

Great British Racing - Summer 2012



Purpose of GBR Series

The GBR series has been put in place to replace the Grand Prix & Celtic Cup series bringing together a British artificial slope domestic race series across the Home Nations. It will provide a natural pathway for a racer to go from Regional races, through Club National races and onto GBR Racing.

Our existing structure of events has been in place for many years and it is essential the governing bodies keep looking at ways to improve and evolve the sport. For the first time in over 25 years the three HNGBs have come together with a common goal to create a truly genuine GB race champion within the homeland race structure.

This series tackles several perceived and real challenges:-

1. a genuine GB national race title for the winners and competitors
2. for those that find homeland racing too costly it helps reduce the number of races they need to attend
3. it gives a bigger opportunity for skiing to market itself to partners and sponsors
4. as a sport we need to address the demands of meeting higher standards we believe this creates a clearer pathway for a racer to go from club races, through to regional races onto Club Nationals and then GBR Series.
5. There is a broad recognition that there is only a small number of racers who race on both surfaces, this series has been developed so that both surfaces receive equal billing and importance. Hopefully reducing the plastic vs indoor snow debate.

What will be the cost of races in 2012?

Indoor races will remain at £21 and outdoor ones at £17.

Who is going to run the GBR races?

GBR races will be run by the Home Nation who is holding the race. This said there will as always be close liaison with the local clubs & slope.

How many races will count for the overall series?

All races will count for the series (ie all indoor for the indoor series and all outdoor ones for the outdoor series)

What are the age groups?

The proposal is for the age groups to follow the FIS guidelines ie U16, U14 & U12 for the younger age groups – this is still to be agreed at the TD forum in November 2011. Age groups will be based upon year of birth of the competitor.

What age groups will be eligible to enter a GBR Race?

The proposal is that U12's will be allowed into GBR races, but not U10's.

Will there be a seed point cut off for entry into the competitions?

No, any registered racer with seed points can enter a GBR race assuming they meet the age criteria.

What is the format of the races?

The races will be run over 2 different runs both to count.

- An individual Parallel SL will be held at the outdoor GBR races in England (venue TBC) and Gloucester, this will be run after the main event on the Saturday, with the top 32 boys and 16 females from that days event qualifying for the knockout competition (those who do not qualify will have the opportunity to ski in a fun parallel event). The main race will be run as a normal seeded event and will therefore have a minimum penalty of 5pts.
- A GS Race will be held in Pontypool and included in the GBR Series points.
- At Indoor GBR events, we would also try and run either a Dual SL or fun GS, but this would depend on venue and how long we have the slope for.

Is attendance required for both days or does just one race for the weekend count?

For the GBR series you can do as many or as few races as you like, each race is an individual event. For seeding purposes as currently you can only have one from each venue.

Can a CN clash with a GBR race?

We appreciate that the calendar is tight and therefore should a club wish to run a CN at the other end of the country on the same day as a GBR race this would not be a problem. We would however encourage all clubs not to clash with GBR races if they are run locally.

Andrea Grant
ASC Chair, Snowsport England

ENDS.

For further information/comments please contact Tim Fawke or www.snowsortengland.org.uk

Note to Editors

There are 1580 registered alpine racers in GB, there are currently 48 national races plus many more regional, club and school races within the UK each summer. The Welsh Alpine Championships take place in Champéry, Switzerland in January 2012. The English Alpine Championships take place in Bormio, Italy in February 2012. The Scottish Alpine Championships take place in Scotland in March 2012, and Scotland will also run BASS/FIS races in Courchevel in April 2012. The British Alpine Championships are held in Meribel, France in April 2012.