# Alpine Officials Certification Matrix
## SEASON 2027 (CHANGES IN BLUE FONT)

**The U. S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Officials Certification Matrix has been developed to illustrate the pathway for Alpine Officials to develop and progress through the system. This matrix contains suggested competency based criteria. An individual's past experiences and opportunities should be taken into account when considering promotion. Ultimately, advancement should recognize proven judgment, ability, and service.**

| SPECIALTY CATEGORY | PREREQUISITES | LEVEL 1 | LEVEL 2 | LEVEL 3 | LEVEL 4 | LEVEL 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *GETTING STARTED* | *ACQUIRE BASIC KNOWLEDGE* | *REFINE KNOWLEDGE / SPECIALIZATION* | *MASTER COMPETENCIES* | *RECOGNIZE SERVICE* | *HONORABLE RETIREMENT* |
| *COMPETITION OFFICIAL-CO* | **Entry Level** | Attend basic clinic; online clinic acceptable upon availability | Work 10 days as a CO at sanctioned competitions | Should work additional 10 days in area of specialization | Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Competition | Continue USSS membership |
| | CO certification required prior to specialty-area certification; e.g. JA, CR, CC, RA, RF | Individuals desiring to pursue positions of Start and/or Finish Referee, must attend a RF or JA Clinic and pass the JA exam | Develop skills needed for position (e.g. gate judge, manual timekeeping, course preparation and maintenance) | Demonstrate ability to train and lead others in area of specialization | Receive favorable recommendation from **respective** Division and/or Regional AO Committee | Move from active to inactive status as CO |
| | Advancement in Competition Official certification (CO) is available for non-trackable specialty areas as follows: Assistant to CC, CR, JA, RA, TC, e.g.: Gate Judging, course maintenance, manual time keeping, Jury Secretary, Assistant Starter, etc. Record of days worked must be tracked on the AO Personal Activity Record and submitted to the appropriate AO Chair. **CO'S MAY NOT SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER SPECIALTY CATEGORY ADVANCEMENTS.** | | | Receive favorable recommendation from **2 National Level 3** or Level 4 officials | Must also receive approval of USSS's AOEWG, Technical SC, and the ASC | |
| *JURY ADVISOR-JA (Start/Finish Referee)* | Attendance at CO Clinic | Attend Level 1 JA/RF clinic | Work 10 days as JA at sanctioned competitions | Should work 10 additional days as JA; events should be scored events | Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Jury Advisor | Continue USSS membership |
| | Recommended Level 1 CR and Level 1 TC | | Handle paperwork timely, accurately | Serve as speed event Jury Advisor | Receive favorable recommendation from **respective** Division and/or Regional AO Committee | Move from active to inactive status as JA |
| | | Pass Level 1 JA exam | Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level **(National or FIS)** supervising officials | Receive favorable recommendation from 2 Level 3 or Level 4 officials **(National or FIS)** | Must also receive approval of USSS's AOEWG, Technical SC, and the ASC | |
| | **A Jury Advisor must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Jury Advisor certification level.** | | | | | |
| *CHIEF OF COURSE-CC* | Attendance at CO clinic | Attend level 1 CC clinic | Work 10 days as a CC at sanctioned competitions | Should work 10 additional days as CC; events should be scored events | Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Chief of Course | Continue USSS membership |
| | Proven knowledge of local snow conditions and terrain | Pass level 1 CC exam | Learn different snow prep techniques | Demonstrate ability to work cooperatively with jury | Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional AOCommittee | Move from active to inactive status as CC |
| | Good organizational & leadership skills | **Study Basics: Snow prep techniques; snow prep chemical application; on-hill competitor security installation. (On-hill mentorship recommended.)** | Increase knowledge of snow prep chemical applications | Demonstrate knowledge regarding protection issues | Must also receive approval of USSS's AOEWG, Technical SC, and the ASC | |
| | Able to meet physical demands of job | | Increase knowledge of on-hill security installations; increase ability to recognize location requirements | Demonstrate effective snow and course prep | | |
| | Proven skiing ability | | Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level **(National or FIS)** supervising officials: **TD, RF, CR, or CC** | Receive favorable recommendation from 2 **Level 3 or** Level 4 supervising officials: **(National or FIS)** | | |
| | Receive favorable written recommendation from National Level 3 or Level 4 RF, CC, CR or TD or FIS TD | | | | | |
| | **A Chief of Course must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Chief of Course certification level.** | | | | | |
| *REFEREE-RF Required path for coaches who have previously completed Level 100 or higher Coach Certification requirements but are not currently certified AO Referees.* | Attendance at CO Clinic | Attend Level 1 RF clinic | Work 10 days as RF at sanctioned competitions | Should work 10 additional days as RF; events should be scored events | Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Referee | Continue USSS membership |
| | Recommended Level 1 CR | Pass level 1 RF exam | Handle paperwork timely, accurately | Serve as speed event RF or Asst RF | Receive favorable recommendation from **respective** Division and/or Regional AO Committee | Move from active to inactive status as RF |
| | Proven skiing ability | A minimum of 1 shadow assignment must be successfully completed under the supervision of a National **Level 3 or Level 4 Alpine RF, CR, or TD (minimum Level 2 RF, CR, or TD), or FIS TD**. AO recommendation form must be submitted to the respective Divisional AO chair. | Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level **(National or FIS)** supervising officials: **RF, TD, or CR** | Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level **(National or FIS)** supervising officials: **RF, TD, or CR** | Receive favorable recommendation from **respective** Division and/or Regional AO Committee. | |
| | | | | | Must also receive approval of USSS's AOEWG, Technical SC, and the ASC | |
| | **A Referee must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Referee certification level. NOTE: Coaches must also attend a separate Continuing Education Clinic developed and tracked by the Coaches' Education Department.** | | | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *GETTING STARTED* | *ACQUIRE BASIC KNOWLEDGE* | *REFINE KNOWLEDGE / SPECIALIZATION* | *MASTER COMPETENCIES* | *RECOGNIZE SERVICE* | *HONORABLE RETIREMENT* |
| *CHIEF OF RACE-CR* | Attendance at CO clinic | Attend Level 1 CR clinic | Work 10 days as a CR at sanctioned competitions | Should work 10 additional days as CR; events should be scored events | Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 Chief of Race | Continue USSS membership |
| | Good organizational & leadership skills | Pass Level 1 CR exam | Learn skills to be productive jury member | Demonstrate ability to make sound decisions in variety of situations | Receive favorable recommendation from Division and/or Regional AO Committee | Move from active to inactive status as CR |
| | Proven skiing ability | | Learn skills to be effective leader of race committee | Demonstrate ability to lead others effectively | Must also receive approval of USSS's AOEWG, Technical SC, and the ASC | |
| | Proven leadership ability | | Serve as CR for different levels of competition | Demonstrate ability to delegate responsibilities | | |
| | | | Attend Level 1 RF clinic and pass Level 1 RF exam | **Receive favorable recommendation from 2 National Level 3 or Level 4 officials or FIS TD's** | | |
| | | | Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level (**National or FIS**) supervising officials: **CR or TD** | | | |
| | **A Chief of Race must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Chief of Race certification level.** | | | | | |
| *TIMING and CALCULATIONS-TC* | Attendance at CO clinic | Attend introductory TC clinic | Work 10 days in various TC positions at sanctioned competitions | Should work 10 additional days as TC; events should be scored events | Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 in Timing & | Continue USSS membership |
| | Aptitude for math/numbers | Pass Level 1 TC exam | Learn and understand electronic timing equipment | Demonstrate good management skills under varying conditions | Receive favorable recommendation from **respective** Division and/or Regional AO | Move from active to inactive status as TC |
| | Computer skills to operate timing/scoring programs | **Obtain a recommendation for the position from a Level 2 or higher TC, CR, or TD** | Calculate EET's accurately & prepare Timing Technical Report and Report by the Referee forms | Handle all calculations accurately/confidently. Demonstrate understanding of connecting electronic timing equipment, wiring and time bases to computers | Must also receive approval of USSS's AOEWG, Technical SC, and the ASC | |
| | | | Demonstrate ability to instruct/run manual timing crew | Serve as Chief of TC under supervision of Senior TC | | |
| | | | Receive favorable recommendation by 2 higher level (**National or FIS**) supervising TC officials | To qualify for the exam, receive favorable recommendation from the same senior TC | | |
| | | | Recommended: Skiing ability to access/ descend race course | Required: Skiing ability to access/ descend race course | | |
| | | | | Pass Level 3 TC exam (75%) | | |
| | **A Chief of Timing & Calculations must attend a Continuing Education Clinic (Update & Review) every season prior to serving and in order to retain current Chief of Timing & Calculations certification level.** | | | | | |
| *RACE ADMINISTRATOR-RA (includes EVENT DATA MANAGEMENT)* | Good organizational & leadership skills | Attend Level 1 RA/DM clinic | Work 10 days in race administration at sanctioned competitions | Should work 10 additional days as RA; events should be scored events | Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as Level 3 in Race Administration | Continue USSS membership |
| | Appropriate computer skills | Pass Level 1 RA exam | Demonstrate knowledge of race administration requirements and prepare accurate documents: entry list, start list, results | Demonstrate ability to handle all race administration functions accurately, competently | Receive favorable recommendation from **respective** Division and/or Regional AO Committee | Move from active to inactive status as RA |
| | Attend RA/DM clinic OR apprentice with experienced RA or receive **respective** Division/State approval Competency with required timing/scoring programs | **Obtain a recommendation for the position from a Level 2 or higher TC, CR, RA, or TD** | Set up for Team Captains Meeting; draw board, attendance, minutes, program, etc. | Demonstrate ability to work well with others in varied circumstances | Must also receive approval of USSS AOEWG, Technical SC, and the ASC | |
| | | | Produce end-of-race packet including accurate calculation of head tax | Demonstrate ability to successfully handle highest Level USSS/FIS races | | |
| | *Race Administration may also referred to as Race Secretariat or Race Secretary* | | **Receive favorable recommendation from 2 higher level (National or FIS) RA's, or TD's** | Receive favorable recommendation from 2 **Level 3** or Level 4 supervising officials (**National or FIS**): ***TD, CR, or RA*** | | |
| | **Unless excused by Division/Region AO Chair, prior to serving, a Race Administrator must attend a seasonal Race Administrators' Workshop (or equivalent) in order to retain current Race Administrator certification level.** | | | | | |

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| | *GETTING STARTED* | *ACQUIRE BASIC KNOWLEDGE* | *REFINE KNOWLEDGE / SPECIALIZATION* | *MASTER COMPETENCIES* | *RECOGNIZE SERVICE* | *HONORABLE RETIREMENT* |
| *TECHNICAL DELEGATE-TD* | Level 1 TC, Level 2 RF<br>OR<br>Level 1 TC, Level 1 CR and Level 2 JA<br>OR<br>Level 1 TC, Level 2 CR and Level I JA | Attend level 1 TD clinic (if offered) | Work 10 days as TD at sanctioned competitions | Should work 10 additional days as TD, RF, or CR with emphasis on well-rounded experience; events should be scored events. A minimum of one event should be outside of Division/Region or at an event assigned by respective AO Chair. | Serve a minimum of 5 outstanding years as a Level 3 Technical Delegate | Continue USSS membership |
| | | Pass level 1 TD exam | Demonstrate ability to lead | Demonstrate ability to build consensus as a TD, to understand and comply with Jury procedures, to organize all facets of an event in accordance with current rules and procedures. | **Should** include out-of-Division/Region events; **should** include speed events | Move from active to inactive status as TD |
| | Proven leadership ability | Shadow USSS Level 3 or Level 4 or FIS TD at 2 USSS-sanctioned events | Conduct administrative controls e.g. check homologations, TD RF and timing reports, technical course data | Demonstrate ability to make sound judgments in expected and unexpected situations. | Receive favorable recommendation from **respective** Division and/or Regional AO Committee and the TDAG | |
| | Proven skiing ability | Serve as TD under supervision of USSS Level 3 or Level 4 or FIS TD | Conduct technical controls e.g. radios, medical services, timing, course setting and protection | Proven ability to handle responsibilities of position of TD, RF, or CR in a professional, accurate manner with emphasis on well-rounded experience | Must also receive approval of USSS AOEWG, Technical SC, and the ASC | |
| | Must have 1 nomination and 2 seconds from **National Level 3 or Level** 4 TD's. (Forms in MPE) | Assignments must be completed at different venues and must be supervised by different TDs | Submit accurate and timely race documentation | Pass level 3 exam (80%) | | |
| | Recommended they maintain CR and/or CC certification | Receive favorable written evaluation from the supervising **(National or FIS) CR or TD** | Receive favorable written recommendation from 2 higher level **(National or FIS) CR or TD** | Shadow National Level 3 or Level 4 TD or CR or FIS TD at one USSS-sanctioned speed event and receive favorable written evaluation from the supervising TD | | |
| | | | | Receive favorable written recommendation from **2 National Level 3 or Level 4 TD's, CR or FIS TD's, respective** Division and/or Regional AO Committee, and TDAG. * Must also receive approval of USSS AOEWG, Technical SC, and ASC | | |
| | **Unless excused by respective AO Chair, prior to serving, a Technical Delegate must attend a yearly Technical Delegates' Workshop (or equivalent). They must attend a Workshop every season in order to retain current certification level. A USSS TD should work as an assigned TD a minimum of two days every season and must work as an assigned TD at least once every two years in order to retain certification level. PLEASE REFER TO ACR RULES: 602.1.2 (Responsibility), 602.1.3 (Prerequisites), 602.1.4 (Development), and U602.1.5.11 (Advancement) plus additional ACR rules regarding participation to maintain TD certification.** | | | | | |

**ALL recommendations must be made by National or FIS Alpine Officials and must include the event/date of evaluation as well as official capacity of official making the recommendation.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE WITHIN 2 (TWO) SEASONS FOR A TECHNICAL EVENT AND WITHIN 3 (THREE) SEASONS FOR A SPEED EVENT.**