

BRITISH NORDIC FIS LICENCE: CROSS-COUNTRY, SKI JUMPING, NORDIC COMBINED

1. PURPOSE OF A BRITISH (GB) LICENCE

1.1. The International Ski Federation (FIS) defines the rules for all Nordic events (races) in the FIS Race Calendar. Any skier (athlete) wishing to compete in FIS events must obtain a licence through their national ski association. British Ski and Snowboard (BSS) is the national governing body for England, Scotland and Wales.

1.2. Holding a GB FIS licence provides you with a FIS code (number) to record your FIS points in events. The winner of a cross-country event is given the lowest number of points and the following finishers are allocated additional points according to their finish times behind the winner. A mean average of points for 5 events taken periodically is used to give a FIS points score in the FIS Points List that is published at various times throughout the year. The lower the number of FIS points on the list the higher the ranking in distance, sprint or combined events.

1.3. Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined use FIS points for cup competitions with winners of events scoring the highest points.

1.3. BSS use FIS points or finish positions for selecting athletes to squads and team events or competitions, such as the World Nordic Ski Championships. FIS points and finish positions are among the criteria used for nominating athletes to the British Olympic Association for selection to the Olympic Winter Games (OWG).

1.4. Appendix 1 below gives more information on the rules (ICR) set by FIS for national ski federations in issuing licences. The ICR, FIS Calendar and FIS Points List (Cross-Country) can be found on the FIS website under Cross Country, Ski Jumping or Nordic Combined:
www.fis-ski.com/

1.5. The BSS website contains information on selections for squads and teams:
<https://www.teambss.org.uk/>

2. POPULAR OR COMPETITIVE SKIER

2.1. Do you wish to be a competitive racer (athlete) or recreational racer (popular racing)? The competitive racer will hold a FIS licence. Follow the steps below to obtain a licence.

2.2. The recreational cross-country ski racer can compete in popular races, such as the Worldloppetor World Masters, and not need to hold a licence.

3. FIRST STEP

3.1. If you live in the UK we would encourage you to be a member of a British ski club affiliated to a home nation governing body (HNGB), that is, Snowsport England, Snowsport Scotland or Snowsport Wales. If you are living abroad you can remain with your local ski club.

3.2. You will need to register as a 'competitor' with a HNGB depending on your address or family connections. This is one of the requirements for applying for a GB FIS licence.

Snowsport England: <http://snowsportengland.org.uk/node/267>

Snowsport Scotland: <http://www.snowsportsotland.org/node/52>

Snowsport Wales: www.snowsportwales.co.uk/

3.3. Membership of a HNGB generally provides you with third party liability insurance.

3.4. If you are living abroad and already hold a FIS licence with another nation, we recommend that you do not register with a HNGB until your national ski association and the British ski association both agree to your transfer to GB and until FIS Council give approval, usually in May/June or September/October each year. Once approval is given you can register with one of the above bodies. Contact the BSS office for guidance.

4. SECOND STEP

4.1. Having confirmed your registration with a HNGB you can now apply to the BSS for a FIS Nordic licence. Read the notes on the BSS web site:

<https://memberdesq.sportstg.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main&OrgID=8224>

4.2. Next on the website click on the link to the Nordic Licence page. Note in your application you will be required to supply your HNGB registration details, copy of your valid UK passport and a [medical declaration form](#). Email copies of your passport and medical form to lucy.mackenzie@teambss.org in the BSS office.

4.3. The Certificate of Health must be completed by a qualified medical practitioner and is valid for 3 years (unless there is a change to the athlete's health which would deem the form invalid). For more information, read the [Certificate of Health FAQs](#) document.

4.4. If you are under 18 years of age you must make an application for a licence through the agreement of your parent or guardian.

5. THIRD STEP

5.1. BSS takes into account FIS rules when deciding to issue a licence to an athlete. There are two important conditions:

- safety of the athlete on the race course, particularly if technically inexperienced on a race course:
- conduct, for example, in terms of doping, gross misconduct.

5.2. The types of licence, 'A', 'B', 'C', are designed to reflect the performance level of the athlete:

- 'A' is reserved for World Cup qualified athletes
- 'B' is for Continental Cup level athletes
- 'C' is for newcomers or those at FIS events level. This is the level of any FIS points event below Continental Cup.

5.3. The type of licence issued is based on the results of the past year. All licences are subject to approval by the Nordic discipline committee. You can be selected for higher level events without changing your type of licence, depending on your results and meeting the various team selection criteria during the season. Higher-level licence holders can of course compete in any lower FIS event.

5.4. Applications for a licence made before 30 June produce an 'early bird' discount.

APPENDIX

THE INTERNATIONAL SKI COMPETITION RULES (ICR): BOOK II CROSS-COUNTRY; BOOK III SKI JUMPING; BOOK VII NORDIC COMBINED

203 Licence to participate in FIS Races (FIS Licence)

A licence to participate in FIS races is issued by a National Ski Association to competitors who fulfill the criteria for participation through registering the competitor with FIS in the respective discipline(s).

203.1 The FIS licence year begins on July 1st and finishes on June 30th of the following year.

203.2 To be eligible for participation in FIS events, a competitor must have a licence issued by his National Ski Association. Such a licence shall be valid in the Northern and Southern hemispheres for the licence year only. The validity of a licence can be limited to participation in one specific country or in one or more specific events.

203.2.1 The National Ski Association must guarantee that all competitors registered with a FIS License to participate in FIS races accept the Rules of the International Ski Federation, in particular the provision which foresees the exclusive competence of the Court of Arbitration for Sport as the court of appeal in doping cases.

203.3 A National Ski Association may only issue a FIS licence to participate in FIS races when the competitor has proven his nationality and therefore eligibility by submitting a copy of his passport and signed the Athletes Declaration in the form approved by the FIS Council and returned it to his National Ski Association. All forms from under-age applicants must be counter signed by their legal guardians. Both the copy of the passport and signed Athletes Declaration must be made available to FIS on request.

203.4 During the FIS licence year, a competitor may only participate in International FIS competitions with a FIS licence to participate in FIS races issued by one National Ski Association.

203.5 Application for a change of FIS Licence Registration All applications to change licence registration from one member National Ski Association to another are subject to consideration by the FIS Council at its Meetings in the spring. In principle an application to change licence registration will not be granted unless the competitor demonstrates his personal association with the new nation. Prior to submitting an application to change licence registration a competitor must possess the citizenship and passport of the country for which he wishes to compete. In addition, the competitor must have had his principal legal and effective place of residence in the new country for a minimum of two (2) years immediately prior to the date of the request to change registration to the new country/National Ski Association. An exception to the two year residency rule may be waived if the competitor was born in the territory of the new country, or whose mother or father is a national of the new country. Applications will not be accepted if a parent has obtained a passport for the new country, but is not resident, and/or there is no family ancestry. Furthermore the competitor is required to submit a detailed explanation with the application about his personal circumstances and the reason for requesting a change of licence registration.

203.5.1 If a competitor has already participated in FIS calendar events for a National Ski Association, he must have the written agreement to be released from the former National Ski Association in addition to the citizenship, passport and residency requirements in art. 203.5 before the new National Ski Association may submit a request to FIS for a change of registration. If such a written agreement is not given, the competitor may not participate in any FIS calendar events for a period of twelve months from the end of the last season in which he competed for his present National Ski Association, nor may he be issued with a licence to participate in FIS races by the new National Ski Association. These rules are also valid when a competitor has more than one nationality and would like to change National Ski Association licence registration.

203.5.2 The FIS Council reserves the right in its absolute discretion, to grant or to decline to grant, a change of licence notwithstanding the fulfilment of the aforementioned conditions where it deems it is contrary to the spirit of the rule and in the best interests of the International Ski Federation to do so (e.g. to decline to grant a change of licence if a member National Ski Association tries to "import" a competitor).

203.5.3 In the event that a competitor does not fulfil all the criteria required to apply for a change of National Ski Association licence registration, the onus shall be on the competitor to demonstrate in writing to the satisfaction of the FIS Council that exceptional circumstances exist and it is in the best interests of the International Ski Federation to grant the change.

203.5.4 A competitor will retain his FIS Points if he changes his National Ski Association under the condition that the former National Ski Association granted the release of the competitor.

203.5.5 In the event that any of the documents for an application to change licence registration submitted by the National Ski Association (letter of release from the former National Ski Association, passport, residency papers) are found to be false, the FIS Council will sanction the competitor and the new National Ski Association.

204 Qualification of Competitors

204.1 A National Ski Association shall not support or recognise within its structure, nor shall it issue a licence to participate in FIS or national races to any competitor who:

204.1.1 has conducted himself in an improper or unsportsmanlike manner or has not respected the FIS medical code or anti-doping rules,

204.1.2 accepts or has accepted, directly or indirectly, any money-payments for the participation at competitions,

204.1.3 accepts or has accepted a prize of a higher value than fixed by article 219,

204.1.4 permits or has permitted his name, title or individual picture to be used for advertising, except when the National Ski Association concerned, or its pool for this purpose, is party to the contract for sponsorship, equipment or advertisements.

204.1.5 knowingly competes or has competed against any skier not eligible according to the FIS Rules, except if:

204.1.5.1 the competition is approved by the FIS Council, is directly controlled by the FIS or by a National Ski Association, and the competition is announced "open",

204.1.6 has not signed the Athletes Declaration,

204.1.7 is under suspension.

204.2 With the issuance of a licence to participate in FIS competitions and entry the National Ski Association confirms, that valid and sufficient accident insurance for training and competition is in place for the competitor and assumes full responsibility.