

## **Guidelines for Gate Judges**

1. Gate Judges (GJ) are the most important Officials once the race has started and only through efficient gate judging can a race be successful.
2. The Chief Gate Judge will specify a time and location for all Gate Judges to meet for gate judge training, assignment of gates and information pertinent to the race event. It is imperative that all Gate Judges attend and arrive on time for this meeting even if they are an experienced GJ. The Chief Gate Judge needs to confirm the number of GJ available at this meeting to plan assigned locations as well as discuss race-specific information and distribute GJ supplies at this time.
3. Each Gate Judge should have a thorough knowledge of the competition rules. The Gate Judge is required to follow instructions from the Jury. At the meeting, if there are items you are not sure of; ask questions so you are fully informed about your GJ job.
4. Each Gate Judge will be supplied with a start list and gate judge card for each run and gender, weather proof covering where necessary, a pencil and Gate Judge identification so they are readily identifiable. Additional GJ supplies can also include a clipboard, a lunch including a beverage/water, and hand warmers if available.
5. On the hill, the GJ must choose an isolated location and must be placed so s/he can properly observe the terrain, the gates and course sections which s/he is to oversee. S/he should have a clear view of the line between the turning gate and the outside gate for all the assigned gates. The GJ should be close enough to run to the gate(s) quickly in case it requires fixing or needs to look at the tracks that the racer made, before the next racer comes along. The GJ must also ensure that they aren't in the racer's way and they are positioned that if the racer falls, the competitor won't slide into the GJ (for safety and to avoid interference).
6. Once a Gate Judge is in position s/he will mark the card as follows:
  - a. Fill in all information on the front of the card including race name, date, gender, run #, discipline, assigned gate #'s, Gate Judge's name and signature.
  - b. Before the race begins make 4 sketches of the pattern of assigned gates, indicating your GJ location while gate judging.
    - You can either mark the diagram as if you are looking up the course or down - always be consistent. This will avoid numerous questions or confusion if there is a protest or jury meeting.
    - The poles are to be drawn as follows: Circle - red turning gate ●  
Diamond – blue turning gate ◆  
Period – outside turning gate ◦

A quick way to remember: that a circle is round, and round and red both start with "R".

  - Your location is drawn as: A circle with an X inside ⊗
7. A gate has been correctly passed when both the competitor's ski tips and both feet have passed across the gate line. If a competitor loses a ski, without committing a fault, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must have passed the gate line. The racer may do this from any direction and in any manner. But as long as

both feet and both ski tips &/or one if a ski came off cross the line and are inside the poles it is a legal passage. If there are any questions - PLEASE ASK A JURY MEMBER OR YOUR CHIEF GATE JUDGE.

8. It may be helpful to scribe a line in the snow across the fall line on the outside of the turning pole in order to check the tracks after the racer has passed by.
9. The decision handed down by the Gate Judge must be clear and unbiased. His/her conduct must be calm, watchful and prudent. In case of doubt, the Gate Judge should hold to the principle "it is better that a fault goes unpunished than unfairly punished".
10. The Gate Judge should declare a fault only when s/he is clearly convinced that a fault has been committed. In the case of a protest, s/he must be able to explain clearly how the fault was committed.
11. With each fault, the GJ must draw a diagram of the DSQ/Fault committed on one of the four sketches of the assigned gates then document the Racers bib # and gate number where the DSQ/fault occurred on the GJ cards inside page. If more than one racer commits the same DSQ/Fault on a gate, the same diagram can be used but the GJ must also record the Racers bib # and gate number and reference the 2<sup>nd</sup> competitor's error on the same gate.
12. The opinions of the public can not be allowed to influence his/her judgment. Likewise, s/he may not accept the opinions of witnesses, even though they may be experienced ones. The Gate Judge can consult the adjacent GJ in order to confirm their notes about the incident.
13. A competitor, in the case of an error or a fall, is permitted to ask the Gate Judge if a fault has been committed. The Gate Judge if asked must inform a competitor if he has committed a fault that would lead to disqualification (DSQ).
14. The competitor himself is fully responsible for his action and, in this respect cannot hold the gate judge responsible.
15. If a competitor is hindered during his/her run, the competitor must immediately leave the race course and report this to the nearest Gate Judge. The Gate Judge must record the circumstances of the incident on the GJ card and have available for the Jury. The Gate Judge must request the competitor affected by the incident to report immediately to the Finish Referee or another Jury member.
16. The GJ must also watch that the competitor accepts no outside help (e.g. in the case of a fall). Assistance of any nature must likewise be entered on the GJ card. A racer cannot accept assistance in any form. Assistance may result in a DSQ.
17. If a racer falls and appears to be injured a GJ MUST NOT go out on the track to tend to a racer. This is especially important at a speed event. A GJ must remain in their position until a member of the Jury deems the area "safe" (the race has been stopped) to approach the competitor or the Jury and ski patrol arrives to assess the situation. Only after that – and only under the direction of the ski patrol or Jury member – is the GJ allowed to assist.

There is a protocol for attending racers who require assistance when down ~ “the Racer Down Protocol”. For a speed event, the Chief Gate Judge should review this protocol with the Gate Judges at the training session.

18. The GJ may be asked to perform other duties after he performs his required functions:
  - Replacement of gate poles vertically, torn and missing panels.
  - Assist in keeping the course clear
  - Remove any markings made on the course by competitor or third parties  
E.g. keep the course free of other racers, equipment, spectators, recreational skiers or any form of distraction and hazard.

Often many of these duties will be done by a member of the course crew. Any GJ who is not confident to walk out on the track to perform any of these duties must inform the Chief GJ before the race begins, so the Chief of Course will know to send crew to assist in the GJ location.

19. At most races, it is essential that a GJ shouts “COURSE” down the hill as a racer approaches from *above*, so that any course workers/slippers etc *below* are warned in sufficient time to clear the course.
20. At the end of each race, tick off the box on the front of the card that indicates DSQ/Faults or No Faults for the assigned gates.
21. In accordance with the instructions given by the Jury, the Chief Gate Judge (or his/her assistant) collects all the GJ cards. S/he may collect after each run (Men’s and Women’s) or after both genders have completed their respective race. Always stay in place until the Chief of Gates comes to collect your card(s). and ask if you have any Disqualifications/Faults (DSQ’s). To make it easier for the Chief GJ, announce if you have No Faults or a/some DSQ/Faults when they pick up the card.
22. Every GJ with a Fault/DSQ marked on his/her card will be required to go to the Finish until the Referee’s report has been completed. The GJ must then be available until the 15-minute DSQ posting period is over. In the case of a protest the GJ may be asked to explain the DSQ. There is no need to be nervous. If the GJ has a plain correct diagram, can explain what the racer did and state the facts the Jury will release the GJ following the information session.

**Thank you for your commitment to this most important officiating job.**