

Nordic - SECTION 1

AWSA SKI COMPETITIONS, ENTRY CONDITIONS AND COMPETITION OFFICIALS

COMPETITIONS, TROPHIES AND PRIZES

- 1.1 **Army Competitions.** The nordic competitions that will be held at the Army Championships are listed in Annex A, detailing those which contribute to the Inter Service, Inter Corps, Inter Unit and Individual Combination Championships.
- 1.1.1 Competitions for Men and Women are held in all disciplines; they may be held concurrently or separately. Juniors may have to compete over the distances normally reserved for Seniors; Youths will compete over the same distances as Juniors unless specified otherwise. There may be separate Novice competitions.
- 1.1.2 Technical specifications for all competitions are detailed in Section 3 and Annex B.
- 1.1.3 The AWSA may be requested by the British Biathlon Union (BBU) and/or Snowsport GB (SSGB) to host British National competitions. In these circumstances, the same competition will count as a National and Service/Army competition.
- 1.1.4 The Combined Services Winter Sports Association (CSWSA) routinely invites the AWSA to host the Inter Service Nordic Ski Championships within specific competitions, as detailed in Rule 1.8 and Annex A.
- 1.2 **Trophies & Prizes.** National, Inter Service and AWSA trophies are listed in Annex A.
- 1.2.1 The AWSA trophies for all individual competitions may only be won by serving members of the British Regular Army.
- 1.2.2 In British National competitions run by the AWSA, any British subject may compete for SSGB titles and trophies and, if he is an individual member of the BBU, for BBU titles and trophies.
- 1.2.3 Only unit teams of the British Regular Army may compete for the Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, Cup and for the Kentish Cup. Only unit teams of the British Armed Forces may compete for the SAS Cup.
- 1.2.4 The Championship Committee may award special 'guest' prizes.
- 1.3 **Divisional Competitions.** Divisional Championships should consist of the following competitions as a minimum:
- 1.3.1 **Biathlon:** 4 x 7.5km Men's Relay
4 x 6km Women's Relay
10km Men's Senior and Junior Sprint
7.5km Women's Senior and Junior Sprint
- 1.3.2 **Cross Country (XC):** 4 x 10km Men's Relay
4 x 5km Women's Relay
15km Men's Senior and Junior Classic
10km Women's Senior and Junior Classic
- 1.3.3 **Military Patrol Race:** Open and Women's Military Patrol Race

ENTRY CONDITIONS

- 1.4 **Eligibility.**
- 1.4.1 At the Divisional and Army Championships all British and Commonwealth Army competitors are to be members of the AWSA.
- 1.4.2 All competitors in AWSA competitions must hold a minimum of 3rd Party insurance cover; Competition Organisers are to see evidence before accepting entries.

- 1.4.2.1 Additional Competitor Waivers, e.g. FIS Waiver, may be required by Championship Organisers, particularly in national competitions.
- 1.4.3 All military personnel entering biathlon competitions or the Military Patrol Race are to have passed the appropriate annual Weapon Handling Test (WHT) prior to the Championships; Competition Organisers are to see evidence.
- 1.4.4 Authorised, and therefore funded, Army competitors at the Army Championships must be members of the British and attached Commonwealth Regular Forces, as defined in "Games and Sports in the Army", and, with the exception of National Squad skiers, must have qualified from a Divisional Championship. The qualification system for both teams and individuals is described in Annex C. Exceptionally the AWSA Nordic Chairman may authorise, and therefore fund, additional Army individuals or teams on a case by case basis.
- 1.4.4.1 Non-authorized Army competitors may compete in National competitions, if eligible, and participate in Army competitions, *hors concours* (HC) if not members of the British Regular Army, however they will not be granted funded or duty status by the AWSA; that would be a unit responsibility.
- 1.4.4.2 Notwithstanding the overall finishing position of TA teams in Divisional Championships, they can not qualify for the Army Championships. They may be invited to attend and compete in the SAS Cup at their own expense. (This is subject to a review of TA participation in all Army sport).
- 1.4.4.3 BANSOC reserves the right to decline entries from non-authorized competitors deemed not to have sufficient expertise to cope with the standard of course.
- 1.4.5 Chairman Army Nordic determines the number of funded Army Nordic competitors at Divisional Championships. Others may compete at their own expense, if allowed by the Divisional Exercise Director, and will be eligible to attempt to qualify for the Army Championships.
- 1.4.6 Full definition of the eligibility rules for British National competitions is the responsibility of the BBU/SSGB; in general, any British subject may compete, but has to be a member of the BBU for biathlon competitions.
- 1.4.7 Non members of the AWSA, including foreigners, may be allowed to run HC in any competition at the discretion of the Championship Committee.
- 1.5 **"The Novice/Junior/Youth Rule"**. To be competitive at the Divisional Championships a team (male or female) must include a Novice, Junior or Youth (NJY) skier (see Rule 1.11 for definitions) in at least one of the following races:
- XC Relay; Biathlon Relay; or Military Patrol Race
- 1.5.1 He may ski in any leg of a relay. He may be a Novice or Junior/Youth or both.
- 1.5.2 If a NJY has not raced in one of the mandatory races prior to the Military Patrol Race and a NJY (from the nominated squad of 6 skiers) becomes unavailable, for whatever reason, to compete in the Military Patrol Race, *force majeure* will not be accepted, except to bring another NJY into the squad. The team will be deemed to have failed to meet the correct composition of a patrol (Rule 5.5) and be declared HC for both the Military Patrol Race and the Divisional Championship, as well as being ineligible to qualify for the Army Championships.
- 1.6 **Entries.** Entries for each particular competition are to be submitted by Team Captains to the Championship Office, on the official competition entry form by the stipulated time.
- 1.6.1 **Late entries.** Late entries may be accepted after the Draw has been made at the discretion of the Championship Committee. His name will normally be added to the end of the start list unless 'spare' start positions have been pre-allocated. If more than one competitor is entered late, their starting order will be drawn by lot. The start time of any late entrant must not give him an advantage over other competitors.

- 1.7 **Team Competitions.** The ethos of Army ski racing is firmly based on team competition. At divisional championships there are both male and female unit team competitions; where it proves impossible to form unit teams, particularly for women, Corps teams may be authorised to participate at the discretion of the Championship Organiser. At the Army Championships, only Regular Army male unit teams are permitted; the female team championship will be based on Corps teams formed from qualified individuals (see Annex C).
- 1.7.1 Unit teams must be drawn from a single unit, including personnel permanently attached, as defined in "Games and Sports in the Army", or from amalgamations of units for sport, authorized annually by the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB). There is no separate minor unit competition at the Army Championships.
- 1.7.1.1 Amalgamations of units for sport may either be individuals, small units attached to large units or small units amalgamated together to form a single unit for sport. ASCB authorisation is applied for through Formation HQs.
- 1.7.2 Mixed (male & female) teams are not allowed to compete in biathlon or XC competitions at Army or Divisional Championships; they may however compete in the Military Patrol Race (when declared as part of the unit squad – see 1.7.3).
- 1.7.3 Unit team captains are to nominate a declared squad of 6 skiers prior to the first championship competition. Only these 6 skiers may compete in the unit's 'A' team in any competition - unless the Championship Committee accepts a *force majeure* replacement.
- 1.7.3.1 Female corps squads at the Army Championships are to consist of 4 or 5 individually qualified skiers (see Annex C), declared prior to the first championship competition.
- 1.7.4 Where a unit nominates more than one team for a competition, these teams shall be called 'A' Team and 'B' Team etc. Only the 'A' Team shall be declared competitive for team trophies, combination results etc. However individual members of 'B' or HC teams may still win individual prizes if they are eligible.
- 1.7.5 Other teams may be allowed to run HC at the discretion of the Championship Committee. These are normally to be restricted to races that are exclusively for teams, such as relays and the Military Patrol Race.
- 1.8 **Inter Service Championships.** The Nordic Inter Service Championships are raced under these AWSA rules at the Army Championships; currently there is only a male championship. The competitions are the Biathlon Sprint and the XC Classic. Each Service is to appoint a Team Manager who is to nominate a team of 4, with 3 to count, for each competition, along with a number of reserves. The nominated 4 need not be the same for each competition. Team entries, including reserves, are to be made at the same time as competition entries close.
- 1.9 **Inter Corps Championships.** The Inter Corps Championships are raced under these AWSA rules at the Army Championships.
- 1.9.1 A male Corps team is formed from 6 men, with 4 to count, for each competition (the Biathlon Sprint and XC Classic). The 6 men need not be same 6 for each competition, but in each competition no more than 2 skiers from the same unit may represent their Corps. Attached personnel e.g. APTC, REME are to form their own Corps teams, and do not compete for the Corps to which they are attached. Selection of Corps teams is made automatically from the competition results.
- 1.9.2 The female Corps teams are formed from those individuals who have qualified for the Army Championships. Each Corps is to nominate 4 or 5 skiers to form the squad, who compete in: Biathlon Relay; Biathlon Sprint; XC Relay; XC Classic; Military Patrol Race.

CLASSES OF COMPETITORS

- 1.10 **Competition Year.** The Competition Year or 'season' runs from the previous 1 November to 31 October inclusive (i.e. the 2009 season runs from 1 Nov 08 to 31 Oct 09). A competitor remains in the same category i.e. 'Senior', 'Junior', 'Novice' etc, for the entire Competition Year.
- 1.11 **Definitions of Competitors.** Separate competitions may be organised for the different classes of competitor; alternatively separate classifications' results may be recorded within the same competition.
- 1.11.1 **Senior.** Male and female competitors who have their 21st birthday on or before 31 December shall compete only in Senior (i.e. Men's or Women's) competitions from the season starting on 1 November of the same calendar year. According to gender they shall be classified Men or Women respectively.
- 1.11.2 **Junior.** Male and female competitors who have their 19th or 20th birthday on or before 31 December shall be eligible to start in Junior Men's or Junior Women's competitions from the season starting with 1 November of the same calendar year. According to gender they shall be classified Junior Men or Junior Women respectively. If separate competitions are not organized for them, they shall be permitted to participate in Men's or Women's competitions according to gender. (The FIS definition (art 331.1.3) of a XC Junior is different from that of an Alpine Junior and slightly different from that of the IBU definition, although the effect in January/February, for any National competitions hosted by the AWSA, is the same. Therefore this Rule applies for all AWSA Nordic competitions.)
- 1.11.3 **Youth.** Service competitors who have not yet reached the Junior Men's or Junior Women's age as defined above are classified as Youth Men or Youth Women respectively. If separate competitions are not organized for them, Youth Men are permitted to compete as Junior Men and Youth Women are permitted to compete as Junior Women. Note: separate national XC Boys and Girls competitions may be organized for those who have not reached their 16th birthday on or before 31 December of the current season.
- 1.11.4 **Veteran.** Male and female competitors who have their 34th birthday on or before 31 December shall be classified Veteran Men or Veteran Women respectively. According to gender they shall start only in Men's or Women's (i.e. Senior) competitions from the season starting on 1 November of the same calendar year.
- 1.11.5 **Novice.** A nordic Novice is a competitor who has not skied on 'nordic skis' on snow before 1 July, preceding the current season (see Rule 1.10). The only Army exception is for officers who have attended the RMAS winter adventurous training exercise. 'Nordic skis' are defined as any form of ski not having a fixed heel binding, e.g. Touring, NATO, Cross Country skis etc.
- Note: This rule will be strictly enforced and checked with Units prior to the start of racing. "Before the current season" includes any time, military and/or civilian.
- 1.11.6 **Territorial Army.** A competitor who is a member of the Territorial Army (i.e. is a reservist and not Regular Army attached) is a TA competitor.

Tabular Definition of 1.11

An athlete is	Veteran	Senior	Junior	Youth	Novice
Season (years)	if born in or before		if born in	if born in or later than	if not on Nordic skis before
2009 (08 - 09)	1974	1987	1988 & 1989	1990	1 Jul 08
2010 (09 - 10)	1975	1988	1989 & 1990	1991	1 Jul 09
2011 (10 - 11)	1976	1989	1990 & 1991	1992	1 Jul 10
2012 (11 - 12)	1977	1990	1991 & 1992	1993	1 Jul 11

CHAMPIONSHIP OFFICIALS

1.12 Championship Committee.

1.12.1 A committee of officials is responsible for the detailed organisation of every championship and the competitions within it. At the Army and Divisional Championships, all serving committee members are to be members of the AWSA. The Committee is to ensure that each competition is organised and run in accordance with the prescribed rules. They may only adapt them in a minor detail to suit local conditions provided that such alterations are within the spirit of the rules, and are made known to team captains well before the start of the competition.

1.12.2 The Championship Committee is to be chaired by the Chairman/Ex Director and will normally consist of the following officials:

Championship Chairman/Ex Director
Championship Secretary/Chief of Staff
Chief of Competition
Technical Delegate (TD)
Chief of Course
Stadium Manager
Starter
Finish Judge
Chief of Timing and Calculation
Chief of Range
OC Military Patrol Race
Chief of Logistics/QM
Sponsorship/PR Manager

1.12.3 At all championships, especially those below Army level, officials may be required to carry out the tasks of more than one appointment.

1.12.4 The duties and responsibilities of the Championship Officials are given in Annex D.

1.13 Competition Jury.

1.13.1 The Competition Jury is the authority to make decisions about the competition, related arrangements and conditions to ensure fairness and correct procedures. It shall impose penalties and disciplinary measures for rule violation; rule on competition situations not stipulated in AWSA, IBU or FIS Rules; and review and decide on all protests submitted to it. Duties of the Competition Jury are detailed in Annex D.

1.13.2 The Competition Jury is to base its decisions on these AWSA Ski Race Rules, supplemented if necessary by reference to IBU or FIS Rules, as appropriate; for national races the ultimate authority is the IBU or FIS rules. The Competition Jury has the authority to decide on all matters that are not covered in the Rules. Decisions are made by a majority vote; in the case of a tie, the TD has the casting vote.

1.13.3 Before a Competition Jury can impose a penalty, the competitor affected and/or his team captain must be given a hearing, as far as possible and feasible.

1.13.4 The Competition Jury is chaired by the TD and consists of at least 5 members:

Chair:	Technical Delegate
Ex Officio Member:	Chief of Competition
Ex Officio Member:	Chief of Course
Ex Officio Member:	Chief of Range (only for biathlon)
Ex Officio Member:	Starter or Finish Judge
Elected Member:	A Team Captain
Reserve Elected Member:	Another Team Captain

1.13.5 **Team Captain Members.** The Team Captain Member represents the competitors' interests on the Competition Jury; a Reserve Team Captain Member is required to replace the original selection, where Competition Jury has to deliberate on an incident involving a competitor from the original Member's team. The election of team captains to the Competition Jury shall be conducted by the TD during a Team Captains' meeting before official training for that competition starts. There should be a separate election for each competition, or set of competitions run concurrently, but there is no limit on the number of times a Team Captain may be elected. Nominations of candidates may be made by the TD or Team Captains. If there is only one candidate for each position, no vote will be necessary and the candidates shall become Competition Jury members by acclamation. If there are more candidates, a vote must be taken from the Team Captains only. A simple majority will elect a Competition Jury member.

1.14 **Team Captains' Meeting.**

1.14.1 A meeting of team captains and race committee members should be held each day to determine details of the following days' administration, competitions and training.

1.14.2 Only in exceptional circumstances should the details laid down at this meeting be changed after the meeting. For example, a sudden and considerable change in the weather might be reasonable grounds for change.

1.14.3 Rule 1.14.2 does not apply to a change in group running order decided by the Competition Jury because of a change of weather (see Rule 2.8).

1.14.4 **Attendance.** A representative from each participating team and members of the Competition Jury (AWSA Rule 1.13) will attend Team Captains' meetings. The Chief of Range should attend prior to days of authorised shooting on the range.

1.14.5 **Agenda.** The following items should be covered in each Meeting:

- Roll call
- Selection of Team Captain representatives for Competition Juries (at first meeting)
- Debrief from previous competition in order to highlight good and/or bad points.
- Technical briefing for next competition, including TD's points
- Weather forecast
- General administrative points.

1.14.6 Start lists and start numbers for the following day's competitions should be available for collection by teams at the end of the meeting.

SPONSORSHIP AND COMMERCIAL MARKINGS

1.15 The IBU Rules for Advertising, FIS art 206 & 207 and FIS Advertising Guidelines apply to both championship organisers and competitors. Competitors should take care that the display of private sponsorship does not breach these rules, but can be assured that commercial markings on equipment on sale to the general public will be compliant.

1.16 Sponsorships accepted for various competitions or championships shall be published in the first bulletin of a meeting. Sponsors may provide bibs and Start and Finish banners displaying their company logo etc.