

There are quite a few rule changes for 2008. Some are self explanatory others may not be. Here is an explanation of the change and some logic behind them.

Part A amendments

Article 6 – two changes

An extension to the rule allowing skaters to make up relay teams in older age categories at British Championship events. They must also race their own age category unless their club only has the one skater in their age category and couldn't enter any such team.

Changed to request that both the parent/ guardian and coach request that a skater can skate over their maximum permitted distance and that the request be made to FISS at least a week before the event to give time for its consideration.

Article 9 section f and General Note

Points races to be for the first two over the line on each scoring lap other than the final.

For marathon championship distances, a skater will not be required to race against a time standard for medal positions where there is only one skater in the category. Completing the distance is considered sufficient challenge to warrant a medal. Conditions on the day and the course profile also make times less of a consideration for marathon distances.

Article 19 section 2 sub c

Due to an increased number of wrist injuries, it has been decided to extend the compulsory protection for mini and pupil racers to include wrist guards. Parent/guardians may opt out of this on FISS membership application forms. Protection is also recommended for training.

Article 20

110mm wheels are now permitted in line with the FIRS rule change. Wording on axles also slightly changed as it referred to quads only and theoretically meant all inlines were illegal.

Part B amendments

Article 9 section c

The FISS chairman can no longer dismiss complaints without referring them to the committee. All complaints must be presented and the committee will decide whether to dismiss them.

Article 11 section 4

Child protection is being updated and FISS will have to come into compliance with new rules. They are expected to be published imminently and it was felt the 2008 rulebook should not include a rule that would prevent us from becoming compliant until 2009. It has therefore been written that BRSF rules will immediately supersede the current FISS practices. Until then current practices will apply.

Part C amendments

Summary - The one size fits all race permit fee has been removed. Instead, all race fees are now payable directly to FISS who will deduct race fees at the rate of £1 per entrant. That £1 and any late registration admin.fees (£2) will be put back into prize money as prizes for the mixed category/age group events at the end of the race programme. FISS are also operating an online payment system for entry as well as membership. FISS are guaranteeing a level of income to clubs should sufficient entries not be reached to compensate them for any potential loss of income so the event can still go ahead. All this should ease the burden on organising clubs so they will not have to worry about entries and paperwork other than permit applications.

Article 4 section 3

This confirms the replacement of the standing race fee with a £1 per entrant fee.

Article 4 section 4 subsection removed (old sub "c deadline for entry")

Deadline for entry is fixed now, see A7 sec a

Article 7 sections a, b, h, j & l

A - Postal entries to close 7 days before the event date and online entries 48 hours before. For those who are thinking that this will not give sufficient time to prepare and produce race programmes, it has been decided that these will be fixed and will list all known skaters. The on-the-day registration desk can tick all those that arrive and cross through those that don't, rather than listing just those that prepaid. Although the old programmes were more personal, the high number of on-the-day registrations made the process of updating officials programmes more complicated and meant that programmes sold on the day were no more up to date than if they listed all the skaters eligible to compete.

B – updated to reflect online entry

H – Entries go to FISS now and not the hosting clubs.

J – Admin fee on the day is £2 instead of doubling the race fee as this was perceived as a disincentive to register rather than an incentive to register early.

L – FISS will not accept new memberships on the day, though it will accept sealed entry forms for later processing. Non-members wishing to participate in category racing must buy a day licence. A proportion of the fee is expected to be taken off membership fees if they become a member within a month. If a skater sends in a membership form with insufficient time for it to be acknowledged by FISS membership processing then that person will not be considered a member of the federation for that event and will be required to pay a day licence fee. The same time limits for postal and online membership applications should be considered for membership applications to be acknowledged.

Article 9 section 2

Skaters from other federations may continue to race without joining FISS after entering 3 events - but will need to purchase a day license instead for each subsequent event.

Article 13

Clubs won't have entry details, just officials so the need for clubs to communicate entries has been dropped

Article 29

Redefinition of the way overall champions are worked out. Allocation of points is now independent of the number of entrants in a race – this is intended to make the system fairer and results easier to work out.

Article 31 section 1

Due to problems with championship trophies not being returned in time for them to be represented the following year, or returned in a poor state of order, it has been decided to levy a minimum fine of £5. This will be more if the trophy needs to be repaired or replaced and will then be equivalent to the cost of repair or replacement. The fine does not need to be paid immediately and in the event of repair or replacement the cost may not be known until the repair or replacement is effected.

Article 43 section b

Time limit for claiming an internationally achieved British record has been extended to allow clubs to return home from competition, should a record be earned in the early stages of an extended competition, e.g. time trials at world championships.

Article 48 section 9

Category change request must be made a week prior to the event. New skaters will be categorised by the FISS race director who will consult with their coach, if necessary, to determine a starting category. Change requests are less likely to be acted upon later in the season for an athlete who has been racing during the season because a points system is being adopted to move skaters between categories. This is intended to level out the categories fairly. This should enable consistent high finishers to race in the next category and skaters who consistently finish in the lowest places to move to the previous category. The

points system will enable them to achieve their potential and reward their successes with a greater challenge to spur them on.

The points system being adopted at the start of the season is not in the rulebook as that would not give us the ability to adapt it or abandon it in the event of it not being successful. Initially it is planned that a racer who wins a category race will receive 2 points and the runner up 1 point. The last skater will score minus 2 points and the penultimate skater minus 1. No points will be scored if there are fewer than 5 racers in the category for that distance. Points will be added together for each race. When a racer achieve 5 points or more, plus or minus they will move up or down at the next race meeting subject to there being sufficient racers in certain categories. When a skater changes categories they will start from zero again.

Part D Amendments

Article 1

Speed judges amended to read Officials

Article 4

The referee will not generally be from the hosting club unless there are insufficiently qualified officials from other clubs available for the competition.

Ideally there will also be an assistant referee who will be there to learn the ropes and who will be selected from a different club from the referee.

Part E Amendments

Fee changes for 2008 – self explanatory. Only articles 1 & 2 amended