



2024 IFSA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR'S HANDBOOK REGION 2

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1- EVENT PERSONNEL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of Technical Director (TD) carries a high degree of responsibility for the sport of Big Mountain Freeride. The TD is responsible for providing a safe environment for athletes to compete in. By appropriately managing risk the TD reduces potential liability and keeps Freeride insurable. The TD ensures that events are executed in accordance with IFSA rules and best practices. The TD maintains the positive culture of Freeride through friendly and organized execution of athlete meetings, and enforcement of the International Freeskiers & Snowboarders Association's (IFSA) code of conduct. The TD fosters and maintains the positive relationship between resorts and IFSA by providing a clear line of communication between event organizers, patrol, mountain operations, event staff, judges, and the athletes, coaches, and families. Through all of these actions our TDs ensure consistency and quality of events and the longevity of the sport of Big Mountain Freeride across Region 2.

1.1 - 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. 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 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. A summary of key daily TD activities is attached in Attachment A.

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. When the TD is required to attend to duties that take attention away from watching the athletes, the TD is responsible for temporarily assigning the Assistant TD or appropriate delegate until the TD is able to return to performing this function.

Eligible candidates that can act as TD may include but are not limited to; a patroller, judge, former athlete, coach or outside individual familiar with the above experience or training. An active coach or individual associated with a team (administrator or parent)

that is participating in the event may not engage with their team in any way while acting as TD. Any and all potential conflicts of interest must be avoided. The individual may not wear any visible team logo'd attire or communicate with other coaches from their team either in person or by radio during the event. Sharing of scoring, scoring breakdowns or any information that would give an advantage or threaten the integrity of the event is strictly forbidden. In this case the TD must leave the exact cut at the discretion of the HJ in order to avoid any conflict in the case that the "last to make it in" is from the team the TD has affiliation to. If the TD has a child participating in the event, an alternative parent or guardian must be onsite in case the child has an injury or emergency. For this reason it should be highly discouraged to have a TD with a child participating in an event, and instead consider using this person as an assistant TD so it is less disruptive to leave his/her post due to an injury or other emergency.

An athlete entered into an event may not participate in the execution of the event including training with or shadowing of TDs or Judges, venue set up, acting as a ninja, scorecard running or any other task that may give them a perceived or real advantage. A TD who is not an employee of the host resort should negotiate a contract with the EO to document compensation, insurance coverage, accommodations, and confirmation that the TD will follow the rules as documented in the IFSA/Qualifier Athlete Handbooks. The following is an excerpt from the IFSA Event Organizer Handbook clarifying minimum TD compensation.

1.1.1 Technical Director Fees & Compensation

The event organizer agrees to sign a contract with their designated technical director (TD) and remit payment within 2 weeks of event completion. If the event organizer requires additional time to remit payment, this will be established with the designated TD prior to signing the contract. Exact day rates shall be established with the TD; the table below clarifies the minimum day rate for employing a TD.

TABLE: Technical Director and Assistant Technical Director Day Rates

| | TD Day Rate | TD Travel Day | Assist. TD Day Rate | Assist. TD Travel Day | Per Diem | Mileage (Overnight travel) |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| IFSA Event (All formats 1*, 2*, 3*, 4*, etc.) | \$300 USD | \$125 USD | \$250 USD | \$125 USD | \$50 USD | \$.67 cents per mile (FED rate) |

1.2 - Patrol

The TD is tasked with coordinating with patrol both before and during the event. Generally the event host will assign a patrol liaison for the event who then directs the patrol staff. Pre-event the two parties, 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, including pictures and relevant event information, 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. A minimum of 2 patrollers are required to be at or near the top of the venue at a location determined to produce the quickest response and 1 at or near the finish corral to assess all athletes that may have crashed and crossed the finish line under their own power, but each mountain's patrol response plan may differ and necessitate increased numbers and locations. For example, if the venue does not require a second patroller to "tail gun" a sled down, 2 patrollers are recommended to be stationed at the top of the venue. In the instance where a "tail gunner" is required for sled transport, 3 patrollers are recommended to be stationed at the top. (1 for initial assessment and 2 to respond with sled if necessary.) Patrol must have a full trauma sled staged at the top of the venue and another on the ready should one be used. In the event of a response, the event can not proceed until patrollers have cycled replacements to the top of the venue, including sled(s). Therefore, more than 2 patrollers are recommended to be assigned to an event or be available in a timely manner. In many instances, multiple sled locations are recommended. Any time a significant fall occurs Patrol should be requested to check out the athlete in the finish corral prior to leaving the finish area. Patrol response can be initiated by the TD, HJ, Starter (via TD) or a Ninja who has responded to an athlete. Direct radio communication between the TD and Patrol is required. Either patrol supplies a radio to the TD or vice versa if channels are not compatible. Some events have the ability to have a Medivac (Helicopter) on scene but this is not required. If Medivac can not be on scene it is recommended that patrol inform the nearest response center of the event, date and times.

1.3 - 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. Venue staff generally includes starters, ninjas, scorekeeper (off venue), scorecard runners and setup and teardown personnel. Some of these roles

can be combined so long as they don't interfere with primary duties. For example, it is acceptable for setup and teardown to be combined with either being a starter or ninja. 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. The TD in conjunction with the starter will ensure that one ninja is always in their skis ready to respond. Ideally, ninjas have event radios so that they have direct contact with the TD. Ninjas can respond from multiple locations so long as their staging spot does not interfere with athletes.

In addition to the safety of the event the TD will coordinate with the event organizer to ensure that the production value of the event is on par with its ranking value and competition field. This includes directing venue staff on finish corral configuration and layout, banner and flag placements, PA location, etc (see Marketing Department). The TD is responsible for setting up all venue boundaries and closures. When venue staff are available to assist in these duties, the venue staff may only place venue boundaries and feature closure markings under the direct supervision of the TD. Some resorts require that Patrol place all boundaries and closures. Where this is the case the TD is responsible for coordinating with Patrol to determine all venue boundaries and closures, and is required to supervise or inspect venue boundaries and closures prior to the competition inspection day.

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 TD will ensure that the starter announces each rider consistently over the radio to the judges. Standard protocol following a judges 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 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 TD must ensure that the announcer does not broadcast official event communications over the PA. For example, communications during a patrol response. However, the TD may ask the announcer to broadcast important announcements regarding schedule changes, etc.

The EO is responsible for supplying gear retrieval personnel (ninjas). 4-5 Ninjas are generally required and must continually rotate back 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. He/She 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.

Ninjas, upon interacting with an athlete, may call for patrol to respond but may NOT offer any medical treatment unless directed to help by patrol.

1.4 - 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 are expected to be and remain on the most professional levels possible. The TD must coordinate with Mountain Operations regarding early lift loads, movement of athletes about the mountain and potential impacts to the schedule. 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.

1.5 - Marketing Department

The most common interactions between the TD and Marketing is placement of media personnel on and/or around the venue. The TD must approve and coordinate any non-event staff on the venue and any movement about it. Non-event staff is to remain as motionless as possible and generally are staged near trees or rocks so that interference in an athletes run does not occur. It is recommended that non-event personnel have event radios. Non-event staff should never interact with an athlete for any reason including medical response unless directly asked to by an event staff member or patrol.

The TD will coordinate with venue staff placement of banners and flags supplied by Marketing during the set up of the venue, finish and start areas. The TD has the final decision regarding placement of marketing materials on the venue which includes the finish and start areas. Banners and flags should never be placed where there is potential for interference or distraction to an athlete or the judges.

1.6 - Judges

The coordination between the TD and Judges, specifically the Head Judge, is critical to the safety and consistency of the event. Venue choice, progressive venue options, feature closures, inspection closures, split judging locations, boundaries and pace of the event are decided upon between the TD and HJ. TD's are expected to be familiar with IFSA judging criteria through the IFSA judging workshop, training videos and/or through shadowing in the judges pit. 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 TD performs an inspection with the judges to make sure they understand all aspects and line choices, any course boundaries and closures, and to familiarize with the plan A and plan B judging location(s).

1.7 - Assistant Technical Director

The primary responsibility of the Assistant TD is to support the TD directly. The Asst TD has roles in assisting with decisions about venue, division order, and closures. The Asst TD can be a liaison for the TD with Patrol, Mountain Operations, and the EO during the event. Many times the TD must interact with other entities during the event and therefore the Asst TD must assume the primary role of being the point of contact during an event. Other responsibilities may include but are not limited to; setting up the next day venue(s), coordinating inspection, assessing venue conditions mid-competition, replacing closures, conducting official meetings, etc.

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 Technical Director is responsible for designating and mitigating personnel and information during incident management. It is essential for the TD to immediately communicate with the EO and Patrol to debrief on the incident and quickly coordinate a communication plan. Decide what information will be released, and not released, and who is going to do the speaking. It is essential to keep in mind that the TD is under contract to the resort and an IFSA event official, and therefore the TD is representing and speaking for those entities. Any personal commentary must be carefully considered and represented as such.

During an incident it is a good idea to have someone designated to route parents and coaches and families to greater support and care as well as someone designated to handle media and outside sources ensuring that they do not impede or hamper the process of containing and securing the incident. An Assistant Technical Director is a great person for appointing these duties to while the Technical Director is able to discuss with Mountain Operations, Ski Patrol, medical personnel and anyone else involved with securing the incident and/or athlete. The Technical Director essentially carries the responsibility of not just the competition but also all facets of the Event including any incidents that may happen within the scope of the competition.

Situations can become very stressful during an incident and the TD must remain calm and focused to effectively be a guide and leader for 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 TD must stick to 100% fact and general descriptions, and contain comments within the scope of the TD 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 Magicville and we are awaiting further status reports from the doctors." The TD 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 Executive Director.

In the case of an injury situation, the TD 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, Patrol, athlete, or coaches.

Wherever possible give all media equal access to information when appropriate to conduct briefings and interviews. 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 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. This ensures clear communication and consistency. 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. Missing the athlete meeting can not 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.

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.

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, asst 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 12-14 and 15-18 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 Head Judge, 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. Mark the judges 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. Split judge locations and possible venue boundary changes should be communicated during the athlete meetings. It is recommended that all closures and split judges positions 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 for inspection closures should be 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. All markings for inspection closures and split judge locations and boundaries need to be removed prior to the competition starting.

The responsibility for evaluating suitability of terrain for Big Mountain Freeride competition falls upon the TD's shoulders. Guidelines for reviewing new venues at resorts that have not previously (or recently) hosted an IFSA sanctioned Big Mountain Freeride competition, or proposed new venues at current host resorts, are provided in Attachment B.

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 instructs the Starter to place a checkmark next to each athlete on the start list as they pass through the start gate to begin inspection. Any athletes who do not perform an inspection will not be allowed to compete and will receive a DNS. The TD should announce this during the athlete meeting. The starter should be instructed not to allow coaches on the venue unless they have an armband, bib, or other credential as provided to certified coaches by the EO. The starter should not let anyone on the venue if they are not wearing a helmet.

The inspection protocol and terrain enhancement policy (see athlete handbook) must be clearly communicated during the mandatory athlete meeting prior to inspection opening each day. The amount of inspection runs and duration of inspection is at the discretion of the TD. Every competitor must inspect the day of their competition. Competitors are not allowed to inspect the venue(s) if they are not competing that day unless the TD deems it necessary due to conditions. For example, more traffic may help break up a crust layer that by doing so only improves the venue.

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. All disqualifications will be documented in the daily TD report and subject to review by the IFSA BOD for any egregious or repetitive negative behavior and may result in the athlete's or coach's membership being revoked until an appropriate response is received.

The 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.

It is advisable for the TD to locate in or adjacent to the judges pit. This enables a clear view of the entire venue and allows face to face communication with the HJ. The TD 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.

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.

Forerunners are sometimes used as an optional practice at the discretion of the TD to enable the judging team to get in sync and the TD to practice communications with the Starter and Patrol and other officials. When forerunners are used the 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 can not be used as forerunners as this gives them an unfair advantage. Athletes can not forerun on the same venue that they will be competing on in subsequent days of the event.

It is the TD's responsibility in conjunction with the HJ 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 Head Judge. 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 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 also has 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 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. The TD is also expected to interface with the EO and Patrol to review plans for the following day and fill out the daily TD report.

7- TECHNICAL DIRECTOR REPORTS

The TD is required to fill out the IFSA Technical Director Daily Report at the end of each competition day. <https://forms.gle/QsujX8ATg4ZXv79r6>

The TD is also required to fill out the incident report form linked at the end of the TD Daily Report form for any patrol response required or suspected injuries where the athlete refuses medical treatment. <https://forms.gle/wAhHtULMsjvPtB9g6>

8- TD CREDENTIALING FOR JUNIOR AND ADULT EVENTS

The role of TD 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. New and experienced TDs are signed off based on need. If no additional TDs at each level are needed, additional TDs should not be signed off. This allows and incentivises current TDs to gain experience and earn income. This should be managed in coordination with each Regional Series Director and the TD Committee. Some regions or specific events with significantly complex venues may require more than one shadow event before signing off on a new TD. Some regions may require professional TDs who travel from event to event, and local mountain TDs may not be applicable. New TD candidates are screened to determine their background and connection with Freeride as prior judges, coaches, competitors, etc. Avoid signing off TDs based on EO financial considerations or expediency alone.

8.1 - TD In Training

Candidates must complete online training and pass the test to verify understanding of the Athlete Handbooks and TD training materials. The TDIT may act as assistant to the TD, but can not act as a standalone TD. Anyone can take this training, though it does not guarantee a job as a TD. New TDs must be requested by the Regional Series Director and signed off by the Regional TD Trainer according to the process below.

8.2 - Certified Technical Director

Signed off as TD at specific event(s) within the home region of the TD. New TDs are signed off based on need. If no additional TDs are needed, additional TDs should not be signed off. This allows and incentivises current TDs to gain experience and earn income. This should be managed in coordination with the Regional Series Director. Candidates are screened to determine their background and connection with Freeride. Judges, coaches, prior competitors, etc. Avoid signing off TDs based on EO financial considerations or expediency. The sign-off process requires the following steps:

1. At the request of the Regional Series Director, the Regional TD Trainer will verify that the TD in Training candidate (TDIT) has completed the online training, then schedule a shadow session with the Regional TD Trainer.

2. In the shadow session the TD Trainer will act as TD, and the TDIT will act as assistant TD. The TD Trainer will evaluate the TDIT for application of rules and best practices, communication and leadership skills, and decision making ability in accordance with the TD sign-off checklist in Attachment E. Of particular importance is the TDIT's aptitude for setting up the venue, determining and marking closures, and determining judging and alternate/split judging scenarios and pit locations.
3. TDIT must be capable of delivering athlete meetings with a high degree of quality, competence, and consistency.
4. The TD Trainer provides written feedback on the TDIT performance, including strengths and areas for improvement. And the TD Trainer will either sign off the TDIT as a TD, or require additional shadow sessions.
5. The TD is required to be signed off by the Regional TD Trainer.
6. All TD assignments must be approved by the Regional Series Director and the Regional TD Trainer.

8.3 - Regional TD Trainer

The goal is to have at least one Regional TD Trainer who represents each IFSA region. The Regional TD Trainer is a TD with significant experience, and can sign off TD candidates. The Regional TD Trainers participate in the IFSA TD Committee meetings to review rules, policies, and best practices as the sport of Big Mountain Freeride evolves. The Regional TD Trainer must be comfortable evaluating TDIT candidates in writing, and communicating results in person. The Regional TD Trainer must be able to travel to events across the region to act as TD for shadow/sign-off activities. The Regional TD Trainer is also responsible for determining suitability of new venues. Most of the existing venues are tried and tested over many years. If a new resort wants to host an event, the Regional TD Trainer should go to the resort to review terrain suitability, usually a year before the actual event. The Regional TD Trainer should spend a day with patrol and the event organizer. Mark out A, B, and C venues, looking at snow depth requirements vs. snowfall history by month, potential judging locations including split judging, and assessing venues for age group suitability. Once the Regional TD Trainer determines that the resort has suitable venues, give them the ok to host an event. Then the TD Trainer should act as TD for their first event, usually with a local TDIT acting as assistant TD as a shadow session.

1. The Regional TD Trainer in conjunction with the Regional Series Director is responsible for signing off TDs and ensuring quality TDs are in place at IFSA events .
2. Regional TD Trainers are responsible for supporting a TD schedule.

3. Regional TD Trainers as members of the IFSA TD Committee are responsible for annual updates to the TD Handbook and TD training.
4. The Regional TD Trainer in conjunction with the Regional Series Director is responsible as the Venue Reconnaissance Team (VeRT) for determining new venue suitability within their respective regions.

ATTACHMENT A

Technical Director Guidelines General Outline

Pre-Event Day

- With Patrol, decide A/B venues, sled and personnel placement, boundaries, closures, and crowd control features. Determine progressive venues for age groups as necessary. In conjunction with the HJ, decide where judges will be placed for plan A and plan B and mark the judges position(s) with a bamboo X on the mountain and also on the venue maps.
- Coordinate with the EO to make sure appropriate personnel are committed (trained/certified judges, registration, scorekeeping, course marshals, starters, ninjas)
- Make sure EO has appropriate resources committed (fencing, signage, radios, scorekeeping laptop, printer, paper, bibs, proper equipment for Announcers/Staff/Judges)
- The day before the event the TD and HJ should do an inspection to verify venue maps, closures, boundaries, and to test out the judging location(s).

Event Morning

- Make sure the boundaries, closures, and crowd control features were installed per plan, and venue snow conditions are safe. Communicate last minute changes prior to inspection.
- Confirm sufficient Patrol personnel and sleds are on venue for the duration of the event.
- Meet with the Starter(s) to confirm roles, responsibilities, and communication protocol.
- Prior to inspection lead the athlete and officials meetings.
- Do inspection with the judges to review line choices, boundaries, and judging location(s).
- Oversee inspection to make sure rules and safety procedures are followed.
- Verify course marshals and all personnel are in position per plan.
- Confirm radio communications between starter, TD, course marshals, judges, and patrol.

During Event

- Establish and maintain clear line of communication with Patrol
- Run forerunners to practice communication protocol and for judges to coordinate.
- Ensure 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 starter, especially regarding DNS due to missed start or missing

- safety gear, etc. and verify HJ copies all DNSs for scorekeeping accuracy.
- With the HJ decide on DQs, DNFs, weather related delays, and any safety decisions.
- Be accessible to listen to and decide on any possible protests, etc.
- Communicate with Patrol for injury response and maintain patrol coverage on venue
- Communicate with Ninjas for gear retrieval and other assessment needs for deployment

Post Event

- With the HJ, review recorded results for errors and review findings with involved judge(s).
- In coordination with HJ, 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 TD Handbook guidelines for public communications and media interface following significant events such as major injury, cancellation, resort lift failure, avalanche, etc.

ATTACHMENT B

New Venue Evaluation Guidelines

Occasionally we will have the opportunity to scope out new venues for Freeride competition. This can occur when a new resort requests an event, or when the Regional Series Director contacts a resort to request a new event. It can also occur when an existing resort host wishes to evaluate a new venue that has not been used for Freeride competition before. Below are some guidelines for evaluating suitability of new terrain for Freeride competition. It is often best to send both the Regional TD Trainer and RSD on the initial reconnaissance mission. In the past we have called this team the VeRT (VEnue, Reconnaissance Team). Below is a checklist of evaluation items to be considered.

- Assess snow depth requirements vs monthly snowfall averages to determine window of opportunity for using the venue.
- Lift access and duration of hiking to access venue start?
- Avy gear requirement and beacon checking?
- Total length and vertical drop of venue so athletes spend sufficient time during their performance for separation of scores.
- Sufficient features to allow line score spread.
- Evaluate exposures to cliffs, trees, lift towers, rock faces, icefalls, and avalanche hazard.
- Evaluate difficulty and complexity of terrain as applied to age groupings and star level.
- Are there backup venues?
- Is there sufficient terrain for progressive venues?
- Evaluate cross traffic control requirements.
- Access by patrol for injury response
- Radio transmission and cell coverage
- Judging locations and ability to provide weather coverage
- Spectator access and viewing locations
- Resort support with patrol, venue staff, starters, scorekeepers, scorerunners, ninjas, etc.
- Resort support with radios, tents, fencing, bamboo, tape, and flagging
- Resort support with announcer, PA equipment, generator, etc.
- Resort support with registration, bib pickup, space for athlete meetings, awards, etc.
- Does the resort have a Freeride program and people who understand Freeride?

ATTACHMENT C

TD Equipment List

It is advisable for the TD to locate in or adjacent to the judges pit. This enables a clear view of the entire venue and allows face to face communication with the HJ. The TD is 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, snow drill, spare radio, lunch, and hot beverage should be provided by the EO. The experienced TD knows to load some of the larger, bulkier items on a snowcat or snowmobile trailer rather than carrying everything to the venue.

- Copy of the IFSA Athlete Handbook
- 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
- Snow drill
- Multitool (Leatherman)
- Duct tape
- Zipties
- Avy beacon
- Binoculars
- Spare radio
- Cellphone
- Portable charger powerpack and cables
- Tablet or notepad and pencil
- Lunch, snacks, water
- Hot beverage

ATTACHMENT D

Venue Selection and Preparation

IFSA Technical Directors, Senior Head Judges and Head Judges are in tune with athlete skill sets from Junior regional to FWQ 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, Jr 2*, Jr 3* or Qualifier Series event (one venue)
- Two-day, two run, Jr 2*, Jr 3* or Qualifier Series event (possibly two separate venues)
- Three-day, two run, Jr 2*, Jr 3* or Qualifier Series event (Possibly two separate venues)
- Three-day, two Run, Championship event (possibly three separate venues)

JR 2* EVENTS – Terrain and features that challenge the highest Jr 2* level athletes while also catering to low end athletes, including first time Freeriders.

JR 3* EVENTS – Terrain and features that caters to the highest Jr 3* level athletes while also providing easy exits.

JR CHAMPIONSHIPS – Terrain and features that caters to the highest, Jr Championship level athletes while also providing easy exits.

Qualifier Series 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

Plan A - Fundamentals

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.

Common closure and progressive venue setting methods are as follows: Use bamboo or alternative material to act as physical markers while tying the appropriate color flagging to the marker. Start with the youngest categories first as they will be the first to run and the first set of markers to be pulled out.

JUNIORS

- U12 - orange flagging
- U15- yellow flagging
- U19 - blue flagging
- Split Judge venues - Green flagging

ADULTS

- Blank bamboo
- Split judge venues - Green flagging
- When closing an air it is best practice to make an X on the feature or use multiple X's so it is clear that the feature is closed for competition.
- When closing a minor feature it is best practice to insert bamboo flagged with the appropriate color on the far left, right and in the center of the feature being closed for competition. This is known as making a hat.
- When closing a major feature it is common practice to insert more than 3 flagged bamboo so the closure is obvious.

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 E

TD Sign-Off Checklist (Online Form -Click [HERE](#))

During the shadow activity the TD Trainer acts as TD and the TDIT acts as assistant TD. The TDIT is required to participate in all TD responsibilities during a 2* adult or junior event. During this time the TD Trainer evaluates the TDIT in each of the criteria listed below. The TD in Training (TDIT) must score 100% to achieve sign-off as a TD. Any “Fail” or “Needs Improvement” items require additional shadowing activity. After the shadow event the TD Trainer completes the checklist below and reviews results with the TDIT. Following review the TD Trainer and TDIT sign the completed checklist, and the TD Trainer scans and submits the document to the IFSA TD Chair.

1. Verify completion of online training.
(Circle one: Pass / Fail. If “Fail” do not proceed.)
2. Verify request for TD and nomination of TDIT from Regional Series Director.
(Circle one: Pass / Fail. If “Fail” do not proceed.)
3. Prior to arranging the shadow opportunity, interview TDIT to verify background and connection with Freeride. Judges, coaches, prior competitors, team parent, patroller involved with Freeride competition, or some relevant experience.
(Circle one: Pass / Needs Improvement. If “Needs Improvement” do not proceed with shadow activity.)

Comments:

4. Evaluate communication skills with EO, Patrol, and Mountain Ops.
(Circle one: Pass / Needs Improvement)

Comments:

5. Evaluate willingness to listen and learn.
(Circle one: Pass / Needs Improvement)

Comments:

6. Evaluate understanding of key factors in venue setup, including the following areas:
(Circle one: Pass / Needs Improvement)
- a. Review venue safety and suitability for the star level of the event.
 - b. Determine progressive venues for age groups.
 - c. Determine judging pit location and alternate pits for split judging. Consider visibility of the entire venue, weather protection, exposure to falling or out of control athletes, creating a flat surface for chairs and tables, separation from spectators.
 - d. Placement of closures and control features, course boundaries, start gate and finish corral.

Comments:

7. Evaluate skiing/riding skills and physical capability to access venues and carry equipment and install closures, control features, and course boundaries.
(Circle one: Pass / Needs Improvement)

Comments:

8. Evaluate ability to create athlete meeting presentations, and assess presentation skills by having TDIT present at athlete meetings.
(Circle one: Pass / Needs Improvement)

Comments:

9. Leadership ability in addressing coaches, starters and course officials, and communications with athletes.
(Circle one: Pass / Needs Improvement)

Comments:

10. Decision making skills such as go/no go decisions in weather situations, schedule disruptions due to lift operation issues, managing injury response, call for ninja support, etc.
(Circle one: Pass / Needs Improvement)

Comments:

11. Assess understanding of judging methodology, and ability to communicate with the judging team during scorekeeping review.
(Circle one: Pass / Needs Improvement)

Comments:

Resort: _____(Ex: Smugglers' Notch Resort)

Event: _____(Ex: IFSA Jr 2*)

Date: _____

TDIT Name: _____TDIT Signature: _____

Regional Series Director:_____Signature:_____

TD Trainer Name:_____TD Trainer Signature:_____

IFSA TD Chair:_____Signature:_____

