



Far West Masters Ski Racing

www.farwestmasters.org

SPORTSMAN LIKE CONDUCT

To all Far West Masters Racers:

We are fortunate that race departments and volunteers who support our racing are willing to put on masters events, especially given our smaller field sizes relative to the number of participants at junior and FIS events that bring in far more dollars to the sponsoring area. It is imperative that we behave like responsible adults towards race organizers, area personnel, and the skiing public during our events.

Unfortunately there were several incidents at our recent races at Mount Rose that cause the Board to be concerned. In at least one instance one of our racers who was upset with the course set loudly berated members of the course crew in the finish area and also at the start. There was reportedly also rude behavior to members of the public in the lift line. **THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR.** We all should also keep in mind that the actions of a single individual or group of individuals can reflect badly on the whole organization and could restrict our ability to schedule races and cause a loss of venues.

The USSA Alpine Competition Guide, rule 205.5 states “Competitors must behave in a correct and sportsmanlike manner towards members of the Organizing Committee, officials, and the public.” This is very clear and it is very simple – we expect and require that competitors behave with courtesy and in an appropriate manner. Some of our competitors witnessed conduct by one or more of our colleagues that failed to meet this standard.

USSA Alpine rules paragraph 223 authorizes sanctions for violations of competition rules or unsportsmanlike conduct. The degree of penalty requires a determination of whether a potential offense was based on intentional conduct. Penalties range from a verbal or written reprimand to withdrawal of “accreditation and/or denial of accreditation. For the most part the imposition of penalty is the responsibility of the race jury: the TD, Referee, and Chief of Race. The Board anticipates that our race officials will discuss these issues when they meet for their annual training clinics in the Fall and devise a protocol to address unsportsmanlike conduct problems.

In the meantime, the Board requests to all of us that we comport ourselves appropriately and remind our colleagues to calm down when addressing problems. When we perceive problems in the way a race is being conducted the appropriate action is to raise the issue with a jury member, preferably our referee (whose job is to represent the interests of competitors) and our TD.

Ski racing is a privilege and we need to remember that our behavior at a competition venue reflects on all our fellow competitors and the entire masters ski racing community.

Signed:

The Board of Directors

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