



# IFSS RACE JUDGES REGULATIONS and LICENSING PROCEDURES

## A. General provisions

1. These procedures shall apply in all events governed by IFSS Regulations in order to foster harmonized ruling and rules interpretation.  
Race Judges at all IFSS recognized events (World Championships, Continental Championships, World Cup races or other events with direct IFSS involvement) shall have a Race Judge License issued by the IFSS or shall be IFSS appointed Judge trainees.  
Deviation of this rule is only possible with explicit permission of the Vice President of Sport.
2. The singular shall include the plural.

## B. Race Judges, Officials and Jury

3. Race Judges (RJs) are the rules enforcing Officials at an event.
4. To secure proper rules enforcement the organizing body of an event shall appoint the necessary number of RJ's, in accordance with the required level as per § 13 below. In addition to the RJ's, a sufficient number of Officials shall be assigned by the Organizer or the Technical Organizer to secure a proper and safe progress of the event. (for the definition of Officials, see the IFSS Race Rules page 3, Definitions).
5. One of the RJs shall be appointed Race Marshal (RM). The RM shall have the ultimate responsibility and ultimate authority at the event. Only he/she is entitled to impose a disqualification. His/her decisions are final, unless in case of a disqualification that is promptly appealed to an Appeals Jury if such an authority has been implemented. (see Race Rules 31-34). One of the other Judges shall be appointed Chief Judge.
6. **All RJs are bound** to enforce the Race Rules which are valid at the date of the event including additional rules and/or directions published in the race invitation.
7. The RJs shall form the Jury of the event, with the RM as its Chairman.
8. The Jury shall be summoned by its chairman;
  - 8.1. when requested by one of its members'
  - 8.2. for a hearing
  - 8.3. for reviewing a rules violation which might lead to a disqualification, with the exception of a violation of the Race Rules, by which direct action is required (see e.g. Race Rules 3.1 or 4.2)
9. The opinion of the Jury is advisory. After having heard the Jury's opinion, the RM shall issue his/her decision on the case.

10. The Jury decides whether its deliberations shall be held in closed session or not.

## C. Licenses

11. As per § 1 above, Race Judges **at all IFSS recognized events** shall have an IFSS International Race Judge License or Race Marshal License issued by the IFSS Race Judges and Race Regulations Committee.

**At other events** Judges shall at least have a license issued by a national organization after successful completion of a national seminar. (= National License, see § 13.1 and 19)

In order to prevent misunderstanding or possible incorrect nominations, the IFSS Race Judges and Race Regulations Committee (RJRRC) shall, before nominating a candidate for an International or RM license, contact the applicable Governing Body, the National Federation or the authority, responsible for the Race Judge education in a region/organization. This to confirm that they support the nomination of the candidate. Licensing of IFSS recognized RMs and International Judges is not possible without nomination by the RJRRC.

12. A Race Judge License can be issued either as a general license, covering all styles and classes or a special license for specific styles/classes (Ski Dogs, Sled, Dryland).

It is IFSS' objective to have general licensed RM's however IFSS is allowed to appoint special licensed RJ's, like e.g. ski dog style specialists, to assist at major events. This only if it is of benefit to the sports and/or the progress of an event

### 13. The IFSS recognizes three (3) categories of Race Judge licenses, namely;

13.1. **The National Race Judge License (NRJL)**, which authorizes judging in all functions during national events. National licensees may assist during sanctioned events, but not without explicit permission of the IFSS Vice President of Sport, never as RM.

Training for, issuing and validating the national licenses is the explicit responsibility of the national organizations or the instance authorized by them and shall be corresponding to these regulations.

National organizations are free to decide if the nominees shall fulfil additional demands, like e.g. assisting at national events supervised by an experienced Judge, or that the seminar is sufficient education to become a National Judge. However IFSS strongly recommends to appoint experienced Judges supervising and supporting new Judges. In principle this is a national responsibility, but in case there are no experienced National Judges available one could ask the IFSS Race Judges and Race Regulations Committee to assist. Conditions to be agreed upon.

13.2. **The International Race Judge License (IRJL)** which authorizes judging at national and international events, including sanctioned races and championships but not as RM at World Championships or other major events without explicit permission of the IFSS Vice President of Sport in consultation with the RJRRC.

13.3. **The Race Marshal License**, which authorizes judging in all functions at all events.

14. **To obtain a national license**, the applicant shall prove to the satisfaction of the IFSS or, if the training of National Judges is performed by a non IFSS registered Instructor, to the satisfaction of the national member federation, that he/she fulfils the criteria as laid down by the IFSS (see § 19.1.) or in the Judge Training Manual which will only become available for IFSS recognized seminar Instructors.
15. **Candidates for an IRJL shall** be nominated to the RJRRC via an official instance (eg. national organization.) or upon RJRRC initiative but always in accordance with § 11 above. The nomination shall be attended with proof of performance during major national, preferably international races. The RJRRC shall, if they are convinced the applicant fulfils the criteria as per 20 below, nominate the candidate(s) to the IFSS Vice President of Sport. He/she will take the ultimate decision on awarding the license on behalf of the Council.
16. The IRJL shall automatically be withdrawn if the concerned International Race Judge has not officiated during three (3) consecutive years or if his/her licenses has been withdrawn by the National federation of the licensee. Cancellation of an IRJL under one National federation will be extended to include cancellation of IRJL under all other National federations.
17. The IFSS and, if applicable, national organizations have the right to withdraw or adjust a license for just cause or to order a licensee to pass a test.
18. Re-Instatement of International Race Judge License:
  - i) Suspended International Race Judges may apply to be re-instated after two (2) years.
  - ii) International Race Judges must complete their suspension followed by two event internships under an approved IFSS Race Marshall.
  - iii) Once the two internships are completed, the applicant must apply through their federation for re-instatement.
  - iv) The applicant's federation will make submission to the IFSS Race Judges and Regulations Committee.
  - v) Once the application is reviewed by the IFSS RJRRC, the applicant and the applicant's federation will be notified by the IFSS of the decision.

## **D. Race Judge Education**

### **19. National Race Judge License**

There are various possibilities to become a national licensed Judge:

- a. Via an education program by national/regional appointed trainers from the own organization(s).
- b. Via a national seminar by an IFSS recognized seminar Instructor. As per a above, the national organizations are free to arrange for the education of national Judges via their own ways. But, in order to harmonize judging and rules explanation worldwide, IFSS recommends to invite IFSS recognized seminar Instructors for the initial training of their National Judges, if required assisted by an interpreter.
- c. For those striving to become IFSS International Judge, participation in an official IFSS Race Judge seminar via a recognized IFSS Instructor is mandatory (see b above). After the successful participation in such a seminar, the IFSS Instructor will hand out a certificate as proof of successful participation.

The seminars are, in principle, open for members of all sled dog sports organizations. Only organizations, which do not recognize the non discriminatory intentions of the IFSS, or which are opposing the IFSS or IFSS member organizations are excluded. This means, organizations, in principle working with specific dogs only (for example registered Nordic breeds), are highly welcomed pending they agree with the foregoing. Seminar Instructors shall investigate if the applicant fulfils the above mentioned criteria. In case of doubt, they shall consult the IFSS Vice President of Sport.

19.1. To obtain a **national license**, the applicant shall prove to the satisfaction of an IFSS recognized Instructor or, in case a member organization decides to independently educate the National Judges, a National Instructor, he/she has the necessary knowledge of race organization, enforcement of the Race Rules, the connection between the various rules and also the equipment requirements.

19.2. The **national seminar by IFSS recognized trainers** shall be based on the IFSS Race Judge Program but shall be adapted to the local circumstances and the existing experience in the Sport, the Sports organization and the way the sport is being practiced, like e.g. dryland only. The seminar Instructor shall give plenty of opportunities for questions and /or information on the various aspects of the Sport.  
The seminar for national judges shall be held in the national language. In case an IFSS Instructor is not familiar with that language he shall be assisted by an interpreter who is placed at his disposal by the seminar organizer.

19.3. Member organizations or other instances, which do not have an IFSS recognized Instructor, may request the IFSS Race Judges and Race Regulations Committee to assist. The applicable conditions to be agreed upon!

## 20. **International Race Judge License**

To obtain an **International RJ License**, the candidate shall have participated in an official IFSS Judge Training seminar and have an acceptable command (verbal and in writing) of the official IFSS language.

Candidates shall be licensed national Judges and be nominated to the RJRRC as promising Judges, with proof of performance (Curriculum Vitae with listed races, dates and positions/ duties served, date of participation in an official IFSS International seminar and the name of the Instructor).

20.1. After the nomination, the candidate shall, in principle, serve at least once, but preferably twice as Judge trainee at major races (sanctioned races, international championships, well known races) supervised by IFSS Licensed RM(s).

20.2. If said RM(s) advice(s) positively, the RJRRC shall request the opinion of the concerned member organizations or, if applicable, the instance responsible for the Race Judge education and, at its discretion, request the opinion from possible other sources.

20.3. If the general opinion is positive, the RJRRC will nominate the candidate for the License to the IFSS Vice President of Sport.

20.4. Supplementary to the above, the RJRRC, by way of exception, has the right to nominate candidates, after investigation as per 20.2 above, without further proof. The RJRRC shall be fully convinced that the candidate is correctly trained and has the proven required knowledge and experience to become an international licensed Judge.

## 21. Race Marshal License

The **Race Marshal License** can only be obtained via a nomination by the RJRRC upon its own initiative or upon recommendation to the RJRRC by a member federation/affiliated organization. The RJRRC shall always contact the instances mentioned in 20.2 above and may, at its discretion, request the opinion from other instances before making a decision on nominating a candidate RM.

Candidates shall:

- 21.1. be IFSS international licensed Judge
- 21.2. have proven experience in race organization and race management
- 21.3. have proven experience as RM
- 21.4. have the confidence and respect of organizers and drivers, in principle also outside his/her own country/region
- 21.5. speak and write the official IFSS language as such, that he/she is always clearly understood and preferably have knowledge of one or more foreign languages
- 21.6. be willing to assist in the IFSS Judges training program and/or as advisors to the RJRRC

## E. IFSS Race Judges and Race Regulations Committee

The IFSS Race Judges and Race Regulations Committee shall be appointed by the Council. The IFSS Vice President of Sport is the liaison between the Council and the RJRRC. The chairman of the RJRRC shall be an IFSS licensed RM. Other members of the committee preferably should be an IFSS licensed RM but at least he/she shall have an IFSS International Judge license with a lot of experience at events also outside his/her own country and shall have proven organizational skills and leadership.

22. The RJRRC shall:

- 22.1. In principle be structured in such a way, that at least 3 continents are being represented.
- 22.2. Advise the Council on all matters concerning the IFSS Judge Training Program or other directly sports related matters, like e.g. appointment of Judges at WCs or major events under IFSS supervision / sanctioning.
- 22.3. Strive for the set up, integration and maintenance of an IFSS Judge training program, via recognized Instructors, to educate applicants for National Judge licenses in accordance with the IFSS directions on judge training. The program shall enable the national licensed Judges of proven ability to rise to International Judge and RM.
- 22.4. In order to keep the list of Judges up to date, to follow their performance and to receive data on the requirement of Judge education, install and maintain, in close cooperation with the member organizations, a system through which the member organizations and the RJRRC, on a yearly basis, will be informed on the activities/performance of the Judges.
- 22.5. If locally, or regionally, a Race Judge education program is already in existence, investigate whether the system corresponds to the IFSS goal on harmonizing Judging, If so, incorporate the system in close cooperation with the instance(s) involved.

## F. IFSS licensed Seminar Instructors

The IFSS Race Judges and Race Regulations Committee shall, in close cooperation with the IFSS Vice President of Sport strive for an adequate number of IFSS recognized seminar Instructors and

publish their names and email addresses on the IFSS web site. Only the RJRRC shall nominate potential seminar Instructors to the IFSS Vice President of Sports.

23. **To become an IFSS Instructor** the candidate shall hold at least an IFSS International Judge License all classes and shall have proven experience in all aspects of the sport including the organization- and execution of events.

Additionally, he/she shall;

- 23.1. Have recently participated in- an official IFSS Judge training program or, in case of Judges appointed in accordance with § 20.4 above, be familiar with the IFSS Judge Training program and the Judge Training Manual and acknowledge its intention and rules interpretation.
- 23.2. Have proven skills as an Instructor,
- 23.3. Preferably be able to express himself besides in English also in one or more foreign languages.
- 23.4. Be willing and available to travel to various destinations upon request in cooperation with the RJRRC.
- 23.5. Have the flexibility to adapt a seminar to the local circumstances and sports execution.
- 23.6. In case organizers/participants do not understand and speak English or any other language spoken by the Instructor, be willing to perform a seminar with the assistance of an interpreter.

24. The IFSS Instructors automatically lose their instructor's license as soon as they lose their International Race Judge or Race Marshal license.