



— JEUX DU —  
**CANADA**  
— GAMES —

**MEDIA INFORMATION PACKAGE  
ALPINE SKIING**





## **MEDIA INFORMATION PACKAGE ALPINE SKIING**



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## A. HISTORY OF SPORT

Skiing was developed as far back as 5000 years ago with the Norwegians believed to be the first to strap on rudimentary skis as a way of hunting across snow covered terrain. Alpine skiing evolved from the early cross-country sport, which had evolved within Scandinavia and Russia, to the first primitive downhill competition held in Oslo in the 1850s. Decades later the sport spread to the remainder of Europe and to North America and in 1936 alpine skiing became an Olympic event. Since this time, alpine skiing has grown not only on a world-wide stage, but has become a very popular recreational sport and a high profile competitive sport in Canada.

Alpine skiing has been a prominent part of the Canada Games since its inception in 1967 in Québec City. It has remained a part of every Canada Winter Games with the exception of Prince Edward Island in 1991.

Three events make up the sport of alpine skiing at the 2007 Canada Winter Games: Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super G. All of these are based on the challenge of getting from the top to the bottom of a snow-covered mountain in the fastest time and on course.

## B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS

Alpine skiing has been part of the Canada Games since the first Canada Winter Games in 1967 in Québec City. It has appeared at every Winter Games since then with the exception of the 1991 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island. Below are the ranking of the Provinces/Territories since the inaugural games:

	1967*		1971*		1975*		1979	1983		1987		1995		1999		2003	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	C	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>AB</b>	-	-	3	-	1	1	3	4	4	3	4	2	3	1	1	3	2
<b>BC</b>	3	1	2	2	3	-	1	3	3	2	1	1	2	3	3	4	4
<b>MB</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	8	6	7	10	7	8	8	6	9
<b>NB</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	5	5	4	9	7	6	9	6	5	7
<b>NF</b>	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	6	6	9	6	6	8	6	9	8	8
<b>NWT</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NS</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	9	5	8	5	5	5	5	7	5
<b>ON</b>	2	3	-	3	3	2	4	2	2	1	3	4	4	4	2	2	1
<b>PEI</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	10	11	11	-	-	10	10	10	10
<b>QC</b>	1	1	1	1	2	-	2	1	1	7	2	3	1	2	4	1	3
<b>SK</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	7	8	5	9	9	7	7	9	6
<b>YK</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11	11	10	10	8	-	11	-	-	11

### **C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM**

Competitors: 5 Males and 5 Females

### **D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY**

Alpine skiing will follow the International Competition Rules (ICR) and the 2006/2007 Precisions shall apply.

The following events will be contested for men and women:

Super-G (1 run, 300 metres minimum)

Giant Slalom (2 runs, 250 metres minimum)

Slalom (2 runs, 140 metres minimum)

All athletes may compete in all three events.

#### **Seeding Procedures**

Five seed groups will be established for each of male skiers and female skiers. Each Province/Territory will have the right to put one racer into each seed group; therefore, the number of racers in each seed will depend on the number of provinces/territories entered in the event. Once seed groups are established, starting positions will be determined by random draw within each seed group.

#### **Second Run Start Order**

All skiers who are not disqualified in the first run are admitted to the second run. The fastest thirty skiers from the first run will start in reverse rank order (ie. 30<sup>th</sup> fastest starts first; 29<sup>th</sup> fastest starts second, etc.). Skiers from 31<sup>st</sup> down will start according to their first run finish times in rank order (fastest to slowest).

### **E. EQUIPMENT & TERMINOLOGY**

**Slalom** – consists of two runs on a 120-200 metre vertical drop for women, and a 140-220 metre vertical drop for men. The number of direction changes are 30-35% of vertical drop.

Slalom, a technical event, is the shortest course in alpine skiing, but requires a combination of speed, agility and adaptability in negotiating the shortest radius or quickest turns. A course consists of a series of gates formed by alternating pairs of blue and red poles. The skier must pass between the two poles forming the gate with both skis and feet for proper passage. A slalom course can contain as many as 77 gates or direction changes for men and 70 for women. The course, although generally of a consistent rhythm, also has combinations gates called hairpins and flushes, which allow for changes in direction and speed variation to allow the athlete a fair, yet challenging course. The athlete selects the fastest “line” down the course by minimizing the turn radius by crossing as close to the gate as possible skiing through the pole with their upper body in a cross blocking motion. Every competitor has two runs, unless disqualified following the first run, and the gold medal is awarded to the lowest combined time for the two completed runs.

**Giant Slalom** – consists of two runs with a 250-400 metre vertical drop for both women and men. The number of direction changes is 11-15% of vertical drop.

Giant slalom, as the name indicates, is similar to slalom in that it is also considered a

technical event, but with the key differences being a longer vertical course with increased vertical distance between fewer gates than the slalom event. Characteristics of the giant slalom are turns that are faster, as the competitor has far more momentum, but completed in a very fluid and smooth motion. As in slalom, the competitor must pass between the gates with both skis and feet. Giant slalom gates themselves also differ from slalom gates: instead of a set of two single poles as in slalom, they consist of a set of two double poles linked together by a piece of fabric known as a panel. As a result of the attached panel, the giant slalom competitor is more likely to use an “inside blocking” method to clear the gate out of the way, often contacting the gate with the inside shoulder rather than the forearm or hand. As in slalom, every competitor has two runs, unless disqualified following the first run, and the gold medal is awarded to the lowest combined time for the two completed runs.

**Super G** – consists of 1 run at a 350-600 metre vertical drop for women, and a 400-650 metre vertical drop for men. The number of direction changes is 10% of the vertical drop (min. 30 women, 35 men).

The Super Giant Slalom, or Super G, is a speed event that combines the speed challenges of downhill combined with the technical challenge of the precision turns of giant slalom. The course is significantly longer with increased vertical distance between gates, hence the increased speeds. The gates are similar to those in giant slalom, with fabric panels that require the athlete to pass each gate with a similar style of passage as applied in the giant slalom, although often with increased clearance of the gate, as not to hinder their momentum nor balance. Each competitor gets only one run, of which the lowest time earns the gold medal.

## F. ELIGIBILITY

Athletes born between January 1, 1987 and December 31, 1991 are eligible for competition. All competitors must also hold a valid Alpine Canada Alpin competitor card for the 2006-2007 season.

## G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM

The aggregate time that a racer obtains in the race will be used in determining ranking in that event, with the lowest aggregate time receiving 1st place, the 2nd lowest aggregate time receiving 2nd place and so on until all racers, without disqualification, are ranked.

Men and women will be ranked separately. Team results will be determined by adding the top **three** finish positions from each province and territory in each of the events. The highest aggregate point total for all men's events and all women's events based on place points according to the number of starters will be ranked first, the second highest aggregate point total events will be ranked second, etc.

### Alpine Skiing Provincial Territorial Ranking

The winner in each competition will be the competitor with the best competition time in that competition. The province's/territory's three best times will count towards the provincial/territorial ranking point total. **If there is a tie, points will be shared equally between competitors (i.e. If tied for first then each competitor would receive 98.5 points (100+97)/2).** If an athlete does not finish or is disqualified, the athlete does not receive any points.

Position	Pts	Position	Pts	Position	Pts	Position	Pts
1st place	100	23rd place	63	45th place	41	67th place	19
2nd place	97	24th place	62	46th place	40	68th place	18
3rd place	94	25th place	61	47th place	39	69th place	17
4th place	91	26th place	60	48th place	38	70th place	16
5th place	88	27th place	59	49th place	37	71st place	15
6th place	85	28th place	58	50th place	36	72nd place	14
7th place	83	29th place	57	51st place	35	73rd place	13
8th place	81	30th place	56	52nd place	34	74th place	12
9th place	79	31st place	55	53rd place	33	75th place	11
10th place	77	32nd place	54	54th place	32	76th place	10
11th place	75	33rd place	53	55th place	31	77th place	9
12th place	74	34th place	52	56th place	30	78th place	8
13th place	73	35th place	51	57th place	29	79th place	7
14th place	72	36th place	50	58th place	28	80th place	6
15th place	71	37th place	49	59th place	27	81st place	5
16th place	70	38th place	48	60th place	26	82nd place	4
17th place	69	39th place	47	61st place	25	83rd place	3
18th place	68	40th place	46	62nd place	24	84th place	2
19th place	67	41st place	45	63rd place	23	85th place	1
20th place	66	42nd place	44	64th place	22		
21st place	65	43rd place	43	65th place	21		
22nd place	64	44th place	42	66th place	20		

Once provinces/territories have been ranked, points for the Games Flag will be awarded as follows:

- |                       |                          |                           |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st place - 10 points | 6th place - 5 points     | 11th place - 1 1/2 points |
| 2nd place - 9 points  | 7th place - 4 points     | 12th place - 1 point      |
| 3rd place - 8 points  | 8th place - 3 points     | 13th place - 1/2 point    |
| 4th place - 7 points  | 9th place - 2 1/2 points |                           |
| 5th place - 6 points  | 10th place - 2 points    |                           |

#### H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT

If two or more racers are tied, the tied racers would receive the same position and award, and the next position would be eliminated. For example, in the case of a tie for first place, both racers would receive a gold medal, and the next finisher would be ranked third and awarded a bronze medal.

##### *Provincial/Territorial Ranking – Tie Breaking:*

- i) If a tie occurs in the final provincial/territorial team standing, the province/territory with the greater number of event first place finishes will be assigned the higher rank.
- ii) If the tie persists, the procedure is repeated for event second place finishes.
- iii) If necessary, the procedure is repeated for event third place finishes, then fourth place finishes, etc.

NOTE: When a triple tie occurs and is only partially resolved, the remaining ties will be resolved by returning to priority #1 and proceeding through the order again.

## **I. TECHNOLOGY OF SPORT**

Since the late 1990s the innovation of shaped (or parabolic) skis has seen extreme changes in the equipment now used in all three disciplines being showcased at the Winter Games. In slalom, skis that were once 203 to 207 cm in length are now no more than 165 cm or less. The shorter lengths combined with the parabolic shape of the skis created a decrease in platform stability which limited the ability to recover. Although the initial rules required a minimum length for men of 155 cm and 150 cm for women, the International Ski Federation (FIS) modified the rule to minimums of 165 cm for men and 155 cm for women in the 2003-04 season in an attempt to improve the stability of the skis, hence the safety of the athlete.

A similar trend was seen in giant slalom, which uses longer skis than slalom, but again with the new shape ski, stability for the athlete is the major concern. In 2003-04 the FIS increased the minimum sidecut to 21 metres and imposed a minimum ski length for the first time in giant slalom of 185 cm for men and 180 cm for women. Further changes have now been approved for the 2007-08 season, but these will not impact the current Canada Winter Games.

In Super G, equipment requirements are similar to those in giant slalom, although with the higher speeds, the skis can accommodate a longer turn radius and are of increased length. Similar safety rules were implemented in 2003-04 in which minimum lengths of 205 cm for men and 200 cm for women were introduced along with a minimum 33 metre turning radius.

## **J. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT**

Alpine skiing is a sport that is influenced by high speeds, variable winter environments, and time variations between first and second that can often be measured in 100ths of a second. With so many factors that can influence the outcome of a competition, a highly organized officials structure is in place to oversee a race event. The focus of the officials is on the safety and fairness offered by the competition venue.

The key officials for an event are called the race "Jury". The Jury are members of the Organizing Committee and are responsible for technical matters within the closed competition areas. The Jury members include:

- the Technical Delegate
- the Referee
- the Chief of Race
- the Assistant Referee (for Super G and Downhill events only)

The Technical Delegate (TD) is primarily the official representative of the FIS, for FIS sanctioned events, and representative of national alpine body for nationally sanctioned events. The TD acts as the Chairman of the Jury and is there to reach and carry out correct decisions with the support of the Jury and see that the FIS rules and instructions are followed, supervise the running of an event and to assist the organizers.

The Referee is responsible for ensuring the draw of start numbers, inspection of the course immediately after it has been set, changing of the course by adding or removing gates having made the course setter aware of the adjustments made, receiving reports as to infractions of the rules and the gate faults following both runs in the technical events and the single run of the speed events and responsible for signing off on reports

as to disqualified athletes and any injuries or special case scenarios which may have occurred during the competition.

The Chief of Race directs all preparation of the competition and supervises the activities in the technical area. They summons meetings for consideration of technical questions and leads the team captains' meetings after consultation with the Technical Delegate.

## **K. FACILITY DESCRIPTION**

All alpine competition will take place at Mt. Sima, located 18 kilometres from Athletes Village. Mt. Sima will feature a 330 or 340 metre vertical drop with the upper portion of the race course having been widened and leveled out for competition.

## **L. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE**

Membership reporting is done via PSO reporting and numbers verified by the ACA National points database. Below are the available membership categories and their associated descriptions.

*Entry level* - Skier 10 years and younger

*K1 National cards* - Skier aged 11-12 years prior to December 31st on National points database

*K2 National cards* - Skier aged 13-14 years prior to December 31st on National points database

*J1 National cards* - Skier aged 15-16 years prior to December 31st on National points database

*J2 National cards* - Skier aged 17, 18 or 19 prior to December 31st on National points database

*K1 Recreation cards\** - Skier aged 11-12 years prior to December 31st Not on National points database (one timer included)

*K2 Recreation cards\** - Skier aged 13-14 years prior to December 31st Not on National points database (one timer included)

*J1 Recreation cards\** - Skier aged 15-16 years prior to December 31st Not on National points database (one timer included)

*J2 Recreation cards\** - Skier aged 17, 18 or 19 prior to December 31st Not on National points database (one timer included)

*Masters Competitor* - Skier 19 and older participating in National Masters point's series, National Masters Championships, and/or International FIS Masters races. Any Masters racer wishing to participate in more than a weekend (two days) of events must purchase a Masters Competitor card

*Masters regional* - Skier 19 years and older participating in one weekend (Two days) of events in their province of residence. Any master's racer wishing to participate in more than one weekend of events must purchase a Masters competitor card.

*FIS Card* - Skier aged 15 years and up participating in any FIS race (regional, national or international) Athlete accident insurance is included

*FIS Card (late-next list)* - After September 1st athlete will be permitted to race with FIS number however will not appear on FIS list until next published listing.

*FIS Card (late-immediate)* - After September 1st athlete will have immediate points confirmation on current list.

*Officials* - All ROC members which includes: Chief of Timing and calculations, Chief of Race, Chief of Course, Chief of Gates, Finish Referee, Start referee, Race Secretary, Chief Steward, Chief of Medical and rescue services, Chief of course

equipment and technical equipment, Gate judges, Hand timers.  
*Coaches* - Active coaches CSCF certified or not  
*General Alpine member* - Volunteers that serve official's roles, i.e. parents, family members, course crew, anyone involved in on hill activities, Board members  
*Volunteers* - 1 time volunteers not involved in actual race events, i.e. Fundraisers, bake sales, Dinners, etc... (If a volunteer commits more than two days of volunteer activity, they are to be classified as a General member)  
1 time outside the fences volunteers

## **M. ATHLETES TO WATCH FOR**

British Columbia:

Male - Ben Thomsen

Female - Elli Terwiel, Georgia Simmerling, Alison Leighton

Alberta:

Male - Cam Brewington

Female - Anya Holinski

Saskatchewan:

Male - Jaden Jamieson, Kent Montgomery

Female - Kara Delaney, Kelsey Nilsen

Manitoba:

Male - Viktor Hlas, Jeff Barrit

Female - Alexis Stockford, Helena Hlas

Quebec:

Male - Mathieu Routhier, Simon Mannella, Robin Femy, Jean-Philippe Phaneuf, Francis Pratte

Female - Eve Routhier, Marie-Michèle Bélanger-Timothy, Marie-Élaine Lépine, Brittany Phelan, Catherine Morel

## **N. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI**

Recent Grads:

Shona Rubens 2003

Stefan Guay 2003

Jan Hudec 1999

Anna Goodman 2003 (CAST Development Team)

Danielle Polshuk 2003 (CAST Development Team)

Louis-Pierre Helie 2003 (CAST Development Team)

Trevor White 2003 (CAST Development Team)

Past Grads:

Greg Athans 1971

Felix Belczyk 1979

Rob Boyd 1983

Allison Forsyth 1995

Lissa Savijarvi 1979

## **O. ATHLETE/TEAM MATCH-UPS (RIVALRIES)**

The traditional rivalries of the four large alpine provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec will certainly be evident at the Canada Winter Games for 2007. In addition, the collective of smaller provinces will certainly be looking to upset the four aforementioned alpine powerhouses.