

#### *ARTICLE XIV*

## Snowshoeing

The Special Olympics Canada (SOC) Official Sports Rules shall govern all SOC snowshoeing competitions. As a national sports program, SOC has established these rules based upon the International Racing Standards (IRS). The IRS shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the SOC Official Rules. In such cases, the following SOC Official Snowshoeing Rules shall apply.

#### *SECTION A*

### Official Events

1. 100 metres (running technique)
2. 200 metres (running technique)
3. 400 metres (running technique)
4. 800 metres (running technique)
5. 1500 metres (running technique)
6. 4 x 100 metres relay

#### *SECTION B*

### Rules Of Competition

1. Athletes shall enter a minimum of two (2) official events and a maximum of four (4) official events, plus the relay.
2. Assistance may only be given to snowshoers at the start line or on the course if they experience difficulty with their snowshoes/bindings, and, only after the competitor has made every attempt.

## **SECTION A – OFFICIAL EVENTS**

1. 100 Metre Race
2. 200 Metre Race
3. 400 Metre Race
4. 800 Metre Race
5. 1500 Metre Race
6. 4 x 100 Metre Relay

Athletes shall enter a minimum of two (2) official events and a maximum of four (4) official events, plus the relay.

## **SECTION B – FACILITIES**

1. The minimum size of the-course must be continuous loop 400 metres in length and seven (7) metres in width.
2. Event specific layout should include the following.
  - a. 100 Metre Races. Run on a straight area of the course or on a separate course to allow for events to run concurrently.
  - b. 200 Metre Race. Run over a portion of the 400M course.
  - c. 400 Metre Race. Run one lap of the entire 400M course.
  - d. 800 Metre Race. Run two laps on the 400M course.
  - e. 1500 Metre Race. Run four laps on the 400M course.
  - f. 4 x 100 Metre Relays. Run over the 400M course with each of the four competitors running 100 metres.

## **SECTION C – EQUIPMENT**

1. The snowshoe frame itself shall not be smaller than 20.5cm x 64cm (8inches x 25inches).
2. Factory installed toe and heel traction claws are acceptable. The attachment of any additional "spikes" is not permitted.
3. The snowshoe shall consist of a frame and webbing or solid decking material.
4. The foot must be secured through a direct mount binding system to the snowshoe.
5. Competition footwear may include, but not limited to running shoes, hiking boots or snow boots.

## **SECTION D – PERSONNEL**

1. Officials
  - a. Chief of Course
  - b. Chief of Race
  - c. Starting Line Judge
  - d. Assistant Starting Line Judge
  - e. Finish Line Judge

f. Field Judges

2. Official Duties

- a. The chief of course is responsible for maintaining proper track dimensions and conditions. Additionally, he/she will oversee the divisioning of all competitors.
- b. The chief of race oversees the competition and ensures that the equipment is legal and the race specifications are in agreement with the official rules.
- c. The starting line judge gives the start signal, "Racers ready – Starting Gun," and the firing of a start gun or drop of a flag once the competitors have lined up. The starting line judge decides whether a start is good or false.
- d. The assistant starting line judge stands ten (10) metres from the starting line and stops the athletes from continuing the race if a false start is declared.
- e. The finish line judge registers the times and race number of the competitors as they cross the finish line.
- f. Field judges assigned to positions along the course to oversee the progression of the race and check for any infractions.

**SECTION E – RULES OF COMPETITION**

1. All snowshoes will be measured and checked by the chief of race prior to each event.

2. Competitors must wear their assigned number in a position visible to the officials at all times.

3. The Start

- a. At the start of the race, snowshoers must have both tips of his/her snowshoes behind the starting line, which is identified, in the snow with either color or some form of marking.
- b. All supports, such as blocks or holes, which give an athlete an advantage at the start, are prohibited.
- c. In every event, each division shall be a mass start. There will be no timed interval starts.
- d. Competitors may leave the start area after the start command "Racers ready – Starting Gun."
- e. A false start requires a restart of the race.
- f. The judge giving the start signal is responsible for ensuring that, in all races, no external factor obstructs the course. If the judge considers that there has been an obstruction, he will immediately give the signal to stop the race and the race will start over.

4. The Race

- a. Only the officials and athletes competing in the race are allowed on the course.
- b. 100 Metre Races shall be conducted in a straight line.
- c. If during a race a competitor falls, has difficulty with a snowshoe or binding, he/she has two minutes to correct the problem. A competitor who fails to adhere to the two-minute limit or receive assistance of any kind shall be disqualified. Timing of the two minutes is the responsibility of the closest field judge.
- d. A competitor may not progress forward more than three (3) metres unless they have both snowshoes attached to the leg or foot.

## 5. The Finish

- a. A snowshoer has finished the race when his/her torso reaches the vertical plane of the finish line. The torso is distinguished from the head, neck, arms, legs, hands and feet.
- b. To be official, a snowshoer must have both snowshoes attached to his/her leg or feet when crossing the finish line.

## 6. Relay Races

- a. A relay competitor must place the baton firmly into the hand of the receiver within the exchange area, which will be 20 metres in length. Both competitors must be in the zone at the time of the exchange.
- b. A relay runner may take no more than a 3metre lead on the upcoming runner. This lead may not be started until the passer is 3 metres from the 100 metre line.
- c. A proper exchange will take place when both athletes are in the exchange area and shall consist of the incoming snowshoer placing (not tossing) the baton firmly in the hand of the outgoing snowshoer with his/her hand without the baton touching the ground.

## 7. Disqualification

- a. A competitor or relay team will be disqualified for the following.
  - 1) Improperly overtaking or impeding another competitor, or in any other way interfering with another competitor.
  - 2) Preventing another competitor from passing.
  - 3) Leaving the designated the course.
  - 4) Making two false starts.
  - 5) Making an improper exchange on the relay exchange area.
  - 6) Failing to adhere to the two-minute limit.
  - 7) Progressing more than three (3) metres without both snowshoes attached to his / her leg or feet.
  - 8) Crossing the finish line without both snowshoes to his / her leg or feet.
  - 9) Receives physical assistance.

## 8. Protest Procedures

- a. Only the registered head coach may file a protest.
- b. All protests must be submitted in writing on the appropriate form to the chief referee within 30 minutes of the posting of the unofficial results.
- c. Protests involving the judgment of an official will not be given consideration.