

ESSKIA Risk Assessment– SKI RACING

Name of Assessor:	D Burns	Signature:	DB	Date:	September 2025
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Assessment of Risk For:	ESSKIA Regional Championships and Finals 2025	Date:	September 2025
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Regional Races held at Aldershot, Chatham, Welwyn, Swadlincote and Pendle.

English Finals and Open Competition to be held at Norwich. British Finals to be held at Swadlincote.

NOTE:

- These events are held at public venues for which ESSKIA is not responsible. Responsibility for operation of the venue including any mechanical equipment lies with the slope operator.
- Responsibility for supervision of athletes outside of the competition area (defined as the start area, race slope and finish area) lies with Schools and their appointed representatives. Schools are reminded that as a condition of membership schools should follow their own procedures in respect of checking the appropriateness of any third parties they appoint to supervise or manage their teams.
- Snowsport England and ESSKIA remind Schools that when appointing third-parties to coach their athletes they should ensure that the coach is suitably experienced, holds appropriate qualifications and is acting only within relevant certifications.

ESSKIA is responsible only for operation of the race within the competition area.

This risk assessment applies to the operation of the race itself within the competition area and MUST be read alongside risk assessments of Schools, any third parties they appoint, and the slope operator.

No.	Potential Hazard	Groups of People at Risk	Existing Control Measures	Risk after Mitigation	Additional Controls Required to Minimise Risk
	Pre Competition				
1.	Accompanying Staff, Officials & Volunteers	All	- Pre event communication including arrivals, parking considerations, rules of event. - Publication of race information to Schools via Email and via GBSKI to mitigate risk that schools do not communicate effectively to parents. - Team managers and Officials briefed at Team Managers Meeting (TMM).	Low	Communication via PA system
2.	Spectators	All	- Spectators to remain in public area at all times. - Only athletes, officials and qualified race coaches allowed to enter the competition area during Course Inspection. - Schools have agreed to be bound by rules of event which include Code of Conduct.	Low	Reminder at TMM that Code of Conduct applies to all including Spectators.
3.	Participants	All	- Registration of team numbers and needs of specific pupils identified in advance via entry details sent in from the School. - Pupils remain under supervision and behaviour management of accompanying staff. Agreed by schools in both Membership form and Race Entry Form.	Low	Registration of teams. Identification of participants with additional needs. The needs of those participants risk managed.
4.	Attire and Equipment	All	- Attire: Racers must wear suitable protection for arms and legs including long trousers, long sleeve shirt, which must cover the midriff, and gloves. - Helmets: Proper ski helmets must be worn. It is advisable for pupils to wear their own helmet. Slopes have very few to rent/borrow. No cameras, camera mountings, coverings or stickers are allowed.	Low	Reminder to Team Managers at TMM to: - Relay safety instructions to participants. - Relay Rules of competition to participants. - Relay expectations in terms of sportsmanship & general behaviour

			- Bungs on Poles: Under Snowsport England safety rules, competitors must either use the slope's ski sticks, or ensure that their own ones have tip protectors (rubber bungs). - These rules communicated prior to race via Bulletin 1, sent to schools, published on Race Entry System and GBSKI.		
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5.	Injury to Participants through inexperience or non compliance	All	- Schools attending competition to have taught their pupils the fundamental skills & rules prior to participating in competitive events. - Briefing with accompanying staff on all aspects of competition and rules at TMM. - Start Referee to visually inspect athletes entering start gate. - Junior(Cat 1) athletes prevented from taking part in Senior (Cat 2+) competition - Cat 1 competition held using 'stubby' gates - Cat 2+ competition held using full gates with preference to 27mm where available	Medium	Pre competition communication with schools to set out competition format and provide rules in advance. Rules provided. Key Officials well experienced and / or trained to uphold safety and rules; volunteers briefed by Key Officials. Team managers reminded to check conformity of their athletes kit at TMM.
6.	Activity Area	Participants / Officials	- Facility confirmed suitable in size to host the competition in a safe manner and compliant with the rules. - Course-setter to be qualified individual having passed SSE course-setter qualification or equivalent.	Low	Confirmation by Regional Rep (heats) or Race Secretary (Finals, Open, British) that senior officials (Chief, Referee, Start Referee) as well as Course Setter hold relevant appropriate qualifications and are aware of course requirements

			• Course to be set in accordance with British Artificial Competition Rules as amended but without control gates save for first, last and those within combinations (but not exist gate to combination). • Safety of Course to be assessed by Referee and / or Chief of Race and approved prior to commencement of Course Inspection and monitored continuously during event by all officials. Any official has capacity to halt race at any time. Official halting race to confirm course-clear prior to recommencement. Only Chief of Race can re-commence race. • Referee / Chief's inspection to include at a minimum: safety of start area, safety of start ramp, wires to be clear of athletes, provision of cover to start gate on a balance of risks approach (see weather), position and separation of gates, confirmation of absence of obstructions in course, quality and security of matting in racing line and near to gates, obstacles in potential path of athletes outside of racing line particularly in event of a fall, safety of finish area including a clear run-off, ability of athletes to access lift without crossing runoff area • Chief of Race and / or Regional Rep and / or Race Secretary to brief volunteers prior to race. • Course inspection to be conducted on skis but athletes must not ski the course, must come to a full stop between each gate. • On a balance of risks, Athletes may be accompanied on course inspection by a coach or		
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			more experienced athlete if requested by school. Schools to be reminded to make their own assessment of such person who will not be working for ESSKIA but will be employed by School in that regard.		
c	During Competition				
8.	Weather	ALL	• Pre-race briefing notes provided to schools highlighting risk of inclement weather and advising that schools may wish to provide gazebos to provide cover for athletes whilst in public areas outdoors, to remind athletes to keep hydrated and to apply sunscreen where required. • Chief of Race to maintain awareness of weather conditions during race. • Athletes to be called up in groups to minimise wait time in exposed area. • On particularly hot or cold days (or at indoor snow races) time spent by all (but junior athletes in particular) inside of race area to be minimised. • Water to be provided to race officials, who should also be warned to wear sunscreen and a hat whilst outdoors in all weather conditions as they are likely to be stationary for prolonged periods. • If conditions are expected to be excessively hot during summer races (usually June, July, August but see weather forecast) water to be made available for athletes	Low	

			• In windy conditions gazebos to be tied down. Awareness that gusts can occur on hills. • In the event of thunder / lightning racing to be immediately suspended and ALL to leave the hill. • In the event of torrential rain (not merely ongoing rain), consideration given to taking a short break whilst worst conditions pass		
9.	Control of Athletes	Participants, officials and Volunteers	• Start Marshals to control top of hill during racing, ensure that athletes are prepared and in order, not posing risk to other athletes or to event. • Start Referee or equivalent to control start area and ensure athletes only allowed to commence when course is clear, unobstructed and safe. • Start Referee to visually inspect athlete as enter start gate to check boots clipped into skis, boots closed, long attire, helmets and bungs in accordance with published requirements. • Any athlete whose attire or kit not per required standards not to be allowed to start. • Finish Marshal to supervise finish area and ensure that athletes exist quickly following completion of run.	Low	Reminder at TMM
10.	Supervision of Volunteers	Participants, officials and Volunteers	Volunteers to be briefed on their roles at Officials Meeting prior to commencement of racing by suitably	Low	All volunteers be monitored / supervised by the Competition Organiser throughout the competition.

			experienced and qualified person (usually Chief, Regional Rep, or Race Secretary). Briefing to include instruction that: - in all circumstances safety of officials and athletes comes first, ahead of rules of the event. - To maintain a watch for ingress of spectators, animals, obstacles such as rubbish within the racing area - To approach and reassure athletes if they are subject to a fall, but not to move or touch athletes unless directed to do so by qualified first aider At least 2 suitable experienced and / or qualified Officials to be present at each event (Usually Chief, Referee, Start and / or Finish Referee, Race Secretary).		All Officials and Volunteers to wear high-vis vests whilst within race area.
11.	Non-participants within race area	Participants, officials and Volunteers	Under no circumstances are spectators (defined as all of those who are not participants, officials, volunteers performing a specified on-hill role, or coaches) to enter the race area. Only athletes, officials and coaches will be permitted on the hill during course inspection or at the top of the hill during racing. On a balance of risks, those presenting as Coaches requested by their school to supervise athletes for their school will be permitted but schools are reminded that they are employed by the school and not by ESSKIA and that the school should make an appropriate risk assessment as to whether this is appropriate.	Low	Officials and Start marshals to be reminded at Officials Meeting to request parents to leave the race area immediately. Similarly, to be reminded that whilst coaches may be permitted they are not subject to safeguarding checks by ESSKIA and should be monitored whilst within the race area. Reminder via PA system and at TMM

12.	Hazards presented by skiing.	Participants	All participants to be aware of & conform to rules in respect of race especially with regard to attire. Schools to remind athletes. All athletes to comply with facility requirements in respect of use of slope and lifts. Schools to remind athletes. Start Referee to inspect athletes as they enter start gate. SSE guidance on concussion to be applied rigorously: no athlete with suspected head injury to be permitted to start. 'If in doubt, sit them out'. Athletes and schools are responsible for their own kit. ESSKIA staff, officials and volunteers should not interfere with an athletes kit but if in doubt as to safety should prevent a start and refer the matter back to the athletes Coach or School Any official to halt race on occurrence of fall, obstacle or equipment failure or displacement.	Medium	Reminder at TMM and via PA Briefing of Officials and Volunteers
13.	Management of Accident or Injury to Athlete whilst competing	All	Outside of race area: per provision of venue in accordance with their risk assessment. Within race area: See Event Medical Assessment as published on GBSKI and ESSKIA Race Entry Website	Medium	Team Managers to be reminded at TMM

14.	Anti Social Behaviour or behaviour in contravention of ESSKIA Welfare Policies	All	Code of Conducts and Rules published Adherence by ALL to the published code of conducts. Nominated Event Welfare Officer present at all times. EWO to be either qualified and certified per SSE requirements or otherwise a teacher but not a coach. The ESSKIA Welfare Officer will remain available to EWOs to contact by telephone throughout and after the events. Arrangements confirmed as appropriate by Snowsport England.	Low	Introduction of EWO at TMM. Blue vest to be worn. Relevant authorities (Facility Management staff, Police etc) to be contacted if & when necessary. To ensure all incidents are recorded in line with the incident reporting policy and reported to Snowsport England.
General					
15.	Photography	All	ESSKIA is not responsible for and does not control photography in the public areas. ESSKIA adopts an 'opt-in' policy in respect of official photography. Schools indicate this at the time of race entry on a per athlete basis. If an event photographer is appointed then they will be given a copy of the no-photography list prior to the race. Photographs will be contained in secured directories per school and only provided to team managers on a per-school basis. Schools to be responsible for distribution to their athletes and parents.	Low	Reminder at TMM
16.	Finishing of Event	Users of facility following competition	Facility booked to cover duration of competition. Relevant individuals notified of finish time especially if the facility is used for external bookings.	Low	Event staff / volunteers to marshall entrance & exits until competition finished and facility cleared.

17.	Facility Evacuation	All	To be fully aware of host facilities procedure for evacuation in advance of competition.	Low	All participants, spectators & staff to be briefed on relevant procedures prior to competition.
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Risk Priority:	High: Accident likely with possibility of serious injury or loss Medium: Possibility of accident occurring causing minor injury or loss Low: Accident unlikely with control measures in place
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Reviewer:	T Archbold
Assessment Review Date:	September 2025
Next Update & Review:	September 2026

GOOD PRACTICE IS SAFE PRACTICE

To remove risk entirely from any activity is both impossible and unpractical. In the case of inter school competition the challenge for all concerned is to manage the potential risks that young people may face through their participation in competitive sport.

A risk assessment is a careful examination of what could happen to pupils, colleagues or others in a particular situation and/or environment. They are a legal requirement that require the identification and implementation of precautions to minimise or prevent harm.

The role of the risk assessor is to determine whether a hazard is significant and, if so, to determine and implement the precautions necessary to eliminate or minimise the risk presented.

Participating schools should also undertake their own risk assessment for travel to and from the event venue, and ensure they understand their roles and responsibilities in reducing risk at the event.