

1.0 Introduction

The following document outlines the evidence based approach that BSS has taken to issue these recommendations for evolution of our Race Structure

The BSS working group has constructed a set of recommendations. We have to be different and evolutionary in our approach in order to provide British athletes with an environment that will support athletic development.

With the undoubted successes of the London Olympics, it is even more important than British Skiing evaluates all aspects of the sport and this includes the competition structure. In spite of our best efforts over the years, the lack of results has resulted in a massive drop in funding. It is absolutely essential that we as a sport turn this problem around and firstly we need to address the flaws' in our current competition structure.

The key factors from our discussion within the group and outside have led me and others to believe that British skiing needs to think outside the box. Take the best practices and evidenced based systems around the world from Snowsports and non-snowsport and update and modernise if it is going to be competitive with the rest of the world. Simply, we need a British philosophy and model for British athletes, which give them the best chance to succeed in the long term.

Before we present the recommendations I would like to make it clear that the process that has delivered these recommendations and the rationale supporting the directions which are recommended is catalogued in this paper's appendix.

2.0 Alpine Race structures for the 2012/13 onwards season – Alpine snow, indoor and artificial surfaces

The Alpine Race Structure for the 2012/13 and 2013 racing seasons RECOMMENDATIONS are detailed below. There are significant changes arising from the need to develop wider skills and all-round athletes to enable them to have better opportunities to meet the demands of high level FIS/international competition.

The two most significant changes will be;

1. The introduction of Combi races to increase athleticism and stretch skiing skill.
2. The introduction of Stubby races to improve the lower body skill of our skiers and remove the upper body domination.

2.1 Alpine snow (BASS)

	U16	U14	U12/U10	Comments
Combi	S Not seeded	1 or 2 runs. Not seeded	1 or 2 runs. Not seeded	For U14, U12, U10 a Combi Race is compulsory at all events of 3 or more days duration.
GS	2 runs (i.e. combined time to achieve a result). Seeded.	2 x 1 run races (no change). Seeded	2 x 1 run races (no change). Not seeded.	
SL	2 runs (i.e. combined time to achieve a result). Seeded.	2 x 1 run races (no change). Not seeded	2 x 1 run races (no change). Not seeded	For U14, U12, U10 SL <u>must</u> be conducted only with stubby poles
SG	1 run. Seeded.	1 run. Seeded	No	
DH	No	No	No	
Development Emphasis	Skills, competition and enjoyment	Skills, athleticism and enjoyment	Skills, athleticism and enjoyment	These are the priorities to the skier phase and age group

Table 2. These are the BSS proposals for Alpine Ski Racing.

Notes:

1. A Combi Race will form part of the British Children's Championships and participation in the race will be a required for an athlete to achieve a result in the overall competition.
2. English, Scottish and Welsh wish to present evidence to their respective Race Committees for agreement and implementation plans. However there was strong support from their representatives on the working group.
3. For U14, U12, U10 a Combi Race is compulsory at all events of 3 or more days duration.

4. For U14, U12, U10 events of fewer than 3 days in duration, a Combi race is strongly recommended. Following a 12 months consultation on methods of implementation it is the intention to move to a compulsory Combi race for the 2013/14 season.
5. The preferred Combi format is the Technical (see FIS ICR 608.12.3)
6. Combi Start Order is to be by randomisation by gender by Age Category. Each Age Category and Gender is to race separately, although they can use the same course.
7. Where a 2-run Combi is held, the Start Order for Run 2 should be that of Run 1 reversed.
8. FIS Rules will apply for the conduct of Combi races unless a BCR precision exists.
9. There will be no seeding of any race for U12 and U10, nor for SL for U14 (U14's could move to a yearly race number that is rotated)
10. Following the 2012/13 season, feedback will be sought to inform a review of the structure.

2.2 Indoor snow and artificial surfaces (BARTSS)

	U16	U14	U12/U10	Comments
Combi	Option of 1 or 2 runs. Not seeded	Option of 1 or 2 runs. Not seeded	Option of 1 or 2 runs. Not seeded	For U14, U12, U10 a Combi Race is strongly recommended.
SL	All permissible formats as per BACR. Seeded	All permissible formats as per BACR. Not seeded	All permissible formats as per BACR. Not seeded	For U14, U12, U10 SL <u>must</u> be conducted only with stubby poles
GS	Option of 1 or 2 runs. Not seeded	Option of 1 or 2 runs. Not seeded	Option of 1 or 2 runs. Not seeded	May be held as a fun event
Development Emphasis	Skills, competition and enjoyment	Skills, athleticism and enjoyment	Skills, athleticism and enjoyment	These are the priorities to the skier phase and age group

Table 3. These are the BSS proposals for Indoor and Dry slope Ski Racing.

Notes:

1. A Combi Race will form part of the English, Scottish, Welsh and British Children's indoor snow/artificial surface Championships and participation in the race will be a required for an athlete to achieve a result in the overall competition.
2. For U14, U12, U10, a Combi race is strongly recommended. It is the intention to move to a compulsory Combi race for the 2013/14 season.
3. The preferred Combi format is the Technical (see FIS ICR 608.12.3)
4. Combi Start Order is to be by randomisation by gender by Age Category. Each Age Category and Gender is to race separately, although they can use the same course.
5. Where a 2-run Combi is held, the Start Order for Run 2 should be that of Run 1 reversed.

6. FIS Rules will apply for the conduct of Combi races unless a BACR precision exists.
7. There will be no seeding of any race for U12 and U10, nor for SL for U14.
8. Following the 2013 season, feedback will be sought to inform a review of the structure.

3.0 Summary and conclusion

The rapid application of this evolutionary race structure is imperative to our future improvement of BSS Alpine senior podium success.

BSS will implement from 6 to 14 year olds with immediate effect within the British Alpine Championships and BSS will be reviewing selection policies to ensure a skill based selection process takes place.

BSS and its advisory working group feel that the weight of evidence inside and out with the sport requires a change in direction and traditional philosophy to alter the facts.

Please reply with your implementation plans through your Home Nations Race Committee or CEO who will then report to back to the BSS PD and working group. At which point we will be able to collate the plans and develop a coherent UK implantation acceptance and plan.