

4. USSA Code of Conduct

USSA members, including athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, and are responsible for their actions in competitions, going to and from competitions, and while at areas hosting competitions. Members are responsible for knowledge of and adherence to competition rules and procedures. Members are also responsible for knowledge of and adherence to the rules and procedures of the USSA national teams, camps or other projects when participating in such. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in disqualification from an event and possibly prevent participation in future events.

Sportsmanlike conduct is defined as, but is not limited to: respect for competition officials, resort employees, and the skiing and snowboarding public, respect for facilities, privileges and operating procedures, the use of courtesy and good manners, acting responsibly and maturely, refraining from the use of profane or abusive language, and abstinence from illegal or immoderate use of alcohol* and use of illegal or banned drugs.

* Note: USSA considers the legal age for consumption of alcohol, as it pertains to USSA teams and projects, as 21 years of age or older, regardless of local law.

Section 1

All members of USSA shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the International Ski Federation Statutes, the USSA Constitution and Bylaws, and the USSA Code of Conduct.

USSA members shall conduct themselves at all times and in all places as befits worthy representatives of their country, region, division, state or club and in accordance with the best traditions of national and international competition.

Section 2

1. USSA members shall maintain high standards of moral and ethical conduct, which includes self-control and responsible behavior, consideration for, the physical and emotional well being of others, and courtesy and good manners.
2. Competitors, coaches, and officials shall abstain from the use of illegal drugs and from immoderate consumption of alcohol. Absolutely no consumption of alcohol is permitted for those individuals under the age of 21. Members under 21 years of age shall not participate in gatherings involving consumption of alcohol unless it is an official USSA or event organizer function. Members who do so risk being sanctioned for an alcohol related infraction.
3. No member shall violate the customs, travel or currency regulations of a country while traveling with a USSA group or on a USSA ticket.
4. No member shall commit a criminal act while representing USSA.
5. Members and/or participants in USSA calendared events will avoid profane or abusive language and disruptive behavior.
6. Competitors shall abide by the rules of competition in all events entered.
7. Members shall abide by USSA rules and procedures while traveling to and from and participating in official USSA team or development camps and competitions.

Section 3

Failure to comply with any of the above provisions may lead to disciplinary action against competitors, coaches, or officials by the designated team leader. The disciplinary action taken can include:

1. Removal from the team trip or training camp;
2. Suspension from training and/or competition;
3. Elimination of coaching, travel, and other benefits.

Any action taken shall be applied fairly and equitably to all parties involved. To better understand the disciplinary actions permitted by USSA refer to the USSA bylaws.

Section 4

1. Any athlete or official who uses any substance or material, by whatsoever route introduced into the body, with the sole objective to artificially increase performance-before or during a competition, is, by definition, engaging in doping, and shall be subject to immediate suspension procedures. Action with intent to violate this section of the Code of Conduct, whether successful or not, shall be sufficient to warrant suspension of the competitor.
2. In the case of coaches or officials, any person who participates in the violation of the rule in the preceding paragraph by encouragement or consent communicated to the competitor, or by furnishing prohibited materials or substances, shall be subject to suspension, or removal from the team or event (officials don't belong to the team).

Section 5

At awards ceremonies conducted immediately following a competition where the competitors are in competition clothing, competitors receiving awards must openly display the bib of the competition for which the awards are being given. This applies both to USSA members in USSA and/or FIS-sanctioned competitions as well as all competitors in USSA-sanctioned competitions that are not FIS-sanctioned.

Section 6

Nothing in this Code shall be deemed to restrict the individual freedom of a competitor, coach, or official in matters not affecting competition as a representative of USSA or the well-being of the team. In choices of appearance, lifestyle, behavior and speech while not traveling or competing with the team, competitors shall have complete freedom, provided their statements and actions do not adversely affect the name and reputation of U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, including the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Teams.

Grievances, Suspensions and Appeals

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association is committed to principles of fairness, due process and equal opportunity. Members are entitled to be treated fairly and in compliance with USSA's Bylaws, policies and procedures. Members are also entitled to fair notice and an opportunity for a hearing before being prevented from participating in competition. Those rights are protected by Article IX of the USSA Bylaws, which prescribe procedures for grievances, suspensions and appeals. Information on the processes for grievances, suspensions and appeals is available at <http://www.ussa.org/>, or from your USSA club program.

I have read and understand the above code of conduct.

Athlete Signature

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date _____

Date _____