

2019 FWT RIDERS RULES

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1. PRO FREERIDERS BOARD (PFB)

The Pro Freeriders Board (PFB) was founded to ensure the best possible conditions for the growth of freeriding. It is made up of eight of the most prominent riders in the sport of freeride led by a General Secretary. Their task is to voice their opinions and wishes regarding season calendar, competition format, judging rules, a fair path for newcomers to qualify for the FWT through the FWQ and the ranking system. This approach ensures greater security and riders satisfaction.

1.1. Who are the PFB members?

FWT representatives:

Snowboarders: Sammy Luebke (USA), Marion Haerty (FRA)

Skiers: Reine Barkered (SWE), Drew Tabke (USA), Fabio Studer (AUT), Léo Slemett (FRA), Sam Lee (NZL)

General Secretary:

Jackie Paaso (USA)

1.2. How is the General Secretary chosen?

The PFB is led by a General Secretary whose main task is to lead and manage his Board.

1.3. How can I become a PFB member?

All FWT riders who are interested to invest time on the PFB should contact the General Secretary or one of the Board members. If one of the Board members decides to quit the Board, he has the responsibility to propose 2 names to the Board who will then decide who is chosen. If you announce yourself to the PFB, you may then be chosen as a new member.

1.4. Board Members duties

Board members are asked to represent riders opinions and are asked to actively take part in all Board discussions. A Board member not reacting on two topics proposed by either the PFB General Secretary or the FWT Head of Sport, will be replaced.

1.5. Rules validity and updates

Rules will be valid for one season. Updates can be made during the season only if validated by the PFB.

2. FWT RANKING

2.1. Categories

There are four (4) categories in FWT events, Ski men, Ski women, Snowboard men, Snowboard women. Some events will showcase all four categories. Some events might showcase men only or women only.

2.2. FWT Cut

In 2018, there will be 5 FWT events. A cut is made after the 4th event. The best 3 out of 4 results will count for the cut and the best 13 ski men, 6 snowboard men, 6 ski women and 4 snowboard women will qualify for the Verbier finals.

These riders will be qualified for the 2019 season.

2.3. Counting Results

All qualified riders for Verbier will have a fourth result counting for the final FWT ranking. After Verbier, the Freeride World Champion titles will be awarded taking the 4 best results from the 5 FWT stops.

NB: Verbier will receive the same value in points as the other FWT events.

The final FWT World Ranking will have riders with 4 results and riders with 3 results only.

The Verbier result could be one of these 4 counting results, but doesn't have to be.

In case one of the 4 first events is cancelled, the cut for Verbier will be made using 2 results. The final ranking after Verbier will count the best 3 results out of 4 events. If two of the 4 first events are cancelled, 2 results will count for the final ranking.

In case 3 events are cancelled, the cut for Verbier will be made using only 1 result. The final ranking after Verbier will count all 2 results. If Verbier is cancelled, only 1 result will count for the final ranking.

In case all 4 events before Verbier are cancelled, the past year ranking will be used to decide which riders are coming to the Verbier Xtreme. The top 12 ski men, 6 ski women and snowboard men and 4 snowboard women of the previous season will be qualified for the following season.

If Verbier is cancelled, the final ranking will be using the best 3 out of 4 events before Verbier. It will use the best 2 results out of 3 events before Verbier if one event is cancelled. It will use the best 2 results out of 2 events if 2 events are cancelled before Verbier. It will use the only one event result if 3 other events are cancelled before Verbier.

2.4. FWT Tour Ranking Ties

Ties will be split only for top 3 ranked riders after Verbier.

The split will be made accordingly:

Best Verbier result

Number of 1st, 2nd, 3rd places...

In case of perfect tie, riders will be tied at 1st 2nd or 3rd place

2.5. 2019 Qualifications

For the 2019 FWT tour, the top13 Ski Men, 6 Snowboard Men, 6 ski women and 4 snowboard women will be qualified.

If a qualified rider who confirmed his participation to the Tour is hurt or decides not to compete, it will be decided by the FWT management whether this rider will be replaced or not and by whom.

2.6. 2019 Qualification Ties

In case of ties at the 13th place Ski or 6th place Snowboard men and Ski women or 4th place Snowboard women, after the 4th event, the ties split will be made accordingly:

- By comparing the number of 1st, 2nd or 3rd places on all events.
- In case of perfect tie, tied riders will be qualified for the following season and will come to Verbier.

3. WILD CARDS

There are 3 types of wild cards. The Tour wild cards, local Organizer wild card and injury wild cards.

Tour wild card riders do score points, are ranked in the event ranking and the overall ranking, get prize money and can make the cut for next year's Tour.

Single event wild cards are ranked in the event ranking only, get prize money but cannot make the cut for next year's Tour.

Single event wild cards are influencing the event point distribution. If a single event wild card wins the event, the second ranked rider, will score the points of second place.

3.1. Tour Wild Cards

Tour Wild Cards in each category can be distributed for the season.

These are marketing wild cards distributed to help FWT market the Tour for the benefit of all. They follow various criteria such as:

- Nationality (making sure we have athletes from key marketing countries on the Tour)
- Returning from injury (athletes with high media potential coming back from injury)
- Name (famous athlete from the freestyle or racing scene who wish to give freeriding a go)

Of course the three criteria above shouldn't be sufficient if FWT Management doesn't believe that the level of the rider is not appropriate.

3.2. Local Organizer Wild Card

There will be up to 2 local organizer wild cards per event and per discipline. Riders getting these wild cards can only attend one event and will therefore not have a chance to qualify for the following year Tour through the current FWT season. These wild cards are given to help the local organizer with special media needs (example of Mancuso in Verbier 2010 or to have a Russian at the start of Sochi in 2011...). Local organizer wild cards can earn prize money and can be on the podium and will score FWT points.

Local organizer wild cards cannot make the cut for the end of the season and take the place of qualified riders or tour wild cards.

3.3. Injury Wild Cards

There will be up to 2 injury wild cards given by the Tour. Only riders who are missing 1 or more events due to injury can be eligible for an injury wild card. Riders who are hurt at the last event are not eligible.

FWT will propose to the PFB which rider should receive the injury wild cards in the case of more than two riders being injured the same season and will argue why these riders should get them. The board will either validate FWT's choice or ask FWT to review their choice.

4. FWT LICENSE

In order to compete at one or all events, every rider, including wildcards will have to acquire their yearly licence.

Riders have to use their real family name and first name to register.

FWT PRO licence (50 \$)

Generating a unique number per athlete, avoiding spelling mistakes on starting lists and rankings.

Automated update of seeding and ranking list.

Possibility to register / take part in the FWQ Tour.

A personal webpage per athlete on FWT website, with possibility to upload pictures, video links, sponsors, short bio, best results for your: sponsors, medias, fans, friends, event speakers,...

5. FWQ FOR FWT RIDERS

Current year FWT riders are ranked at the very top of the FWQ seeding list. Therefore they have priority when registering to any FWQ event.

FWT Riders who miss the cut for FWT's following season will still be ranked between FWT riders and the first FWQ riders on the seeding list the following season.

FWT riders have to register for each FWQ event during the registration period if they want to enter (latest 21 days prior to the event).

If the FWQ stop consists of a qualification and a final, FWT riders have to enter both.

6. COMPETITION FORMAT

6.1. Format

FWT events consist of one final run only. In special cases there could be multiple runs counting. Special format will be discussed with PFB before the competition.

FWT competitions have a multiple day weather window during which the competition can happen.

A normal competition program has the competitors arrive at D-2, has a face check at D-1 and has a competition on D day or later in the weather window. If the weather doesn't permit a face Check at D-1, a face check can be done on D day before the competition starts. If the weather window doesn't look good and the only good day is the face check day, this day could become the competition day. This would be communicated latest 4 days in advance and riders will then be asked to arrive one day earlier for a possible face check on their original arrival day.

6.2. Natural vs man-made venues

For FWT events the mountain stays untouched, the riders ride it as it is.

FWT organization will not build snow kickers or prepare take-offs in the venues.

6.3. Closed areas during an event

If an area has to be closed during the competition (because of an slide that occurred, ice or rocks that were exposed after a rider's run, or a cliff landing no longer safe) the next rider must be given some time to change his/her plan (either pick a new line or change his "Plan A" for his "Plan B").

The next rider who was about to drop will be given the possibility to start 2 BIB numbers later to have 6-8 minutes to visualize a new line (only if the following rider was getting ready to ride a line not affected by the newly closed area). In the event of all following riders concerned by the newly closed area, the race will be held 5 minutes to let the rider get ready for their new line.

6.4. Weather rule / Accident rule

If the competition is stopped due to weather conditions or any other happening (decision taken by Competition Director after consulting with the Head-Judges and the Head of Security), the Event Organizer can validate the competition results if more than 2/3rd of the competitors have started (= 66,7%).

For the avoidance of doubts, if the weather waiting period and weather forecasts present additional alternatives, and if the event budget allows, the Event Organizer may decide to organise a rerun of all competitors. This decision is at the Event Organizer's sole discretion, after consulting with the different sources including weather forecasts, PFB, etc...

In the case of a rerun, the results of the cancelled day are not taken into consideration. In case of a serious accident, the Event Organizer may decide, at his sole discretion, not to validate the competition results even if 2/3rd of the competitors have started.

In case of an event validated with only 2/3rd of the field down, the riders who couldn't ride will get as result, the average of their last 2 results. If this happens at the first event of the season, the awarded result will be the average of the next two results. If it happens at the second event, the rider will be awarded the average points from the first and the 3rd event.

6.5. NS, DNF, DNS, and DQ

NS: A rider who loses a ski during his run will get a NS (No Score) on the final ranking list.

A snowboarder who has to take off his board or unbuckle one foot at any time during the run will get a NS.

If the finish line or an entrance/segment of the venue is hard to access without pushing, snowboarders will be allowed to take off one foot or their board without getting a NS.

All riders who are NS are ranked tied at the last place but are still getting the ranking points of the last placed rider.

In an event with 20 riders in which 4 riders lost a ski or didn't finish, the 4 riders are tied in 20th place and all will score the points of 20th place.

NOTE: riders who lost a ski (or unstrap snowboard) have to take the easiest route down to the finish line. They are not allowed to ride their originally planned line with jumps and risk another loss of ski/fall which would result in further time delay for the event.

NOTE II: a rider who would finish his line after losing a ski will not receive any prize money for this event.

DNF: A rider who can't finish his run in case of injury, or who rides through a closed area, will get a DNF (Did Not Finish) on the final ranking list. He will get the points of the last ranked rider tied with all NS.

In an event with 20 riders in which 4 riders lost a ski or didn't finish, the 4 riders are tied in 20th place and all will score the points of 20th place.

DNS: A rider qualified for the event but not showing up at the start, or showing up at the start but missing any mandatory equipment, will get a DNS (Did Not Start) on the final ranking list. He will get the points of the last ranked rider after all NS and DNF. In an event's final day with 20 riders in which 4 riders did not start, the 4 riders are tied in 20th place and all will score the points of 20th place.

DQ: If a rider is disqualified, (major fault, such as riding the venue before the contest, having an unethical behaviour) will be ranked last, after all NS, DNF and DNS and will not score any points, will not earn any prize money for that event and could face multiple event ban.

You must have a score to be on the podium. In case we have less than 3 riders with scores, we could have a podium with one or two riders only. If all riders lose a ski during their run, there will be no winner. All the riders will score last position ranking points. (For example, all riders are getting the points of the 7th place in an event with 7 riders at the start who all lost a ski.)

6.6. Injuries / Pregnancy and frozen points

At FWT level, points cannot be frozen.

Injured/pregnant riders have 4 ways to qualify for the following FWT season:

Their ranking at the time of the cut is high enough to be qualified.

Their FWQ ranking is high enough to be qualified for their region.

They receive an injury wild card.

They receive a FWT tour wild card from FWT Management.

6.7. Training on competition venues

The FWT Organizer will close the competition venue(s) 30 days prior to the event or latest after the last snowfall.

If a rider was to be seen riding the competition venue(s) after the time the Organizer decided to close it, and it is clearly marked and communicated, the Organizer has the right to disqualify him.

Riding the competition venue(s) before they are officially closed is permitted.

6.8. Equipment & equipment check

All riders must wear a helmet, a genuine back protection (it should be a CE certified protection. NOTE that backpacks with integrated protection are not considered as valid back protections!), an Airbag backpack with probe and shovel inside and an avalanche transceiver on the body, switched ON and ideally with fresh batteries!

All riders will receive a RECCO reflector which they will have to wear during all competitions. A harness with a sling and a carabineer is mandatory. Riders must take it with them to every event, the Organizers will announce during riders meeting if it is mandatory for contest day or not. As well, riders must have touring equipment with them for all events (snowshoes, splitboard or touring skis).

Finally, all riders must wear their BIB at all time during official happenings such as: opening ceremony, face inspection, competition, prize giving ceremonies (only for riders on the podium)

An avalanche transceiver check of every FWT riders will be made at each event. This check could be done either at the bottom of the hike up or in the pre-start area.

A back protection check and content of the backpack will be done before the riders start.

If a rider doesn't have all his mandatory equipment, he will not be allowed to start (DNS).

6.9. Prize giving ceremony

Riders who made the podium have to be present at the prize giving ceremony in order to receive their money or other prizes. Riders on the podium have to wear their bibs for all prize giving ceremonies.

Only valid reasons (injury...) will be accepted by the organizer to justify not being present at the prize giving ceremony. The Organizer has to be informed if a rider cannot make it to the ceremony. Without warning, the Organizer could decide to retain payment or distribution of prizes.

7. STARTING ORDER

7.1. BIB draw

To make sure that a rider will not be starting last or first the entire season, Ski men, Ski women and Snowboard men are split in two groups.

Riders will alternate in each group.

7.2. Starting order

Taking in consideration light and snow quality, FWT organizers will alternate the starting order of the four categories during the season.

7.3. Missed start

Riders not showing up at the start or showing up late with no acceptable reason will be penalized as follow:

- first time: they will not receive any prize money for that event but will be allowed to ride and score points
- second time: they will not start (= DNS) and will not receive any prize money

8. AGE

The minimum age is 18 for all FWT events. No exceptions will be made.

9. RIDERS MEETING

Riders meetings are mandatory for all riders. It is mandatory for security reasons, as points such as snow conditions, potential closed areas in the face, access route to the start, event schedule or potential additional mandatory safety gear (harness) are points which will be discussed during riders meetings.

Riders who cannot attend the riders meeting for valid reasons must announce themselves to the organizer to get their security speech at some other time.

The following points will be presented:

- Weather forecast
- Format of the event
- Accident procedure and placing of the guides / doctor / patrollers..
- Mandatory equipment
- Venue presentation, location of the starting gates and judging tent
- Quality of snow at several places
- Closed areas
- Competition day program

10. FACE INSPECTION

Riders will be given sufficient time to inspect the face on site. The Organizer will provide as well riders with updated pictures of the face.

A guide/forerunner/head judge will ride the venue while the riders watch during their face inspection, in order to give them visual information on the snow quality.

10.1. Drone footage / pictures of the venue

As for riding the competition venue, it is forbidden for riders to use personal drones to film the face 30 days prior to the competition.

Only drone pictures shot by the Organizer could be given to all competitors.

11. JUDGING

The judging panel is composed of four to five judges.

FWT will try to find judges representing each region and category.

Most judges will be at all events to ensure continuity.

The judging system description can be found under "JUDGING RULES & TOOLS" document on FWT website.

12. FWT RIDERS CODE OF ETHICS

FWT riders have to respect hosting country rules and laws.

Although FWT Management is not conducting doping tests, FWT Management expect riders to adopt the IOC rules concerning doping.

Riders who would be seen using illegal substances in official areas such as: start, finish, inspection point, prize giving ceremonies and official happenings could face FWT sanctions.

FWT riders are expected to behave properly towards our hosting resorts, Tour partners and Junior riders.

13.POINTS SYSTEM

SKI MEN		SKI WOMEN		SNB MEN		SNB WOMEN	
<i>ranking</i>	points	<i>ranking</i>	points	<i>ranking</i>	points	<i>ranking</i>	points
1	2500	1	2500	1	2500	1	2500
2	2200	2	2200	2	2200	2	2200
3	1980	3	1980	3	1980	3	1980
4	1800	4	1800	4	1800	4	1800
5	1640	5	1625	5	1625	5	1625
6	1500	6	1455	6	1455	6	1455
7	1380	7	1290	7	1290	7	1290
8	1280	8	1130	8	1130	8	1130
9	1190	9	975	9	975	9	975
10	1105	10	840	10	840	10	840
11	1025	11	720	11	720		
12	950	12	620	12	620		
13	880	13	540	13	540		
14	815	14	470	14	470		
15	755	15	410	15	410		
16	700	16	360	16	360		
17	650	17	320	17	320		
18	605	18	290	18	290		
19	565	19	270	19	270		
20	530	20	250	20	250		
21	500						
22	475						
23	455						
24	440						
25	430						
26	420						
27	410						
28	400						
29	390						
30	382						
31	374						
32	366						
33	358						
34	350						
35	342						