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BRSC Race Rules

Version 2.5e

for the 2007-2008 Race Season

As approved at the BRSC Fall Meeting, 9/29/07

These rules establish the policy for Council-sponsored recreational races. They describe the responsibilities of the elected and appointed Blue Ridge officials; of each club's trip leader; and of the racers themselves.

Background: Race rules were first discussed by an ad hoc race committee during the 1995 BRSC spring meeting. After committee discussion and presentation to the delegates, the Council President asked that the proposed rules be summarized and presented for approval at the fall meeting. The desire was to adopt a set of rules that could be used for both the Western Carnival and the eastern "Winterfest" or "Ski-O-Ree."

Proposed rules were distributed for comment at the fall 1995 meeting. Minor changes were discussed in committee and briefed to the meeting. The rules were then approved by vote of the delegates. Since then, minor changes that enhance the competition have been discussed at Council meetings, approved by the delegates, and incorporated into subsequent versions of these Rules.

This version of the rules is unchanged from last-winter's rules – Version 2. 5d.

I. Race Eligibility

I.1 Basic Eligibility: Skiers must be members in good standing of a participating BRSC club in order to race. Racers must normally be actual trip participants, i.e., they must actually be "on the trip" and be listed on their club's trip roster as established with the trip broker or with the appointed BRSC Trip Coordinator.

I.2 Exceptions: Exceptions may be made in limited circumstances, as follows, for club members who are not actually "on the trip".

a. A club may have members in good standing who are resident in the ski area, or who are otherwise furnishing their own transportation and lodging. Such skiers may be allowed to participate in the racing only if they "buy into" the trip by paying in advance for the "ground package" consisting of the trip's parties, meals and racing, at a cost established by the trip broker or by the appointed BRSC Trip Coordinator. Trip leaders shall make special note to the Trip Race Coordinator (to be confirmed by the trip broker or the appointed BRSC Trip Coordinator) of any skiers participating in the race under this exception.

b. Exceptions may also be made, at the discretion of the Trip Race Coordinator, for skiers who may be bonafide trip members, but who are not actually members of a participating club. A possible example of this situation is the occasional participation of members of ASIA (Amateur Ski Instructors Association) who have participated in Blue Ridge trips as a group, but who have not necessarily been members of a Blue Ridge club. Such skiers may be allowed to participate in the racing and to compete for *individual* awards as described below, but they shall be ineligible as a group to compete for *club* awards.

II. Race Registration

II.1 Responsibilities: Each club's trip leader shall be responsible for the registration of their club's racers. The appointed Trip Race Coordinator shall provide any required registration materials and procedures, including notification of any submission deadlines, to each club's trip leader a nominal two months in advance of the trip's departure.

II.2 Pre-Registration & Nastar Online Registration:

a. For races to be conducted in Nastar format, racers will be expected to be registered online with Nastar prior to the trip. This is a lifetime registration; it need not be repeated each winter.

b. The appointed BRSC Trip Race Coordinator may require the pre-registration of each club's anticipated racers *before the trip departs*. This will typically consist of a listing of each racer's name, gender, Nastar ID Number and birthdate. This information is necessary to allow the Trip Race Coordinator to develop a realistic race-day schedule based on the approximate number of racers expected from each club, to coordinate the schedule with the host resort prior to the trip, and to prepare a data file for the resort.

c. The Trip Race Coordinator may establish a deadline, nominally three weeks prior to the trip's departure, by which the trip leaders shall submit their pre-registration lists. As discussed further below, *clubs failing to meet this deadline risk their chances for an early start time, and **clubs whose pre-registration lists are not received at least three days prior to the trip's departure may be denied participation in the race.***

II.3 Final Registration: In addition to the pre-registration list, each trip leader may be required to submit additional specific registration materials for their club's final list of racers, normally at the trip's "welcome party" or similar social gathering, after arrival at the resort but prior to the race. Logistics may in some cases require that final registration materials be submitted prior to a trip's departure. The following specific materials would normally be required for a Nastar-format race; the required blank forms would be provided to the trip leaders by the Trip Race Coordinator prior to the trip's departure:

- A signed Nastar Registration Contract and Release form for every racer (some resorts require this even for racers already registered with Nastar).
- A resort-specific liability and release form that may need to be signed by every racer, depending on the requirements of the host ski area.

II.4 Home Club Considerations: In instances where a skier who is a member of *Club A* joins the trip led by *Club B* because of transportation and/or lodging considerations, that skier may choose to participate in the racing as a representative of either the *home club* (Club A) or the *host club* (Club B). Since such skier is a bonafide participant on the *Club B* trip, it shall be the responsibility of the host trip leader (Club B) to offer race participation to the skier. The skier may then choose whether to race as a representative of either the host or home club. If the skier chooses to represent the home club, the host-club trip leader shall advise the skier to contact the home-club trip leader to make arrangements for race registration and any other logistics associated with the racing.

III. Race Order and Schedule

III.1 Racing shall be conducted on a club-by-club basis in the order described in III.2 below.

a. The Trip Race Coordinator shall develop and announce a schedule of starting times based on the expected number of racers from each club. The schedule shall be developed in coordination with the host resort, accounting for the anticipated time between starts, the length of the course, and the estimated time required for a racer to return to the start for a second run.

b. The Trip Race Coordinator shall strive to develop a realistic schedule that minimizes the time spent waiting to race. This goal must be balanced with the resort's need to avoid having the course vacant. Accordingly, smaller clubs may be grouped with other clubs to provide enough racers to keep the course active while the first racers in each club cycle back for their second run.

c. A measure of slack time shall, if possible, be allowed between scheduled club starts in case of minor delays. However, racers must understand that technical problems, snow conditions, or on-course injuries have the potential to delay the racing. Patience and understanding are always appreciated in such situations.

III.2 Clubs whose pre-registration lists are received by the Trip Race Coordinator by the established pre-trip deadline will be included in a random drawing for earliest start times. The drawing shall be conducted by the Trip Race Coordinator and at least one additional BRSC Official representing a different ski club than the Trip Race Coordinator. For the purposes of this drawing, a BRSC Official is defined to include the BRSC President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer; the appointed Trip Coordinator; the appointed Trip Race Coordinator; the president of any member ski club; or the trip leader or trip racing coordinator from any participating club.

III.3 Clubs whose pre-registration lists are received by the Trip Race Coordinator *after* the established pre-trip deadline but *at least two days prior to the trip's departure* will be seeded in the order received by the Trip Race Coordinator (random draw for ties). Clubs whose pre-registration lists are not received at least two days prior to the trip's departure *may be denied participation in the race*. If such disqualification appears necessary, it shall be confirmed by consultation and a majority vote between the Trip Race Coordinator, the Trip Coordinator, and the Council President.

III.4 Any participating *non-club* groups as described in I.2.b above shall be seeded *after* bonafide clubs meeting the pre-registration deadline, presuming they have met the deadline. If they fail to meet the deadline, they shall be seeded as described in III.3 above.

IV. Conduct of the Race

IV.1 Course Inspection: Prudence dictates that participants be allowed, and take the opportunity, to inspect the course prior to racing. The Trip Race Coordinator shall prevail upon the host resort to have the course prepared at least one-half hour prior to the start of the race to allow such inspection. Racers shall be allowed to inspect the course within this time-frame by skiing slowly down the hill in the area adjacent to the gates, taking care to avoid the timing mechanisms at both the start and the finish. Depending on course condition and the procedures dictated by the host resort, a limited number of skiers may be allowed to conduct their inspection by side-slipping or snowplowing the course. However, in no case shall racers be allowed to ski next to or through the course at "cruise" or "race" speed during inspection.

IV.2 Course Maintenance: The host resort's race staff will normally be responsible for the technical and administrative conduct of the race. However, if the course becomes badly rutted and the resort does not maintain it to the Trip Race Coordinator's satisfaction, volunteers may be sought from each club to side-slip or snowplow the course after their group finishes racing.

IV.3 Race Preparation and Starting:

a. Racers should report to the start-gate 15 minutes before their club's scheduled start time with their race bibs already affixed. Promptness is essential; if the race is running smoothly, clubs may be started ahead of their scheduled start-time.

b. Racing shall be conducted in nominal bib-number order. Racers arriving after their number has been called may be placed at the end of their club. Racers arriving after their club has finished racing will normally be disqualified from racing; they may, however, be allowed to start at the discretion of the Trip Race Coordinator, depending on the circumstances.

c. Each racer will be allowed two starts (one on each course). Racers shall start within a nominal three seconds of receiving the "go" signal from the starter.

d. If the race is conducted in a dual-course format, racers may make only one start on each course. If a racer errs and makes both starts on the same course, the better result shall be disqualified and the poorer result shall be used for the competition; except that if only one start resulted in a valid finish, that run shall be allowed to count for the competition.

IV.4 Race Conduct:

a. Racers shall follow any instructions given by the resort staff or by Blue Ridge officials. Conflicting instructions shall be brought to the attention of the Trip Race Coordinator who shall adjudicate any conflict.

b. Racers who fail to successfully ski past the first gate may, at the discretion of the Trip Race Coordinator and depending upon circumstances, be allowed one re-start without disqualification.

c. Racers will be disqualified for missing a gate.

d. Racers who fall in the course, without losing a ski, may get up and continue the race. If they have missed a single gate, they may walk back up, make the gate, and continue racing without disqualification; if they have traveled past the next gate, they shall be disqualified, and shall move to the side of the course as quickly as possible to allow the race to continue.

e. Racers who lose a ski in the course shall, in the interest of keeping the race on-schedule, be disqualified, and shall move to the side of the course as quickly as possible to allow the race to continue. Exceptions shall be allowed for skiers who lose a single ski within two gates of the finish. Such skiers shall be allowed to finish the race on one ski, without disqualification, as long as they make all the gates.

f. Racers who believe they have suffered interference shall immediately discontinue racing; shall if possible attract the attention of a race official; and shall ski off the course without activating the timing mechanism at the finish. A restart will normally be allowed. If, however, the racer skis through the finish, the run shall count as-raced and no protest will be allowed.

g. Racers believing their results have been posted in error shall immediately contact the Trip Race Coordinator, who shall attempt to resolve the situation. The only remedy that will normally be available will be a re-start of the run in question.

h. Conduct deemed unsportsmanlike by the Trip Race Coordinator can cause a racer to be disqualified from the race.

IV.5 Race Cancellation Contingencies: If deteriorating course or weather conditions force cancellation of the race before all clubs have participated, the Trip Race Coordinator shall convene a meeting of BRSC Officials, as defined in III.2 above, to consider a plan of action. Each club shall be offered an opportunity to provide a representative to the meeting.

V. Race Scoring and Awards

Nastar medals (if racing was conducted in a Nastar format) should normally be awarded at the finish line if the resort is sufficiently equipped and staffed to accomplish this during the race. This gives immediate feedback and recognition to the racers, and may be especially encouraging to skiers who may be racing and/or earning medals for the first time. If the resort is not so-equipped, the Trip Race Coordinator shall obtain the medals earned by each club and provide them to the trip leaders for presentation to their racers.

Blue Ridge award categories are designed to recognize the racing performance of individuals, and both the racing performance and the participation level of the participating clubs. Presentation of awards shall normally be conducted at the last group social event of the trip. The Trip Race Coordinator shall be budgeted, either by the trip broker or by the Council, to obtain suitable honorary awards to present in recognition of these achievements.

V.1 Race Scoring:

a. Scoring shall be determined by the better of each racer's two possible runs.

b. Ties for *individual* awards (i.e., the *fastest racer*, *fastest rider* and *age group* awards) shall be decided by considering both runs — not just the faster run. Ties for *club* awards shall be decided as described in V.5 and V.6 below.

c. In a dual-course Nastar-format race, the Trip Race Coordinator shall strive to have the resort establish a separate *par time* for each course, and shall base the competition upon Nastar handicaps rather than raw finishing times. This method helps normalize the results, especially if the conditions differ significantly between the two courses.

d. Dual-course Nastar scoring shall be accomplished using *fractional handicaps* rather than finishing times. Fractional handicaps are defined as follows:

Rather than using the integer handicaps that may be recorded by the resort, handicaps shall be re-calculated to two decimal places. Example: A finishing time of 22.41 seconds on a course with a par time of 19.56 seconds yields a handicap of 14, as follows: $22.41 \div 19.56 = 1.1457$. 22.41 is 14.57% slower than 19.56, which, for medal purposes, is truncated to an "integer" handicap of 14. The fractional handicap would be 14.57.

e. If the race was not conducted in a Nastar format nor in a similar handicapped format such as the (now defunct) Canadian STAR system, the scoring shall be based on finishing times rather than on Nastar handicaps.

f. The raw tabulation of results is normally the responsibility of the host resort's race staff. The Trip Race Coordinator shall coordinate closely with the resort — before the trip, and both during and after the

race — to help ensure the accuracy and integrity of the results. The resort shall be implored to provide a tabulation of the results which unambiguously identifies each racer's finishing times, the "runs" they were made on (i.e., the racer's first or second start), which course was used for each run, and whether any disqualification was imposed (to include the reason).

g. Further tabulation and scoring of the race will normally be required to determine the winners of the awards described below. This shall be the responsibility of the Trip Race Coordinator, with assistance as may be required from other BRSC officials on the trip.

h. The results determined by the Trip Race Coordinator shall be verified by at least one other BRSC Official, as defined in III.2 above, representing a different ski club than the Trip Race Coordinator. The results shall be verified at a meeting convened by the Trip Race Coordinator. The meeting shall normally be convened not later than the evening preceding the scheduled awards ceremony; this may not be possible considering the time necessary to tabulate the results and the time available between the race and the ceremony. Each participating club shall be offered an opportunity to provide a representative to the meeting. Score-sheets tabulating each club's raw results shall be distributed to each club attending the meeting. Any protest of the scoring must be made during the meeting, except as described below for individual racers' results.

i. If the result recorded for any individual racer is disputed, such dispute shall be presented in writing to the Trip Race Coordinator, the President, or the Trip Coordinator by the president, trip leader or trip racing coordinator of the racer's club. The dispute must be presented within 24 hours of the convening of the results verification meeting, or by noon on the day of the scheduled awards ceremony, whichever occurs first. The only remedy that will normally be available is a careful re-checking of the results as recorded and provided by the host resort.

V.2 Overall Fastest Racer Awards: The overall fastest male and female racers shall each be recognized with suitable awards.

V.3 Age-Group Awards: The fastest male and female racers within each of the following age categories: 20 & under; 21-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; and 70 & over; shall be recognized with suitable awards. Rankings shall be based on the handicapped "medal points" determined by how close each racer comes to winning a Nastar gold medal. [Note: Nastar introduced a new handicap system for the 1999-2000 race season that divided the former 10-year age categories into 5-year categories. The system gives a typical 2-5 point handicap advantage to racers in the upper-half of their former 10-year age categories. Nastar now does a statistical analysis at the end of each season and adjusts the handicap chart so that it correctly represents the current NASTAR population.] Handicap "discounts", as published by Nastar and tabulated below, shall be allowed for participants competing on snowboards and for physically challenged skiers. Budget permitting, first through third-place awards shall normally be presented.

V.4. Fastest Rider Awards: The fastest male and female racers competing on snowboards shall be recognized with suitable awards. Until it is determined that there are enough riders to provide a substantial level of age-group competition, all male riders shall compete as a group, and all female riders shall compete as a group. Rankings shall be based on the handicapped medal points described in V.3 above. Budget permitting, first through third-place awards shall normally be presented.

V.5 Club Participation Award: This award is designed to encourage even "never-ever" racers to give recreational racing a try. Although racing certainly involves some risk, it is widely recognized as one of the best ways to improve your skiing. Racing adds another dimension to your skiing, and *it can be a lot of fun!*

a. Awards shall be presented to the clubs that have the highest percent participation in the race. Scoring shall be based *solely* on the percentage of a club's skiers who start the race. A skier need not successfully complete even a single run to count, although a best effort is expected. Skiers perceived by the Trip Race Coordinator or other BRSC official as making a fraudulent or token appearance in the starting gate with no intention of completing the race may be disqualified.

b. The percent participation shall be determined by dividing the number of skiers who start the race by the number of skiers who are on the trip representing each club.

c. Each club's *number of skiers on the trip* shall be adjusted downward as necessary so clubs aren't unfairly penalized if they have non-skiers; first-time skiers, very young skiers (pre-teens) or physically challenged skiers who may choose not to race; or injured skiers who are physically unable to race. It is therefore imperative that trip leaders provide the Trip Race Coordinator with an accurate accounting of any such trip participants. Such accounting shall be provided to the Trip Race Coordinator not later than the scheduled start of each club's racing.

d. Each club's *number of skiers on the trip* will also be adjusted appropriately to reflect *home club* considerations as discussed in II.4 above. Skiers in such circumstances who choose to participate in the racing shall be counted as a member of whichever club they race with. Such skiers who choose not to race shall not be counted against either their home or host club.

e. Competition is restricted to clubs with a count of ten or more skiers on the trip. This limitation is imposed to prevent a skewing of the results by clubs with very few participants; past Blue Ridge trips have had clubs represented by as few as four skiers.

f. In the case of a tie, the club with the larger number of skiers who started the race shall prevail. If still tied, the club with the smaller membership base shall prevail.

g. The top three clubs shall be recognized with suitable awards.

V.6 Club Performance Award:

a. Awards shall be presented to the clubs which post the best results based upon the handicapped "medal points" earned by their best male and female racers, as described below.

b. After the racing is complete (i.e., during the race scoring process), an *ad hoc team* shall be identified for each club consisting of the three men and two ladies earning the best *medal points*, as defined below. Clubs with fewer than three males or two females finishing the race are not eligible in the competition.

c. *Medal points* are calculated by subtracting from each racer's best-run *fractional handicap* (described in V.1.d above) the handicap needed by that racer, in their age and gender category, to earn a Nastar gold medal. Handicap *discounts*, as published by Nastar and tabulated below, shall be allowed for participants competing on snowboards and for physically challenged skiers. The better a racer's performance, the lower will be their medal points earned. Example:

A male racer in the 40-44 year age group requires a handicap of 21 or lower to earn a Nastar gold medal. If that racer should earn a best-run fractional handicap of, say, 23.38 (i.e., a silver medal), then he has earned a "medal point" of $23.38 - 21.00 = 2.38$. If he should earn a fractional handicap of, for instance, 16.45, then his medal point would be negative: $16.45 - 21.00 = -4.55$.

d. The medal points of the five team members shall be added together and results compared amongst all the participating clubs. The club whose ad hoc team posts the lowest medal point total shall prevail.

f. In the case of a tie (however unlikely), the club with the higher participation, as defined in V.5 above, shall prevail.

g. The top three clubs shall be recognized with suitable awards. Budget permitting, it would be appropriate to present awards to the individual members of the winning teams.

V.7 Snowboard and Physical Challenge Discounts: The Medal Points scored by participants competing on snowboards, on telemark skis, or by physically challenged skiers shall be adjusted based upon the published Nastar *Special Handicap Discounts* as follows; trip leaders shall make special note to the Trip Race Coordinator of any snowboarders, telemarkers or physically challenged skiers planning to participate in the race:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>DISCOUNT</u>
SNOWBOARDERS	10
TELEMARKERS	10
UPPER EXTREMITY IMPAIRMENT	
(impairment of 1 arm)	5
(impairment of both arms)	24
BLIND SKIERS	
Totally Blind (B1)	100
Visually Impaired (B2)	45
Partially Sighted (B3)	35
TWO-TRACK SKIERS	10
(2 skis & poles)	
THREE-TRACK SKIERS	20
(1 ski & 2 outriggers)	
FOUR-TRACK SKIERS	40
(2 skis & 2 outriggers)	
MONO SKIERS	23

In the example above, our 40-44 year old male racer had a *Gold-Medal Point* of 21. His hypothetical fractional handicap of 23.38 earned him a silver medal and a medal-point score of $23.38 - 21.00 = 2.38$. Had the same racer been, for example, a two-track skier, his Gold-Medal point would have been adjusted by 10 points to $21 + 10 = 31$, and his hypothetical fractional handicap of 23.38 would have earned him a gold medal and a medal-point score of $23.38 - 31.00 = -7.62$.

VI. Race Reports

VI.1 Award Ceremony Report: The Trip Race Coordinator shall strive to prepare a report, summarizing the results and the awards presented, for distribution to each club at the conclusion of the

awards ceremony. The ability to provide this report in so timely a manner will depend on the resources available during the trip (computer, printer, copier, etc.) and on the time available between the race and the ceremony. In any case, at least a minimal report shall normally be provided to each club, together with the club's raw results (Nastar Result Sheet or equivalent), prior to the conclusion of the trip.

VI.2 Post-Trip Report: The Trip Race Coordinator shall distribute a report, summarizing the results and the awards presented, to attendees at the spring BRSC meeting following the trip.

VII. Exceptions

These rules are intended to apply to all Council-sponsored recreational races conducted during Council-sponsored trips. Nonetheless it is recognized that these rules are quite comprehensive in nature and that it may be difficult to follow them to the letter, particularly on smaller trips (i.e., the eastern "Winterfest" or former "Ski-O-Ree"). Any relaxation of these rules deemed necessary should be coordinated between the BRSC Officials, as defined in III.2 above.

Respectfully submitted,

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