



2024 QUALIFIER SERIES HANDBOOK

Updated January 6th, 2024

Dear Freerider,

The Freeride Era is upon us. Skiing and Snowboarding are looking to Freeride for inspiration and innovation and that intangible thing that motivates a human to put on a pair of skis or a snowboard and slide downhill. Our little piece of the snowsports world isn't so small anymore; we are larger than ever and growing fast.

In this period of expansion and evolution, the IFSA remains committed to the athlete. We are owned by and accountable to each of you. And, we are continuing to make investments to support every type of adult athlete in our community - from first time competitors through our seasoned professionals.

For 2024, we have expanded our 1* competition tier, providing four additional open registration events for athletes looking to get into the sport or to gain mileage in the start gate. We reached out to our dedicated Event Organizers, who were able to add a couple of new 3* competitions, which will help us bridge the gap between the super-popular 2*'s and the ultra competitive 4* Qualifiers. Finally, we are excited to be building a Collegiate Freeride Series, with three collegiate-only events on the calendar, including a dedicated Collegiate Championship in April.

With respect to this document, it is important to reaffirm the IFSA's commitment to maintaining a freeride system which results in safe, fair, and fun competition. All of our Qualifier Series resources are advised by volunteer leaders from the IFSA Community, who care deeply about the integrity of our sport.

This Series Handbook is intentionally thorough. It provides the organizational best practices for everything Qualifiers, from event registration through the crowning of the Champions of Region 2. If you cannot find the answer to your question in this Handbook, please reach out to support@ifsafreeride.org.

I wish you an inspiring season of freeride.

Brennan Metzler

IFSA Executive Director

Freerider

HANDBOOK DISCLOSURES.....	5
HISTORY.....	6
MISSION AND VALUES.....	8
IFSA CORE VALUES.....	8
CODE OF CONDUCT.....	9
IFSA QUALIFIER SERIES FORMAT.....	10
IFSA ADULT MEMBERSHIP.....	10
EVENT PROGRESSION.....	11
AGE CATEGORIES AND DIVISIONS.....	12
CONSIDERATIONS FOR 18 YEAR OLD ATHLETES.....	12
IFSA TRANSGENDER POLICY.....	13
HEALTH INSURANCE AND COMPETITION PREREQUISITES.....	13
WILD CARDS.....	14
2* to 4* Event Wildcards.....	14
Requests for Wildcards.....	15
Challenger Series Wildcards.....	15
FREERIDE WORLD TOUR (FWT) QUALIFICATION.....	15
IFSA POINTS, SEEDING, RANKING.....	17
FWT-IFSA GLOBAL SEEDING LIST.....	17
SEEDING AND REGISTRATION.....	17
IFSA QUALIFIER RANKINGS AND POINTS.....	18
INJURIES, ILLNESS, PREGNANCY & FROZEN POINTS.....	18
WORLDWIDE RANKINGS/REGIONS.....	19
IFSA QUALIFIER EVENT REGISTRATION.....	20
QUALIFIER EVENT REGISTRATION PROTOCOLS.....	20
1* EVENT REGISTRATION.....	21
2*, 3*, & 4* EVENT REGISTRATION.....	21
CATEGORY SIZE INFORMATION.....	21
CANCELLATION POLICIES.....	22
INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES CANCELING A CONFIRMED EVENT REGISTRATION.....	22
Case 1: Injured/Sick Athletes unable to compete.....	22
Case 2: 1* Qualifier & Friendly Events.....	22
Case 3: 2*/3*/4* Qualifiers.....	23
EVENT CANCELLATION/POSTPONEMENT AND REFUND.....	23
IFSA MEMBERSHIP CANCELATION POLICY.....	24
IFSA QUALIFIER EVENT FORMAT - REGION 2.....	25
EVENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.....	25
Event Organizer.....	25

Technical Director.....	25
Head Judge.....	25
Judge Panel.....	26
Scorekeeper.....	26
Starter.....	26
Forerunner.....	26
Ski Ninja.....	26
Volunteers.....	26
VENUE INSPECTION.....	27
FULL (HARD) VENUE INSPECTION.....	28
SOFT VENUE INSPECTION.....	28
VISUAL INSPECTION.....	28
TERRAIN ENHANCEMENT.....	30
NATURAL vs MAN-MADE VENUES.....	30
IFSA REGION 2 SCORING.....	31
SCOREKEEPING CODES.....	31
DNS: Did Not Start.....	31
DNF: Did Not Finish.....	31
DQ: Disqualification.....	32
NS: No Score.....	33
INVERT RULE.....	33
WEATHER RULE.....	33
POINTS FOR CANCELED EVENTS.....	34
TRAINING ON COMPETITION VENUES.....	34
ATHLETE COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS.....	35
ATHLETE MEETING.....	36
ATHLETE SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS.....	37
EVENT TIEBREAKING PROTOCOL.....	37
SCORING COMPLAINTS & ATHLETE PROTESTS.....	38
PRIZE MONEY.....	38
APPENDIX 1.....	40
SNOWBOARD WOMEN QUALIFIER POINT TABLE.....	40
SKI WOMEN & SNOWBOARD MEN QUALIFIER POINT TABLE.....	41
SKI MEN FWQ POINT TABLE.....	42
APPENDIX 2: JUNIOR GRADUATION TO THE QUALIFIER GLOBAL SEEDING LIST.....	43

HANDBOOK DISCLOSURES

The IFSA Qualifier Series Handbook was created by the IFSA Board of Directors and IFSA Employee Leadership. It is edited bi-annually, in late Spring and early Winter, to reflect series progressions and matters of sport integrity or structure. Printed copies of this document are uncontrolled. The official and current version of this document is always available on the IFSA website: [IFSA Handbooks & Guidelines](#).

The IFSA Qualifier Series Handbook contains proprietary information of the International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association (IFSA). While IFSA members are encouraged to create a copy for personal use, please do not share the electronic or paper copies without written permission from the IFSA.

The information in the IFSA Qualifier Series Handbook applies only to Region 2 IFSA Adult athletes and IFSA-sanctioned Qualifier events. Region 1 riders and events follow the Freeride World Tour (FWT) Handbook, which can differ and is located on the [Freeride World Tour Website](#).

HISTORY

The International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association (IFSA) fosters competitive Freeride events for Junior and Adult Athletes. The IFSA is a nonprofit athlete advocacy organization serving as the sanctioning, scheduling, registration, judging, ranking and

educational body for competitive Freeride events in Region 2. Competitive Freeride on a global level is broken down into two Regions.

Region 1 - Asia, Europe, Oceania (Operated by the Freeride World Tour)

Region 2 - North America, South America (Operated by the IFSA)

The IFSA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1996 by freeskiing pioneer Shane McConkey. Freeskiing in the 1990s encompassed the disciplines of skiing outside of alpine racing. These included big mountain, slopestyle, halfpipe, big air, and skier-cross. McConkey and other early visionaries believed that the various sports of freeskiing needed an athlete-driven governing body to ensure that the athletes had a voice in the development and governance of their sport. Since then, the disciplines of freeskiing have grown rapidly, evolving into strong individual sports, many at the Olympic level.

The IFSA serves as the primary rule-making, sanctioning, and ranking organization for competitive Freeride within Region 2. The IFSA does not execute or produce events. The overall execution of each event, and therefore the Qualifier Series, is dependent on the commitment of like-minded Regional Series Directors, Host Mountains and our dedicated Event Organizers.

Please visit the IFSA website to learn more about the IFSA: ifsafreeride.org

MISSION AND VALUES

The mission of the IFSA is to operate as an international sanctioning body for competitive Freeride. With input from its members, the IFSA sets sanctioning guidelines for event execution, while maintaining a system of sport which fairly ranks athletes and provides equitable competition registration. The IFSA promotes a consistent competition format and represents the needs, interests, and safety of Freeride competitors.

The IFSA provides a progressive path for athlete development from grassroots junior regional competitions to professional adult championships. We pursue opportunities for athletes to compete, learn, train, and safely have fun. The IFSA upholds eight values in order to further the aspirations, goals, and development of the members of our community of coaches, parents, judges, event organizers, and junior, collegiate, and adult athletes. First and foremost, the IFSA emphasizes the safety and sound decision making of everyone involved in competitive Freeride events.

IFSA CORE VALUES

Safety

FUN

Progression

Sustainability

Education

Consistency

Diversity

Accessibility

CODE OF CONDUCT

An IFSA Membership is a privilege, not a right. When attending or participating in an IFSA-sanctioned event, members must agree to conduct themselves according to the IFSA established Code of Conduct. All IFSA members are responsible for their actions and conduct while attending or participating in IFSA-sanctioned events. Good sportsmanship is expected and should be cultivated by all IFSA community members, coaches, parents, and event staff.

Good sportsmanship is defined as, but not limited to, respect for: competition officials, resort employees, IFSA employees and fellow competitors, the skiing and snowboarding public, and the resort facilities and operating procedures. The use of courtesy and good manners, acting responsibly and maturely, refraining from the use of profane or abusive language, and abstinence from immoderate use of alcohol or illegal or banned substances is required.

When an individual violates the IFSA Code of Conduct at an IFSA-sanctioned event, there will be consequences associated with that misconduct. Depending on how egregious the misconduct is, the IFSA Board of Directors and Staff has the authority to impose sanctions, suspension, or expulsion as determined on a case-by-case basis.

- IFSA athletes will abide by local, regional, state and federal law while participating in an IFSA event.
- Athletes will ride in control and obey all mountain signage when riding outside of the venue.
- Illegal drug and alcohol use by IFSA athletes is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification and suspension.
- IFSA athletes must observe all rules and codes of conduct of the host mountain.
- Ducking any rope line or disobeying any obvious signage is prohibited.
- IFSA athletes must act in a professional manner and exercise good judgment.
- IFSA athletes will treat each other, event officials, mountain officials, promoters, event organizers, sponsors, coaches, parents, and the general public with respect and kindness.
- IFSA athletes will refrain from use of abusive language or behavior.
- IFSA athletes will not steal, deface, or destroy sponsor or organizer equipment, property, or signage.

IFSA QUALIFIER SERIES FORMAT

The IFSA Qualifier Series includes competitive opportunities for athletes ages 18 and up. These events provide our adults with the chance to hone their skills, progress, and earn points and a ranking within the Region 2 - The Americas.

The IFSA Qualifier season begins on May 1st of each year, and terminates on April 30th of the following year. We are currently in the 2023-2024 season, often referred to as the 2024 season.

A rider's ranking consists of their three best results during the 2024 competitive season. Riders may participate in an unlimited number of events. Each year in April, the IFSA Qualifier Series culminates in a three stop Challenger Series. This best two of three series results in the crowning of Region 2 Champions, as well as qualifying nine of our top adult athletes to the Freeride World Tour.

New in 2024, the Collegiate Freeride Series has a standalone Championship, to be held in mid-April. The CFS Championship, along with the Challengers, represents the top of the Qualifier Series Pyramid - less than 10% of IFSA adult athletes will earn an invite. While we believe in providing exceptional Championship Events, and maintaining a Qualifier Series which encourages athletic progression, the IFSA works hard to assure that athletes of all abilities and experiences are welcomed and celebrated.

IFSA ADULT MEMBERSHIP

Freeride competitions are activities with inherent risks of serious personal injury, disability, and/or death. It is the sole responsibility that IFSA Adult Athletes will honor all contracts entered upon willingly.

The fees collected by your IFSA Adult Membership cover the cost of managing the guidelines and best practices of an entire sport, including maintaining a ranking system, funding liability insurance, training and certifying judges and coaches, managing registration and compensating IFSA employees.

The IFSA also collects a small percentage of your event registration fees, which is used to support series expansion, event insurance coverage, and other sanctioning or

event-related necessities. Note that aside from a small head tax fee of 8.25%, the IFSA does not collect revenue from event registration fees.

In order to compete at any IFSA-sanctioned Qualifier event, every rider (including Wild Cards) will acquire an [IFSA Adult Membership License](#) to complete registration. All competitors must have an active IFSA Adult membership and will not be permitted to register or to earn a score without a valid license.

Athletes competing in Region 2 competitions must have a valid Region 2 Membership (IFSA), and athletes competing in Region 1 must have a valid Region 1 Membership (FWT). Our membership year runs from May 1st through April 30th.

EVENT PROGRESSION

The IFSA Qualifier Series consists of events with different point values from 1* through 4* rated competitions. The amount of points earned will correspond to the star level assigned to the event. (Example: A rider will earn more points by winning a 3* event than by winning a 2* event.) For Qualifier Point Tables, see Appendix I.

1* Qualifiers: These fun and low-pressure events are designed to introduce riders of all ages to competitive Freeriding with an emphasis on safety, community, and sportsmanship. They are unseeded, meaning registration is first come, first served.

2* Qualifiers: These 21 events are the backbone of the IFSA Qualifier Series. 2* events provide competitive opportunities to a variety of athlete types; lower seeded athletes, dedicated regional freeriders, and highly seeded veterans. Registration is run entirely by seeding.

3* Qualifiers: In 2024, the IFSA will sanction six 3* events. 3*'s have been designed to provide high-level competitions for athletes looking for the opportunity to compete with a more experienced field. These competitions are held on more demanding venues, fitting the level of the athletes involved, and have mandatory cash prizing of \$5,000 USD. Registration is run entirely by seeding.

4* Qualifiers: These events have history - they are held on the top venues in The Americas, with \$10,000 USD minimum prizing and professional media fitting of our top athletes and our best up and comers alike. In 2024, there are four 4* IFSA events; two in

Canada and two in the United States. Registration is extremely limited, and run entirely by seeding.

IFSA-FWT Challenger Series: Back for a third season, this elite best two of three competition series is invitation only, bringing together top IFSA Qualifiers athletes with cut FWT riders and a handful of inspirational wildcards too. This series crowns the Champions of The Americas, and elevates 9 IFSA athletes to the prestigious 2025 Freeride World Tour.

IFSA Collegiate Freeride Series: Collegiate Freeriders are the fastest growing segment of our adult population. The IFSA is developing a competition series for this population, and looks forward to expanding the Collegiate Freeride Series in the coming years. New for 2024, the Collegiate Freeride Championship will take place in mid-April, and will crown both individual and team Champions.

AGE CATEGORIES AND DIVISIONS

Region 2 Adult Freeriders will be classified by their gender and chosen discipline:

- Male or Female
- Skiing or Snowboarding

Collegiate Freeriders are considered adults, and are eligible for the same categories (ski/snowboard, male/female). They have the additional opportunity to compete in specific Collegiate Freeride Series events, so long as they are a full-time student, currently enrolled.

Riders must be 18 years of age by the event date to compete in Region 2 IFSA Qualifier events. There are no exceptions to this rule.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR 18 YEAR OLD ATHLETES

Athletes 18 years of age may remain in the IFSA Junior Series OR move forward and compete in the Qualifier Series. It is not permitted to compete in both Series. When an athlete competes in a Qualifier event, they are no longer eligible to compete in Junior

events. When an athlete turns 19 years of age, they are no longer permitted to compete in the IFSA Junior Series and are automatically considered an adult athlete.

Athletes who have previously competed in the IFSA Junior Series will see their IFSA Junior points converted to the FWT-IFSA Global Seeding List.

It is up to the athlete to determine if they wish to compete as an IFSA junior or adult according to the guidelines above. Please consult the [IFSA Junior Series Handbook](#) for information on age guidelines for attending the Freeride Junior World Championship (FJWC) in Europe.

IFSA TRANSGENDER POLICY

Those who transition from female to male are eligible to compete in the male category without restriction after declaring his gender as male. Those who transition from male to female are eligible to compete in the female category under the following conditions:

- A. The athlete has declared that her gender identity is female.
- B. The declaration cannot be changed, for sporting purposes, for a minimum of four years.
- C. The athlete must submit a physician's note stating that her total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to her first competition.
- D. This note must also verify a plan to maintain those serum testosterone levels during the period of competition.

HEALTH INSURANCE AND COMPETITION PREREQUISITES

Competitors in Region 2 are required to have personal health insurance during all events.

In order to compete in an IFSA-sanctioned event:

- All Release of Liability waivers must be signed
- All riders must attend the MANDATORY athlete meetings

- Riders must have personal health insurance for the duration of any event in which they are competing.
- Riders must have proof of individual insurance at athlete check-in and have it available for the duration of the competition.
- During their competition run, all riders must meet the equipment requirements set by the IFSA (helmet and back protector) in addition to any equipment requirements set by the event organizer, which can include avalanche gear.

WILD CARDS

Unlike the Junior Series, IFSA Qualifier Events often involve a handful of single-event Wildcards. These are opportunities for the IFSA or the Event Organizer to showcase local talent, to feature deserving athletes from partner brands and sponsors, or to meet our organizational values in the unpredictable freeride landscape.

All Wildcard Athletes are required to purchase an IFSA Membership and to register online through the LiveHeats platform.

As part of our sanctioning agreement with our Event Organizers, each Qualifier event is provided with up to four single-event wildcards. These are not mandatory to fill, but are provided as a benefit to our host partners for the reasons outlined above.

2* to 4* Event Wildcards

If a 4* event is preceded by a 2* event, there will be a total of four Wild Cards available for riders from the 2* to compete at the 4* event. These wildcards will be automatically awarded to the athletes who place first in their Division. If an athlete who finished 1st in the 2* is already registered for the 4*, their Wild Card will be awarded to next place-holding athlete who isn't already registered for the upcoming 4* event. Each athletes receiving one of these Wildcards must complete registration for the 4* event in Liveheats immediately after receiving their invitation.

Requests for Wildcards

Historically, wildcard requests have been an overwhelming task for our Event Organizers to manage. Dozens of athletes, often with minimal freeride accomplishments or professional experience, email the IFSA, promoting themselves with the hope of gaining access to an event or series events. The IFSA encourages professional and inspirational athletes, or athletes with exceptional circumstances, to request wildcards. Please consider with scrutiny your own fit for wildcards before submitting a request to the IFSA.

- For 1* and 2* Qualifiers, wildcard requests should be made to the acting Regional Series Director. <https://ifsafreeride.org/about/#regional-series-directors>
- For 3* and 4* Qualifiers, wildcard requests should be submitted to the IFSA (support@ifsafreeride.org), who will work with the Event Organizer to award these inspirational roles.

Challenger Series Wildcards

The IFSA is increasing the number of wildcards to the 2024 Challenger Series. Our goal is simple, to elevate the professionalism of the series by bringing together the best freeriders from North and South America. Challenger Series wildcards are vetted by a committee of IFSA Board of Directors volunteers and Active Employees.

These Wildcards often will be awarded within the following broad categories

- Injury Wildcards or Athletes with Exceptional Circumstances
- Inspirational Athletes: Performance Wildcards
- Recent IFSA Junior Series Champions and Freeride Junior World Championship Winners
- DEI or IFSA Value Wildcards

FREERIDE WORLD TOUR (FWT) QUALIFICATION

For the 2024 season, the following number of riders from Region 2 will qualify for the FWT:

- Four Male Skiers
- Two Female Skier

- One Female Snowboarder
- Two Male Snowboarders

It is the athlete's responsibility to respond to the FWT invitation, or to communicate with IFSA if they believe they have earned a spot but did not receive an invitation prior to the published deadline. If a qualified rider doesn't confirm their participation to the tour within the deadline mentioned in the invitation, their spot is given to the next rider on the Challenger Series Ranking List. If a qualified rider who confirmed his participation to the tour is hurt or decides not to compete before the season, it will be decided by FWT management whether this rider will be replaced and by whom.

IFSA POINTS, SEEDING, RANKING

FWT-IFSA GLOBAL SEEDING LIST

So what is seeding? Seeding provides cumulative organization of one athlete over another, for the purpose of fair event registration. Seeding is different from ranking. An athlete's seed consists of their top three point earning results from the previous 52 weeks, at the time of calculating the seed. Once 52 weeks have elapsed from a competition date, that result will expire and will no longer be included in a rider's Global Seeding List.

The Challenger Series does not award seeding points, as that would interfere with mobility within the Adult Community, and as Challenger athletes already have the highest seeds in Region 2.

The seeding list is publicly available on ifsafreeride.org

SEEDING AND REGISTRATION

During registration for any Qualifier Event, every athlete will have three weeks to complete their registration, and all athletes will be immediately placed on a waitlist.

1* Events: Once the three week registration window has closed, athletes will be arranged by timestamp - the order in which they completed their registration. Athletes will then be confirmed off the waitlist until the event is full, or until the waitlist is empty. 1* events do not use the FWT-IFSA Global Seeding List for the purposes of registration.

2* & 3* and 4* Events: Once the three week registration window is closed, athletes will be arranged by seed. Categories will be filled by until all spots are confirmed, or until there are no athletes left on the waitlist. These events are registered 100% by the seeding list.

IFSA Challenger Series: Invitations for the 2024 IFSA Challenger Series will be issued in three waves. Wildcard athletes will be invited on a rolling basis throughout the year. Region 2 Freeride World Tour Athletes who do not make the cut to Fieberbrunn will be issued invitations the day after the Georgia Pro event concludes (weather window

February 29 - March 6, 2024). IFSA Qualifier Athletes will be invited the morning after the Taos 4* Competition, either March 7th or March 8th, 2024.

IFSA QUALIFIER RANKINGS AND POINTS

An athlete's ranking will include points earned from sanctioned 1*, 2*, 3*, 4* and CFS events. Athletes have 52 weeks to earn a ranking, which is calculated by adding an athlete's top three point earning results. There is no limitation on the number of competitions that Adult athletes can participate in, a key distinction from the IFSA Junior Series.

If a Qualifier is canceled for any reason, riders will not receive any ranking or seeding points.

On April 30th of each year, following the Challenger Series, Collegiate Freeride Championships, and late season events, all Region 2 Adult Athlete's rankings are reset to zero, and a new competition year begins.

Rankings can be viewed on the [IFSA Website](#).

INJURIES, ILLNESS, PREGNANCY & FROZEN POINTS

An injured, ill, or pregnant rider may retain their status on the Global Seeding List during the period of injury and for a recovery period following the injury, illness, or pregnancy by freezing their points. A rider's points will be "frozen" as of date when the injury, illness, or pregnancy occurred.

If a Freerider becomes injured or ill during the season or must skip the season due to pregnancy, he/she must inform the IFSA Administrative team in writing. The date and type of injury must be explained and a valid medical certificate must be presented in order for the IFSA to freeze an athlete's points until recovery.

- All injured athletes seeking “frozen seeding points” need to email support@ifsafreeride.org within two weeks of the injury
 - The Date of Injury
 - Proof of Injury (Doctors note or report)
- Once the athlete returns to competition, their seed becomes unfrozen and they are placed back in the active, 52 week rolling seeding list.
- Points will be frozen on the Global Seeding List, NOT on the IFSA Qualifier Ranking List.

WORLDWIDE RANKINGS/REGIONS

The IFSA and FWT encourage athletes to experience the world through freeride, and are collaborating to encourage global participation in the sport. However, there remain different management organizations and rules of sport which require some distinctions between Region 1 and Region 2.

Adult freeriders can earn a ranking within two global regions:

Region 1 : Asia, Europe, Oceania - Operated by New Zealand Freeride Tour and FWT Management

Region 2 : Canada, The United States, Chile, and Argentina - Operated by the IFSA

Adult freeriders may compete anywhere in the world, so long as they have an active license from the Regional Operating Body in which the event takes place (FWT for Region 1 events, IFSA for Region 2 events).

Qualifier events in Region 1 award points to Region 1 rankings. Qualifier events in Region 2 award points to Region 2 rankings. Qualifier events anywhere in the world award seeding points to the FWT-IFSA Global Seeding List. Put another way, Region 2 (IFSA) athletes can gain seeding points by competing anywhere in the world, but will only accumulate IFSA ranking points from finishes in sanctioned Region 2 Events.

IFSA QUALIFIER EVENT REGISTRATION

The IFSA is committed to providing a fair and accessible registration experience for all athletes.

- Please visit the [IFSA Website](#) to view the 2024 event schedule including registration calendars. Event questions should be directed to support@ifsafreeride.org
- LiveHeats is the IFSA event registration platform for all IFSA event registrations. [LiveHeats Platform](#)
- All adult athletes must purchase an IFSA Membership before they will be permitted to register for any sanctioned IFSA Qualifier Event. **Regional Memberships are only required for Junior Athletes - please do NOT purchase a Regional Membership.**

QUALIFIER EVENT REGISTRATION PROTOCOLS

All IFSA Qualifiers follow the same registration timeline; opening six weeks prior to a competition and closing three weeks prior the competition. Regardless of when registration takes place for a competition, the process will follow the same steps, to assure consistency across Region 2.

Step 1: Registration will open on Liveheats, as scheduled by the IFSA. All athletes who register are automatically placed on a waitlist.

Step 2: After three weeks, registration closes, and no further athletes will be able to sign up for the competition.

Step 3: Once the registration window closes, athletes will be confirmed into the event by timestamp (1* competitions) or by the Global Seeding List (2*/3*/4* competitions).

Note: Credit Cards are charged at the time of athlete confirmation, along with non-refundable LiveHeats and IFSA fees. Cancellation before Step 2, the three week registration window closing, is possible without penalty or charge.

1* EVENT REGISTRATION

All 1* level events will have an open registration component to them and registration will be first come, first served. Credit cards will be charged at the end of the registration window, when athletes are confirmed into the event.

2*, 3*, & 4* EVENT REGISTRATION

The Global Seeding List will be used to determine registration priority for IFSA 2*, 3*, and 4* events. To earn an invitation to an event, riders must sign up for the waitlist during the registration window. Invitations will be issued from highest to lowest ranked rider, based on availability. If spaces remain for unranked riders, these riders will be awarded invitations based on the order in which they registered.

NOTE: LiveHeats will place an authorization on your credit card at the time of registering to the waitlist. Depending on your bank, this may appear as a charge. Note that the card **WILL NOT BE CHARGED** until you are confirmed as a registered participant.

CATEGORY SIZE INFORMATION

Athlete division allocations vary by event as they are based on the percentage of riders in each division who registered to compete in the event, as well as quality of field and growth of sport and DEI considerations. Further, there is a maximum number of athletes which can be fairly judged within a category, which will limit the number of athletes confirmed from our larger categories.

CANCELLATION POLICIES

Cancellations are an inevitable part of competitive Freeride. This season 6000+ athletes will attend 150+ events hosted in alpine mountain environments subject to severe and variable weather and snowpacks. There are three types of cancellations:

- Individual Athletes canceling a single event registration
- Entire Event Cancellation/Postponement
- Membership Cancellations

Each of these cancellation types requires definition as to the refund process and amount. The policies outlined below will create transparency for our Athlete and Event Organizer groups, and standard practices for the IFSA Admin Team.

INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES CANCELING A CONFIRMED EVENT REGISTRATION

Case 1: Injured/Sick Athletes unable to compete

In the event that an athlete becomes sick or injured, they are eligible for a full refund less the nonrefundable fees taken at the time of athlete confirmation (87% of registration costs). In this case, the athlete must submit proof of injury/sickness within 24 hours of the event completion.

For all Qualifier Events, please submit proof of injury/sickness to the IFSA (support@ifsafreeride.org).

Case 2: 1* Qualifier & Friendly Events

Registration for these events is run entirely by timestamp. Registration for these events open 6 weeks prior to the competition, and close three weeks prior to the competition.

Pre-Confirmation: Athletes may cancel anytime they are on the waitlist (pre-confirmation) with no charge.

- Athletes who cancel their registration more than two weeks before a competition will receive a 50% refund. This covers the nonrefundable fees as well as the additional work required by the IFSA, RSD, and EO's to cover the loss of funds and athlete starts.
- Athletes who cancel within two weeks of a competition will receive no refund.

Case 3: 2*/3*/4* Qualifiers

Registration for these events is run 100% by seed. Registration opens six weeks prior to the competition, and closes three weeks before the competition.

Pre-Confirmation: Athletes may cancel anytime they are on the waitlist (pre-confirmation) with no charge.

- Athletes who cancel their registration more than two weeks before a competition will receive a 50% refund. This covers the nonrefundable fees as well as the additional work required by the IFSA, RSD, and EO's to cover the loss of funds and athlete starts.
- Athletes who cancel within two weeks of a competition will receive no refund.

Case 4: Challenger Series

This event is non-refundable due to the tight turn around, large financial investments required, and limited number of participants. Athletes are required to register for the entire three stop series, whether or not they choose to compete in all three competitions.

EVENT CANCELLATION/POSTPONEMENT AND REFUND

Cancellation policies are established at the discretion of each individual Event Organizer for IFSA Events.

Scenario 1: If the event organizer must cancel the event due to lack of snow or poor conditions prior to the arrival of the riders, the event organizer MAY refund a portion of the registration fee to each rider. Funds may be withheld to cover transaction fees and various event expenditures.

Scenario 2: If the event organizer must cancel the event on the scheduled day because it could not be held during the weather window due to bad weather or other circumstances, registered riders will not be refunded. This is because the Event Organizer has compensated judges, employees, ski patrol, event staff, paid for awards and swag, and absorbed the cost of discounted lift tickets.

Scenario 3: If an event organizer must postpone or reschedule the event, any rider who must cancel their registration because they are unable to attend the new event date will receive a partial refund (minus the nonrecoverable transaction fees). If the event is postponed, all registered riders will be admitted to the rescheduled competition. Any remaining spots will be filled from the waiting list. If the rescheduled event is not yet full, registration will reopen.

IFSA MEMBERSHIP CANCELTION POLICY

The IFSA is a nonprofit 501c3 that operates on membership fees. We offer events across North and South America. We do not give refunds if you didn't get into the event you hoped for or that you can no longer attend, as we have over 150 events that are available for all athletes. Before purchasing a membership, please consider that with the continued growth of our sport, you may not get into the competition closest to your home.

We do give refunds for injuries that have occurred before your first comp of the season. Please email the IFSA within 24 hours of your injury/sickness for a refund (minus processing fees).

IFSA QUALIFIER EVENT FORMAT - REGION 2

The overall execution of each IFSA-sanctioned event is dependent on the commitment of like-minded event production partners and the resort community. The event organizer is ultimately responsible for adhering to and following all safety protocol and guidelines outlined and established by the IFSA.

EVENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Event Organizer

The event organizer is an individual, working either for a local mountain or organization that produces and promotes events approved by the IFSA. The event organizer is ultimately responsible for adhering to and following all safety protocol and guidelines outlined and established by the IFSA.

Technical Director

Under the direction of the event organizer, the technical director (TD) is responsible for the competition aspect of each event. TDs are credentialed, experienced, and competent in event management, safety guidelines, and following IFSA rules and best operating practices. The TD, with input from the head judge, 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 event organizer and TD will interface with ski patrol to establish that an emergency response plan is in place.

Head Judge

The head judge is responsible for ensuring consistency in judging and managing the activities of the other judges. The head judge should set the tone of every event in regards to safety, including severely penalizing athletes for poor decision making and/or execution in the development/performance of their line. The head judge in conjunction with the technical director will determine athlete cuts for successive competition rounds. All cuts shall be discussed with the judge panel to assure fair and natural cuts are made. The head judge, along with the TD, has the authority to disqualify an athlete for breaking any IFSA rules, event organizer rules, resort or host mountain rules, or for poor sportsmanship.

Judge Panel

At least two judges work under the direction of the head judge and offer individual perspectives of each athlete's run. All judges provide independent scores for each athlete's run. Judges are advocates for safety under the direction of the head judge.

Scorekeeper

The scorekeeper is responsible for the input and recording of scores provided by the judges in a timely manner. Scorekeepers are required to operate and use the IFSA scorekeeping tool and shall be trained ahead of time, well before the event date. It is essential that the scorekeeper prepare the materials and become familiar with the software prior to the event date. It is also essential that the scorekeeper work alongside judges to ensure accuracy of scores.

Starter

The starter shall be an experienced individual who controls the timing of each athlete's drop into the venue. They will be in communication with the TD and judge panel at all times. The starter must verify the athlete's identity and relay their drop status to event personnel.

Forerunner

A course forerunner will be used to prepare the judging panel and begin the event. Under no circumstances may a coach with a registered athlete serve as forerunner, nor a registered athlete for the competition.

Ski Ninja

A minimum of 2 ski ninjas shall be onsite and ready to perform gear retrieval at all times (clicked into bindings and ready to swiftly and safely navigate to the competitor). Coaches should only be used as ninjas if all their athlete(s) have already completed their competition runs.

Volunteers

As a non-profit organization, volunteers are the lifeblood of the IFSA. Individuals may volunteer in many capacities ; directly for the IFSA Board of Directors, an Advisory Board, or with an event organizer. Individuals can also volunteer to support the regional director with judging coordination, scorekeeping, athlete check-in, and other tasks. We appreciate our volunteers! Interested in volunteering ? Please send us an email at support@ifsafreeride.org

VENUE INSPECTION

An incredibly important facet of all IFSA events, venue inspection is a **MANDATORY** requirement for all riders in Region 2. Inspection is conducted, first and foremost, to maintain the safety of competitive Freeride and to allow the athlete to make sound, responsible decisions regarding their line choice within the limitations of their ability, skill level, weather, and the snow conditions at the time of competition. Venue inspection is **MANDATORY** for all IFSA-sanctioned competitions.

Once the venue has been officially closed for competition, only athletes, staff, event personnel, or certified coaches are permitted venue access. Valid credentials will be **MANDATORY** for anyone to obtain access to the venue.

- Athletes will be required to display a credential (i.e. a bib, band, badge, sticker, or number) provided by the event organizer, signifying that they are a registered participant on the event roster. Individuals or athletes not competing on that date or venue are not permitted access.
- Coaches seeking venue access are **REQUIRED** to have current IFSA Coach Certification and a current IFSA Coach Membership.

For IFSA-sanctioned Qualifier events, the on-slope venue inspection can be conducted in various ways. Soft versus full physical inspection protocols are to be established at the discretion of the TD in conjunction with the head judge. Note that an inspection closure is defined as an area that cannot be accessed during inspection. These are areas that may not withstand inspection pressure. To conduct the competition safely, inspection closures must be limited to inspection and reevaluated as potential venue options before the competition by the head judge and TD.

Clear communication of venue inspection protocol must be communicated to the athletes during the athlete meeting(s) and prior to inspection closure. For this reason, attendance at the athlete meeting is **MANDATORY** (See Section 2.15). Inspection protocol is established at the discretion of the TD and head judge and/or event organizer due to the varieties of weather, terrain, star level, and snow conditions. The types of inspection procedures are described below.

FULL (HARD) VENUE INSPECTION

In full physical venue inspection there is no limited access to areas of the venue unless otherwise specified by the TD and head judge. Athletes must remain considerate of preserving snow in all areas of the venue, in particular in takeoff and landing zones, as well as technical or thin snow sections.

SOFT VENUE INSPECTION

The intent of allowing a soft inspection protocol is to provide the athletes the ability to inspect the course while preserving snow quality. A higher the star value, (4*) will make it more likely that a TD and head judge will attempt to limit access and impact on the venue(s) by running soft venue inspection.

- In soft venue inspection, athletes may inspect within the boundary of the venue from the side of the course via approved route(s) determined by the TD and head judge.
- Athletes may inspect the course by traversing to designated locations specified by the TD and head judge. Clear communication of these variables must be communicated to the athletes during the athlete meetings and prior to inspection opening.
- Soft inspection can encompass any possible variation of limited on-slope (physical) inspection whether it includes closure of just a zone, corridor or traverse in/out. The higher the star value, the more intent for the TD and head judge to limit impact to the venue(s), especially if conditions would benefit from snow preservation.

VISUAL INSPECTION

Though visual inspection is common in Region 1, Region 2 is unable to employ full-visual inspection as the only inspection method. Due to liability/insurance requirements there will always be some variation or component of on-slope inspection in Region 2; visual inspection as the only inspection protocol is not possible in Region 2 at this time.

- Venue inspection is MANDATORY for all athletes at all events in Region 2.

- Any manner of terrain enhancement or alteration is not permitted unless clearly stated otherwise by event officials. Terrain enhancement by either coaches or athletes is strictly prohibited. This behavior will result in immediate disqualification of the athlete or suspension of the coach by the head judge or TD.
- During inspection, athletes must be aware of everyone else around them.
- On the day of competition, athletes must have an opportunity to have access to the competition venue to inspect the terrain and features within the venue. If the venue must be changed or altered significantly, after the initial venue inspection, athletes must have an opportunity for another inspection.
- Slow riding/skiing is MANDATORY during venue inspection.
- The technical director and/or head judge will disqualify a competitor from the competition for riding fast or recklessly during inspection.
- Athletes may not practice, session, or rehearse a line during inspection or jump/drop any features within the venue boundary. This behavior will result in immediate disqualification.
- In blind areas, athletes shall verbally announce themselves to make others aware of their presence and intended next move/position.
- Athletes are to be respectful of fellow athletes, coaches, and officials during inspection.
- Athletes and coaches must respect the snow coverage while inspecting. Consider the rest of the competitors before you slide repeatedly in an area or access snow in a takeoff or landing zone. Never set a traverse across a landing zone as riders following your line will create a rut in the snow that will become a safety hazard. Whenever possible, use a side step motion instead of sliding or skidding to a stop. Riders may ski through a zone to check snow but traversing shall be avoided.
- Note that an inspection closure is defined as an area that cannot be accessed during inspection. These are areas that may not withstand inspection pressure. To conduct the competition safely, inspection closures must be limited to inspection and reevaluated as potential venue options before the competition by the head judge and TD.
- Reckless behavior or infractions of inspection rules will result in immediate disqualification from the event at the discretion of the TD and head judge.

TERRAIN ENHANCEMENT

Terrain enhancement or alteration by athletes or coaches is not permitted unless clearly stated otherwise by the technical director. Terrain enhancement or alteration by either coaches or athletes is strictly prohibited. This behavior will result in immediate disqualification of the athlete or suspension of the coach by the head judge or technical director.

Under special circumstances an event organizer and technical director may need to employ terrain manipulation to enhance the venue. If this is the case, it must be completed and clearly communicated prior to the beginning of venue inspection.

- If a venue has limited features and/or the conditions dictate, the TD/event organizer may enhance the venue to create a more challenging and safe venue. Safety must be the first concern when altering venues. No athlete participation in shovel or tool manipulated terrain is permitted.
- Any level of enhancement will be clearly posted and/or communicated to all athletes and coaches by the event organizer or TD. The enhancement must be completed prior to the first inspection run of the competition day and communicated and announced to athletes and coaches. This is just one reason why athlete meeting attendance is **MANDATORY**.
- Due to snow conditions or safety concerns, an event organizer and TD may allow for terrain enhancement by coaches, athletes, event staff or volunteers in specific scenarios. However, this is restricted to situations where snow compaction is needed in the case of breakable crust, icy conditions, etc.
- It must be emphasized that athletes enhancing or manipulating the terrain during inspection or on the day of the event will be disqualified.

It must be emphasized that coaches enhancing or manipulating the terrain during inspection or on the day of the event will be stripped of their coaching credentials and their IFSA Coach Membership shall be suspended until a satisfactory response to the IFSA Board of Directors is submitted.

NATURAL vs MAN-MADE VENUES

There can be different types of Freeride competitions:

- Pure big mountain: The face is untouched and the athletes ride it as it is
- Competitions with man-made kickers or terrain enhancements may be included in venues on the IFSA Qualifier Series.

IFSA REGION 2 SCORING

To be on the podium, athletes must have earned a score. In the event that less than three riders earn scores, the podium could consist of one or two riders only. If all riders receive a DNF, though they earn points, there will be no podium winners for that division and all the riders (excluding DQs) will tie for last place. (Example: All riders score the points of 7th place in an event where all 7 riders earned a DNF score and there were no DQs.)

To earn a score, every competitor **MUST** exit the venue through the finish corral. If an athlete exits the venue boundary at any point, a DQ will be awarded, even if a DNF score was initially earned. To maintain the safety of the event, if an athlete leaves the start gate it is now **MANDATORY** that they exit the venue through the finish corral.

SCOREKEEPING CODES

The following codes are used by Region 2 judges when score competitive Freeride Runs:

DNS: Did Not Start

A rider who does not show up at the start gate, or who showed up at the start gate but was missing any **MANDATORY** equipment (i.e. helmet or back protector), will earn a DNS (Did Not Start). They will not earn any points. In the case of an event with two days of competition, the rider will not receive any points if the DNS occurred on the qualifying day. If a rider qualified for day two, but for any reason was absent at the start of the second day of competition, they will earn a DNS and no points on day two; however, they will still be awarded a place and ranking points according to their first run results.

DNF: Did Not Finish

If a rider loses their ski or board and/or requires assistance from a ski ninja or a member of ski patrol, a Did Not Finish (DNF) score will be awarded. A DNF will be awarded if a rider crosses the finish line without both skis or their snowboard. In the event that 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; they may not exit the venue boundary and must complete their run through the finish corral in order to earn DNF points. If a DNF rider leaves the venue boundary or fails to exit the venue through the designated finish area, they will instead earn a DQ and zero points instead of a DNF and last place points.

Tied for Last Place Rule: Riders who earn DNF scores shall all be tied and awarded points for last place. (Example: In an event's final day with 20 riders in which 4 riders crashed and did not complete their runs, the 4 riders all tie in 16th place and all will earn the points of 16th place.)

DQ: Disqualification

A rider receiving a DQ (Disqualification) will be ranked last, after all DNF riders and will be assigned a score of zero points.

A rider could receive a DQ for any of the following actions:

- Inverting when prohibited by the event organizer. Horizontal spins or flat spins are still accepted as long as the feet do not raise higher than the rider's head. In Region 2, inverts are only permitted at the discretion of each event organizer.
- Entering the finish area in a manner that compromises personal safety of other athletes, spectators or crew.
- Entering a closed area or violating any clearly marked venue boundaries.
- Infraction of venue inspection protocol during inspection such as: violating terrain enhancement rules, riding fast or recklessly, sessioning a line, or hitting/dropping any features.
- The TD and head judge have the authority to DQ a competitor for breaking any IFSA rules, resort, organizer, or venue rules, and for poor sportsmanship or violations of the IFSA Code of Conduct.
- If the organizer decides to close the venue prior to the event and a rider accesses the venue, the TD, head judges, or event organizer has the authority to DQ the rider.
- If the rider exits the venue boundary or fails to exit the venue by way of the designated finish corral after a significant crash, equipment loss, or injury.
- If a rider should continue their planned run after a DNF event, they are subject to disqualification (DQ) from the current event and suspension from future events at the discretion of the IFSA Board of Directors.

NS: No Score

This is a scorekeeping code utilized in Region 1 and it is not employed by the IFSA judges in Region 2.

INVERT RULE

Inverts (front flip or backflip) will be permitted at the discretion of the event organizer in Region 2. This rule will vary between organizers and it is the athlete's responsibility to attend the MANDATORY athlete meeting to gain information on the rules. When inverts are not permitted by the event organizer, horizontal spins or flat spins are still accepted as long as the feet do not raise higher than the rider's head. Riders executing spins with feet higher than their head when specifically prohibited by the event organizer will earn a DQ score and will not be awarded points.

WEATHER RULE

If weather or visibility is unfavorable, the technical director and head judge may opt to utilize a split judging format. If judges are separated throughout a venue, radios will be used to communicate and establish a clear venue. In split judging, judges will score all categories in their respective zones, turning in one or two scores per zone. The use of split judging in Region 2 rule is in contrast to Region 1, which uses the 2/3^{rds} rule in place of split judging.

The technical director may cancel a division or a competition day due to weather and/or visibility. If possible, the announcement of cancellation should be performed after the completion of a division. Each athlete in an entire division must have the opportunity to complete their run for that division's results to be validated. If the competition is stopped due to weather conditions or any other occurrence without completion of a division, those results will be invalid. The decision to halt the competition is made by the technical director with input from the head judge. Results for a division will be validated upon completion of the entire division and this can vary between divisions depending on current conditions, extenuating circumstances or time constraints.

If a division is incomplete and weather or current conditions indicate that the completion of the division is unlikely, the TD, with input from the head judge, may opt to rerun the entire division with split judging in place to validate the results. It is not permitted to switch to a split judging format mid-division when some but not all riders have completed their competition run.

A TD may decide to organize a rerun for all competitors in a division. This decision is at the TD's sole discretion, after gathering information from the event organizer, head judge, ski patrol, current weather forecast etc.

For a two-day competition format, if the weather doesn't allow for a second day or if divisions from day one are not completed, the TD will decide upon one of several scenarios:

- Results are validated on a division by division basis as they are completed.
- In the event that it is impossible to complete a final run for a division when qualification runs were completed, the qualifying run results are validated and these scores will serve as the final score for the event.
- If a division is not completed and a finals run competition day is possible with a sufficient weather window, the TD may elect to rerun the entire qualification runs for an incomplete division. If a finals run is not possible, then the scores from the qualifying run will serve as the final results for the event.
- If it is impossible to complete a particular division within the event window, results are not counted and points will not be earned by the athlete.

POINTS FOR CANCELED EVENTS

If an event is canceled, riders who were confirmed for the event will not earn any points. Note that this rule differs from the rule in Region 1.

TRAINING ON COMPETITION VENUES

It is up to the event organizer to determine when the competition venue(s) shall be closed prior to competition. The IFSA recommends closing the venue as far in advance as possible, especially in the event of fresh snowfall. This recommendation is especially strong for our 4* level events.

If competitors ride the competition venue(s) after the organizer has decided to close it, and the closure is clearly marked and communicated, the organizer, the TD, or head judge has the authority to DQ these riders. Riding the competition venue(s) before they are officially closed is permitted. However, keep in mind that excessive sessioning may negatively impact the venue quality on competition day. Please consider this before using the venue prior to the official inspection closure. Also consider that event officials, the technical director, and/or the head judge may be on the venue in the days leading up to the competition to determine closures, establish features, and delineate boundaries.

Reckless riding by registered participants endangers the individuals responsible for executing this critical component of event preparation.

ATHLETE COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

Big Mountain Freeride competitions are activities with inherent risks of serious personal injury, disability, and death. It is the sole responsibility that IFSA members will honor all contracts entered upon willingly. The following items are required in order for an athlete to compete in an IFSA-sanctioned event:

- The IFSA Release of Liability Waiver (ROL) must be signed by adult athletes age 18 or older in the USA, and age 19 or older in Canada. The ROL for 18 year old Canadian athletes must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- The event ROL waiver must be signed for each event, even if there are multiple events at the same mountain in the same year/season.
- Competitors will have personal health insurance during all events. An athlete must have proof of health insurance at check-in and have it available for the duration of the competition.
- Attendance at athlete meetings is **MANDATORY**. The technical director, event organizer, and judges are not responsible for providing information to absentees.
- Attendance during athlete venue inspection is **MANDATORY**.
- Athlete safety equipment requirements are **MANDATORY**. Athletes not in possession of required safety equipment will be assigned a DNS score. Athletes who attempt to compete without the **MANDATORY** safety equipment as specified by both the IFSA and the event organizer will earn a DNS. See Section 2.18 for more information
- Athletes must adhere to the IFSA Code of Conduct for the entirety of a competition at the host mountain. Athletes must also remember they represent the IFSA community and as such, should conduct themselves in a responsible, respectful manner that presents Freeride in a positive light. See the IFSA Code of Conduct in the Introduction
- It is the responsibility of the competitor to make their start time.
- If an athlete may miss their start list position by more than 5 riders they must communicate their tardiness with the TD or event organizer and describe the circumstances preventing them from making their start time. If an athlete should miss their division entirely, they will earn a DNS. It is the decision of the TD/starter where to place the rider in the event they miss their start. Repeated infractions of

missing start times will result in a DNS or DQ score at the discretion of the head judge and TD.

- Athletes must understand the location of all start and finish lines/corral for their competitive division. Weather, number of athletes, and time constraints may have an effect on where these are placed. Failure to comply with start and finish lines/corral during competitive run will result in a DQ.
- If an athlete crashes and may be injured, the athlete should stay down and wait for patrol to assist them.
- In the case of a crash where there is no concern of injury, the athlete shall give a head tap letting everyone know they are ok. If there is a loss of equipment (DNF) they can then proceed to grab their gear or wait for assistance from a ski ninja. In either case, they should refrain from riding additional features that may cause another crash and further delay the competition. The rider must exit the venue via the easiest route, avoiding significant features, drops, or airs. Should the rider exit the venue boundary, hit airs, drops, or ride in a reckless manner as deemed by the TD and/or head judge, or fail to exit through the designated finish area, the DNF score will be converted to a DQ and no points will be earned.
- In the event of a crash, equipment loss, or DNF, an athlete must remain within the venue boundary and shall always exit via the finish corral. If the athlete exits a venue boundary or fails to exit through the designated finish area the DNF score will be converted to a DQ and zero points will be earned.
- Competitor bib/sticker must be worn during inspection and competition.
- Video review of competition runs may only be used for the purpose of developmental feedback for individual athletes. Any persons promoting video content that may be deemed by the BOD to have adverse impact on any aspect of the Freeride competition community or IFSA judging is considered unacceptable. Actions taken are at the sole discretion of the IFSA BOD

ATHLETE MEETING

Athlete meetings are held before the competition and are **MANDATORY** for all riders. The athlete meeting is **MANDATORY** to ensure the safety of all riders and preserve the integrity of the competition. Riders must be informed about snow conditions, potential venue closures, venue boundaries, resort policies and rules, access to the start gate, the event schedule, and any **MANDATORY** safety gear. Riders who cannot attend the athlete meeting for valid reasons **MUST** coordinate beforehand with the event organizer and technical director to receive their security speech and bib number at some other time.

ATHLETE SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Athletes failing to meet equipment requirements set by both the IFSA and the event organizer will not be permitted to start and will be awarded a DNS (Did Not Start) score, earning no points. DNS riders will not receive a refund for the registration fee.

- Helmets are MANDATORY when inspecting, competing, or riding within the venue. Coaches must also wear a helmet when accessing the venue.
- It is MANDATORY that an athlete wears a back protector during any competition run(s). The back protector must be a stand-alone piece of equipment designed to protect users from impact during a fall. Backpacks, avalanche packs, etc. that are worn externally will not be considered valid back protectors.
- The IFSA strongly recommends additional protective gear when training or competing in Freeride such as but not limited to: hip, knee, and elbow pads, and a mouth guard.
- The event organizer may require additional protective and/or safety equipment beyond the items mentioned above, including but not limited to an avalanche transceiver, probe, shovel, and avalanche airbag, or avalung device.

EVENT TIEBREAKING PROTOCOL

In the occurrence of a tie within the top 5 place-holding riders, a tiebreak protocol will be used by the judges panel. The tiebreak should first be determined by which rider scored higher in the control criteria. A higher control score will earn a higher placement, breaking the tie. If the tie cannot be broken using the control score, then the technique score will be used.

If athletes should earn the same score outside of the top 5 places, the tied riders are awarded the same place and number of points as the highest of the two tied scores. The next place is then skipped for the next non-tied athlete in the ranking. (Example: If two athletes tied for 7th place the sequence of places awarded goes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 7, 9, etc. and the tied athletes each earn the points of 7th place.)

SCORING COMPLAINTS & ATHLETE PROTESTS

The following information pertains to athlete protests and scoring complaints:

- Protests may be filed due to run interference and must be brought to the attention of the TD immediately after the run.
- Protest against disqualifications and or/clerical order must be made within 15 minutes after the posting of final results.
- It is the responsibility of the competitor to substantiate their protest.
- No protests against scoring are allowed. All scores are final. Scores will not be changed or adjusted.
- The technical director may grant a provisional rerun due to run interference on a case-by-case basis.
- If the technical director cannot make the determination of a provisional rerun, it is up to the discretion of the head judge.
- Once the decision to award a rerun is made by the TD, the score for the first run is permanently removed from record and the rerun becomes the only score of record.
- Under no circumstances may a competitor protest directly to the IFSA judges. All protests must be addressed to the technical director.
- If the protest is unsubstantiated by another competitor, it will be automatically denied.

PRIZE MONEY

An awards or podium ceremony is a requirement for all IFSA-sanctioned events. The size and extent of the award ceremony is at the sole discretion of the event organizer. The IFSA works as an advocate for athletes and on occasion, may contribute prize money, though this responsibility typically falls to the event organizer. The provision of prize money is solely the responsibility of the event organizer. Event organizers should strive to partner with sponsors or organizations who may be willing to contribute toward a cash purse or prizing. It is the responsibility of the event organizer to provide a space and infrastructure to hold the ceremony. The IFSA recommends the following criteria to event organizers:

- Gear and/or cash prizing is common at the IFSA FWQ 2* level
- At the 3* level, prizing of \$5,000 local currency (CAD or USD) is mandatory
- At the 4* level, prizing of \$10,000 local currency (CAD or USD) is mandatory
- Prize money should be equal across all divisions for each place without regard to gender or discipline. However, the depth of places awarded prize money may be determined by the depth of field per each division. Example: A division with a large field may pay down to 5th place, while a division with a small field may pay out only to 3rd place. Event organizers should designate the same prize money for first, second, and third place in all divisions, regardless of gender or discipline.

APPENDIX 1

Points are awarded for all finishes at all IFSA-sanctioned FWQ Freeride events. An IFSA FWQ Membership must be active BEFORE the competition for athletes to collect points. Points will not be awarded retroactively.

SNOWBOARD WOMEN QUALIFIER POINT TABLE

FWQ 4****		FWQ 3***		FWQ 2**		FWQ 1*	
<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>
1	2500	1	1100	1	600	1	320
2	1900	2	900	2	450	2	230
3	1400	3	700	3	350	3	185
4	1000	4	590	4	290	4	150
5	700	5	510	5	250	5	130
6	500	6	445	6	220	6	115
7	450	7	390	7	200	7	110
8	400	8	360	8	185	8	95
9	370	9	330	9	170	9	90
10	345	10	305	10	160	10	85
11	320	11	280	11	150	11	80
12	300	12	260	12	140	12	75
13	280	13	240	13	130	13	71
14	260	14	220	14	120	14	68
15	240	15	200	15	115	15	65
16	225	16	185	16	110	16	62
17	210	17	170	17	105	17	59
18	195	18	155	18	100	18	56
19	180	19	140	19	95	19	53
20	170	20	130	20	90	20	50
21	160	21	120	21	85	21	47
22	155	22	115	22	80	22	44
23	150	23	110	23	75	23	41
24	145	24	105	24	70	24	39
25*	140	25	100	25	65	25	37

* To view additional point values, use the FWQ Region 1 Riders Rules on the www.freerideworldtour.com website.

SKI WOMEN & SNOWBOARD MEN QUALIFIER POINT TABLE

FWQ 4****		FWQ 3***		FWQ 2**		FWQ 1*	
<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>
1	2500	1	1100	1	600	1	320
2	2100	2	900	2	450	2	230
3	1800	3	700	3	350	3	185
4	1550	4	590	4	290	4	150
5	1300	5	510	5	250	5	130
6	1100	6	445	6	220	6	115
7	900	7	390	7	200	7	110
8	750	8	360	8	185	8	95
9	600	9	330	9	170	9	90
10	500	10	305	10	160	10	85
11	400	11	280	11	150	11	80
12	350	12	260	12	140	12	75
13	300	13	240	13	130	13	71
14	270	14	220	14	120	14	68
15	240	15	200	15	115	15	65
16	210	16	185	16	110	16	62
17	190	17	170	17	105	17	59
18	175	18	155	18	100	18	56
19	160	19	140	19	95	19	53
20	150	20	130	20	90	20	50
21	140	21	120	21	85	21	47
22	135	22	115	22	80	22	44
23	130	23	110	23	75	23	41
24	125	24	105	24	70	24	39
25	120	25	100	25	65	25	37
26	115	26	95	26	60	26	35
27	110	27	90	27	56	27	33
28	105	28	85	28	52	28	31
29	100	29	80	29	49	29	29
30*	95	30	75	30	46	30	27

* To view additional point values, use the FWQ Region 1 Riders Rules on the www.freerideworldtour.com website.

SKI MEN FWQ POINT TABLE

FWQ 4****		FWQ 3***		FWQ 2**		FWQ 1*	
<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>	<i>ranking</i>	<i>points</i>
1	2500	1	1100	1	600	1	320
2	2200	2	900	2	450	2	230
3	1950	3	700	3	350	3	185
4	1750	4	590	4	290	4	150
5	1550	5	510	5	250	5	130
6	1400	6	445	6	220	6	115
7	1300	7	390	7	200	7	110
8	1200	8	350	8	185	8	102
9	1100	9	320	9	175	9	100
10	1000	10	295	10	167	10	99
11	900	11	275	11	160	11	98
12	800	12	260	12	153	12	97
13	700	13	250	13	147	13	96
14	600	14	241	14	141	14	95
15	500	15	233	15	136	15	94
16	450	16	226	16	131	16	93
17	400	17	220	17	127	17	92
18	350	18	215	18	123	18	91
19	330	19	211	19	120	19	90
20	310	20	208	20	117	20	89
21	290	21	206	21	114	21	88
22	275	22	204	22	112	22	87
23	260	23	202	23	110	23	86
24	250	24	200	24	108	24	85
25	240	25	198	25	106	25	84
26	235	26	196	26	104	26	83
27	230	27	194	27	102	27	82
28	225	28	192	28	100	28	81
29	220	29	190	29	98	29	80
30	215	30	188	30	96	30	79
31	210	31	186	31	94	31	78
32	205	32	184	32	92	32	77
33	200	33	182	33	91	33	76

FWQ 4****		FWQ 3***		FWQ 2**		FWQ 1*	
34	198	34	180	34	90	34	75
35	196	35	178	35	89	35	74
36	194	36	176	36	88	36	73
37	192	37	174	37	87	37	72
38	190	38	172	38	86	38	71
39	188	39	170	39	85	39	70
40	186	40	168	40	84	40	69
41	184	41	166	41	83	41	68
42	182	42	164	42	82	42	67
43	180	43	162	43	81	43	66
44	178	44	160	44	80	44	65
45	176	45	158	45	79	45	64
46	174	46	156	46	78	46	63
47	172	47	154	47	77	47	62
48	170	48	152	48	76	48	61
49	168	49	150	49	75	49	60
50	166	50	148	50	74	50	59
51	164	51	146	51	73	51	58
52	162	52	144	52	72	52	57
53	160	53	142	53	71	53	56
54	158	54	140	54	70	54	55
55*	156	55	138	55	69	55	54

* To view additional point values, use the FWQ Region 1 Riders Rules on the www.freerideworldtour.com website.

APPENDIX 2: JUNIOR GRADUATION TO THE QUALIFIER GLOBAL SEEDING LIST

When an IFSA Junior turns 18 years of age, their results from participation in the IFSA Junior Series will automatically be converted to points on the Qualifier Global Seeding List. This way, a junior has earned a ranking on the Qualifier Global Seeding List to assist with registration at Adult Events. FJWC competitors will be awarded with 4* points which will be used to calculate their Qualifier Global Seeding List status when they graduate to the IFSA Qualifier Series.