

## **Suffolk Vikings Ski Race Team**

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### **Information Sheet 2: Dry slope slalom racing, an introduction.**

Although many of the Vikings compete on snow as well as on the dry slope, the Viking's main home is the Dry slope at Ipswich Leisure Park. All the Vikings' training is carried out on the dry slope and the main competitions throughout the year are held on dry slopes. There are a couple of races on snow held in snow domes, but these follow largely the same format as the dry slope races.

The principles of dry slope slalom racing are exactly the same as slalom races held on snow that you may have seen on TV. The aim is to make your way through the course in the quickest possible time whilst skiing around alternating red and blue poles (known as gates).

#### **The Principles**

Starting at the top of the course, the racer must pass by the correct side of each pole and make it through the finish line. The racer must find the optimum route to achieve the fastest possible time. A racer has completed the course if they have done the following:

Gone through the starting gate, passed by the correct side of each pole with both skis, and gone through the finish line. The racer must start with four pieces of ski equipment (two skis and two poles), and must cross the finish line with at least three of these. (In addition to any mandatory safety equipment).

It is perfectly acceptable (although inadvisable) to fall over and get up again, or miss a pole, stop and walk back up the slope to go through it properly, although these will both impact your times. The actual order that the racer goes past each pole does not matter

#### **Results**

A skier that completes the course correctly will have a time recorded. A skier that misses a gate but crosses the finish line will be marked DSQ – disqualified, and a skier that does not cross the finish line will be marked DNF – did not finish (often referred to as “skied out”). These results will only apply to that particular run. If the race involves multiple runs, then times can still be recorded for the other runs.

#### **Gate Judges**

At most formal races, Gate Judges will be positioned along the course to ensure that skiers go the correct side of the poles. They will signal if the skier doesn't either with a flag or by logging the transgression on a judging sheet. There are no gate judges at Blue Ribbons – honesty is expected, if you know you've missed a gate you should not ski through the finish line (“skiing out”).

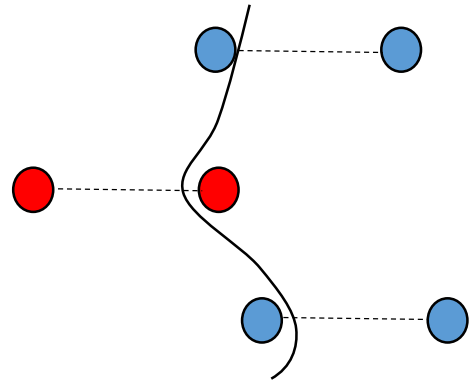
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### The Gates

Poles are red or blue and will be placed on the course in alternating colours.

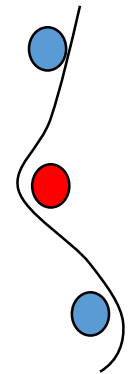
To understand how the course is laid out it is important to know that technically each pole is one of a pair. The skier skis between each pair of coloured poles, as shown in this diagram.

The dotted line is an imaginary line between each pair of poles that the skier must ski through in order to correctly ski through the pole.



However, it is usual to only place one pole on the course, and the skier has to imagine the second pole (and dotted line) is there! Hence the layout in the diagram above might actually look like this when on the slope. Commonly both pairs of poles are placed for the first and last gate, to help ensure clarity at the start and finish.

It is important to remember that the poles bend, and to correctly pass through the gate both of your skis must pass the right side of the pole. If you bend the pole over and hence one of your skis passes over the base of the pole that is called “straddling” and you will be judged not to have completed the gate correctly.

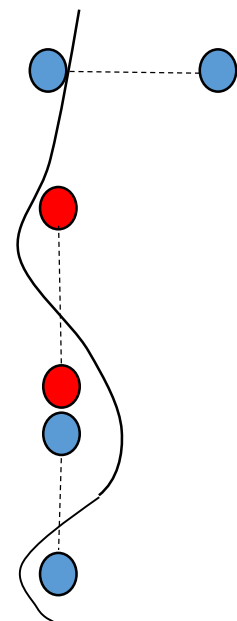


### The Poles

The poles are made out of plastic and stand about 1.7m high. However, there are other types of poles that you may come across, including “stubbies” which are small plastic poles about 60cm high. These are often used to introduce new racers to the sport and also for younger racers. Brushes are small brushes about 30cm high used in place of the poles and often used for training and practicing technique.

### Other Gate Layouts

Although gates are mostly perpendicular to the direction of the slope, that is to say they are across the slope, they can be placed in the same direction as the slope, i.e. down the slope. Such gates are known as closed gates. One closed gate is called a “Banana”, two a “Hairpin” and three or more a “Verticali”. The direction of the gate is vertical rather than horizontal, but the principle is still the same, the skier has to break the imaginary line between the two poles of the same colour.



### Disclaimer

This information sheet is not an official version of the rules, it is intended as a guide and introduction for new and novice racers.