



Far West Masters Ski Racing

Dan Simmons, President
14790 Slalom Way
Truckee CA 96161
E-mail: president@farwestmasters.org

Steve Slivinski
National Chair
PO Box 981766
Ketchum ID 83340

Bill Skinner
Alpine Masters Manager
P.O. Box 100
Park City, UT 84060

RE: FIS Helmet Regulations

Gentlemen:

The Board of Far West Masters Ski racing concurs with the statement of the New England Masters regarding implementation of FIS helmet standards for Masters racing. While we support standards that will improve the safety of competitors, we endorse the position that implementation of the new FIS standards and the sticker requirement for Masters racers be postponed until the 2016-2017 ski season for giant slalom events. We also concur with the idea, expressed in the New England statement, that racers in super-G and downhill events will be willing to acquire helmets that meet the new standards, although there is a good argument to be made for allowing recently purchased helmets that are labeled as compliant with FIS standards for super-G and downhill events to use those helmets in speed events during the 2015-2016 season.

There are numerous reasons for these conclusions all ably expressed by statements from New England, Northern, and Intermountain Divisions. Many masters have acquired helmets in the last couple of years that bear a label stating that the helmet meets FIS requirements for downhill and super-G, but that do not carry the newly required FIS sticker. Racers who recently acquired these compliant helmets should not be penalized by the absence of the now required FIS sticker that has not been available for helmets purchased as recently as the current season. The added expense of acquiring a new helmet to meet the newly imposed rule will present an undue burden that potentially discourages participation in masters events. In addition, communication of the new requirements and implementation will be a problem for masters racing because we have a diverse and decentralized membership without the team organizations that are commonly available to junior and higher level FIS racers. Application of the FIS standard to GS events will negatively impact efforts to bring in new racers who might want to step up from NASTAR and club racing to a higher level of competition. Deferral to 2016-2017 will allow individuals more opportunity to acquire compliant equipment when manufacturers increase the range of available options.

Sincerely,

Dan Simmons

EC: Far West Masters Board