

NZWSRA Racing Committee & Executive Chief Judge's Report – June 2017

Prepared by Emma Nasimi – Chair of the Racing Committee & Executive Chief Judge

The 2016-2017 season was one of the easiest that I have been involved with to manage. This was mainly down to teamwork. Both the Racing Committee and our judges stepped up and shared the workload to ensure the burden didn't fall on any one person. This makes for a much easier season! I encourage all of you to volunteer your time, whether in these groups or others this season.

Racing Committee:

The bringing together of some “old heads” who wanted to make a real difference was at the core of our committee this season. After discussion with the Exec we decided we would make some changes in order to make our rules as inclusive as possible. This was driven by a dwindling membership and wanting to remove as many barriers to entry as possible. This wasn't easy and we know it wasn't perfect either. But hopefully it got just a few more people in a few more races.

At the start of the season we had 12 new submissions, 12 carried over from last year and four more added by our committee. This resulted in 17 rule amendments at the start of the season. All submissions and outcomes were published to increase transparency of the process. There were also a number of other submissions dealt with by us during the season. None of these have yet resulted in rule changes (note – most of these were not relevant to rule changes, usually during the season these are for dispensations). The incoming 2017-2018 Racing Committee will need to review what we did last year and assess the effectiveness of the changes, and assess what further changes might be needed.

Judging:

This year the judging went relatively smoothly, with a total of only three penalties being issued in our regular season (excluding time penalties in 60 MPH class). We have three new judges (Flex, Jordan and PC) and have a crew of existing judges who really stepped up to spread the load of Event Judge. I'd really like to thank Bradey who did the lion's share of our judging this year. You have become an outstanding judge and you're one of the unsung heroes of our sport. This year we trialled a new judging report and points system to help us with allocation of driver and observer of the year awards. While this isn't yet perfect, it helped provide some further visibility. I'd like to wish Lyneen and Chris Carter luck in their judging roles at the upcoming World Championships in Seattle.

I'll end with a personal note. Our family has been involved in ski racing for almost 30 years. Last month the sport that we love resulted in a life-threatening injury for Kate. She is recovering well, and thankfully we still have her passionate, wilful and caring ways with us. I want to thank the ski racing community on behalf of Alice and I, and our whole family. We certainly appreciated the support, and it reminds us why we keep hanging round you lot 😊

I wish you all luck and safe racing next season.

Emms