



# WSSA FREESTYLE SLALOM BATTLE RULES

[2011][Sebastien Laffargue, Naomi Grigg]

## Contents

1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Registration.....	3
3.	Competition area.....	3
4.	Composition of groups.....	4
5.	Competition procedure.....	5
6.	Battle judging.....	6
7.	Cone boys/girls.....	8
8.	Judging sheet.....	9
9.	Judging criterias.....	10



## **INTRODUCTION TO FREESTYLE BATTLE**

The Battle concept :

The battle aim is :

- to match as close as possible the way of practising slalom on the spots, public places.
- to make fair judging easier by direct comparison between the skaters
- to make competition clear and fair for everyone
- to let the skaters free to show their own style
- to enhance the skaters to have fun and to share with other skaters
- to provide an exciting challenge to the skaters and an exciting show for the public
- to motivate the skaters to create new tricks or to raise difficulty of tricks again and again.
- to develop freestyle slalom fast thanks to the easiness of organisation and participation

## **FREESTYLE BATTLE OFFICIAL RULES**

### **REGISTRATION**

- Contestants should produce valid identification
- There may be separate categories :  
Men, Women, Juniors / Pro, Amateur  
Junior = under 14 years old, depending on the birth year.  
Pro = This category may be opened, to make pro/am category, we can consider World ranking of skaters and past results.
- It is up to organisation to open a new category. To open a category, there should be at least 3 registered skaters to enter it.
- Registration must end at least 1h before the beginning of the competition to let time to make battle groups

### **COMPETITION AREA**

- The competition area should be **minimum** :  
Local & Basic events : 16m by 6m long, excl. judge table  
Main & Major events : 26m by 8m long, excl. judge table

In special cases, WSSA officers can decide to use smaller place for Main and Major events.

In case Speed Slalom contest is organised on the same area, the area should be minimum 34m long by 8m wide.

- The floor has to be flat and smooth, without holes or bumps.

-Number & length of cone lines :

-Local & Basic events :  $\geq 2$  lines,  $\geq 10$  cones/line, 1 line 80's

Main & Major events :  $\geq 3$  lines,  $\geq 10$  cones/line, 1 line 80's x 20cones, 1 line

50's, 1 line 120's

-On most events, the standard is 4 lines : 1 line of 14 cones 120cm ; 1 line of 20 cones 80cm ; 1 line of 10 cones 80cm ; 1 line of 20 cones 50cm.

-Cones must be positioned in straight lines Circle must be marked for each individual cone position and may also indicate the center point.

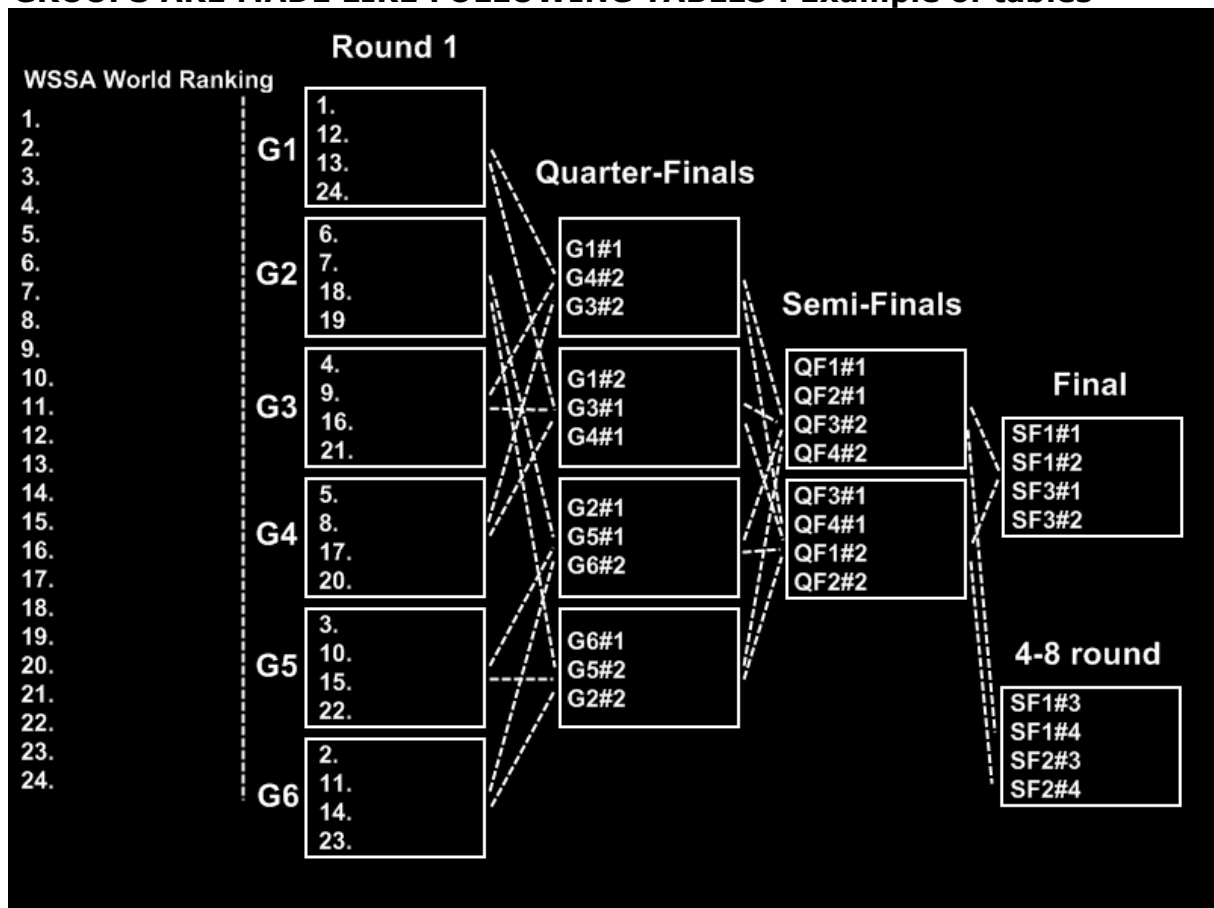
### COMPOSITION OF GROUPS

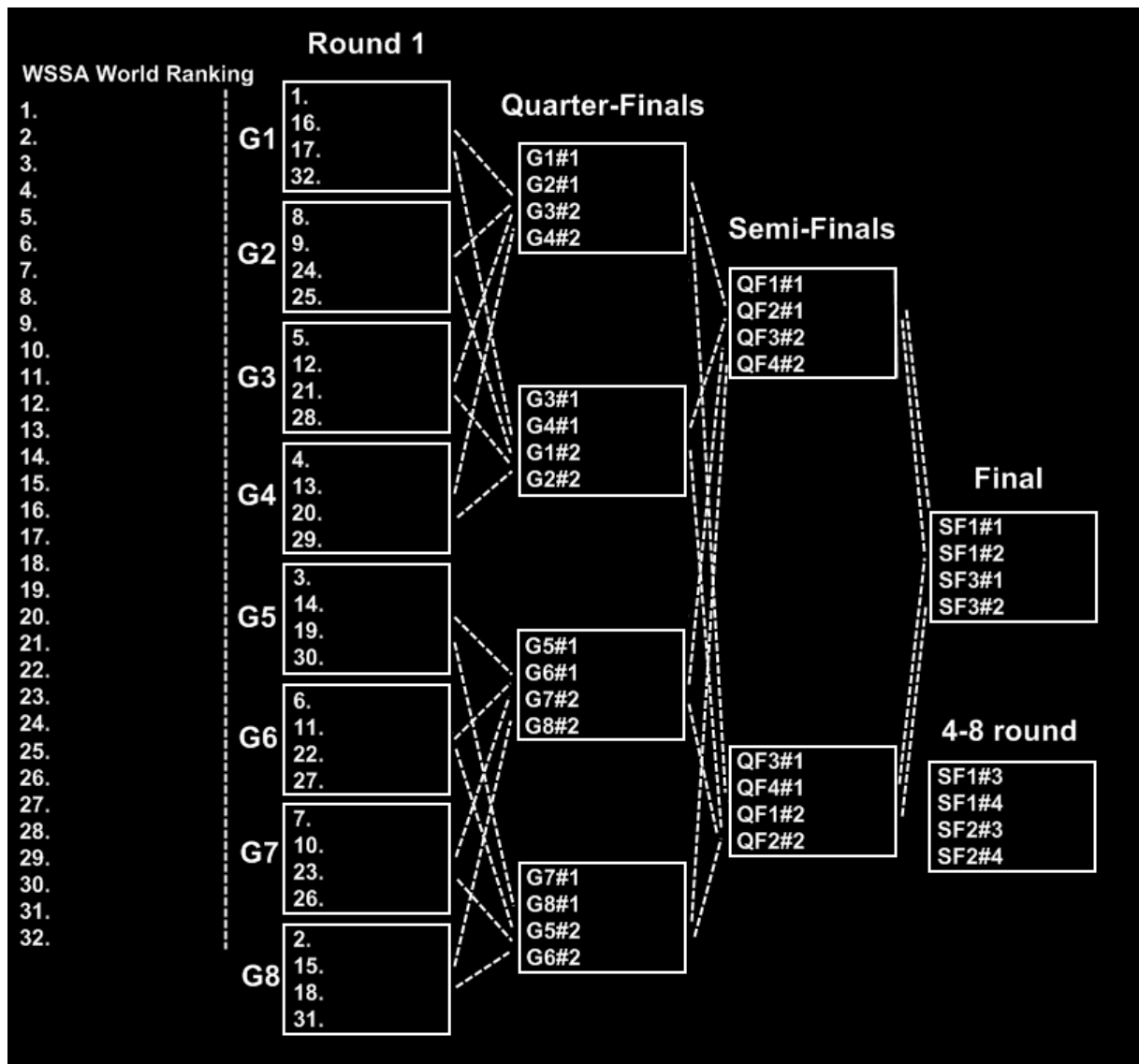
Groups are calculated according to the latest WSSA world ranking. Each skater is ranked in the list according to his world ranking. Non ranked competitors are added randomly (draw) at the end of the list.

According to the number of competitors, there may be 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 16 ... qualification groups.

Examples : 12-16 skaters --> 4 groups ; 18-23 skaters --> 6 groups ; 24-32 skaters --> 8 groups ; ... Each group is minimum 3 skaters, maximum 4 skaters (except for 1 on 1 battles)

### GROUPS ARE MADE LIKE FOLLOWING TABLES : Example of tables





**COMPETITION PROCEDURE**

Skaters of first group are called for warm up time (1 -> 5min).  
 In the meantime, the m.c presents the skaters and announces the order to go.  
 (This order will remain the same the whole group long)  
 Each skater has 2 or 3 runs of 30 sec. and perform one by one (chronometer starts when the first cone is skated).  
 A "last trick" can be added after the 2 or 3 runs depending on judges and organisation.  
 In each battle group, skaters will have the same number of runs  
 Between each run, each skater has to wait for the m.c to allow him to go.  
 Before each run, all cones must be replaced on circles.  
 During each run, skaters are free to do whatever they want, they don't have to use each line nor to skate each cone.  
 If there is no screen to show the time going, the m.c informs the skaters about the time left at least once during each run : 20sec, 10sec, 5sec.

When all competitors did their runs, the m.c calls the next group to warm-up during the judges' deliberation

When the deliberation is done, the m.c stops the warm-up and calls the skaters of the previous group to gather in the center of the area and announces the results : first the winner of the group (1st qualified) and then the 2nd qualified. The 2 qualified skaters go through to the next round, the 2 other skaters are knocked out.

The judges can ask for a last trick if they cannot decide between 2 skaters. For the last trick, each skater will have maximum 2 consecutive attempts. The order to go is drawn by the main judge, the winner of the toss can choose the order.

The last trick consists in 1 single trick repeated as many times as possible or a combo of tricks of the same type.

If the first attempt lasts more than 10sec, there will be no second try.

The last trick cannot last more than 30sec.

Once the 2 skaters have done their last trick, the judges proceed a short délibération, then each judge give his result to the m.c who announces it.

The same procedure restarts for each group.

Semi-Finals / Finals :

After semi-finals, qualified skaters go to the final with the 4 best skaters of the competition, non-qualified skaters go to 5-8 final group.

In the final round only, the best ranked skater (WSSA world ranking) can choose first his place to go in the round (1,2,3 or 4) , the second best ranked skater can choose in second position his place to go in the round (only 3 choices left); the third best ranked skater can choose in third position his place to go in the round (only 2 choices left). The 4th ranked skater takes the last place left.

## **BATTLE JUDGING**

Number of judges :

-3 table judges (incl.1 main judge)

-1 time judge

-1 m.c (in charge of modération, group management, results presentation)

-1-2 cone boys-girls

Table Judges :

Their main goal is to analyse the skaters' performances and to make a group ranking at the end of each group.

-they analyse skaters' global performances to get a general impression (up+down body position, strong+weak points, execution speed, quantity+quality+variety+originality of tricks)

-they rank skaters progressively (the ranking evolves as the group unfolds)

- identify tricks/combos that each skaters does, note the quality of execution

(with "+" and "-" )

-they write number of cones managed per tricks (or number of repetitions of the trick), number of cones kicked and/or missed doing a trick

-no mark or points are given per tricks

-they determine who goes through to the next round, and who is out

-the judges can help each other, talk together or comment during battle rounds, but they are always concentrated on the performance of the skaters

-The notes taken are used to remind the judges of what the skaters did in case they hesitate between 2 or more skaters (whose performances are very close or equivalent.)

-For each group, the skaters start from scratch.

Their previous round performance will not be taken into account in the current round.

Judges have to "forget" the previous rounds for the skaters to start each battle group equal.

#### Penalties :

- if a skater kicks a cone, the trick is not taken into account by the judges :

-egg: a wheeling on 8 cones with 2 cones kicked down will count as a 6-cone wheeling.

-egg: 4 spins on 1 cone with the cone kicked during the 3rd spin will count as 2 spins

- if a skater performs a trick on a kicked cone, the trick will not be taken into account, will be counted as Out>

- if a skater falls during his run, the trick he was performing is not taken into account from the beginning of the lost of his balance.

The judges don't need to write it on their sheet, there is no specific penalty for falls, we will consider that the loss of time is already a penalty for the skater.

- if a skaters repeats several times the same tricks during one round, the judges will only take into account the best attempt.

#### Judges decision :

At the end of each group, judges compare their ranking with that of the other judges :

-if they all agree about the result, it is validated without deliberation

-if they don't agree about the result, they start to deliberate and explain the reasons of their decision. if then they agree on the ranking, they validate the result.

- if they don't agree after deliberation, the majority will win the decision (2 out of 3)
- if judges cannot decide between 2 skaters, they can ask for a last trick to make their decision.

### Note taking

to gain time while taking notes, the judges have to use codifications (of their own – can vary depending on the judges)

Example : a 6-cone frontward toe wheeling, to 3-cone backward toe wheeling, to 2-cone frontward toe wheeling, to toe spin out of the line :  
WT6 + bWT3 + WT2 + spin out.

Example : a 5-cone Heel-Toe Korean spin kicking one cone, to 3-cone seven :  
HTKspin5-1 + 7x3

if a skater does combos of easy tricks, the judge can call it freestyle, and note it "FR" for example.

The judge has to focus on the FR quality (speed, balance, difficulty...) >>  
example: FR++

Other examples of codification

- chicken leg: Chik
- wheeling: W
- toe / heel: T / H
- front / back: ft / bk

The judges have to make their own code in order to enable them to take fast and accurate notes, as well as re-reading their notes without ambiguity.

### Battle judging recap

The Judges have to :

Watch skaters performance (general impression + specific tricks + quality & quantity)

Make a provisory ranking evolving in mind

Write the ranking of each skater after each individual run

Take notes about important performance to remember and quality and quantity of tricks

Validate their own ranking

Compare their rankings and agree on a final common ranking

Qualify the first two skaters of the group and knock out the others

### Cone boys/girls

-They are here to put back the cones on the circles and to check the lines are



clean for skaters to perform in the best conditions

- Before a skater starts, they have to check all the cones of each line
- When a skater hits a cone, they have to put it back on the circle after the skater finishes his run.
- They have to wait that the skater has left the line before replacing the cones.
- They have to be careful of competitors, always keep an eye on what's going on the battle area to prevent accidents.
- They have to be careful not to disturb the skater when he's performing
- They have to be careful not to disturb the table judges

## JUDGE SHEET

Name	Run1	Run2	Run3	Rank
skater 1				
skater 2				
skater 3				
skater 4				

Judge sheet are useful to judge in good conditions  
1 sheet is used for each battle group

## **JUDGING CRITERIAS :**

Battles are judged very differently to the more 'style' based Classic competitions. They are judged on how technically difficult the displayed slalom is. However, this is not the same as judging based on the technical difficulty of the tricks attempted or executed by the skater.

Battle judging is very much about doing the tricks, yes, but also finishing them off, and being able to link them with other skating, other than crisscross, or other run-up/recovery tricks and maintaining the general flow of the slalom. No marks are awarded, or scores given, since the judges simply rank the skaters within the battle group, however the following aspects are taken into account when ranking:

### **Finishing off tricks:**

If a skater shows a trick which they maintain control off from the start of the trick until the end of the trick, it shows a greater technical achievement than if a skater loses control of the trick during execution, and 'collapses' out of it, even if each trick lasted a similar length of time or number of cones.

### **Continuity & Flow:**

If a skater executes a sitting trick, abruptly stands up before doing some freestyle, before pushing off to gain momentum for a wheeling exit from the cones, this shows a lower technical achievement than another skater who smooths the transitions between the different phases of their line.

This is very important from an aesthetic point of view too, however aesthetic benefits are not involved in the judging procedures of battle competitions, and is not the reason why this is included.

### **Integration with other freestyle:**

Tricks which are not integrated well into other freestyle slalom show a lower technical achievement both overall, but also for those very tricks. If a technically difficult trick is entered from more 'freestyle' slalom, instead of from a clear 'setup', then this shows a greater risk taken by the skater. The same works for the trick-exit – it shows a good mastery of the trick if the skater is able to transition well from the trick itself, into something other than crisscross, for example.

### **Range of tricks:**

If a skater covers a wide range of tricks, instead of just focusing on one skill, such as being able to play around on one or two wheels, then it shows technical achievement in a range of different types of skills.

One example could be someone who focuses specifically on the heel wheel might show a lower technical level than someone who, whilst learning some tricks on the heel wheel, also has taken time to train the toe wheel and other non-wheeling tricks.

Another example would be someone who shows a strong focus on only wheeling tricks, compared to another skater who does some wheeling, along with many other more creative tricks.