



Context:

Incidents occur at ski races. It is human nature that well-meaning but untrained individuals will attempt to assist athletes following an on-course incident and in doing so, put the athlete themselves and others at risk.

Protocol:

Generally: Only qualified responders may assist a down athlete AFTER a **course hold** has fully engaged and the Jury Member on site directs that it is safe to approach the athlete.

The Racer Down Protocol is to be strictly adhered to. Persons not complying with this protocol may be subject to sanction by the jury.

1. The Jury member closest to the incident site will call a **“START STOP”**.
 - Before speaking, position the radio microphone 5 - 10 centimeters from the mouth, shield from wind, key the radio microphone button, take a breath, speak in a normal, modulated voice.
2. The Start Referee will confirm immediately on Jury channel “Start is stopped, holding racer number (#) in start, racer(s) number (#) on course”.
3. The person calling the **“START STOP”** will then call on Jury channel: “Racer down at(position e.g. gate number, course section name)”.

For GS and speed, “Yellow Flag # (1, 2 or 3)” will be called if necessary.
 - It is important that the incident position and the Yellow flag number be clearly stated to avoid unnecessary Yellow Flagging of an athlete that is already **below** the incident site.
4. In the event that an athlete is Yellow Flagged, the Flag Official will confirm, **as soon as possible**, on Jury channel “Racer # Flagged and Stopped at(position)”.
5. **No person is to move onto the course or approach the down athlete until the Jury Member on site confirms that the COURSE HOLD is fully engaged above the site.**
6. The Jury Member on site will direct the quick determination of the need for any medical response and, only as necessary, make a clear request for a medical responder (with or without transport).
 - Not every down athlete requires medical. Not every down athlete needing medical requires transport.

7. **Only** a qualified **FIRST RESPONDER** (usually Ski Patrol) will make contact with a down athlete. The **FIRST RESPONDER** may order transport if none has been requested yet.
 - **FIRST RESPONDER** chain-of-command is to be obeyed by all responders.
 - **FIRST RESPONDERS** are not required to relinquish their role to by-stander medical professionals.
 - By-stander medical professionals shall not engage the down athlete unless they assume the role of the **FIRST RESPONDER** or are directed by the **FIRST RESPONDER**.
 - **Non-trained, non-medical** responders at the incident site may remove “debris” from the race course and assess course repairs that may be necessary. Repair information is to be relayed to the Jury Member on site.
8. Non-medical responders may assist with the athlete response **only under the specific direction of the FIRST RESPONDER in charge of the incident site.**
 - Very few down athletes sustain life threatening injuries, particularly injuries that are imminently life ending.
 - Other than in life threatening circumstances, no person other than a qualified medical responder is to attempt to remove a down athlete’s equipment, remove the athlete from nets or attempt to move the athlete in any way. For example, spring tension in bindings likely needs to be zeroed before a ski can be removed.
 - **COACHES** and **BY-STANDER MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS** shall not touch the athlete except under the direction of the **FIRST RESPONDER**.
9. **RADIO SILENCE** is required immediately following the “**START STOP**” call. **All** persons will clear all radio channels until advised by the Chief of Race / dispatch that normal radio communications may resume.
 - It is critical that the only radio traffic on the race communications system will be among the **Chief of Medical**, the **medical responders**, the **Chief of Race** and the **Jury Member** closest to the incident site. **No Exceptions.**
 - The Chief of Medical and the **FIRST RESPONDER** will communicate on the medical channel as necessary per established Ski Patrol radio protocol.
 - Once the medical response, if any, is well engaged, the Jury Member on site may communicate with the Chief of Race about course repair information, status, needs. As necessary, the Chief of Race will communicate with the Chief of Course to relay messages to/from the incident site.
10. Jury members will identify themselves to the Ski Patrol members at their assigned stations before the commencement of each training run or race run.
 - Ski Patrol members may rotate out of their position during day. It is necessary to ensure that the Ski Patrol on station knows at all times exactly who the Jury person is whom may be directing them onto the race track.

11. The Jury member closest to the incident site will be responsible for the orderly conduct of the response. Care should be taken to control the number and status of those persons attending at the site and apply a “need to be there” rule.
12. During the response, the Chief of Ski Patrol will reposition Ski Patrol personnel as necessary to ensure adequate coverage upon recommencement of the event.
13. The Jury Member closest to the site will advise the Jury when the site is clear and safe for the event to resume.
14. The Technical Delegate will commence a “Course Clearance” from the bottom up and then, as soon as it is safe to do so, will direct the Start Referee to re-start the event.
15. The Chief of Race will advise Dispatch / all radios when RADIO SILENCE has been lifted so that normal radio communications may resume.
16. Chief of Medical will advise Chief of Race by private means (cell phone, secure txt/bbm) about the destination and status of injured athlete and disposition of ski patrol members involved in the rescue as soon as this information is known.