

Hi all. I have fielded many questions this week regarding the equipment rules and there seems to be some confusion and concern among our members. We, the coaches and the team, are not at liberty to choose to be flexible on these rules, and as such coaches cannot knowingly allow our kids to race on illegal equipment. Knowing this, the coaches have been identifying issues since the start of camp and letting the kids and parents know when they have equipment that doesn't fall within the rules. Even still, I have seen many kids with illegal helmets this weekend and several have said they don't have legal skis for next week. We need to be sure we are all on the same page on this as having all athletes obeying the equipment rules is a particular focus in PARA this year. Plus, athletes and parents need to know these rules (Mirra did share them at the parents meeting) and they need to follow them - equipment is the athletes and parent's responsibility.

Here is the link to the ski rules: <https://usskiandsnowboard.org/sites/default/files/files-resources/files/2017-10/2017-18-Alpine-Equipment.pdf>. Please note that all u14 and up kids must be on skis with at least a 17 meter radius (that is visibly marked on the ski). These rules will be enforced by protest for u14 and under, but as per our other regional qualifying races we will be checking the equipment of u16 and up at the start. Anyone who is found to be on illegal equipment will be DQed or disallowed to start.

Also, all racers must have helmets with hard ear covers and "Helmets designed and manufactured for the particular event of ski racing being contested are required for all competitors and forerunners in all USSA events and official training. Helmets must bear a CE mark and conform to recognized and appropriate standards such as CEH.Din 1077, ASTM F2040, SNELL S98 or RS 98. The CE mark (pictured here) shall be affixed in a non-removable way on the back of the helmet in a visible location not covered by the goggle strap. Athletes U14 and older must use helmets that meet the new FIS standards for all USSA GS, SG and DH competitions."

Please let me know if you have any questions and share as you see fit. Also, if you have skis or helmets laying around that meet the requirements please spread the word - as we have several kids who need legal equipment in order to race next week (I know of at least 1 u14 and 1 u16 who need skis).