technique, Fluidity, and Style & Energy we determine the athlete's **Rider Level**. This becomes the base from where we start scoring Control, the first of the execution categories.

## General Rule

Rider Level 1 (RL 1) Level with line score to 1 above line (Average riding)

Rider Level 2 (RL 2) 1 to 1.5 above line score (good riding)

Rider Level 3 (RL 3) 1.6 to 2 above line score (great riding)

Rider Level 4 (RL 4) 2.1 to 2.5 above line score (excellent riding)

Rider Level 5 (RL 5) 2.6 to 3 above line score (awesome to perfect riding)

## Tips On Judging Control

Control is the second category judged and often dictates how the rest of the execution categories are scored. If a competitor loses control in a critical zone or has a large fall, determined by the head judge and judges, scores in the remaining categories will not exceed the Control score by 2 points. When judging control, major and minor issues may affect all categories.

## Rule Of Thumb

**Juniors** – Do not score more than 2 points higher than the control score in any of the other execution categories.

**Adults** – Do not score more than 3 points higher than the control score in any of the other execution categories.

Control and Technique often work together. Not always but often poor control occurs from poor technique and poor technique often results in a loss of control.

When determining your control score consider what type of terrain the rider is navigating. It is easier to be in control on easier terrain than it is to maintain control at higher speeds in more challenging terrain?

It is easy to judge great riding but quite challenging to judge and stay consistent when judging control issues. Again, we use an overall impression of Control, Technique and Style and Energy to arrive at the Rider Level. This number is essentially the control score and the baseline number to start deducting control issues off of. A general template for discerning your starting point for deducting minor issues is as follows.

## Control And Technique Methodology Scale

### **Minor control Issues** (Stage 1) (Break in the athlete's form)

Deduct roughly .1 - .5 off of what the rider would have been without the issue. If you would have scored the rider 2 above line in control (Great riding) but they had a minor issue consider scoring the rider around 1.8 - 1.5 above line in control depending on the severity of the issue.

As we move to judging more severe issues it becomes more challenging to stay consistent from athlete to athlete. Stay within the following scale when judging Stage 2 to Stage 6 Control issues.

**Minor/Major Control Issues** (Stage 2) (A loss of control between a minor and a major issue. Can't determine between minor or a major loss of control) Example: did the back touchdown or not, was it a backslap? Stage 2 issues are scored between level with line score to 1.3 above the line.

### **Major Control Issues** (Stage 3) (Major loss of control)

Stage 3 issues are scored between .1 below line score to 1.2 below the line score.  
Example: Full backslap.

**Soft Fall** (Stage 4) (A loss of control where the body touches down but there is no roll over and the athlete regains immediate control) Stage 4 issues are scored between 1.3 to 1.9 below the line score

**Fall** (Stage 5) (Athlete rolls over and does not immediately regain control) Stage 5 falls are scored between 2 below line to 2.5 below the line score

**Multiple Falls** (Stage 6) (Multiple falls and control issues) Stage 6 Multiple falls and control issues are scored between .1 as the lowest possible score to 2.6 below line score

### **Lowest Possible Score Utilized In All Execution Categories**

The lowest possible score that can be used in the execution categories is 0.1

### **Example Of How To Score A Minor Control Issue**

The rider's line score is determined as a 6 (L-6). The rider's level was excellent (RL4=2.5 above the line score)

$$L6-RL4 = 6 + 2.5 = 8.5$$

8.5 is the general number that the rider would have scored without any issues. This is the riders potential or Rider level. Now assess the minor control issue(s) roughly .1-.5

The head judge determines that the minor control issue is .3 Now deduct .3 off the riders potential.

$$8.5 - .3 = 8.2$$

The control score for the rider will be 8.2.

### **Summary Of Scale**

#### **Minor Control Issue (Stage 1)**

.1-.5 off of rider's potential

#### **Minor/Major Control Issue (Stage 2)**

Level with Line score - 1.3 above line

#### **Major Control Issue (Stage 3)**

.1 below Line score - 1.2 below Line

#### **Soft Fall (Stage 4)**

1.3 - 1.9 below line score

#### **Fall (stage 5)**

2 - 2.5 below line score

## **Multiple Falls and Control Issues (stage 6)**

2.6 - .1 below line score (.1 being the lowest possible score a judge can use)

2x minor/major issue = roughly a major issue

2x major = roughly a soft fall etc

## **How Control Issues Affect Fluidity And Style And Energy**

### **IFSA Juniors**

When judging Control issues for Juniors it is important to also deduct in Fluidity as well as Style and energy in order to exemplify the message. Juniors need to ride within their ability and maintain control. Do not score more than 2 points higher than the control score in the execution categories.

### **IFSA Adults**

When judging Control issues at the Adult Qualifier level, judge the Fluidity and Style and Energy based more on what you actually see happen. We are allowing for more progressive riders with control issues to score slightly higher than we would for Juniors. Do not score more than 2 points higher than the control score in any of the other execution categories. This also acknowledges the skill set of the progressive rider in comparison to the weaker rider who plays it safe and scores well because they were in control. For example, If the athlete throws an awesome 360 off of a very tricky cliff but there is a minor touch down resulting in a Minor/major (stage 2) and the athlete doesn't actually lose much fluidity we can be more lenient in fluidity and style and energy as we are dealing with progression amongst our high-end adult athletes. Judge the fluidity and style and energy how you saw it. Was it rider level RL1, RL2, RL3, RL4 or RL5?

Judging continues into the finish area. Competitors must know where the start(s) and finish(es) are located for each competitive division. All start(s) and finish(es) should be clearly marked on the venue map and discussed at the athlete meeting. Competitors must come to a controlled stop in the finish area. Falling or entering the finish area out of control will be scored as a loss of control and will negatively affect all other scoring categories other than line. Competitors will not enter the finish area in a manner that affects spectators, crew or personal safety.

## Scorekeeping And Results Review

All decisions made by the judges are final. Scores are reviewed at the end of the day before they are made public. This is primarily to identify any clerical errors in transcribing results from the judges' handwritten score sheets into the Live Heats system, and to break any ties in the top 5 in each division. During the scorekeeping review the judges should review the podiums to make sure they got it right. In a large field the criteria may drift over the duration of the division. If the judges feel that the finish order is incorrect, especially for the podium or top 10 athletes, they should review scores against their notes and memories of the performances and decide if minor adjustments need to be made to specific categories to get it right.

### Finals Cut Line Determination

For multi-run events the Technical Director with input from the Head Judge will make competitor cuts after each run. Determination of the cut line is based on several factors including total number of competitors, next day venue length and difficulty, and weather conditions. The TD and HJ need to ensure that all competitors above the cut line are capable of riding the next day venue, that there is time to complete all athlete divisions, and that weather delays will not become a factor in completing divisions. After taking these factors into consideration, the cut line is typically made at a location in the results where there is a gap in score value. As an example, if the cut should be made at approximately 20 athletes, and the scores are tight up to 18<sup>th</sup> place and there is a gap in scores between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> place, then the cut may be made after 18<sup>th</sup> place. Athletes with a DNF, DNS, or DQ must not make the cut for an additional run.

### Tie Breaking Protocol

If the tie is in the top 5 of the final results it must be broken. The tiebreak should first be determined by who has the higher control score. Higher control score is given the higher placement. If the tie can't be broken on Control then the tie should be broken with the Technique category next. Break the tie by bringing the athlete's execution score up from one of the tied athletes or the athlete's execution score down on the other. Choose whatever means is most appropriate for the circumstances and will not affect other placements.

### DNS, DNF, And DQ

The TD and HJ are responsible for determining when a DNS, DNF, and DQ are warranted when on venue. The TD, HJ, and EO are responsible for determining when athletes should receive a DQ for off venue code of conduct violations.



A Did Not Start (DNS) is awarded when a registered athlete does not show up for the competition, when the athlete does not show up at the start gate before the start of the next division, or when the athlete is not allowed to compete due to lack of required safety gear including helmet and back protector. Athletes are not awarded any points for a DNS, and the event does not count toward their required starts for ranking.

A Did Not Finish (DNF) is awarded when an athlete leaves the start gate but does not complete their run due to loss of ski or board, patrol response, or ninja assist. The athlete can also receive a DNF for taking too much time to complete the run. In the case of a DNF the athlete earns last place points and the event counts toward their required starts for ranking.

A Disqualification (DQ) is awarded when an athlete violates a safety or code of conduct rule or violates resort rules. Examples include violating venue inspection protocol, riding outside of venue boundaries or closures including the finish corral, foul language or bad behavior, disrespectful actions toward others, juniors executing inverted aerials, and reckless skiing or riding that endangers themselves or others. Inverted aerials are up to the discretion of the host site/organizer for adult competitions. Inverted aerials are defined by an athlete's boots going over the head. Athletes can spin a corked or flat spin, but if boots are over the head the athlete is considered inverted and will receive a DQ. If an athlete's helmet comes off during the competition run the athlete will receive a DQ, unless the helmet fails while protecting the athlete from the impact of a fall. Also, if the DNF criteria is met, an uninjured athlete must ride to the bottom via the most direct route in a safe, expedient manner without performing any tricks or drops. Egregious violations of this rule should result in a DQ. If a rider who loses equipment earning a DNF but then retrieves it and continues their planned run, they will become subject to DQ from the current event and potential suspension from future events at the discretion of the IFSA Board of Directors. In the case of a DQ the athlete earns 0 points and the event counts toward their required starts for ranking.

## **Awards And Breakdown Review**

### **Scoring Breakdowns**

The purpose of reviewing the breakdowns of the judge's scores with athletes and coaches is to provide developmental feedback for each individual athlete. Breakdowns will be printed and released to the judges and credentialed coaches present at each event only after the official results have been released. The judges will remain

accountable on site after each event day to answer questions or concerns. Judges should allow a reasonable time to engage in score breakdown discussions after the scores have been released.

### **Video Review**

If approached respectfully after results are released and with the understanding that scores are final, judges may review video at their discretion.

Keep in mind that judging decisions are made in real time in the conditions of the day, and from the singular vantage point of the judging pit. Videos made by parents or coaches are often taken from a different vantage point than that of the judges, and are not comparable.

## **ATTACHMENT B - Head Judge Guidelines General Outline**

### **One or Two days prior to competition (Venue dependent)**

Depending on the event format, complexity and logistics of the venue, the Head Judge may need to work with the Technical Director on the following responsibilities either two days prior to competition, one day prior or on the morning of competition.

- With Patrol, and the Technical Director decide A/B venues, boundaries, closures and determine progressive venues for age groups as necessary.
- In conjunction with the TD, decide where judges will be placed for plan A and plan B venues and mark the judges position(s) with a bamboo X on the mountain and also on the venue maps, including split judging positions.
- The HJ supports the TD to make sure the EO has appropriate resources committed (fencing, signage, radios, scorekeeping laptop, printer, paper, bibs, proper equipment for Announcers/Staff/ Judges)
- One or two days prior to competition the HJ in conjunction with the TD should do an inspection to verify venue maps, closures, boundaries, and to test out the judging location(s).

### **Event Morning**

- The HJ will support the TD in making sure the boundaries, closures, and crowd control features were installed per plan, and venue snow conditions are safe. Communicate last minute changes or concerns prior to inspection.
- Prior to inspection disseminate the judging criteria and any specifics relating to split judging venue boundaries at the athlete and officials meetings.
- Do an inspection with the judges to review line choices, boundaries, and judging location(s).
- Support the TD with venue inspection to make sure rules and safety procedures are followed.
- Scale the venue with the judging team from the plan A and plan B judges positions prior to the start of competition.

### **During Event**

- Establish and maintain clear lines of communication with the TD.

- Practice judging forerunners to ensure the judging team is set. Practice communication protocol with judges and clear lines of communication between HJ, TD, and the starter.
- Ensure that judges work at a reasonable pace and remain diligent about time management.
- Quick breaks between divisions for judge scoring adjustments, nature breaks, snacks, etc.
- Communicate with the TD, starter, especially regarding DNS due to missed start or missing safety gear, etc. and verify copies of all DNSs for scorekeeping accuracy.
- Support the TD and judging team on deciding on DQs, DNFs, weather related delays, and any safety decisions.
- Be accessible to listen to and decide on any possible protests, etc.
- Before starting a new category consider inclement weather and be prepared to move into split judging positions.

## Post Event

- In conjunction with the TD, review recorded results for errors and review findings with involved judge(s).
- In coordination with TD, decide on a cut line after a qualifying day in all divisions.
- Be available for questions and feedback from competitors, coaches, and event staff.
- Follow HJ Handbook guidelines for public communications and media interface following significant events such as major injury, cancellation, resort lift failure, avalanche, etc.

## **ATTACHMENT C - JUDGE EQUIPMENT LIST**

The Judges are stationary and on venue for the entire duration of the event and should therefore carry a backpack to the venue containing the following recommended items. Some of these items such as the folding chair, spare radio, lunch, and hot beverage should be provided by the EO. The experienced Judge knows to load some of the larger, bulkier items on a snowcat or snowmobile trailer rather than carrying everything to the venue. Each judge should prioritize their personal safety when deciding how to carry items, in particular a heavy backpack, to the base of a venue. In the event of slide for life conditions, or for judges with backpacks heavy enough to put their downhill sliding prone to injury, different accommodations must be made.

- Scoresheets, writing instruments, and weatherproof clipboard
- Copy of the IFSA Athlete Handbook and Judging Handbook (electronic copy ok)
- Clothing layers
- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Rain gear
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Extra gloves or mittens
- Warm hat
- Hand and toe warmers
- Folding chair
- Insulating foot pad
- Shovel
- Avy beacon
- Binoculars
- Spare radio
- Cellphone
- Portable charger powerpack and cables
- Tablet or notepad and pencil
- Lunch, snacks, water
- Hot beverage

## **ATTACHMENT D - Judging Pit Setup**

Several factors must be considered when locating and setting up the judging pit. When a single pit is used the location should be chosen for the best possible view of the entire venue, when viewed from a sitting position. While sitting in their chairs the judges must be able to see the athlete come to a complete stop in the finish corral. No matter the effort, many venues will have blind spots for judges that cannot be eliminated. These zones should be noted when setting up the pit, documented with a picture, and shared with athletes so they are informed when planning and executing their line.

Where possible the judging pit location should be selected to minimize exposure to wind, or a wind break should be constructed using snow blocks or construction materials.

A flat and level area should be shoveled out to allow space for a minimum of four chairs for the 3 judges and TD, a table, and space to lay down gear and backpacks. Typically a flat area 12 feet wide by 8 feet long is sufficient. The flat area should be raked smooth and packed using skis, and doing this the day before the event allows the snow to set up overnight. Skis can also be used to check if the pit surface is level.

Once the judging pit is established a boundary fence or tape should be set up to maintain a minimum of 15-20 feet of separation for judges from spectators, coaches, and athletes. When the judges pit is located below the finish corral, make sure that finish corral fencing and sponsor banners do not obstruct the view from the judging pit. Controls should be put in place to ensure that people can not stand or walk across uphill from the judges, obstructing their view.

The judges table and chairs should be placed on a carpet or foam pad for insulation from the snow and covered by a canopy to protect from precipitation and sun. Adding three walls to the canopy improves wind protection. Propane or electric heaters further improve comfort if available.

The announcer's PA speaker should not be located near or facing toward the judges to minimize distractions caused by announcer commentary.

# ATTACHMENT E - VENUE SELECTION AND PREPARATION

## Venue Selection And Preparation

IFSA Technical Directors, Senior Head Judges and Head Judges are in tune with athlete skill sets from Junior regional to the IFSA Challenger series events. Venue selection and preparation is a skill learned over time through experience. Awareness of athletic skill set and Freeride culture forms the foundation for venue selection and preparation. IFSA event officials recognize the developmental stages of Junior athletes on route to adulthood. As advocates and mentors for healthy development of lifelong athletes physical boundaries and progressive venues are applied. Factoring age, experience and skill set into the venue setting process. Setting appropriate boundaries and progressive venues supports the development of lifelong Freeride athletes, healthy progression of sport, and keeps Freeride insurable.

When selecting venues, it is important to consider slope incline and size of terrain features to support the decision-making process. Venues suitable for Freeride competition must have either plan A or plan B judging options, a functional start gate, finish corral and be logistically accessible.

## Event Level, Format And Logistical Considerations

When selecting venues, run progression and logistical considerations must be applied.

- One-day, one run, Regional, National or Qualifier event (one venue)
- Two-day, two run, Regional, National or Qualifier event (possibly two separate venues)
- Three-day, two run, Regional, National or Qualifier event (Possibly two separate venues)
- Three-day, two Run, Championship event (possibly three separate venues)

**JN Regional events** – Terrain and features that challenge the highest, regional level athletes while also catering to low end athletes, including first time Freeriders.

**JN National events** – Terrain and features that caters to the highest, National level athletes while also providing easy exits.

**JN Championships** – Terrain and features that caters to the highest, JN Championship level athletes while also providing easy exits.

## Adult Qualifier Events

**Qualifier 2\* 3\* 4\* & Challenger events** – Terrain and features that cater to the highest, Qualifier level star ranking athletes while also providing easy exits.

Before securing venues and commencing venue setup, ensure Patrol, the EO and the event management team is logistically prepared to staff, access, mobilize and supply the necessary resources to each venue.

- Rope line for external venue closure to the public.
- Fencing (finish corral)
- Announcer tent, sound system and generator.
- Judging tent and chairs
- Start gate flags

## Fundamentals Plans A And B

### Plan A Venues

Involve a direct line of sight from the full judges pit to the start gate, finish corral and provide a functional view of the entire venue with regular sight or via binoculars.

### Start Gate

The start gate can be considered a staging area that holds an entire field of athletes in close proximity to the start gate without obstructing the public. If you do not have the space at the start gate to hold a large number of athletes without obstructing the public consider the following.

- The start gate needs to be able to comfortably hold a minimum of 3-5 athletes and a starter.
- A staging area needs to be easily accessible to the start gate and needs to hold a minimum of 15 athletes including an assistant starter. One radio for the starter and assistant starter is imperative.



## **FINISH CORRAL**

- The finish corral needs to be fully visible from the plan A judges position and easily accessible to the athletes from all aspects of the venue.
- Mark the lowest possible point on the venue where you can clearly see the plan A judges position and mark the lowest possible exit of the corral with an X.
- Using multiple bamboo or alternative markers create a chicane to bring all athletes to a complete stop before exiting the corral. (Could be helpful to include a diagram in the handbook).
- Starting from the Chicane (exit point) mark each side of the finish corral so it can be connected to the external boundary rope lines and fencing can be easily applied to the finish corral.

## **Venue Selection Considerations**

- Venues should have a variety of options riders left, right and down the center from the start gate.
- Every rider should be able to make it easily into the finish corral from either side of the venue.
- Every venue should have at least one easy exit on riders left, right and down the center.
- No fall zones are not permitted. No fall zones are defined as areas unfit for competition.
- No fall zones for Junior events are also defined as exposed areas that lead to secondary exposure.

## **External Boundaries**

- External venue boundaries require clear negotiation with ski patrol and the patrol lead.
- External venue boundaries create clear closure to public access from all aspects of the venue. It is best practice to set external boundaries at least 5 meters distance from internal boundary features.
- External boundaries should consist of rope lines that create open and closed access to the start gate.
- External boundaries should run from the start gate down the entire venue on both riders right and left connecting with the finish corral fencing. Often the terrain is too steep to run ropelines, in which case bamboo is commonly used to create clear boundaries.
- External boundaries create clear closure and keep the public off venue.

## **Internal Boundaries And Progressive Venues**

When setting internal boundaries, it is essential for the TD to be in tune with the star level of the event and the event format.

- Athletes on the venue generate a significant amount of speed and velocity. Internal rope lines can be viewed as a safety hazard.
- Avoid using rope lines to create internal boundaries on the venue. If markers such as bamboo are not sufficient to create clear closures, use fencing.
- If fencing can't be utilized to mitigate the hazard the venue should be deemed unfit for competition.

## **Plan B Split Judge Venues And Split Judging**

Inclement weather often obstructs the ability for judges to see the plan A venue from the plan A full judges pit and backup plan B split judge venues must be utilized. In the instance that the resort doesn't have a Plan A venue option, plan B split judge venues are the only option. In the case of plan B split judge venues each judge must have their own radio. Clear communication between judges during a split judge event is essential.

### **Split Judging**

In the case of poor visibility due to weather judges must wait until the athlete is visible for the whole run. The TD or HJ may cancel a division or day due to weather and/or visibility. The announcement of cancellation should be performed at the completion of an entire division or before the start of a division. If the circumstance arises that it is necessary to cancel the remaining athletes in a division part way through the field, the technical director will be allowed to resume competition the following day in the same order as the previous day by running the entire division.

In the case of large blind spots or poor visibility split judging should be considered. When split judging is used, judges must use one consistent format for the entirety of a category. The accepted methods of split judging are detailed below. If judges are separated throughout the venue, each judge will score all categories, including line in their respective zone. Zones and blind spots should be clearly defined amongst the judge panel so there will be no overlap to keep consistency. Judges must be able to see the entirety of the venue or their individual section making sure not to overlap sections. If they cannot, judging ninjas (spotters) may be put in place to cover blind spots. If Ninjas (spotters) cannot cover the blind spots the venue must be condensed by setting additional venue boundaries to ensure each judge can see their entire section.

## **Building Split Judge Venues**

When building Plan B split judge venues, the terrain will dictate how many split judging stations will be set. There are three possible options noted below. When building split judge venues, it is critical for each judge to see their entire section from start to finish. For example, 1+1+1 split judge means each judge needs to have a clear understanding of where their section begins and ends so athletes are not being scored twice by both judges. This can be mitigated by radio communication between each judge. For example, if both judges have determined where one section ends and the other section begins but the athlete falls between the two sections the judges must use radio communication to determine which judge will score the fall. This communication ensures the athlete is not being scored for the fall by both judges in both sections. In this instance 1+1+1 split judging can be seen as 3 separate events. The athletes score from each event (section) is totalled and divided by 3 to arrive at the athletes final score.

### **1+1+1 Split Judging**

The venue is divided into three sections with roughly equal terrain and each venue/judge is weighted equally. Mark each judge's position on the venue and also on the venue maps. Each judge judges their own section and their scores are added and averaged.

### **2+1 Split Judging**

The venue is divided into two sections (sometimes terrain dictates that this is the best option). Mark each judges section on the venue and on the venue map. The scores are weighted equally (either by averaging for the section that has two judges or by only using two judges and the third is used as a spotter - meaning positioned to have eyes on a blind spot and communicate with the other judges by radio).

### **2+2 Split Judging**

Some venues may have undulating terrain where the entire venue cannot be judged from a single pit location. This should be limited to a maximum of two pitches with two judging pits. In this case scoring will be just like two separate runs using 2 judges for each run. There will be a head judge and support judge in each pit. The TD will sit in or near the bottom pit or finish corral, and an assistant TD will sit in the top pit.

As for scoring, all judges should inspect both pitches of the venue together, and the two HJs should come to agreement on baseline score values of each pitch. During forerunner judging the two HJs should compare and calibrate line scores. The scorekeepers will be instructed to check that the two bottom line scores are the same for

each athlete, and the two top line scores are the same for each athlete. The four scores will be averaged to determine the final point value of each athlete's run.

Note that a control issue on either the upper or lower pitch will only affect the scores for that section of the course.

# ATTACHMENT F - Judge Credential Level Sign-Off Checklists

## Judge Credential Levels for Junior and Adult Events

The role of IFSA Judge is critical to having safe and well run Big Mountain Freeride events, where all athletes are treated fairly and required to follow the rules as defined in the IFSA and Adult Qualifier [Athlete Handbooks](#). The IFSA has five levels of judges including the Judge 1, Judge 2, Judge 3, Judge 4 as well as Judge 5 known as the Senior Head Judge. IFSA also has a regional Head Judge (RHJ) who works with resort partners and regional delegates on scheduling and credentialing. The RHJ or RSHJ is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the judging program within their respective regions.

### Judge 1 (J1)

The J1 is considered an entry level judge and can act as a support judge up to the IFSA 2\* level events. The J1 may be signed off by a SHJ as a J2 after demonstrating significant competence.

#### J1 Certification

- Complete and pass the online Judge certification training.
- Demonstrate the ability to progress on the Judging path after shadowing a judges pit at an event.

Name of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Judge Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Judge Training workshop completion: \_\_\_\_\_

Event shadowed at: \_\_\_\_\_

### Judge 2 (J2)

The J2 can act as a support judge up to the IFSA 3\* events and Head Judge 1\* events when signed off by a SHJ.

During the Event the SHJ Trainer acts as Head Judge and the JIT acts as assistant Judge or shadow judge and is required to participate in all Judge responsibilities. During this time the SHJ Trainer will be evaluating the JIT. After the event the SHJ will complete the checklist below, and review results with the JIT. Following the review, the SHJ Trainer and

JIT are required to sign the completed checklist, and the SHJ Trainer submits the document to the IFSA Judge Chair.

### **J2 Certification**

Scored an IFSA 3\* event with a degree of competency to the IFSA Judging System and demonstrates competency at the 3\* event level.

- Evaluate willingness to be on time and work with the team.
- Evaluate ability to listen and learn.
- Evaluate understanding of key factors pertaining to judging methodology.
- Evaluate ability to scale venues and line score.
- Evaluate ability to determine The General Rule.
- Evaluate ability to discern control issues and score appropriately.
- Evaluate ability to be non-bias.
- Evaluate ability to put it all together and provide accurate results.

Approval by IFSA Senior Head Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Judge Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Judge 3 (J3)**

Judge 3's are experienced judges capable of supporting all event levels and can act as Head Judge for up to IFSA 2\* events. J3's are experienced judges capable of supporting IFSA Championship events including NORAMs and Adult Qualifier 4\*, and Adult Challenger 4\* Finals series events. J'3's can act as Head Judge for up to IFSA 2\* events.

During the Event the SHJ Trainer acts as Head Judge and the JIT acts as assistant Judge or shadow judge and is required to participate in all Judge responsibilities. During this time the SHJ Trainer will be evaluating the JIT. After the event the SHJ will complete the checklist below, and review results with the JIT. Following the review, the SHJ Trainer and JIT are required to sign the completed checklist, and the SHJ Trainer submits the document to the IFSA Judge Chair.

### **J3 Certification**

Demonstrated a significant degree of competency to the IFSA Judging System at the 3\* event level as well as knowledge of the IFSA Handbook.

- Evaluate willingness to be on time and to work with the team.
- Evaluate ability to listen and to learn.
- Evaluate ability to facilitate balanced discussion and healthy working environment.
- Evaluate understanding of key factors pertaining to judging methodology.
- Evaluate ability to scale venues and line score.
- Evaluate ability to determine The General Rule.
- Evaluate ability to discern control issues and score appropriately.
- Evaluate ability to be non-bias.
- Evaluate ability to put it all together and provide accurate results.

Name of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Judge Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Judge 4 (J4)

The J4 can support all IFSA event levels and can act as Head Judge for 3\* events when signed off by a SHJ.

During the Event the SHJ Trainer acts as Head Judge and the JIT acts as assistant Judge or shadow judge and is required to participate in all Judge responsibilities. During this time the SHJ Trainer will be evaluating the JIT. After the event the SHJ will complete the checklist below, and review results with the JIT. Following the review, the SHJ Trainer and JIT are required to sign the completed checklist, and the SHJ Trainer submits the document to the IFSA Judge Chair.

### J3 Certification

Demonstrated competency with the IFSA Judging System at the 4\* event level as well as knowledge of the IFSA Handbook.

- Evaluate willingness to be on time and to work with the team.
- Evaluate ability to listen and to learn.
- Evaluate ability to facilitate balanced discussion and healthy working environment.
- Evaluate understanding of key factors pertaining to judging methodology.
- Evaluate ability to scale venues and line score.
- Evaluate ability to determine The General Rule.
- Evaluate ability to discern control issues and score appropriately.
- Evaluate ability to be non-bias.

- Evaluate ability to put it all together and provide accurate results.

Name of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Judge Trainer: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Judge 5-(J5): Senior Head Judge

J5's (SHJ) have been signed off by the Senior Head Judge committee. J5's are qualified to Head Judge NorAm's, and Adult Challenger 4\* Finals series events. J5's are the most experienced judges in the Americas Region. SHJ's are the "greybeard" members of the IFSA Judging Committee. J5's are responsible for overseeing and maintaining the consistency and quality of judging, and for evolving the judging process.

#### J3 Certification

- Demonstrated competency with the IFSA Judging System at the 4\* Head Judge event level.
- Complete understanding of the IFSA Handbook.
- Signed off by the SHJ committee.
- Demonstrates complete understanding of the IFSA judging system.
- Demonstrates ability to train the IFSA judging system.
- Demonstrates a high degree of organizational and exemplary leadership skills.
- Demonstrates ability to facilitate balanced discussion, healthy working environments and supports the development of professional working relationships.

SHJ committee signatures

Rockies: \_\_\_\_\_ WCF: \_\_\_\_\_

TJFS: \_\_\_\_\_ PNW: \_\_\_\_\_

Northern: \_\_\_\_\_ Intermountain : \_\_\_\_\_

Chile: \_\_\_\_\_ Argentina: \_\_\_\_\_

Eastern: \_\_\_\_\_ Eastern Canada: \_\_\_\_\_



## Regional Head Judge

The RHJ is an experienced Senior Head Judge who is responsible for coordinating the judging schedule, staff training and assignments within their Region. The RHJ is the primary point of contact for Event Organizers and Regional Directors when assembling judging staff for events. The RHJ is a member of the IFSA Judging Committee and is responsible for providing feedback to the committee from their region and briefing their Regional judging staff on IFSA Judging Committee meetings.