

# FIS CROSS-COUNTRY GUIDELINES FOR JURY WORK

(September 2018)

## 1. Preparation for the jury

The basis for all decisions made by the Jury is the ICR and in considering infractions of the rules the Jury has to take into consideration the specific circumstances of the issue in question (352.1.1). The guidelines are meant to be used by the jury to improve the consistency of decisions and to ensure that sanctions are consistent and appropriate to the infraction. They are advice to the jury on how the ICR is interpreted in the most common cases. For all cases and infractions the jury should follow same decision process described in these guidelines.

The chairman of the jury must make sure that all the other jury members know these guidelines and they should be used as a part of the preparation in the jury meeting before the competition starts.

## 2. Decision process and decision chart

When something happens during a competition, the jury first has to decide whether it's a race incident or whether it is due to an infraction of the rules.

Race incidents happen frequently in mass start and sprint competitions and should be considered as "no case" by the jury.

When the jury considers that one (or more) athletes have made a mistake and/or that a rule infraction has taken place the first step is to check if the consequence of the infraction is fixed by the rules or not (time penalty, DSQ, RAL/WW or monetary fine).

If not the jury has to consider whether the incident is a major infraction or a minor infraction. The assessment of whether an infraction is minor, major is at the discretion of the jury considering 352.1.1.

The second step is to determine whether there is an advantage for the offender or negative consequences for other competitor(s) as a result of the infraction.

If the infraction or mistake is minor and has no practical consequence to the competition, then the sanction may be a verbal reprimand.

If the infraction is minor and results in an advantage for the athlete, or a consequence for other competitors with no practical impact on the final result, and alternative behavior was possible, then the sanction should be a written reprimand (unless the rules state otherwise in specific cases).

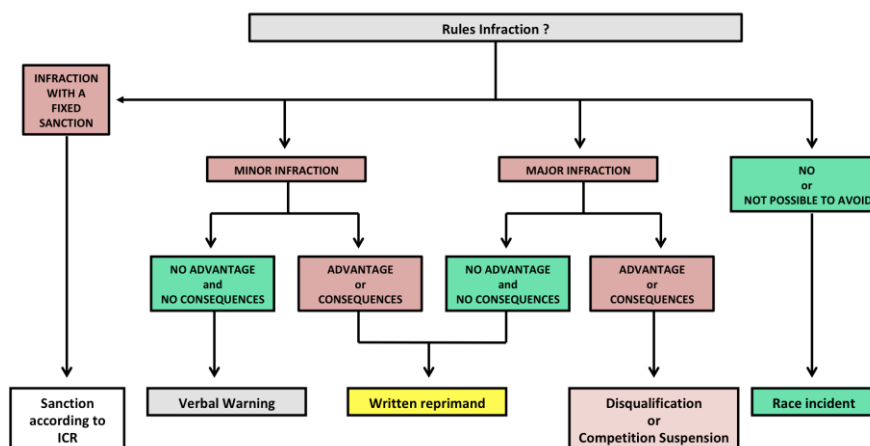
If the infraction is major and results in no advantage for the offender the sanction should be a written reprimand (unless the rules state otherwise for specific cases – e.g. not permitted to start, time penalties etc).

If another competitor's race has been impacted, the jury should consider whether the incident affected the impacted competitor's final result. If there is no impact on the final result, the sanction should be a written reprimand.

If the infraction is major and/or has an impact on the final result of a competition (through advantage for the offending athlete or impacts another athlete's final result), and/or meets the criteria in 352.2.2, or results in an athlete's second written reprimand (352.2.3), then the sanction should be disqualification.

In the case of 352.2.4 (stage events) a DSQ may be substituted with a time penalty under 352.2.4 / 352.4.2 or by a competition suspension under 352.3.

## Decision chart



### 3. Deciding between disqualification and competition suspension (sprint events)

**ICR 223.3.3** A competitor shall only be disqualified if his mistake would result in an advantage for him with regard to the end result, unless the Rules state otherwise in an individual case.

**ICR 352.2.1** Disqualification should be used only for major infractions and for infractions with a clear impact on the final result of a competition.

**ICR 352.3.1** Competition suspension can only be used for ICR Infractions during sprint heats and bonus sprints (both intermediate and finish).

The jury should consider that some of our competition formats are not like a single and unique competition but like a competition within a competition including some “intermediate” competition results. This is the case for:

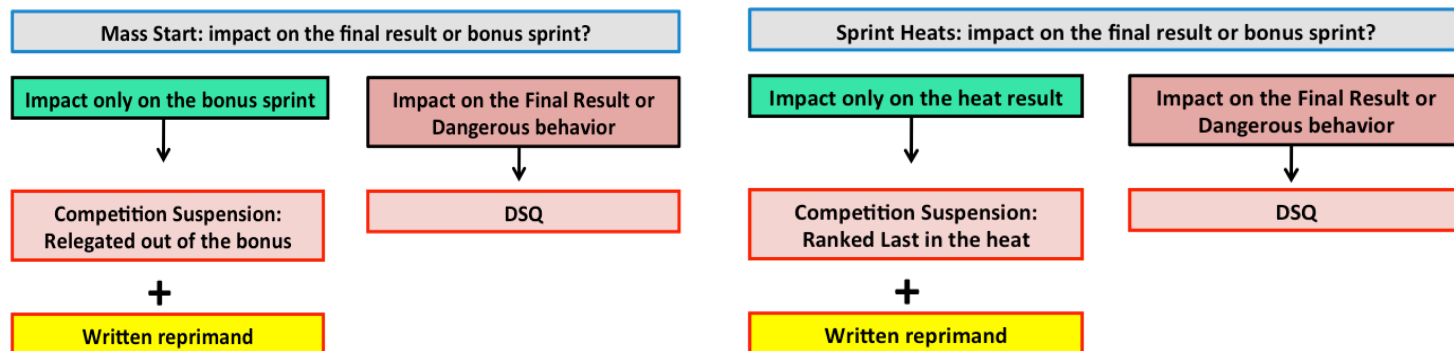
- bonus sprints (both intermediate and finish) in Mass Starts or Pursuits
- ¼ finals, ½ finals or final in sprint competitions. Each round should be considered like an intermediate competition.

When a disqualification or a competition suspension is decided by the decision chart the jury has to consider if the fault has an impact on the final result or only on one of these intermediate competitions results.

A fault impacting the final result or a fault compromising the security of the other competitors should be sanctioned with a DSQ (out of the final result list).

A fault impacting an intermediate result should be sanctioned with a **competition suspension**. Competition suspension means:

- for sprint competitions: ranked last in the heat and last in the round (6th for Final, 12th for ½ finals and 30th for ¼ finals)
- for Mass Starts and Pursuits: relegated out of the result of the bonus sprint



**ICR 352.3.4 Competition suspension will always be accompanied by a written reprimand**

For all other formats, disqualification could only be decided if the fault is impacting the final result, in which case the sanction is automatically a DSQ.

**4. Stage events: time penalties**

During stage events, an offence that is in a normal competition sanctioned with a DSQ is sometimes a too hard sanction because the athlete is not only disqualified for one competition but for several competitions.

Therefore a DSQ can be substituted by a time penalty (ICR art. 352.2.4 & 352.4.2). Using DSQ or time penalty will be the jury's decision. However, the priority will be given to time penalties in multistage events.

In order to guarantee a certain consistency, time penalties are fixed as follows:

- For a false start (early start) in Interval Start competitions or Sprint qualifications: the time penalty should be equal to the competitor's actual time + 15 seconds minimum (ICR 352.4.1.1).
- For a false start (early start) in handicap start competitions: the time penalty should be equal to time gained + 30 seconds minimum (ICR 352.4.1.2).
- For other DSQ cases: 3 minutes time penalty (ICR 352.4.2).

**5. Violation of classical technique rules**

In Interval Start competitions and Sprint qualification any violation of classical technique (for example skating strides to maintain or increase the speed) will be considered to affect the results (due to improved time and better FIS points caused by the skating), and the jury will apply the appropriate sanction regardless of the time difference between skiers, even for a winning athlete.

Diagonal stride technique means the use of alternating diagonal movements of both arms and legs and includes diagonal stride and herringbone techniques without a gliding phase. In diagonal technique only one pole is in the ground at any time.

The Jury will however continue to consider the special circumstances that sometimes might occur in Mass-Start competitions and Sprint/Team Sprint heats.

The jury can sanction a skier for classical technique violations without video evidence. The sanction can be given during the competition.

## 6. Mitigating circumstances

In some very specific and exceptional cases, disqualification can be too hard as a sanction and a written warning could be a message to an athlete that his technique or behavior is on the borderline. This can be:

- Against younger or non-experienced competitors that should get the chance to be educated (ICR 352.1).
- In sections of the course where there is no set track, can be cases where it is difficult to decide whether it is skating or turning technique and how much the athlete is pushing
- In cases where the jury and the organiser can be blamed for unclear track setting.

## 7. Other sanctions

- **Verbal reprimand:** should be used for minor infractions or to inform a competitor that his technique or behavior is on the borderline (ICR 352.6).
- **Monetary fine:** monetary fine should be used for infractions of advertising and commercial markings rules, for minor course discipline infractions, for infractions to ICR 343.5 and for violation of restrictions on ski testing and warming up
- **Withdrawal of accreditation:** when someone is interfering with an athlete in competition during feeding or coaching, intentionally or by accident. Other discipline infractions.

## 8. Evidence material

Every sanction must be substantiated by evidence material such as video, pictures, testimony of Jury members or competition officials.

## 9. Procedural Guidelines (ICR 224):

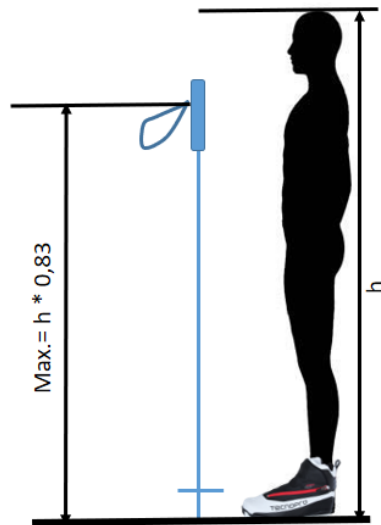
1. The Jury is required to consider all relevant evidence.
2. Witnesses to testify also video recordings /TV pictures (224.5).
3. Consider any mitigating and aggravating circumstances.
4. Sanction appropriate to the offence.
5. All Jury decisions must be recorded in writing (competition secretary) and shall include:
  - The offence alleged to have been committed
  - The evidence of the offence
  - The rule(s) or Jury directives that have been violated
  - The penalty imposed
6. The persons sanctioned must be informed that they have the right of appeal.
7. Written Penalty decisions must be sent to the offender, the offenders NSA and FIS (223.7).
8. All sanctions shall be recorded in the TD Report (223.8).
9. All penalties shall be recorded in the TD Report (223.9).

## 10. Equipment control at classical technique competitions

1. Procedural guidelines
  - It is the responsibility of the jury to decide when and where the control(s) will take place and which athletes will be checked.
  - The Organisers are responsible to provide the measurements devices. The jury should send to the organisers a list of required equipment several weeks before the event.
  - It is not intended to check all the athletes but to carry out a random control. At the beginning of the season, a majority of the athletes should be checked.
  - Pole marking will not be used.
2. Measurement
 

A measurement device should be available during official training, so that athletes can check their equipment themselves. There should be a possibility to perform the measurements before the start and after the finish. If necessary, more than one measurement device should be available.

For popular races a measurement device should be available at every entry to the start box.  
 At mass start competitions, where measurement is not possible before the start, plan to do it after the finish.



**11. Sanctions**

An athlete controlled at the start with non-conforming equipment shall not be permitted to start (ICR 351.2).

Athletes that have used poles during the competition that do not conform with ICR 343.8.1, should be sanctioned. The decision chart should be used to determine the sanction.

**12. Pole exchange in case of broken pole**

If one pole is exchanged, the size of the exchanged pole is not relevant. If both poles are exchanged, they must conform with ICR 343.8.1.