



FIS FREERIDE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

RULEBOOK

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0. PRELIMINARY NOTE

This rulebook is subject to change. In exceptional circumstances, and after careful consideration, the FIS Freeride World Championships Organising Committee may adapt the current rulebook to address unforeseen situations affecting the event.

All participants are expected to respect local, regional, and national regulations, including public health guidelines.

1. EVENT RANKINGS

1.1. Categories or events

There are four (4) events (or categories) in a FIS Freeride World Championships: Ski Men, Ski Women, Snowboard Men, and Snowboard Women.

1.2. Ranking

Each of the above events will produce a final ranking, which will be used to determine the four FIS Freeride World Champions.

1.3. Other Rankings in Freeride

The FIS Freeride World Championships will not assign any point towards any other seasonal ranking such as FWT Pro, Global Seeding List or Qualification Lists.

1.4. Medal Standing

The Medal Standing for the FIS Freeride World Championship ranks all participating nations based on their overall results in the four categories of the event. The top 5 places of each category will be awarded the following points:

1st place: 100 pts

2nd place: 80 pts

3rd place: 60 pts

4th place: 40 pts

5th place: 20 pts

In case of tie between nations, the most amount of 6th places (and 7th place in case of tie at 6th place, and so on..) will define the winning nation

2. START LIST

2.1. Eligibility criteria

All athletes participating in the 2026 FIS Freeride World Championships must be born before January 1st, 2008. All other eligibility criteria are defined in the “Qualification System”.

2.2. Quotas

All athletes must be qualified via the qualification system or have received a wildcard. There will be a maximum of 67 athletes: maximum 41 in the Ski competitions and 27 in the Snowboard competitions.

2.3. Wildcards

FIS FWT will allocate one wildcard per competition to satisfy potential needs (injuries, media or national interest, etc.). They will participate in the competition normally. One additional Wildcard will be allocated by the host NSA to an athlete of their choice. The host wildcard must be a citizen of the host nation and must be in accordance with eligibility criteria.

2.4. FIS license

All athletes, including wildcards, must hold a valid National Ski Association (NSA) membership and a FIS license.

If an NSA cannot issue a license, FIS FWT may provide one directly to the athlete. This process must be completed before the event.

2.5. Insurance

All athletes will be covered by a one-event evacuation insurance for the duration of the event, unless they have a valid annual insurance (provided by FIS FWT or by the NSA). The cost of the one-event insurance (28 euro) will be invoiced to the athletes prior to the event.

2.6. Anti-doping Compliance

By accepting their invitation to the event, athletes accept the rules of the International Ski and Snowboard Federation, in particular the provision which foresees the exclusive competence of the Court of Arbitration for Sport as the court of appeal in doping cases, as well as signing the FIS Athletes' Declaration.

2.7. Safety Course

All athletes will receive a code to complete a free online course on Safety, distributed by WEMountain. In order to validate the FIS license, all athletes will have to complete the course before the first riders meeting. If a competitor fails to complete the course, they will not be allowed to take the start.

2.8. Nationality Changes

All nationality changes for World Championships level athlete are subject to validation of the FIS Council and will follow the protocol in place for all FIS disciplines. The application for a nationality change must be submitted by the new National Ski Association and reviewed by the FIS Council, as per [International Competition Rules](#) (i.e.: Freestyle ICR).

3. COMPETITION FORMAT

3.1. Format

The FIS Freeride World Championships consist of one (1) run only.

Some venues may feature multiple starts, either available for all competitors to choose from or dedicated to specific categories. This will be decided by FIS FWT considering the security, the logistics, the show aspect, and the competition fairness inside the same category.

In case of multiple competition starts inside the same category, all starts should give roughly the same vertical drop and number of features or technical areas for the competitors to score equally.

Competitors generally hike or skin up to the start. Because hiking affects physical effort, access to all starts within a category should require roughly equal effort. In some cases, one or more categories can be Heli-dropped to the start, but always for a category as a whole.

3.2. Program

The FIS Freeride World Championships take place within a multi-day weather window, during which the competition may be held.

Competitors are required to arrive two days before (D-2) the planned competition day. A venue inspection will normally occur one day before the competition (D-1), followed by the competition day (D-day) or any subsequent day within the weather window.

If weather conditions do not allow for a venue inspection on D-1, it may be rescheduled to take place on D-day before the competition starts. Conversely, if weather forecasts indicate that D-1 offers the only suitable competition day, FIS FWT may decide to advance the competition to D-1.

In this case, the venue inspection day may be moved one day earlier. Such a change will be communicated to competitors no later than four days (D-4) in advance, and athletes will be required to adjust their travel to arrive one day earlier to allow for the rescheduled inspection.

3.3. Natural vs. man-made venue

For a FIS Freeride World Championships the mountain stays untouched, the competitors ride it as it is. Only for security reasons FIS FWT may decide to alter the venue (bombing, breaking cornices, taking rocks out of possible lines, creating a passage by covering rocks with snow...). If the venue has already built-in structures, like bike park jumps for example, FIS FWT may decide to open these structures to be used by competitors as features.

3.4. Closed areas during competition

If a section of the venue must be closed during the competition—due to changing snow conditions, a slide, newly exposed rocks or ice, or other safety concerns—the competition will be temporarily placed on hold.

In such cases:

All affected competitors (including Starters and Pre-starters) will receive an updated photo of the venue, clearly indicating the closed and/or affected zones.

The next competitor scheduled to start will be given the option to delay their run by two BIB numbers, allowing approximately 6–8 minutes to visualize and adjust their line, provided the following competitor's line is not affected by the closure.

If several subsequent competitors are affected by the closure, the competition will be held for approximately five (5) minutes to allow for proper line adjustments.

When multiple starts exist, one or more may be closed for safety reasons. In such cases, all competitors must have an alternative line planned from at least two different starts.

While FIS FWT will strive to avoid implementing closures mid-category, if safety considerations require an immediate closure, the Contest Director, after consulting with the Commissioner or Head Judge, will determine whether the competition can continue while maintaining fairness and integrity of the ranking.

3.5. Weather rule / Accident rule

If a competition is stopped by decision of the Contest Director (after consultation with the Commissioner and Head of Security), results of a category may be validated if at least two-thirds (66.7%) of the competitors in said category have started.

If conditions and budget allow, FIS FWT may decide to reschedule or rerun the categories concerned. In case of a rerun, previous results will not be considered.

In case of a serious accident, FIS FWT may decide or not to validate the competition results even if 2/3rd of the competitors have started.

In case of an event's results validated with only two-thirds of the field, remaining competitors will be assigned a DNS score.

3.6. Training on competition venues

FIS FWT will close the competition venue(s) 30 days prior to the event. On rare occasions FIS FWT may decide to close the venue for more than 30 days prior to the event, if so, it will be communicated to all competitors.

If a competitor is seen riding the competition venue(s) after the time it was closed, and it is clearly marked and communicated, FIS FWT has the right to disqualify the competitor.

Riding the competition venue(s) before they are officially closed is permitted.

3.7. Radio communication while riding

Communication with a competitor during his run with any device (radio, cell phone...) is forbidden. Competitors caught communicating during the run will be DQ.

3.8. Mandatory equipment

Each competitor must wear or carry the following items during their competition run:

- Snowboard or skis (or equivalent: splitboard, monoski, telemark skis, etc.)

- Helmet (CE-certified, in proper condition and securely fastened)
- Back protection (must be CE-certified; backpacks with integrated back protection are not considered valid)
- Airbag backpack, fully operational and ready to deploy (handle attached, leg/crotch strap secured, and equipped with a full gas canister or fully charged battery)
- Avalanche transceiver, worn on the body, switched on, and equipped with fresh batteries (three-antenna models are strongly recommended)
- Probe (metallic, minimum length 240 cm recommended)
- Shovel (metallic recommended)
- RECCO reflector (provided by FIS FWT and required to be worn at all times; competitors are advised to place it in their boot between liner and shell for best retention in case of avalanche)
- Helmet-mounted action camera, when required (see section 3.12)
- Mouthguard (highly recommended but not mandatory)

Loss of Equipment: If a competitor loses any mandatory item (except action camera) during their run, they will receive a No Score (NS) and be ranked accordingly.

3.9. Additional Equipment for Venue Access

Depending on the venue and access route, additional safety equipment may be required to reach the start area or inspection zone. This may include:

- Harness with at least one lanyard/sling and one carabiner (two lanyards/slides with energy absorbers and two carabiners recommended)
- Touring equipment, such as snowshoes, splitboard, or touring skis (a boot pack will be prepared whenever possible, but personal touring equipment may still be necessary).

Any additional required items will be communicated at the competitors' meeting or before the start of the event.

3.10. Safety Checks

Prior to the competition:

- All competitors will undergo an avalanche transceiver check at the base of the hike or in the pre-start area.
- A back protection and backpack content check will be performed before the start.
- The airbag backpack must be armed, functional, and ready for use.

Competitors missing any mandatory equipment will not be allowed to start (DNS).

Loss of mandatory equipment during a run will result in a No Score (NS).

While FIS FWT and event organizers will take all reasonable measures to ensure safety, each competitor remains responsible for their own well-being before, during, and after the event.

Competitors must:

- Maintain their equipment in proper working condition.

- Exercise caution and sound judgment at all times.
- Select their competition line responsibly, considering both safety and snow conditions.

3.11. Bib and Official Appearances

Competitors must wear their official BIB visibly, worn correctly and with both sleeves on, during all official activities, including:

- Opening ceremony
- Venue inspection
- Competition
- Prize-giving ceremonies (for podium athletes only)

3.12. Helmet-mounted Action Cameras

Upon request, athletes must wear a helmet-mounted action camera provided by FIS FWT. No modifications to the mount or camera are permitted. All footage remains the property of FIS FWT and may be used for promotional and commercial purposes.

Athletes with personal camera sponsors may request exceptions, provided footage-sharing rights are granted to FIS FWT.

Competitors not complying with this rule will face the sanctions mentioned at point 7.1..

Athletes are forbidden to compete with a mouth-mounted action camera.

3.13. Prize giving ceremony

Competitors who made the podium have to be present at the prize giving ceremony in order to receive their money or other prizes. Competitors on the podium have to wear their bibs for all prize-giving ceremonies.

Only valid reasons (injury...) will be accepted by FIS FWT to justify not being present at the prize giving ceremony. FIS FWT has to be informed if a competitor cannot make it to the ceremony. Without warning, FIS FWT could decide to retain payment or distribution of prizes.

3.14. Starting order

A bib draw will be done at the first riders meeting of the event. Each competitor, within a certain category, will draw a number that will assign his or her order of start. FIS FWT will define the order of the categories before the riders meeting.

3.15. Missed start

Any competitor showing up late at the start with no acceptable reason validated by FIS FWT will be assigned a Did Not Start (DNS) and they will not receive any prize money.

3.16. Access to areas

Access to certain areas will be formally limited as follows:

- Competition Venue intended as all official competition venues areas, from after the start gate to the finish line. Access is permitted exclusively to athletes (during their run), Safety staff, TV production and official photographers.
- Start Area intended as the area before and surrounding the start gate. Access is permitted exclusively to athletes (during and before their run), Safety staff, FIS FWT staff, TV production and official photographers.
- Finish Area intended as the area following and surrounding the finish line. Access is permitted exclusively to athletes, coaches, FIS FWT and Safety staff, Media, TV production and official photographers.
- Riders Meeting as defined by Chapter 4. Access is permitted exclusively to athletes, up to two NSA Officials or coaches per Nation, FIS FWT and Safety staff, Media, TV production and official photographers.

4. RIDERS MEETING

Competitors meetings are mandatory for all competitors. It is mandatory for security reasons, and other points like snow conditions, potential closed areas in the venue, access route to the start, event schedule or potential additional mandatory safety gear (harness...) etc. Competitors will also have to draw their bib during the first competitors meeting of the event.

Each NSA will be able to attend the riders meeting with maximum 2 Officials per NSA. Competitors who cannot attend the competitors meeting must have a valid reason. They must announce themselves to the organizer and make alternative arrangements for their security briefing.

Competitors cannot be represented by their NSA official or coach and have to attend the riders meeting personally.

5. VENUE INSPECTION

Competitors will be given sufficient time to inspect the venue on site. FIS FWT will also provide competitors with updated pictures of the venue.

A guide/forerunner/judge will ride the venue while the competitors are watching during their venue inspection, in order to give them visual information on the size of the features for example and feedback on the snow quality.

As for riding the competition venue, it is forbidden for competitors to use personal drones to film the venue 30 days prior to the competition.

Only drone pictures shot by the Organizer could be given to all competitors.

6. JUDGING

The judging panel is composed of five judges. FIS FWT will ensure (to the extent of its possibilities) to have judges representing each region and category.

The judging system description can be found under “JUDGING RULEBOOK” on the FWT website.

6.1. Judging limits

The starting gate at the top and the arch at the finish are materializing the judging limits. In special cases like for safety reasons for example, a minimum of 1 flag will materialize the top and/or the bottom end of the judging limits.

If not specified differently by the Organizer, the Competition Director or the Head Judge during the competitors meeting, the run starts out of the gate and ends at the finish line.

For safety reasons, the end of the judging line may have to be modified throughout the competition. If it happens it will be modified for a whole category. If it has to happen during a category due to force majeure, the judges will take it into consideration. In this case the decision will be communicated to the competitors remaining at the summit. When possible, a picture with the new judging line drawn on it will be sent to the starter(s) and all the competitors to avoid confusion.

6.2. NS, DNF, DNS, and DQ

NS, for No Score: A competitor who loses a ski or any mandatory equipment (see Section 3.8 “Mandatory Equipment”) during the run will receive a No Score (NS) in the final ranking. No other loss of material will result in an NS.

Loss of a pole is not automatically sanctioned. For example, if a skier loses a pole while pushing out of the start gate without making any mistake, no points will be deducted. However, if the pole loss results from a loss of control, the judges will penalize the loss of control accordingly. Since skiing without poles can affect technique, balance, or overall control, judges may deduct points if performance is visibly compromised by the missing pole. A snowboarder who removes the board or unbuckles one foot during the run will receive an NS, unless otherwise specified in the competitors’ meeting. Exceptions may apply in specific situations, for example when a finish area or part of the venue is only accessible by pushing, in which case removing the board is permitted.

All competitors who receive an NS are ranked behind the last competitor who completed a valid run. If more than one athlete in a category receives an NS, they will be ranked among themselves according to the judges’ scores up to the moment the ski, mandatory equipment, or board was lost.

Important: competitors who lose mandatory equipment (or unstrap a snowboard) must immediately take the easiest and safest route down to the finish area. They are not allowed to continue along their original line, attempt jumps, or take additional risks, as this could endanger safety and delay the competition.

DNF, for Did Not Finish: A competitor who can't finish their run due to injury will get a DNF (Did Not Finish) on the final ranking list. He will be ranked like the NS, after every other competitors who aren't NS or DNF. Example: in an event with 20 competitors in which 4 competitors were NS and 1 DNF, the 5 competitors will be ranked separately and behind the other competitors from the 16th to the 20th place depending on the score the judges gave them up to the point they either got a NS or a DNF.

DNS, for Did Not Start: A competitor qualified for the event, but missing any mandatory equipment when at the start or not showing up at the start will get a DNS (Did Not Start) on the event ranking list. DNS athletes will not receive any prize money.

DQ, for DisQualified: A competitor who rides through a closed area, will get a DQ on the final ranking list. Moreover, a competitor is disqualified if he/she does a major fault such as riding the venue before the contest, having unethical behavior towards other competitors, hosts, employees. The DQ competitor is ranked last after all NS, DNF and DNS. DQ Athletes could face sanctions like multiple events ban (including FWT Pro, Challenger, Qualifier events). DQ athletes will not receive any prize money.

6.3. Judging protests

Competitors who wish to file a protest must contact FIS FWT, uniquely via email to judging@freerideworldtour.com, as soon as possible within 24 hours from the end of the competition. Only those complaints will be reviewed by FIS FWT and will be addressed a response.

Judging protests can only be filed in case of a suspected error by the judges in the following situations:

1. DNS
2. DQ
3. NS
4. DNF

No protests about judging scores, outside the above-mentioned situations, will be accepted.

7. COMPETITORS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

FIS Freeride World Championships competitors have to respect the hosting country's rules and laws.

7.1. Competitors Code of conduct

Additionally, competitors who are seen using recreational drugs, whether they are legal or illegal in the hosting country, within 100 meters of all official areas such as: start, finish, inspection points, prize giving ceremonies, official happenings and hotels may face FWT sanctions.

FWT competitors are expected to behave properly towards Hosting resorts, Tour partners, Competitors, employees and organisation. The spread of derogatory messages towards other freeride athletes, hosts, organisers, partners, Judges, employees and organisation may be sanctioned.

Sanctions could be anything from a fine, a disqualification, event(s) suspension, including Pro, Qualifiers, Challengers, and other sister events... (see also point: "NS, DNF, DNS and DQ").

Moreover, the below list of sanctions can be applied towards athletes for any infraction to the rules mentioned in this rulebook:

- Disqualification from the event itself.
- Disqualification for more than one event.
- License withdraw.
- Forbidden area/zone/feature in the venue.
- Starting last of his/her category.

7.2. Coaches Code of Conduct

All members of an athlete's entourage (coaches, agents, etc.) commit to conduct themselves in a manner that honors the sport and demonstrates respect to competition officials, resort employees, fellow competitors and employees, the skiing and snowboarding public, the resort facilities and operating procedures, as well as any run closures, rope lines, or boundaries.

Moreover, the below list of sanctions can be applied towards coaches for any infraction to the rules mentioned in this rulebook:

- Banned from the official event areas such as competitors meeting, start, finish, prize giving area and any other official happening.
- Banned from communicating with FIS FWT Officials.
- Banned for more than one event.
- Disqualification of his/her team competitor.
- Basically all competitor sanctions.

7.3. Fair and Safe Sport

Competitors are to follow the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) rules concerning anti-doping, a competitor will face sanctions if he/she doesn't respect these rules. This includes the [WADA Prohibited List](#) (Prohibited Substances and Methods). International

Safeguarding principles are to be respected and are outlined in the [FIS Snow Safe Policy](#).

7.4. Prize Money

Prize money will be € 75'000, divided amongst the four categories equally and paid out to the top six competitors for each competition:

1. 1st Place: 40% of total category prize money (7'500 €).
2. 2nd Place: 25% of total category prize money (4'687,50 €).
3. 3rd Place: 15% of total category prize money (2'812,50 €).
4. 4th Place: 10% of total category prize money (1'875 €).
5. 5th Place: 6% of total category prize money (1'125 €).
6. 6th Place: 4% of total category prize money (750 €).

In case of a tie at any of the top 5 positions, athletes tied will receive half of the total prize money of the two position. (i.e.: two competitors tied in 1st place will receive half of the sum of 1st place and 2nd place).

In case of a tie at 6th position, both athletes will receive the prize money of 6th position.