



2026 FWT PRO RIDERS RULEBOOK

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O. PRELIMINARY NOTE

This rulebook is subject to change. In very unusual circumstances and after careful consideration, FWT management may decide to adapt the current rulebook to best deal with unpredictable changes we may encounter.

All members of the FWT Freeride community are expected to respect and follow local, regional, national, and governmental public health mandates during participation in FWT-sanctioned events.

1. PRO FREERIDERS BOARD (PFB)

The Pro Freeriders Board (PFB) was founded to ensure the best possible conditions for the growth of freeriding. The PFB is an advisory board to FWT Management. FWT will then make decisions. The PFB is made up of up to 7 riders amongst the most experienced riders in the Freeride World Tour. All categories, genders, Regions, and riding backgrounds (Backcountry Freestyle and Big Mountain riding) must be represented to make sure the PFB covers each and everyone's view. The Members need to have spent a minimum of 1 year on the Tour but should ideally have experienced several seasons on the FWT to have a general view built on past experiences.

The PFB will meet ideally four times a year:

1. Pre-season PFB Online Meeting
2. PFB Meeting 1st FWT Stop
3. PFB Meeting 3rd FWT Stop
4. PFB Meeting 5th FWT Stop

1.1. How are PFB Members elected?

FWT and PFB current Members will select all riders that meet the criteria above mentioned and that could provide a fruitful input to the PFB, as Candidate Members. Moreover, all riders can, and are encouraged to, submit their candidature to become PFB Members. All Candidate Members will have to confirm their interest to FWT Management.

If 7 or less riders confirm their interest, they will automatically become PFB Members and there will be no voting process.

If an election process is necessary and there are more than 7 new candidates, all riders that have at least 1 year experience on the FWT will have four votes, one per category. Those votes can be assigned to any rider of that category, regardless of their Region of belonging as long as they have 1 year experience on the FWT.

At the end of the election process, votes will count to the following 7-Members format:

1. The most voted rider of each category will become an official PFB Member. (4)
2. Three additional Members (regardless of their category) are selected by FWT to ensure fair representation of all groups and a well experiences and balanced PFB. (3)

If, at any time during the season, the number of PFB Members drops below five, FWT will propose new candidates to the remaining Members. The remaining Members will then vote to approve these new additions.

At the end of each season, any FWT rider qualified for the following season who wishes to join the PFB must notify either the Commissioner or an existing Board Member. If only a few Members are not returning for the next season, the

Commissioner may contact as well potential replacements who share similar characteristics to the departing Members (e.g., gender, category, region, or riding style). Current and outgoing Members may also suggest candidates.

All proposed candidates will be presented to the entire PFB for review. If more than one candidate is proposed for a given vacancy, all FWT Pro riders qualified from the previous season will hold a vote to confirm the new Member(s).

1.2. How can I become a PFB Member?

All FWT athletes qualified for the following year who are interested to invest time on the PFB should contact the Head of Sport, the Race Director, the Commissioner or one of the Board Members. The candidates should not be rookies as it is essential to have enough experience on the Tour to be able to talk about the evolution of the sport. The PFB Members are decided after the end of the season.

If a Board Member decides to quit the Board during the season, all athletes currently competing on the FWT could vote for a new Member if there is more than 1 candidate representing the same category, gender, riding background.

1.3. Board Members duties

The PFB is a consultant board. Board Members are asked to represent riders' opinions and should talk about the general riders' view at regular meetings set during the season by the Head of Sport, Commissioner or FWT Management. They should also actively take part in all Board discussions (on or off competitions season) when asked by the FWT management. These discussions could be about competition formats, judging, rules, ranking system, sanctions...

PFB Members could be consulted individually by the FWT management about competition venue's closed area, judging lines, visibility. This is likely to happen on competition day and it is essential for the PFB Members to separate their duty as Members and as competitors in order to represent the entirety or the majority of riders. This could be nerve-racking and should be considered before joining the PFB.

A Board Member not reacting on two topics proposed by the FWT Head of Sport, Commissioner or FWT Management should be replaced.

The responsibilities of PFB Members can be summarized by the following lists:

Before the season:

- Review and advise on Rulebook changes.
- Advise on any topic that might be brought up by the riders.

On event:

- Advise on judging.
- Advise on improvement of FWT towards athletes (information, logistics, etc.)
- Be the riders' representative and be FWT's representatives towards athletes.

The following aspects are not PFB Members' responsibilities, but the organizer's:

- Safety conditions of the venue
- Relocation or cancellation of the event
- Changes or new venues
- Features that should be closed or opened
- Weather Forecast

1.4. Rules validity and updates

Rules are valid for one season. Updates can be made during the season only after being presented to the PFB.

2. FWT RANKING

2.1. Categories

There are 4 categories in FWT Pro events: Ski Men, Ski Women, Snowboard Men, and Snowboard Women. Some events will showcase all 4 categories. Some events might showcase men only, women only, skiers only or snowboarders only.

2.2. FWT Cut for next season's FWT and for the FWT Finals

In 2026, there will be 6 FWT events. A cut will be made after the 4th event, before the 2 Finals.

The cut represents approximately 50% to 60% of the riders on the FWT roster prior to the first riders meeting of the season. The FWT cut for FWT27 and for the FWT26 Finals will be decided just before the first riders meeting of FWT26 in order to have the most accurate riders' roster.

Riders who aren't making the cut will be qualified for the FWT Challenger where they'll have a chance to requalify for the FWT. The FWT Challenger qualification system will vary between the two Regions, for more information about the FWT Challenger in each Region, please read: "FWT Challenger" below.

Note: The cut may change during the season if too many qualified riders aren't competing in the current season (if too many got injured before the second event for example). For more information regarding the number of riders taken for the cut see "FWT 2026 Qualifications"

Results taken for the cut:

- The best 3 out of the first 4 competitions results before the Finals will count for the cut.
- 2 results if we only have 3 events before the cut.
- 2 results if we only have 2 events before the cut.
- 1 result if we have only 1 unique event before the cut.

In case all 4 events before the Finals being cancelled, the FWT25 ranking will be used to define the qualifications to the FWT Finals, therefore the same riders who made the cut at the FWT25 for FWT26 will go to the FWT Finals.

In the case of all the FWT26 events being cancelled, all the qualified riders from FWT25 for FWT26 will make the cut for FWT27.

All scenarios are listed below:

Scenario 1: 4 events before the cut.

- Cut is after the first four events, which award 10.000 points each for the winners. Best 3 out of 4 results count for the qualification to the FWT Finals.

- Alaska and Verbier are the FWT Finals, and reward 12.000 points for the winners.
- 4 best results out of 6 (or 3 out of 5 if one of the Finals is cancelled) are considered for the FWT overall Ranking, for those who competed at the Finals.

Scenario 2: 3 events before the cut.

- Cut is after the first three events, which award 10.000 points each for the winners. Best 2 out of 3 results count for the qualification to the FWT Finals.
- Alaska and Verbier are the FWT Finals, and reward 12.000 points for the winners.
- 3 best results out of 5 considered for the FWT overall Ranking, for those who competed on the Finals (or 3 out of 4 if one of the Finals is cancelled).

Scenario 3: 2 events before the cut.

- Cut is after the first two events, which award 10.000 points each for the winners. Best 2 out of 2 results count for the qualification to the FWT Finals.
- Alaska and Verbier are the FWT Finals, and reward 12.000 points for the winners.
- 3 best results out of 4 considered for the FWT overall Ranking, for those who competed on the Finals (or 2 out of 3 if one of the Finals is cancelled).

Scenario 4: 1 event before the cut

- The only result at the event giving 10.000 points for the winners before the Finals will count for the cut.
 - Alaska and Verbier are the FWT Finals, and reward 12.000 points for the winners. The 2 results out of 3 events are taken for the FWT overall Ranking for those who made the cut.
 - If Alaska or Verbier is cancelled, the 2 results out of 2 events are taken for the FWT overall Ranking for those who made the cut.
- The 2 results out of 3 events are taken for the FWT overall Ranking for those who made the cut.
- If Alaska and Verbier are cancelled, the only event's result is taken for the FWT overall Ranking. The cut for the next season FWT will be made accordingly to how it was supposed to be after the first event.

Scenario 5: No event before the cut

- Only FWT riders Qualified through the previous FWT season are invited to the FWT Finals.

- Alaska and Verbier are the FWT Finals, and reward 12.000 points for the winners.
- 2 results out of the 2 Finales are taken for the FWT overall Ranking.
- If one of the Finales is cancelled, the only 1 result will be taken for the FWT overall Ranking
- If all events are cancelled, there will be no FWT overall Ranking that year. The riders qualified for that cancelled FWT season through the previous year FWT will be the same qualified riders for FWT27

Scenario 6: Some FWT events happened but all Finals are cancelled

- The FWT overall Ranking will be the one standing after the last FWT Pro event during the FWT27

Note:

- All FWT26 Wildcards will be reconsidered for FWT27.
- For the riders not making the cut, the FWT overall Ranking will be based on the results taken for the cut.
- FWT26 riders qualified through the Challengers 2025 will have to requalify in the region they qualified in, they will be qualified directly for the Challengers where they'll have to regain their qualification for the FWT.
- Riders qualified for the FWT26 through the FWT Challenger 2025 circuit are automatically qualified for FWT27 if there aren't any Challengers in their region.

2.3. Counting results toward the final FWT Ranking

The Cut that is applied to access the FWT Finals is the same that determines the qualification to the FWT27, and the counting results are the same too. (see above: "FWT Cut for next season and for the Finals").

All qualified riders for the Finals (Alaska and Verbier) will have the opportunity to collect 2 more results.

As FWT Finals, Alaska and Verbier will reward 12.000 points for the winners (instead of 10.000 points for the winners as for the first 4 other FWT events).

The results of Alaska and Verbier could count as one of the best results considered for the FWT overall Ranking, but don't have to.

The counting results for the FWT overall Ranking:

- . The 4 best results out of the 6 FWT stops.
- . The 4 best results out of the 5 FWT stops.
- . The 3 best results out of the 4 FWT stops.

- . The 2 best results out of the 3 FWT stops.
- . The 2 results out of the 2 FWT stops.
- . 1 result out of the only 1 FWT stop.

If the only event(s) of the season is/are a Final, only the riders who made the cut on the FWT25 will go to the Final and therefore will be the only riders ranked on the FWT26 overall Ranking.

If there are no FWT events in 2026, there will be no FWT26 overall Ranking.

Note: if a Local Organizer Wildcard participates at the only event(s) of the season, the local organizer Wildcard will be ranked on the FWT overall Ranking but will not make the cut for FWT27.

2.4. FWT overall final Ranking ties

Ties will be split after each event.

The split will be made accordingly:

- Highest non-counting result (points), 2nd highest non-counting result, 3rd highest non-counting result, etc.
- Number of 1st, 2nd, 3rd places...
- Best Final result in Verbier.

Note: In case of perfect tie, riders will remain tied.

2.5. FWT 2027 Qualifications

The numbers of riders who will make the cut in FWT26 and, therefore, would qualify for FWT27 will be defined after the first event of the season. This quantity will vary depending on the amount of FWT athletes attending the first riders meeting of the season, and it will represent approximately 50% to 60% of the attending riders.

The number of riders taken for the cut may change during the season if there are too many riders injured in the same category. If a rider qualified for the FWT is injured or decides not to compete, the rider will not be automatically replaced. It will be decided by FWT Management whether this rider will be replaced or not, and by whom.

2.6. FWT 2027 Qualification Ties

In case of a tie for the cut at the last place, the tie split will be made by comparing the number of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th... places on all the events before the cut (and not only the ones taken for the cut).

In case of a perfect tie, all tied riders will be qualified to the FWT Finals and will be qualified for the following season.

3. WILDCARDS

There are 2 types of Wildcards: Tour Wildcards and Local Organizer/ Event Wildcards.

3.1. Tour Wildcards

Tour Wildcards in each category can be distributed for the season and can score points, are ranked in the event ranking and the overall FWT Ranking, receive prize money and can qualify for the following year's FWT and Challengers.

Tour Wildcards are marketing Wildcards distributed to help, market and push both, the FWT and the sport of Freeriding. This is for the benefit of all. They follow various criteria such as:

- Nationality (making sure the FWT have athletes from key marketing countries or opening new ones)
- Returning from injury (athletes with high media potential coming back from injury)
- Prestige (famous athletes from the freestyle, racing or the non-competing freeride scene).

Of course, these above's criteria shouldn't be sufficient if FWT Management doesn't believe that the level of the rider is not appropriate.

3.2. Local Organizer/ Event Wildcards

There will be up to 2 local organizer or event Wildcards per event and per discipline. These Wildcards are given to help the local organizer with special media needs (examples: Julia Mancuso, double silver medalist at the 2010 Winter Olympics, was event Wildcard at the 2010 FWT Verbier. A Russian was also given an event Wildcard for the first 2011 FWT Sochi in Russia).

Local Organizer/ Event Wildcards are influencing the event point distribution. If a Local Organizer/ Event Wildcard wins the event, the second ranked rider, will score the points of second place.

Local Organizer/ Event Wildcards are ranked in the event Ranking only, they will receive prize money but will not be ranked on the FWT overall Ranking and will not qualify for the FWT27.

Note: If a Local Organizer/ Event Wildcard competes in the only event of the season, he/she will be ranked on the FWT overall Ranking as the event ranking will be the only one taken for the FWT overall Ranking, but the Local Organizer/ Event Wildcard will not be qualified for FWT27.

4. FIS LICENSE

To compete at one or all events, every rider, excluding one-event Wildcards will have to comply with the eligibility criteria:

1. NSA, FIS and FWT License
2. Safety Course
3. Annual Insurance
4. Anti-Doping Compliance

4.1. NSA, FIS & FWT LICENSE

All Freeride World Tour Pro athletes must have a valid National Ski Association membership from their nation of belonging, and a FIS license. By following the NSAs protocol, they will be granted a FIS license number.

If a Nation Ski Association can't provide a valid membership to an athlete, FWT will issue a FIS license to rider directly. In this case, the cost of the FWT license is retained from the first prize money distributed to the FWT athlete. All riders must complete this process by December 1st. After this date, we will review the full list with FIS to ensure all riders are properly registered and will issue a valid FWT PRO license (free of charge).

Riders have to use their formal family and first names to register, as well as their official information (date of birth, nationality...). Generating a unique number per athlete, avoiding spelling mistakes on starting lists and rankings, automated update of seeding and ranking list.

4.2. Nationality Change

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.

4.3. Safety Courses

As part of their FWT license, FWT athletes will receive a code to complete a free online course on Safety distributed by WEMountain.

The course is mandatory to validate the FWT license.

All FWT athletes will have to complete the course before the first event's riders meeting.

FWT will also organize a Mandatory on-snow Safety course (also called Safety workshop).

The on-snow Safety course is also mandatory. Failing to complete the course without a valid reason, and without informing the organizer, will result in a DNS (the athlete won't be allowed to take the start).

4.4. Insurance

All riders (excluding one-event wildcards) will be required to purchase by December 1st a Mandatory Annual Insurance (299 euro), unless their NSA provides one of equal or better coverage.

The Annual Insurance is a complementary coverage and does not replace personal insurance. It covers riders of all nationalities and globally, for any freeride activities (training, competition, leisure, etc..). The Annual insurance will provide coverage to athletes of all nationalities, anywhere in the world, for the activity of freeriding in and out of competition.

4.5. Anti-doping Compliance

By registering as a licensed FIS FWT athlete, 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](#).

FIS FWT might not issue a membership license to participate in FIS FWT or national competitions to competitors who:

- Have conducted themselves in an improper or unsportsmanlike manner or has not respected the FIS medical code or anti-doping rules.
- Have not signed the Athletes Declaration.
- Are under suspension.

5. FWT QUALIFIERS & CHALLENGERS FOR FWT RIDERS

5.1. FWT QUALIFIER Series

FWT riders can compete and be ranked in both Freeride World Tour and Qualifiers. Current year FWT riders are ranked on the Worldwide Qualifier Seeding List (which takes into consideration the 3 best results from the previous 52 weeks). Therefore, they have priority when registering to any QUALIFIER event as long as they sign up during the registration period which is usually 6 to 4 weeks prior to the event.

FWT Pro riders will be allowed to compete in any FWT Qualifier event, up to a maximum of two riders per category. In case of more than two Pro riders registered/invited by the organiser as wildcards for an event, the seeding list will determine which ones will be invited to compete.

5.2. FWT CHALLENGER Series

Riders who don't qualify for the FWT Final will be automatically qualified for the FWT CHALLENGER of their Region. If the rider's Region or residence is different to the one the rider qualified in, the rider will have to speak to the FWT Management in order to agree on a Challengers' region to re qualify from.

Region 1 (Europe-Asia-Oceania): FWT Pro riders will not be allowed to compete in any FWT Challenger event throughout the season, except via one-event Wild Card. Their FWT Pro results will score points on the "2027 Challenger Qualifying List" (see FWT Qualifier Rulebook), and they will qualify to the 2027 FWT Challengers in Region 1 (R1).

Region 2 (North and South America): The Challenger series Region 2 (R2) is made of 3 events. In those events, The FWT riders will compete against the top ranked Qualifier riders and will have a chance to requalify for the following FWT season (see IFSA Rulebook).

5.3. Global Seeding List

The seeding list is formulated by a rider's best 3 results over the previous 52 weeks. All results from Junior, Qualifier, Challenger and Pro Series feed into the global seeding list.

5. COMPETITION

6.1. Format

FWT Pro events consist of one (1) run only. In special cases it could be best run counts out of 2. Special competition format will be explained during the riders meeting before the competition.

The FWT consist of 2 different types of events, FWT events with 10.000 points for the winners and FWT Finals with 12.000 points for the winners. Approximately 50% to 60% of the FWT rider roster will make the cut at the last FWT event and be qualified for the FWT Finals. To learn more about the cut, the ranking etc. Please read: "FWT RANKING" above.

Some venues may feature multiple starts, either available for all competitors to choose from or dedicated to specific categories. This will be decided by 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.

6.2. Program

FWT competitions have a multiple day weather window during which the competition can take place. A normal competition program has the competitors arrive at D-2, has a venue inspection at D-1 and has a competition on D-day or later in the weather window. If the weather doesn't permit a venue inspection at D-1, a venue inspection can be done on D-day before the competition starts.

If the weather window doesn't look good and the only good day is D-1 (venue inspection day), then this day could become the competition day. FWT management may decide to move the Venue inspection day a day earlier, in this case it would be communicated latest 4 days in advance (D-4) and riders will be asked to arrive one day earlier for a possible venue inspection on their original arrival day.

6.3. Natural vs. man-made venues

For FWT events the mountain stays untouched, the riders ride it as it is.

Only for security reasons the FWT management 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, the FWT Management may decide to open these structures to be used by riders as features. These structures will be open to be ridden as features only if specified by the FWT at the riders meeting.

The FWT organization will not build snow kickers.

6.4. Closed areas during an event

If a section of the venue must be closed during the competition (due to changing snow conditions, a slide, newly exposed rocks, 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 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.

6.5. 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, FWT may decide to reschedule or rerun the category(ies) 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.

If the competition is stopped on a multiple runs format and all riders of the same category did at least 1 run, the results of the event would be the ranking after the first run for the category(ies) concerned.

In case of an event validated with only 2/3rd of the field down, the riders who couldn't ride will get as result: the average of their last 2 results.

If this happens at the first event of the season, the awarded result will be the average of the next two results.

If it happens at the second event, the rider will be awarded the average points from the first and the 3rd event.

If the 2/3rd rule takes place on 1 of only 2 competitions before the cut the riders who couldn't compete will be given twice the same ranking.

If the 2/3rd rule has to be applied at the only competition of the season, the riders who didn't take the start will be DNS at the event, and DNS on the FWT overall Ranking.

If it happens at the only competition before the cut, the rider(s) who didn't compete will be treated as potential(s) Wildcard(s) for the next season.

If the average of the 2 results isn't a whole number, it will be rounded to the better rank integer. (For example: 6th place + 7th place => 6 + 7 = 13, 13 / 2 = 6,5 => 6th place)

6.7. Injuries, Pregnancy and frozen points

Injured or pregnant athletes have three ways to qualify for the following FWT season:

1. Their ranking at the time of the cut is high enough to be qualified.
2. They receive a Tour Wildcard.

For more information regarding Tour Wildcard please go to chapter: "[WILDCARDS](#)"

Riders can however freeze their points on the [Global Seeding List](#) by providing a medical certificate to FWT.

6.8. Training on competition venues

The FWT Organizer will close the competition venue(s) 30 days prior to the event. On rare occasions the FWT management may decide to close the venue(s) earlier than 30 days prior to the event, if so, it will be communicated to all riders.

If a rider was to be seen riding the competition venue after the time the FWT Organizer decided to close it, the FWT Management has the right to disqualify the rider.

Riding the competition venues before they are officially closed is permitted.

6.9. Radio communication while riding

Communication with a rider during his run with any device (radio, cell phone...) is forbidden. A rider caught communicating during his/her run will be DQ.

6.10. Mandatory equipment & equipment check

All riders must wear the following mandatory equipment for their run and won't be able to take the start (DNS) if they are missing any of the following:

- Snowboard/skis (or assimilate: Splitboard, Monoski, Telemark skis ...).
- Helmet (CE-certified, in proper condition and securely fastened)
- Back protection (it should be a CE certified protection). Backpacks with integrated protection are not considered as valid back protections!
- Airbag backpack ready and in working order (with handle and leg/crotch strap on + a full gas canister or full battery for electric fan airbag).
- Probe. (a metallic probe of 240cm or greater is highly recommended).
- Shovel. (a metallic shovel is highly recommended).
- Avalanche transceiver on the body, switched ON and with fresh batteries! ("3 antennas" transceiver is highly recommended).
- RECCO reflector. All riders will receive a RECCO reflector that they will have to wear during all competitions (it is recommended to put the Recco in the boot, between the liner and the shell, as the boot is the less likely equipment to be torn off by an avalanche).
- Helmet-Mounted Action Camera. It is forbidden to compete with a GoPro/action camera on a mouth mount.

Note: Except for the Camera, any rider losing one of the mandatory equipment listed above during his/her run will get a NS.

Note 2: Mouthguard, due to its protective effect on concussion, is very highly recommended

6.11. 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 riders' meeting or before the start of the event.

6.12. 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.

6.13. Helmet-mounted Action Cameras

All FWT Pro athletes must, upon request, wear a GoPro camera (or another action camera) mounted on their helmet. The camera and mount will be provided by FWT at the beginning of the season and must be worn during all FWT events. No modifications or adaptations to the camera or mount will be permitted.

The FWT will retain full ownership of all footage produced by the cameras and may use, share, or distribute the images with its partners or for promotional and commercial purposes.

Athletes who have sponsorship contracts with other action camera brands may be permitted, at the discretion of the FWT, to use their sponsor's camera. This will only be allowed if the athlete and his/her sponsor agree to share the rights to the footage with the FWT. The FWT and its partners retain the right to use the images as described.

Riders not complying with this rule will face sanctions (see [12.1. Competitors Code of Conduct](#)).

6.14. 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)

6.15. Prize giving ceremony

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

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

A rider who is announced as Freeride World Tour Champion before the Verbier event must come to Verbier to be at least there for the FWT Champion award ceremony.

7. STARTING ORDER

7.1. BIB draw

A BIB draw will be done at the first riders meeting of each event (unless specified, see 7.2 rule). To make sure any rider will not be starting last or first the entire season in their category, all categories will then be split into two groups. The two groups will alternate in order, to have one group be the top half of the category and the next time the second half of it.

7.2. Starting order

Taking into consideration light and snow quality, the FWT Management may alternate the starting order of the four categories during the season.

It will be the choice of the FWT Management to alternate categories or riders of the same category on a multiple runs format.

For any event, FWT Management might decide to base the starting order on any other criteria then bib draw (i.e.: reverse order of the overall Ranking for the Final).

7.3. Missed start

To avoid riders not sticking to their BIB draw order to benefit from a later start, a rider showing up late at the start with no acceptable reason will be penalized as follow:

First time: they will not receive any prize money for that event but will be allowed to ride and score points.

Second time: they will not be able to start, they will be Did Not Start (see above: 6.6. DNS) and they will not receive any prize money.

8. AGE

The minimum age is 18 years old for all FWT Pro events. No exceptions will be made.

9. RIDERS MEETING

Riders' meetings are mandatory for all riders. 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. Riders will also have to draw their BIB during the first riders meeting of each event (Unless there is no Bib draw like for a Final where the start list is the reverse order of the overall Ranking or for Covid reasons where the BIB Draw might be done electronically).

Riders who cannot attend the riders meeting must have a valid reason. They must announce themselves to the organizer and make alternative arrangements for their security briefing. The following points will be presented:

- Weather forecast
- Snow conditions
- Format of the event
- Accident procedure
- Mandatory equipment
- Venue presentation: location of the starting gates, finish, end of judging line and judges place...
- Closed areas
- Competition Day program
- BIB draw

If a rider fails to attend the mandatory riders meeting without valid reason, and without informing the organiser, FWT will sanction them by deducting 200 USD from their prize money.

10. VENUE INSPECTION

Riders will be given sufficient time to inspect the venue on site. The FWT Management will also provide riders with updated pictures of the venue.

A guide/forerunner/judge will ride the venue while the riders 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.

10.1. Drone footage / pictures of the venue

As for riding the competition venue, it is forbidden for riders 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.

11. JUDGING

The judging panel is composed of four to five judges.

FWT will ensure (to the extent of its possibilities) to have judges representing each region and category. Most judges will be at all events to ensure continuity. Judges cannot be current FWT riders or riders aiming to compete on the FWT.

The judging system description can be found under “[JUDGING RULEBOOK](#)” on the FWT website.

11.1. Judging limits

The starting gate at the top and the FWT 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 riders 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 riders 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 riders to avoid confusion.

11.2. NS, DNF, DNS, DNA 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, or who rides through a closed area, 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. A DNF rider will get the points and the prize money of his/her ranking.

DNS, for Did Not Start: A rider qualified for the event, but missing any mandatory equipment when at the start or not showing up at the start for a valid reason. (A proof of a valid reason for not showing up at the start or missing mandatory equipment will have to be provided before the event to the FWT management. The FWT management will consult the PFB and they will decide if the reason is accepted. Valid reasons could be an injury or exams for example). If the reason is accepted and validated, the rider will get a DNS (Did Not Start) on the event ranking list. He will get the points of the last ranked rider after all NS and DNF. In an event with 20 riders in which 4 riders did not start for valid reasons (accepted by the FWT Management), the 4 riders are all tied in 20th place and will all score the points of the 20th place.

DNA, for Did Not Attend: A rider qualified for the event, who did not attend the event or did not start for a valid reason. DNA riders will be ranked last after all NS, DNF and DNS. DNA rider won't score any points at this particular event.

DQ, for DisQualified: A competitor is disqualified if he/she does a major fault such as riding the venue before the contest, enter a closed area during his/her run, failing an anti-doping test, having unethical behavior towards other competitors, hosts or 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 riders do not score any points and doesn't earn any prize money for that event. DQ Athletes could face sanctions like multiple events ban (see chapter "[FWT CODE OF CONDUCT & DUTIES TOWARD FWT](#)").

11.3. Judging complains

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.

12. RIDERS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

12.1. 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 organization. The spread of derogatory messages towards other freeride athletes, hosts, organizers, partners, Judges, employees and organization 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 withdrawal.
- Forbidden area/zone/feature in the venue.
- Starting last of his/her category.

12.2. Coaches Code of Conduct

All members of an athlete's entourage (coaches, agents...) commit to conduct themselves in a manner that honors the sport and demonstrates respect to competition officials, resort employees, fellow FWT Pro 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 riders meeting, start, finish, prize giving area and any other official happening.
- Banned for more than one event.
- Disqualification of his/her team rider.

- Basically any rider sanction.

12.3. Fair and Safe Sport

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

12.4. Mental health and Wellbeing

Awareness and Support on Mental Health: The Freeride World Tour (FWT) recognizes the importance of mental health and acknowledges the potential impact it can have on athletes. FWT is committed to promoting awareness, understanding, and support for the mental well-being of all participants. Any information shared by athletes regarding their mental health will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Athletes can seek assistance or share concerns without fear of judgement or repercussions.

12.5. Concussion

All FWT athletes must familiarize themselves with the [Concussion Guidelines](#) and are responsible for their own wellbeing and recovery. However, FWT will reinforce the following supportive actions:

1. Prevent: Helmet must be in good condition and securely fasten. Riders may be prohibited from taking the start if it's not the case.
2. Caution: The use of mouthguard is strongly recommended during both competition and training. Mouthguards reduce lips, teeth and jaw trauma and are proven to reduce the risk of concussion.
3. Evaluation: Where an injury event with the potential to cause a head injury or concussion occurs, the athlete will have to be examined by a professional at the finish area and/ or by the FWT doctor after the competition. Under suspected concussion and before evaluation, the riders won't be allowed to resume competition (e.g.: in case of two runs).
4. Diagnosis: If a rider is diagnosed with concussion or potential concussion by the present medical staff, the athlete will NOT be allowed to compete and should immediately stop activity until certified suitable by medical staff. The rider will receive a DNS for the missed competition(s).
5. Return-to-play: After a concussion, the athlete should have physical rest and relative cognitive rest for a few days to allow their symptoms to improve or in some cases worsen. The athlete should follow the FIS [concussion guidelines](#). The athlete should not return to play/sport until their concussion-related symptoms have resolved. Athletes will only be allowed back to compete on FWT once they send FWT a medical certificate certifying their ability to return

to competition. Certificates must include the date of concussion and the date of return to competition.

Note: If an athlete wishes, they can request their points to be frozen on the [Global Seeding List](#) following a concussion. As for any other injury, athletes must submit a medical certificate to FWT.

12.6. Sustainability

In response to the growing environmental challenges the world is facing, FWT is willing to take actions and fight this urgent issue that is threatening first and foremost the quality of our lives and, to a smaller scale, the snow sports industry.

FWT's commitment is to engage in a continual improvement process based on a robust sustainable strategy using the "PLAN-DO-CHECK-ACT" approach. In the long term, the success in achieving that strategy and implementing lasting changes will not only rely on the FWT's level of commitment but also on a strong involvement of all stakeholders (staff / volunteers, partners, riders, media) and sanctioned events.

This is why all riders are asked to commit to a sustainable behavior towards other riders, event staff, the community, the environment and think sustainably in every step they take.

Behavior in the mountains: leave the mountains as good or better than you found it (no littering, trash picking...leave no trace)

Mobility: we are travelling all around the world to compete, try to have the lowest impact possible while travelling to events. Use public transportation and carpooling as much as possible.

Safety: we are promoting an extreme sport involving risks related to avalanches, mountains... Keep in mind that you are an inspiration to a large community of freeriders and skiers / snowboarders in general, it is your responsibility to carry a safety related message in your communication would that be on social media, interviews or in your daily life.

12.7. Gender Equality & Inclusivity

Sports is one of the most powerful platforms for promoting gender equality and shaping norms and stereotypes of women and men. As leaders in our sport and communicators within the sports movement, we can set the tone as to how women in sports, and athletes – globally – should be pictured, described, talked about, represented, portrayed, across all forms of media and communication channels. Any prejudicial gender-based comments or behavior will be sanctioned.

13. POINTS SYSTEM

13.1. SKI MEN

Place	Points 4 first stops	Points Final
1	10000	12000
2	8800	10550
3	7920	9500
4	7200	8650
5	6560	7875
6	6000	7200
7	5520	6625
8	5120	6150
9	4760	5700
10	4420	5300
11	4100	4925
12	3800	4550
13	3520	4225
14	3260	3900
15	3020	3625
16	2800	3350
17	2600	3125
18	2420	2900
19	2260	2700
20	2120	2550
21	2000	2400
22	1900	2275
23	1820	2175
24	1760	2100
25	1720	2075
26	1680	2025
27	1640	1975
28	1600	1925
29	1560	1875
30	1530	1835
31	1495	1800
32	1465	1750
33	1430	1725
34	1400	1675
35	1370	1650

13.2. SKI WOMEN, SNOWBOARD WOMEN & SNOWBOARD MEN

Place	Points 4 first stops	Points Final
1	10000	12000
2	8000	9600
3	6400	7675
4	5120	6150
5	4095	4900
6	3275	3925
7	2620	3150
8	2095	2500
9	1675	2000
10	1340	1600
11	1070	1300
12	855	1025
13	685	825
14	550	650
15	440	525
16	350	425
17	280	325