

FIS CROSS-COUNTRY GUIDELINES FOR JURY WORK 2012-2013

(Version October 2012)

1. Preparation for the jury

The basis for all decisions made by the Jury is ICR and the Jury has to take into consideration the specific circumstances of the issue in question due to an infraction of the rules. The guidelines are meant to be used by the jury to improve the work and consistency of the decisions. They are advices to the jury on how the ICR is interpreted in the most common cases. For all cases and infractions the jury should follow the 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

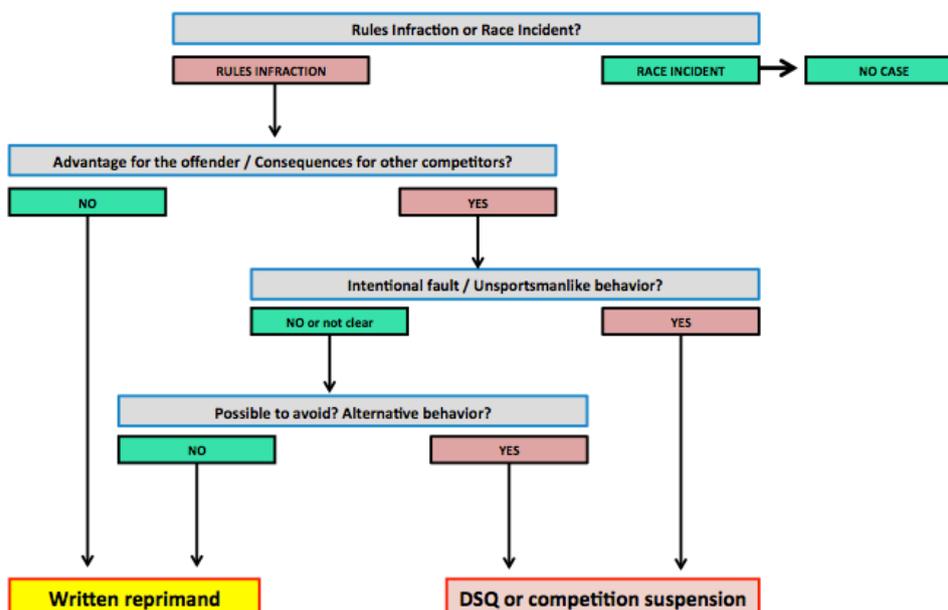
When something happens during a competition, the jury has first to decide whether it's a race incident or whether it is due to an infraction of the rules. Race incidents happen frequently in mass start and sprint competitions and should be considered like "no case" by the jury.

When the jury consider that one (or more) athlete made a mistake the first things to consider are the gain for the offender and the consequences for the offended competitor(s). Without any advantage for the offender the sanction should be a written reprimand.

If the gain for the offender is sufficient the jury should decide if the infraction was intentional or not. An athlete can only be sanctioned with a disqualification if he clearly shows unsportsmanlike behaviour, acts grossly negligently, ruthlessly and/or acting clearly intentionally.

However, deciding whether something was intentional is difficult. If the intention is not clearly apparent, the jury should consider if the offender had the possibility to avoid the incident or not. No alternative behaviour will be considered as mitigating circumstances and the sanction should be a written reprimand. Disqualification or Competition Suspension will be the appropriate sanction if the jury consider that the athlete had the opportunity to act in a different way.

Decision chart



3. Deciding between disqualification and competition suspension?

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.*

The jury should consider some of our competition formats not like a single and unique competition but like a competition including some “intermediate” competitions. 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 plus a written reprimand**. 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



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

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. 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).

4. **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 behaviour 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.

5. **Other sanctions**

- **Verbal reprimand:** should be used only to inform a competitor that his technique or behaviour is on the borderline (ICR 352.6).
- **Monetary fine:** infraction to the commercial markings rules, minor course discipline infractions for team staff and industry (352.7).
- **Withdrawal of accreditation:** when someone is interfering with an athlete in competition during feeding or coaching, intentionally or by accident. Other discipline infractions.

6. **Evidence material**

For World Cup and World Championship competitions every jury sanction must be substantiated by evidence material such as video, pictures, written proof of Jury members or competition officials.. For other competitions it is also recommended but a jury can also react on reports from officially appointed controllers or jury members. A jury should not act on base of comments from athletes or team leaders.

7. **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. Prior to the imposition of a penalty the person accused of an offence shall be given the opportunity to present a defence at a hearing orally or in writing (except in cases of reprimands and withdrawal of accreditation) (ICR 224.7). Exception: this rule does not apply in sprint competition during quarter and semi-finals (ICR 326.6.3).
5. The athlete may be accompanied by one accredited person according to his/her choice at the hearing.
6. Sanction appropriate to the offence.
7. 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
8. The persons sanctioned must be informed that they have the right of appeal.
9. Written Penalty decisions must be sent to the offender, the offenders NSA and FIS (223.7).
10. Any DSQ shall be recorded in the TD Report (223.8).
11. All penalties shall be recorded in the TD Report (223.9).