



# **Environmental and Conservation Regulations for Ski Mountaineering Competitions**

[www.club-arc-alpin.eu](http://www.club-arc-alpin.eu)

## **Commentary**

Ski mountaineering competitions have a longstanding tradition in the Alps and are enjoying a steadily growing number of participants. The reason for this is the development of ski mountaineering into a popular sport over the past few years. This trend has an effect on ski mountaineering as a competitive sport.

The Club Arc Alpin (CAA) and its eight member federations (South Tyrolian Alpine Club - AVS, French Alpine Club - CAF, Italian Alpine Club - CAI, German Alpine Club - DAV, Liechtenstein Alpine Club - LAV, Austrian Alpine Club - OeAV, Slovenian Alpine Club - PZS and Swiss Alpine Club - SAC) are the declared experts for all aspects of mountain sports and thus also responsible for the organization of ski mountaineering competitions. Ski mountaineering counts among the core activities of these associations. At the same time, the CAA and its member federations in their function as conservation organizations are dedicated to the protection of the alpine region, its flora and fauna and to the environmentally compatible development of mountaineering. Conservation and environmental protection as well as mountaineering count among the primary goals and statutory responsibilities of these organizations.

It is the objective of the CAA and its member organizations to actively influence the development of ski mountaineering competitions on both the national and international level. On the one hand, this gives these federations the opportunity to support the athletic and conservational activities of their active members. On the other hand, the prevailing conditions of the races are influenced in an environmentally beneficial fashion.

The environmental and conservation protection regulations for ski mountaineering competitions are environmental standards binding for all CAA member federations. Supplementary or further-reaching regulations may be passed by the respective national competition organization for their specific country.

Pending approval by the ISMC, within the bounds set by the UIAA General Assembly, these regulations are mandatory for all international competitions in the ISMC competition schedule.

All other bodies involved in the organization of competitions are called upon to adopt these guidelines for their events.

# Environmental and Conservation Regulations for Ski Mountaineering Competitions

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## Venues and competition routes

In selecting a venue for ski mountaineering competitions, priority shall be given to popular ski tours as well as commercial ski slopes (especially in wooded parts of the landscape, in ecologically sensitive areas, in case of particular snow or weather conditions as well as impact by the media). If possible, given infra-structural elements shall be utilized.

New competition routes shall be subject to an ecological investigation as a matter of principle, already existing ones in case of necessity or an inquiry. Under no circumstances shall the goals of regulation in protected areas be infringed upon. The responsible local and regional conservation agencies and associations as well as the land owners shall be consulted and involved.

Environmentally sensitive areas (for instance the especially important winter habitats of grouse) as well as young forests must be avoided. The tree line area shall be crossed by the shortest possible route. This also applies to the connecting routes used by support teams, spectators, representatives of the media, etc.

Official permission must be sought and adhered to.

## Conservation representative

The competition organization<sup>1</sup> on the national (regional) level nominates a competition representative. This person functions as a contact to the local conservation representative. The national conservation representative coordinates and supervises the observance of the environmental and conservation regulations.

For each competition a locally responsible conservation representative is nominated as a member of the organisation committee and confirmed by the national (regional) competition organization. This person

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<sup>1</sup> All federations organizing ski mountaineering competitions are summarized under the term competition organizations (UIAA, ISMC, CAA and its member federations, etc.).

- Operates in coordination and agreement with the national conservation representative,
- Controls the observance of environmental and conservation regulations,
- Knows the local conditions,
- Knows the reality of the ski mountaineering competitions,
- Is involved in the planning and staging of the event,
- Calls in experts for ecological assessment if necessary,
- Is responsible for granting ecological clearance and conducting subsequent surveillance,
- Writes a short report on the event and sends it to the responsible competition organization.

## Route Management

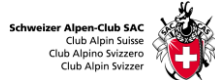
- The protection of sensitive areas must be guaranteed by appropriate routing or marking of the track.
- For color marking in the snow, only natural and biodegradable substances may be used.
- Protection of vegetation shall be guaranteed. Small snow-free areas or such with poor coverage shall be prepared. In case of insufficient snow conditions, the event shall be cancelled or moved to an alternative location.
- It is the organizer's responsibility to make sure that athletes, support teams, spectators and the media strictly keep to the marked route.
- Night competitions outside of commercial ski slopes shall be refrained from.
- The periods of dawn and dusk are avoided on principle. Exceptions are only possible in agreement with the nationally (regionally) responsible conservation representative.

## Technical / motorized equipment

- Helicopter flights shall be refrained from, except if they are absolutely necessary for safety purposes or rescues.
- Outside of commercial ski slopes, the use of all types of motorized vehicles shall be refrained from, except for necessary rescue operations.
- The use of artificial snow as well as the construction of permanent buildings specially for the event shall be refrained from.
- The blasting of avalanches shall be restricted to permanently supervised skiing areas.

## Waste and sewage management

- The principles of waste avoidance must be followed.
- All refuse including all materials for marking, closing off and safety protection shall be removed and disposed of appropriately immediately after the competition.
- Following the event, surveillance shall be carried out. Depending on the situation and weather, additional control and waste removal may be necessary in the summer following.
- A sufficient number of toilets must be furnished.



## **Travel**

- In announcements for the events as well as in public relations work, the possibilities of public transportation to the competition venue shall be pointed out. If necessary, a shuttle bus service shall be installed.

## **Participant conduct**

- Participants shall receive suggestions for ecologically compatible conduct in training and competition together with the announcement of the event.
- Participants shall be penalized with significant additions to their time if they throw away rubbish or otherwise conduct themselves in a fashion detrimental to the environment.

## **Spectators and the media**

- The protection of ecologically sensitive areas must be guaranteed. If necessary, the sites open to spectators and the media shall be restricted.
- The utilization of loudspeaker systems shall be limited to the start and the finish areas of the race. The sound volume shall be adapted to the necessities of the environment.
- Billboards and other types of advertisement shall be limited to the start and the finish areas as well as to commercial ski slopes. On ski mountaineering terrain they are not admissible outside the start and the finish areas.
- The media and the public shall be informed of the prevailing environmental and conservation regulations. The media shall be informed that media-helicopter flights are incompatible with these rules. As an alternative, the organizer shall grant adequate on-site support.

## **Sponsors and contacts**

- Land owners and local interest groups (forestry, hunting, conservation, etc.) shall be involved in planning and preparation.
- Selecting sponsors and partners, the compatibility with the principles of the UIAA, CAA and other competition organizations shall be observed. In this respect, an agreement shall be made in advance.

## **Implementation**

- Competition organizations shall make every possible effort to implement the environmental and conservation regulations as well as to control their observance. If necessary, interventions shall take place.
- The competition organizations shall support the organizers in environmental matters.

## **Mandatory documents**

- UIAA Report on competitions in mountain areas 1994 (Istanbul/Türkei)
- UIAA Environmental Guidelines 1997 (Kranska Gora/Slowenien)
- UIAA Regulations concerning International Ski Mountaineering Competitions 1998 (Bern/Switzerland)

Adopted by the General Assembly of the CAA, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2004.