

Ski Cross Course Testing Guidelines for Major Events

Tester role:

The primary role of the course tester is to provide the FIS, OC and course builder/designer with the necessary information needed to deem the course safe for training and competition. This should be seen as an opportunity to ensure the course is built to the highest and safest standards and appropriate level for world cup athletes. Each testing session should not exceed 2 runs down the course. Sections can be tested in addition to the full course test as deemed necessary.

General:

Official course testing should happen prior to the first official training and has to be shown in the official schedule.

If there is a need for exceptions to this protocol (e.g. teams travel delays, schedule changes,...) it must be confirmed with the FIS Race Director or the official FIS/RD representative. This also should be communicated in appropriate time prior to the testing.

Procedure

After the course tester inspection of 45 minutes the start of the test will be assigned by the Race Director. The starting order is decided previous to the start of the test.

After the first run of all the testers the decision is made, if a second run is needed.

When the test has come to an end, all testing athletes and coaches shall meet in the finish area for a course/tester debrief.

The testers will communicate their impressions, feeling and thoughts. During the test, a dedicated number of coaches or staff will be assigned to video on certain sections of the course to provide the footage to the jury and the course builders while analyzing the test prior to the adjustment of the course. Some of the eligible coaches, the Jury and the course builders shall review the testing video footage as necessary and summarize the comments of the test athletes in the final recommendations to the jury/course builder.

Eligibility/Criteria:

The top 32 men and 16 women based off the world cup start list (WCSL) are eligible to be a course tester. From these eligible athletes, each will be given an opportunity to accept an invitation to be a course tester or decline - 4 male and 1 female athlete are required for each venue course test.

Course Tester Selection:

The selection of the course tester should be decided prior to the first TCM of the competition. Each tester can only test once a season. All nations can only have one tester (m/f) at one competition. The host nation will be given 1 tester spot for an eligible tester.

The host nation tester should be ranked in the top 32/16 of the previous years WCSL. The remaining positions will be filled by a men's and women's random draw of the athletes who accepted the course testing invitation.

Random Draw:

Once the testing athletes are assigned, a random draw will be conducted. The following criteria must be applied:

- top 32 men and 16 women on the current SX WCSL
- 1 (one) host nation spot, within the criteria of the WCSL
- athlete(s) have not participated in a course test in the current season.
- only one tester per nation incl. host nation

Connection Athlete

When the testers have been assigned, one male and one female athlete will be designated as the connecting athlete. The connecting athlete shall be identified within the tester group.

Filming:

Coaches are allowed to inspect the course together with the dedicated testers group, and all coaches may shoot video and watch testing from the inside of the race venue.

Non testing competitors: must not enter the race course at any time prior to the official training or the competition. The official testing should be made available to watch from dedicated viewing spots outside the boundaries/fences of the SX course.

Athletes/teams obligations: In order to maximize the quality of the testing, the chosen athletes are required to use race tuned skis and training bibs. Competition crash helmets are mandatory. It is under the obligation of the respective testers' nation to inform the Race Director in time, if a selected athlete cannot take part in the test (injury or travel issues). In that case the RD can nominate a substitute.

Final remark: this testing doesn't replace forerunners. 4 forerunners as required in the WC Rule 2.6 are mandatory and provided by the OC.