World Para Snowboard Instruction Manual

Start area

July 2019
World Para Snowboard athletes have varying disabilities, which requires careful start design. It is important that the criteria listed below are implemented in start design so that all athletes have a fair opportunity at the start. The specifications will be adjusted to the needs of the specific competitions and will be finalized during the site survey. Recommended type start gates (used for able bodied events) can be found at [www.settele-startsystems.com](http://www.settele-startsystems.com) (note that these are 4 to 6 persons start gates and IPC only requires 2 to 4 persons for SBX and one person for BSL)

Start ramp criteria:

- The start area must be prepared several days in advance to allow the snow to set up and as flat as possible side to side and back to front.
- The start area consists of the start gate, start tents, warm up area for coaches and athletes. The area should be as level as possible.
• The start area must be wide enough to accommodate the start referee, the starter, manual timers and one heat/person in the start and another heat/person ready to start behind.

The start area should be minimum:
  - 30 m\(^2\) for SBX (Format two athletes per heat)
  - 35 m\(^2\) for SBX (Format four athletes per heat)
  - 15 m\(^2\) for BSL

The start area should be minimum:
  - 10 m wide for SBX (Format 2 athletes per heat)
  - 15 m wide for SBX (Format 4 athletes per heat)
  - 10 m wide for BSL
The start ramp should be built according to the design below which will be dependent on the start feature section.

The start ramp shall be prepared in such a way the competitors can stand relaxed on the starting line and can quick leave the start. The pitch of start box should be inclined minimum 5% to allow riders a proper drop in and not too steep maximum 10%. This is dependent on the start feature section.
The start corral is located behind this area and is a special roped off area for trainers, team captains, service personnel etc., to work with the competitors who are waiting to start. It is required to have 2 benches to help the athletes to put on their snowboards.

Start gate criteria:
- The two/four start boxes have to open simultaneously and it must be impossible for a competitor to open the drop door gates himself or herself before the start command is given. Any electrical start system must have a manual backup that allows the start gate to be opened in the event of the electrical start gate failure.
- The starting block drop door (just in front of the board) must be covered with materials such as Teflon/plastic to protect the board. There can be no screws or metal that could come in contact with the board on the door.
- The system can be mechanical or electrical controlled for reason of reliability or portability. For Team Events, the system must be electrical.
- Start gate measurement must be as follows:
  - Width between the gates of the drop doors: 90 – 100 cm (recommended 100 cm)
  - Height of the start door board: 30 – 40 cm (recommended 40 cm)
  - Width between handles: 80 – 90 cm (recommended 80 cm)
- Length of the handles: 10 cm
- Width of the handles: 30 – 40 cm (recommended 40 cm)
- Distance between the start gates 50 – 60 cm (recommended 60 cm)
- The start handles must have up and down and front to back adjustable handles (for UL competitors)