2025-2026 HANDBOOK UPDATES

Updated: October 10th, 2025

OVERALL UPDATES

MISSION, VISION STATEMENT

The International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association (IFSA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to advancing the sport of big mountain freeride by sanctioning competitions across North and South America, supporting athlete development, and upholding the highest standards of safety, integrity, and progression.

The IFSA envisions a thriving global freeride community where athletes of all ages, backgrounds, and regions have access to safe, progressive, and inspiring competitive opportunities, fostering lifelong participation and leadership in the sport.

ANTI-DOPING

Riders are to follow the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) rules concerning anti-doping; a rider will face sanctions if he/she doesn't respect these rules. This includes the WADA Prohibited List (Prohibited Substances and Methods).

NATIONALITY

If a rider wishes to change their nationality, they can only do so by providing proof of a new citizenship and a valid passport to the IFSA by email to support@ifsafreeride.org.

Riders can only change nationality once during their career, and such requests can only be made between May and November each year.

All requests for a change of nationality will be reviewed and evaluated by FIS Freeride, which reserves the right to approve or reject each request. In certain cases, final approval may be subject to the decision of the FIS Council.

IFSA might randomly control nationality changes, and, in case of unannounced change, the rider will be disqualified from competing in the current season.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please reference our Cancellation Policy for this season's updates.

2025-2026 QUALIFIER HANDBOOK

QUALIFIER 3* PRIZING GUIDELINES

Qualifier 3*: Podium payouts must follow the IFSA Q3* formula with a minimum $2400 prize purse:

- 1st = 3 × registration fee
- 2nd = 2 × registration fee
- 3rd = 1 × registration fee
  (per division, with a $100 minimum fee floor).

IFSA COLLEGIATE FREERIDE SERIES

Collegiate Freeriders are the fastest growing segment of our adult population. The IFSA continues to develop this competition series to provide meaningful opportunities for college and university athletes, with plans to expand in the coming years. The Collegiate Freeride Championship will take place in mid-April, and will crown both event podiums and Overall Team Champions. Registration priority is given to athletes holding a Collegiate IFSA Membership. If space remains after that allocation, remaining spots are filled using the current season IFSA Rankings.

The Overall Team Champion is determined by the combined total of IFSA Ranking points earned by each team's top five athletes, regardless of discipline or gender.
Points earned in the Collegiate Freeride Championship are added on top of each athlete's existing season points only for the purpose of calculating the team standings.

MULTI-DISCIPLINE QUALIFIER ATHLETES

If you'd like to register for both ski and snowboard divisions as a multi discipline athlete, please email support@ifsafreeride.org so we can help you to register in two categories.

To register as a multi discipline athlete, please be aware that registering for two divisions comes with some logistical challenges. There are no accommodations made for dual-division competitors on the day of the event. The start list, division order, venue schedule, and lap/hike time may all pose a risk of you missing your second run. Registering in both divisions is at your own risk. The Event Organizer is not obligated to issue a refund if you miss a run. It is strongly recommended to reach out to the Event Organizer directly to ask about lap time, hike time, and if they think competing as multiple discipline athletes is realistic for the venue and event. There are some venues and locations that may be more feasible than others.

QUALIFIER POINT TABLE

Points are awarded for all finishes at all IFSA-sanctioned Qualifier Freeride events. An IFSA Membership must be active BEFORE the competition for athletes to collect points. Points will not be awarded retroactively. The points tables below apply to all 2026 events and beyond.

SKI WOMEN - SNOWBOARD MEN - SNOWBOARD WOMEN

	Challenger	4*	3*	2*	1*
ranking	points	points	points	points	points
1	**3500**	**2500**	**1600**	**1000**	**600**
2	**3150**	**2100**	**1300**	**820**	**450**
3	**2835**	**1800**	**1100**	**680**	**350**
4	**2550**	**1550**	**940**	**580**	**290**
5	**2285**	**1340**	**805**	**495**	**250**
6	**2040**	**1160**	**690**	**425**	**220**
7	**1800**	**1010**	**595**	**365**	**200**
8	**1590**	**900**	**520**	**320**	**185**
9	**1400**	**810**	**460**	**283**	**170**
10	**1230**	**730**	**410**	**255**	**160**
11	**1080**	**660**	**370**	**238**	**150**
12	**945**	**600**	**335**	**220**	**140**
13	**825**	**550**	**305**	**205**	**130**
14	**720**	**505**	**280**	**192**	**120**
15	**630**	**465**	**258**	**180**	**115**
16	**550**	**430**	**238**	**170**	**110**

17	**480**	**400**	**220**	**161**	**105**
18	**420**	**375**	**205**	**153**	**100**
19		**353**	**192**	**146**	**95**
20		**335**	**180**	**140**	**90**
21		**320**	**170**	**135**	**85**
22		**310**	**161**	**131**	**80**
23		**300**	**153**	**127**	**75**
24		**292**	**146**	**123**	**70**
25		**292**	**140**	**120**	**65**
26		**284**	**135**	**117**	**60**
27		**276**	**131**	**114**	**59**
28		**270**	**127**	**111**	**58**
29		**264**	**123**	**108**	**57**
30		**259**	**120**	**106**	**56**

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

SKI MEN

	Challenger	4*	3*	2*	1*
ranking	**points**	**points**	**points**	**points**	**points**
1	**3500**	**2500**	**1600**	**1000**	**600**
2	**3200**	**2200**	**1350**	**850**	**450**
3	**2930**	**1950**	**1200**	**750**	**350**
4	**2685**	**1750**	**1050**	**660**	**290**
5	**2465**	**1550**	**930**	**590**	**250**
6	**2265**	**1400**	**820**	**530**	**220**
7	**2085**	**1300**	**730**	**475**	**200**
8	**1920**	**1200**	**650**	**425**	**185**
9	**1770**	**1100**	**595**	**390**	**175**
10	**1635**	**1010**	**550**	**360**	**167**
11	**1515**	**930**	**510**	**335**	**160**
12	**1405**	**860**	**475**	**310**	**153**
13	**1305**	**790**	**450**	**290**	**147**

14	**1210**	**730**	**430**	**275**	**141**
15	**1120**	**680**	**410**	**260**	**136**
16	**1035**	**630**	**390**	**250**	**131**
17	**955**	**590**	**370**	**240**	**127**
18	**880**	**550**	**355**	**230**	**123**
19	**810**	**510**	**340**	**222**	**120**
20	**745**	**475**	**330**	**214**	**117**
21	**685**	**445**	**320**	**206**	**114**
22	**630**	**415**	**310**	**199**	**112**
23	**580**	**385**	**300**	**192**	**110**
24	**535**	**360**	**292**	**186**	**108**
25	**495**	**345**	**284**	**180**	**106**
26	**455**	**330**	**277**	**175**	**104**
27	**420**	**320**	**270**	**170**	**102**
28	**385**	**310**	**264**	**166**	**100**
29	**355**	**300**	**258**	**162**	**98**
30	**325**	**292**	**253**	**156**	**96**
31		**284**	**248**	**150**	**94**
32		**276**	**244**	**146**	**92**
33		**270**	**240**	**142**	**91**
34		**264**	**236**	**138**	**90**
35		**259**	**233**	**134**	**89**
36		**254**	**230**	**131**	**88**
37		**250**	**227**	**128**	**87**
38		**247**	**224**	**125**	**86**
39		**244**	**222**	**123**	**85**
40		**242**	**220**	**121**	**84**
41		**240**	**218**	**119**	**83**
42		**238**	**216**	**117**	**82**
43		**236**	**214**	**115**	**81**
44		**234**	**212**	**113**	**80**
45		**232**	**210**	**111**	**79**
46		**230**	**208**	**109**	**78**

47		**228**	**206**	**108**	**77**
48		**226**	**204**	**107**	**76**
49		**224**	**202**	**106**	**75**
50		**222**	**200**	**105**	**74**
51		**220**	**198**	**104**	**73**
52		**218**	**196**	**103**	**72**
53		**216**	**194**	**102**	**71**
54		**214**	**192**	**101**	**70**
55		**212**	**190**	**100**	**69**

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

2025-2026 JUNIOR HANDBOOK

REGIONAL 2* CHAMPIONSHIPS

Regional 2* Championships: Regional 2* Championships are end-of-season events designed to celebrate and recognize top athletes within each region who do not qualify for the Junior Freeride Championships (JFC). These events provide a meaningful championship experience for athletes, emphasizing community, development, and accessibility. Confirmations are based on the current season ranking. Event winners are crowned **Regional 2* Champions.**

Athletes competing at JFC are not eligible to participate in a Regional 2* Championship. Athletes may participate in only one Regional 2* Championship per season, prioritizing those from within the host region. Each region is encouraged, though not required, to host a Regional 2* Championship. If a region does not offer one, athletes are encouraged to participate in a nearby region's event.

If an athlete has already completed their maximum four events in the season, the Regional Championship can serve as a fifth event to potentially improve **seeding** for the following year (it can replace a lower score among their best three results). It won't impact an athlete's ranking, unless it is part of their first four competitions of the season.

U12 Regional Championships: Beginning in 2026, U12 Championships are hosted at the regional level rather than at JFC, ensuring a more developmentally appropriate, accessible, and community-centered experience.

U12 Regional Championships are typically held alongside the Regional 2* Championships, offering a shared celebration of regional Freeride progression and providing more U12 athletes with meaningful competition opportunities within their own communities.

MULTI DISCIPLINE JUNIOR ATHLETES

Junior athletes are permitted to compete in both Ski and Snowboard divisions as multi-discipline competitors. Please review the following requirements and considerations:

If you'd like to register for both ski and snowboard divisions as a multi discipline athlete, please email support@ifsafreeride.org so we can help you get set up.

To compete in both divisions, junior athletes are required to have two Liveheats profiles - one for ski and one for snowboard - each profile with its own IFSA and regional Membership. When creating both profiles for each discipline, be sure to include "ski" and "snowboard" after your last name. (Example: "Jon Doe - Ski" and "Jon Doe - Snowboard"). Multidisciplinary athletes can compete in 4 events in each division.

To register as a multi discipline athlete, please be aware that registering for two divisions comes with some logistical challenges. There are no accommodations made for dual-division competitors on the day of the event. The start list, division order, venue schedule, and lap/hike time may all pose a risk of you missing your second run. Registering in both divisions is at your own risk. The Event Organizer is not obligated to issue a refund if you miss a run. It is strongly recommended to reach out to the Event Organizer directly to ask about lap time, hike time, and if they think competing as multiple discipline athletes is realistic for the venue and event. There are some venues and locations that may be more feasible than others.

3* COMPETITION REGISTRATION

For Northern Hemisphere events, 3* Registration will take place in November and December, and will be facilitated by the IFSA administrative team.

90% of starts are confirmed by mid-December. The remaining 10% of invites are released three weeks before each event to account for withdrawals and updated rankings.

All 3* events are filled through the seeding list. There is no open registration for these highly competitive events. If there is space in the event after all seeded athletes are

confirmed, unseeded athletes will be confirmed based on timestamp during the second round of invites three weeks before each event.

Remember that athletes can compete in a MAXIMUM of three 3* events during a season.

Step 1: Registration will open on Liveheats November 1st and closes December 7th 6:00 PM Mountain time, and all athletes who register will be automatically placed on a waitlist.

Step 2: On December 7th, registration will close, and no further athletes will be able to sign up for the competition until the 10% window reopens.

Step 3: The IFSA administration team will calculate field sizes for all divisions at all 3* event and share these numbers with all waitlisted athletes.

Step 4: Waitlisted athletes will have 72 hours to either keep their registration active, or to cancel it without charge or penalty.

Step 5: Top-seeded athletes are confirmed into 90% of each event's starts by division until those quotas are full. Once the event hits 90% confirmed, the event registration will reopen, and all unconfirmed athletes remain on the waitlist.

Step 6: The remaining 10% of spots are filled three weeks prior to each event using the current seeding list until the event is full. 72 hours before registration closes, a reminder email is sent to all waitlisted athletes. This serves as a final notice to adjust or cancel any unwanted registrations before the final round of confirmations.

TIP: It is your responsibility to cancel your athlete's registration if they do not wish to compete in an event anymore. To minimize cancellation fees, utilize the 72hrs period before invites are sent out to manage your signups.

NOTE: Credit Cards are charged at the time of athlete confirmation for an event, along with non-refundable Liveheats and IFSA fees. You can cancel without charge as long as you are still on the waitlist. Once confirmed, our cancellation policy applies.

In Chile and Argentina, 3* registration follows the Southern Hemisphere calendar: it opens approximately six weeks before each event and closes ten days prior to competition. Seeded athletes receive priority confirmation, and any remaining spots are allocated to unseeded athletes in the order their registration timestamps were received.

PRIZE VALUE

Prize value must be consistent within each age category regardless of gender. Event Organizers are expected to ensure prize value is as equal as reasonably possible

between divisions, recognizing that exact equality may be challenging when including in-kind prizes.

ADULT POINTS CONVERSION TABLE

Qualifier points tables have been updated for the 2026 season to reflect the latest event structure and competitive standards. The new points table was implemented at the beginning of the 2026 season, and impacts Juniors once they turn 18.

2025-2026 JUDGING HANDBOOK

JUDGING

- **Line**: Each competitor chooses their line or route down the course. Scores increase in correlation with the difficulty of the chosen route. Difficulty is determined by steepness, exposure, air, and course conditions.
- **Control**: Competitors are rewarded for staying in control. Each loss of control will result in a score deduction based on the severity of the control issue.
- **Technique**: Competitors are judged on turn quality relating to big mountain Freeriding and the display of skills required in varying terrain and in freestyle.
- **Fluidity**: This includes continuity, pace, and smooth transitions between sections of the venue, along with the energy displayed while descending the line. Competitors should maintain constant direction towards a goal. Hesitating, slowing, stopping, or falling will have a negative impact in this category.
- **Style**: This encompasses the execution of freestyle maneuvers and creativity in the air, on snow, and in technical terrain.

JUDGING - SPOTTER

A panel of judges consists of at least two judges, one Head Judge, and sometimes a Spotter. Spotters must be approved by the Head Judge to make sure they are equipped with the appropriate judging knowledge for the event, as they are positioned on the venue to cover all blind spots.

2025-2026 TECHNICAL DIRECTOR HANDBOOK

DNF: DID NOT FINISH

- If a rider loses their ski or board or requires assistance from a Ninja or a member of Patrol during their run, a DNF score will be awarded.
    - Athletes can unclip from one snowboard binding and continue to compete only if this is intentional to traverse an area of the venue as communicated by the Technical Director in the athlete meeting.