

# SNOWBOARDING

## 2012 GENERAL RULES

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics snowboarding competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has developed these rules based upon Federation Internationale de Skie (FIS) rules for snowboarding. FIS rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply. Website: [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com)

### **OFFICIAL EVENTS OFFERED**

1. Super Giant Slalom (Super G)
2. Giant Slalom
3. Slalom
4. Superglide\*

\*The super glide event is for athletes who can only snowboard on beginner runs (green circle). Athletes registered for super glide may not compete in the super giant slalom, slalom or giant slalom events.

### **SECTION A – COLD WEATHER SAFETY**

As per Special Olympics Inc., the International Ski Federation and the United States Ski Association Joint Regulations:

1. Background  
There are three main factors to be considered by the jury regarding cold weather safety: the temperature, the duration of the exposure, and clothing and other protection against cold weather. These factors together with any other relevant information, such as the "wind chill factor," must be taken into consideration when a decision is made regarding cold weather.
2. Below minus four degrees F (-20 degrees C) or – 10 degrees wind chill  
If the temperature is below minus four degrees F (-20 degrees C) or – 10 degrees wind chill, measured at the coldest point on the course, a competition will be postponed or canceled by the jury. With difficult weather conditions (e.g., strong wind, high air humidity, heavy snowfall, or high temperature) the jury may, in consultation with the team coaches of the participating teams and medical personnel responsible for the competition, postpone or cancel the competition.

### **SECTION B – RULES OF COMPETITION**

1. General Rules and Modifications
  - a. Start areas: All start areas shall be flat enabling the athletes to stand in either a relaxed or ready position. Care should be given for providing easy access to this area as well as securing the area from the flow of general public skier traffic.
  - b. Two-Minute Rule: During competition, if the competitor moves out of the general direction of the line of the course (falls or misses a gate, etc.) he/she shall have two minutes from the time of the deviation to re-enter the course. A competitor who fails to adhere to this two-minute time limit or receives assistance of any kind shall be disqualified. Disqualification shall be determined on the gate card by the gate judge assigned to the gate closest to where the infraction occurred. The gate judge is responsible for timing the two minutes.

- c. Start Command: For all Special Olympics snowboard events at each ability level, the start command shall be as follows: "5 -- 4 -- 3 -- 2 -- 1-- GO!" The timer begins when the athlete's front boot crosses the start line or when the electric timing wand is activated.
  - d. Gate Line: The gate line is determined by the turning pole.
  - e. Correct Passage: A gate has been passed correctly when the competitor's snowboard tip and both feet have passed by the gate. The start and finish lines are the same as two gate lines.
  - f. In the event that a competitor removes a pole from its vertical position before the competitor's snowboard tip and both feet have passed the gate line, the snowboard tip and heel must pass the original gate.
2. Divisioning
- a. Time trials shall be held on a modified giant slalom course for divisioning in slalom, giant slalom and super giant slalom events. If time permits, trials may be conducted for each event.
  - b. Each athlete will take two runs during time trials with the best time used to determine his/her division for competition; however, a re-run for divisioning purposes may be requested if an athlete fails to perform to his/her ability during the first two.
3. Event Modifications
- a. Giant slalom and slalom: Giant slalom races will consist of two timed runs. The combined times will determine the results for awards. A course reset for the second run will be determined by the jury.
  - b. In Giant slalom and slalom events, the athlete's first run time shall determine his/her second run start order within the division. Slowest first-run time will start first and fastest will start last. Disqualified competitors may have a second run, but they will run at the end of their divisions.
  - c. Super giant slalom: Competition organizers will create super giant slalom courses based upon the ability levels of the competing athletes. One training run on the same course and prior to the race is required of all athletes. Race organizers are encouraged to time the training run. This will have no bearing on start order for the race. The super giant slalom race is a one-run race.

## **SECTION C – FACILITIES**

- 1. All races shall be run on the same courses as the alpine ski races. Super giant slalom runs on the downhill course (see alpine skiing rules).
- 2. Slopes must be suitable in length, width and difficulty to accommodate snowboarders' abilities. All race and training venues must be safe.
- 3. The finish area for all races shall allow enough room for a competitor to safely come to a stop. Whenever possible, all finish areas shall be fenced to keep spectators off the venue.

## **SECTION D – EQUIPMENT**

- 1. A helmet appropriate for snowboard racing shall be required on all forerunners and competitors in official training and competition for all ability levels in giant slalom and super giant slalom events. Helmets must be worn by athletes at all other times during snowboarding training or competition. Helmet selection should be made with the help of a knowledgeable snowboard coach or snowboard shop employee. Coaches are required to wear a helmet when in the race course area.
- 2. Slalom and giant slalom shall be run on the same course as their alpine ski counterparts. The super giant slalom shall be run on the alpine ski downhill course.