

2007 SKI HELMET REGULATIONS - REVISED VERSION

There are minor changes in this revised version. The original inadvertently included the wrong regulation. Of note is the change which no longer prohibits removable face guards.

The 2006/7 FIS rules changes introduced mandatory wearing of ski helmets for all disciplines. The introduction of mandatory helmets is based on overwhelming medical evidence of the benefits of wearing a helmet in the event of an accident. It is Snowsport GB policy to follow FIS rulings unless there are good reasons not to. Snowsport GB accepts these rule changes without reservation.

However, there have been some enquiries about what constitutes a ski helmet, given the specifications in the rule changes about the necessity for certain international standard markings. This note is intended to clarify the position but does not in any way replace the obligation on the skier/racer to be responsible for his/her own choice of equipment, its suitability for the intended use, and its compliance with the rules. In addition, this guidance is only applicable for British races; those taking part in FIS races may find a different interpretation being applied.

In addition to the FIS ICR guidance, the rules as per the FIS Equipment Regulations are:

*The use of crash helmets is compulsory for all events.
Only helmets are permitted whose shell and padding cover the head and ears. The National Ski Associations are advised to provide their teams only with crash helmets which satisfy the minimum requirements and which have been certified by recognised institutes.
Helmets with spoilers or edges that stick out are not permitted.
Certain helmets must show a smooth top surface for safety reasons.
Helmets used in FIS Snowsports shall be specifically designed and manufactured for the particular discipline and shall bear a CE mark and conform to recognized and appropriate standards such as CEH.Din 1077, ASTM F2040, SNELL S98 or RS 98, etc.*

Within Britain, both for snow and artificial surfaces, any helmet designed for ski racing will be accepted. Some older helmets still on the market do not have the requisite markings. However, as long as they are designed for ski racing and

for the discipline this will not present a problem. Similarly, those helmets which have soft ear covering will be acceptable during the transition period.

The following will not be accepted:

Not wearing a helmet at all

Helmets not designed for ski racing eg mountain bike or motor bike helmets

The wearing of Slalom face protector only

Helmets with a peak, fairing or spoiler

Helmets with no ear covering

This guidance will remain valid until Nov 08 by which time it is expected that the natural turnover of equipment will mean that all racers should be able to be fully compliant with the rules.

Please refer any further queries to Larry Young, Chair of the Snowsport GB TD Forum, or Ian Roberts, Chair of Snowsport England STP

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