

Marcello Centurione's

POCKET GUIDE

To Freestyle Snowboard Judging

NOT AN OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

Target Audience: Judges, Coaches, Riders, Parents
Involved in Canadian Regional & Local Grassroots Competitions



STMF - 2020/21 – V2.0

JUDGING STRUCTURE / RULES

**KNOW THE
RULES!**

JUDGING – The comparison of each riders performance based on a set of criteria where a score is given, then sorted from highest to lowest to produce an official rank.

THE JUDGE PANEL – The size of judging panels vary depending on the level of the event. A panel is comprised of a Head Judge (HJ), and scoring judges who score runs independently but can consult the Head Judge or panel to ensure best results are achieved. Judges record notes and a score for each run on a memory board used as a vehicle to produce competition results (Rank – Page 6). The HJ is responsible for the overall performance of the judging panel and event results.

THE JURY – Most contests have a Jury that make official decisions comprised of 3 officials, Chief of Comp or Course (COC), Head Judge (HJ), Technical Delegate (TD). Examples of decisions made, Breaking Ties, Protests (can only protest if you believe a mistake was made in the calculation of the score NOT that your opinion is different than the judges), Disqualifications (DSQ), Did Not Finish (DNF), Did Not Start (DNS), etc., Click / tap [HERE](#) for FIS rule books and other documentation.

RESPECTING RIDERS, COACHES, OFFICIALS, JUDGES – The Judges have an important role at events and are very approachable to discussing the judging criteria, how a comparison was made or score/rank given, etc. However, judges are not obligated to have these types of discussions but believe this open and transparent communication is important towards the proper growth of our sport. Keeping this door open is based on mutual respect .

JUDGING CRITERIA – Part 1



What are judges looking for when scoring a run?

MAJOR FACTOR CRITERIA – Higher weighted criteria.

A good way to remember the top four (4) criteria is **DAVE**.

However, when evaluating a run, or for a rider looking to improve, start with **AMPLITUDE** & **EXECUTION** then **DIFFICULTY** & **VARIETY**.

(Riders that are best in 3 of 4 of these criteria should rank higher)

DIFFICULTY – Adding more rotations, traveling higher / further, grabbing the trick long, doing a trick fakie or switch, landing blind, alley-oops in halfpipe, spinning on and off rail features, etc.

AMPLITUDE – How high / far a rider travels, always measuring from their waist, not from the highest part of the body / board. Bigger is better and each foot higher / further also adds to the **Risk** and **Difficulty** criteria, but only when done in control. Going big, but out of control has negative impact on **Execution** and overall score.

VARIETY – Spinning in different directions and axis (frontside / backside / switch / inverted, corked). Sliding rails in different ways (front/back lipslide/boardslide, 270 on/off, etc.). Using different grabs, do not repeating tricks.

EXECUTION – How well, clean, quiet, and in control a rider completes their trick(s) including take off(s), landing(s). Judges are looking for fluidity when completing a trick, strength and length of the grab. The stability and body control on rail features, completion of the trick and /off rail, and the body and board being quiet in movement. Completing rotations before landing on snow. If it looks easy, feels easy, it means you are executing it right.

JUDGING CRITERIA – Part 2



What else are judges looking for when scoring a run?

DECIDING FACTOR CRITERIA – Judges & riders, focus on these after you have a strong handle on the **MAJOR FACTOR CRITERIA**.

PROGRESSION – Doing tricks that are new and really advanced for the level of the contest. Tricks that are really difficult and not done by too many riders. Doing a trick that has not been done before, or an older trick, done in a new way.

RISK– Every additional foot of amplitude increases risk. Doing very difficult tricks back to back, or at the beginning of a run. Doing tricks that require more balance or hard to land (link to Difficulty).

COMBINATIONS – Linking rotations or difficult tricks together. This is also known as the sequence of tricks.

PIPE USE – ONLY in halfpipe. Looking at overall, flow, energy, and use of the entire pipe. Landing high on the wall, maximizing hits, edging well between hits and not ending your run short.

OVERALL IMPRESSION (OI) JUDGING

All judges evaluate a competitors run / performance, start to finish using / comparing all the criteria mentioned above from an OI perspective. Riders are rewarded based on who satisfies the judging criteria best. Judges are always comparing which run is better or worse with other similar runs. In the FIS system, there are defined ranges of deductions for falls or instabilities (Page 4). Each run is scored on a one hundred (100) point scale.

FALLS & INSTABILITIES



In the FIS system deduction scales are used where each scoring judge determines the level of a fall or instability observed, validated by the Head Judge, and applies a deduction per fall or instability. Judges reward riders for their run then apply the deductions. In other systems, it is applied from a global perspective. Bottom line, an extremely difficult and well executed run, even with a fall can still score well. So riders, don't give up, we can only judge what you show us! Judges, don't ever stop judging until the run is complete!

2020-21 FIS DEDUCTION RANGE FOR SLOPE STYLE:

1 – 5 points (minor mistakes): Ex: unstable body during landings, possible small hand touch, using hands for stability

6 – 15 points (medium mistakes): Ex: light touch downs, heavy hand touches, body contact with snow

16 – 20 points (major mistakes): Ex: hard touch downs, falls, complete falls

2020-21 FIS DEDUCTION RANGE FOR BIG AIR:

1 – 9 points (minor mistakes): Ex: hand touch, drag, off balance, etc

10 – 19 points (medium mistakes): Ex: two hands down, reversing the trick due to instability

20 – 29 points (major mistakes): Ex: body contact with the snow

30 points (huge mistakes): Ex: the body hits snow first

2020-21 FIS DEDUCTION RANGE FOR HALFPIPE:

1 – 10 points (minor mistakes): Ex: flat landings, deck landings, sliding, light hand touches and other instabilities

11 – 20 points (medium mistakes): Ex: extended hand drags, heavy hand touches, light butt checks, and reverts

21 – 25 points (major mistakes): Ex: heavy butt checks, body checks and complete bails (falls)

RESPONSIBILITIES



PRACTICE JUDGING – When riders are training at an event, so are judges. Judges are having discussions on what kinds of tricks riders are doing, course conditions, lines & features that are more difficult, and other things that help prepare the judging panel to give accurate scores when they see the first competition run. The judges are NOT picking who they think will win. The first few scores handed out are the most important. During each round / heat these first few scores set the judges scoring range. When performing practice judging, judges select a run to watch during training, give the run a “pretend” score, and then compare the next run to it. Which run was better and why based on the criteria; they keep doing this comparison work until they are confident they have seen a reasonable spectrum of riding in all categories competing.

JUDGES - PRACTICE & IMPROVE YOUR STENO – STENO means stenography or short hand. Tricks are getting more complex every year and as snowboarding progresses, so should how we judge it. One way for you to progress as a judge is to improve how you record your runs. Share tips on how you steno, find ways to write less, but capture more of what the rider showed you. Watching as much of the run is the most important thing.

Bib	S	STENO	AMP	1-40	40	50	60	70	80	90

(example memory board)

KNOW THE COMPETITION & JUDGING FORMATS/SCHEDULE – Get familiar with the competition & judging formats and how you need to prepare yourself as a judge, rider, coach, official, etc.

RANK



SCORE

VERSUS

Most riders, coaches, parents, and spectators are focused on what score the judges give a competitor in isolation. The score given by a judge, within reason, is a fluid but relative number and should be viewed as valid but general feedback on how well a rider did. However, the more accurate assessment comes when comparing the ranks between riders. In fact, judges use scores as a vehicle or a means to get to a rank. It is the rank that is most important and should be the main focus of all discussions.

JUDGING RANGE – For scoring, each judge uses a one hundred (100) point range. The score a rider receives for a run is from adding up all the individual judge scores for an individual run then averaged by the number of scoring judges. Depending on the competition format and field size, judges may use a different judging range between heats, rounds, age, or gender categories. The Head Judge and judges will determine the best approach on judging ranges used that will increase the success and accuracy of the final results for an event. As a judge, the more accurate you make your scores, while keeping appropriate gaps between them, will allow you to better manage your judging range. Practice judging is mandatory and critical to establishing proper judging ranges prior to a contest. **PRO TIP:** As judges, to save time during an event which is a best one (1) of two (2) run format, if the rider's second run is clearly worse, judges should give scores as accurate as possible but spend half the time in deciding the score because the lower score is not a counting score. It is irrelevant in the ranking process. So coaches and riders, your non counting score maybe less accurate so don't be concerned.

JUDGING RESOURCES

WANT TO BECOME A JUDGE?

Contact your local [PTSA](#) and they should be able to guide you, if not then contact the [Canadian Judges Committee Chair](#).

CANADA SNOWBOARD – SNOWBOARD JUDGES

Click / tap [HERE](#) to access information about judging in Canada.

- How to become a judge
- Judges structure
- Judges education
- Judges Protocol

FIS ON-LINE EDUCATION – SNOWBOARD JUDGES

Click / tap [HERE](#) to access the FIS on-line education platform. This platform is new in 2020/21 and requires a great deal of effort to maintain and grow. All courses are currently available for free so we encourage all judges and coaches in Canada to take as many of these self-paced courses as possible. This will help you're your understanding of snowboard judging.

Other FIS resources

- [FIS Snowboard Documents](#)
- [FIS Judges Handbook \(Snowboard & Freeski\)](#)
- [Judging Forms](#)

TIPS & INFORMATION



BE PATIENT, BE SUPPORTIVE – Regional & Local Grassroots events are mainly driven by volunteers, often new to what is needed in running a Freestyle Snowboard Competition. The event organizers, volunteers, resort staff, officials, etc. want to put on the best event possible for the riders. The riders want to compete in a fun, well organized event. The best way to keep people involved and wanting to make things better is by being patient and supportive.

ASK QUESTIONS – This guide does not have all the answers. If you have questions about something in this guide, or in addition, ask. No matter who, asking questions is the best thing you can do to better your position in helping or performing during a competition. Those being asked questions, **BE PATIENT, BE SUPPORTIVE**. The event can only be as strong and good as our weakest link.



Snowboarding has been a passion of mine since my brother Max brought home his first Burton Elite snowboard. To me, snowboarding is so much more than competition. I have memories and friendships for life and continue to make more with my family and friends, all thanks to snowboarding. Don't forget, snowboarding

competition is wrapping rules and structure around something that was intended to be free. Free to express, to decide what stokes you and your friends. It is in the word to remind you, "Freestyle". So when things don't seem right, or fair during a contest, know that we continue to search for that balance in competition between being able to produce an accurate result, but keeping control & the freedom to express in the hands of the riders. Point it! Slash it!