

Please record any comments you have on race/training structure and philosophy.

- 1 Make it a rule that 10/12 racers are not to wear cat-suits for training as well as for racing.

For U14 - seed points are OK, but no selection for squads should use them as there is a lottery for which race gives good seed points and competitors should not be encouraged to enter all races just to get the points. I also wonder if it's been harder for the U14's to get points this year as they have never competed against U16's for points and so have not been able to get points from them. The idea of combining two runs for selection purposes and championship positions works well.

- 2 U14 SG - there is a massive difference in ability between a newby U14 who has just stepped up from minis racing to a SG in Meribel where you have U16 boys who have trained for a number of seasons out at an academy for example. The course needs to be set to the lowest common denominator in order to make it safe, but this is no good at the higher end. For the newbies and those who do not train the whole winter with an academy, more SG training opportunity is needed rather than racing - many of them are not ready to race an SG as it's the first time they've done SG either training or racing. The idea of having qualifying minis in the U14 GS races is working quite well. The no-catsuits for minis thing is pretty lame. It was very hot in Meribel - my daughter was too hot in salopettes etc, she would have been better in her second-hand, £30 catsuit. The cost of this is small compared to skis, and the new regulation helmets (which are really pricey). We're not big fans of the combi races - I'd rather just take my daughter for a run on the boarder-cross course in the resort where we train for free. We also like the French Fleche GS's which are really cheap and quick and give you a great idea of how you have done due to the way they calculate your result compared to a forerunner of known quality. Now that we have Facebook etc - can't we get a brief of key points for the next day and sign-in our racers without having to come to the resort every day for a TCM? Also - can we get immediate electronic notification when a race we are entered into is cancelled for the day in order to save us a lot of time and effort?

- 3 I support the current use of stubbies for U10/U12 and believe that it helps develop better core skills early on. I would like to see more emphasis on "skiing the mountain" (including some off-piste if safe) in camps and training to develop a rounded set of skiing skills, rather than just gate training.

- 4 The current race structure does not allow sufficient development of skills for later; it focuses on "the result" too early on in a racers career. The philosophy should be more inclusive with programmes structured much more to draw from a wider background, particularly as many schools as possible. There is a real opportunity to make changes now

- 5 Competition is a very important part of learning to race. Constant training achieves a great deal, but without the opportunity to test what has been learned progress cannot be monitored. There are not too many races, but perhaps parents and coaches should be more responsible in the number of starts that they encourage a child to make. Children also love to compete and without the competitions during the summer there would undoubtedly be a loss of interest in the sport. If this is felt to be a problem, why not limit race starts that count towards seeding to make parents / coaches give greater thought to what competitions the younger children should do? It should be remembered that many of the younger competitors have older siblings who may be competing and would feel left out if not allowed to compete at races. Also there are financial considerations in that some races are only viable because of the children that enter. If physiological issues are a serious concern, it is the course set rather than the fact of competition which must be the issue.

6 U10/U12 racing is generally treated as an afterthought by British Skiing - Bormio this year was a disgrace. We seem to have race organisers who treat the U10/U12 as 'a bit of fun' and set courses that are the equivalent of skiing round penguins. This may have been fine when Minis finished at 10 years old, but we now have serious 11 and 12 year old races and it is not good enough for them.

7 I think there needs to be just core races that everybody attends, these could be considered as the 'world cup' equivalent. Then there should be national champs. Also there would be club nationals which are like 'fis' races which grass root athletes can gain and compete as well as scoring points. These races would be for grass root skiers and club racers as well as the elite athletes who train at that club if they wanted to and had time to.

8 I think there should be a more consolidated approach to racing by the home governing bodies. I have been involved in organising a seeded club race and feel that certain issues such as timing always cause problems. Maybe putting a team together which would do all the Scottish races would help technical jobs such as timing run better.

9 U14 pay the same fees as U16 but it has been known for the U14 not to get a second run.

10 Offer a more inclusive race structure. Maybe alternative races for those not capable of FIS when older... Increase numbers participating in sport rather than decreasing numbers. Possibly 2 levels of racing... National/ international and a lower level league? Some sports have a national league and a more recreational league. This will help boost number, membership and finances. The recreational base will always help fund the elite side of sport.

11 I would like to see a GS, Slalom races using (stubby gates or 3/4 children gates) and a kombi race at national champs for u10/u12. As most of the u10/u12 ski slalom on dry slopes or at indoor centres in the UK. I can't understand why we don't encourage this at are European races. I believe this would be are strongest discipline against other nations. My son as competed in races in Austria for the past 2 season's for u12s and also my 6 year old this year, all the children were wearing catsuits with a thermal suit underneath. I have noticed that a lot of the children at British u10/u12 races wear clothing with less protection (padding) than a lot of catsuits offer and sometimes just thermals or thin/tight clothing which seems to be expectable instead of a padded catsuit. This seems very strange and also a bit behind the scene against other countries. My son feels that he isn't at a proper race when he's treated differently to his other friends in Europe. When he his competing against other nations in his catsuit his performance coincides and he is more focused. This may be down to how he mentally sees the race. Every now then 1/2 children slip through the net and compete wearing catsuits. They also seem to get on the podium and nothing is done regarding this, no disqualification, this also seems very unfair for the child who comes 4th who has followed the rules. They should be disqualified or we change the rules and allow catsuits.

12 If Under 10/12 races are held, a TD must be appointed

13 I would prefer more races but the races should be over and done with quicker. Currently our competitions take up most of the day - if we can run the races quicker, the kids get more skiing. The formats we have are good enough, just be slicker and less formal with the running of the races please! Where possible, more runs - especially on shorter courses. Don't be afraid of having U12s ski longer courses - they cope just fine. Best format I've seen this year was dual 'pro-slaloms' with the two runs added together to give a total time. It becomes slightly irrelevant who you're racing against but it's still a lot of fun. Another good format is 'pro-slalom' to GS to SG all in one run for U12s and U14s. Encourage races to be run on GS skis. Slalom for youngsters to be run with either skinny gates or stubby gates or with GS panels (pro-slalom). I have too much to add here, happy to be involved more if I can help! (Assumed that Q17 wasn't following on Q16) Kombi races need to make better use of terrain and not course setting skill.

14 seeding should remain separate for U14/U16 whilst U14 racers automatically go first because they often end up getting faster times than better U16 racers simply because they have clean snow. Seeding together would artificially reduce points for U14 who would then see them rise in U16 even though their skiing may have progressed

15 Think U12 should be on courses with a mixture of gates and stubbies, not just stubbies.

16 Races complex to put on because of points. Need more simple fun races. Show up on the day with simple timing like schola races to get more involved & keep kids interested.

17 Question 13 regarding U16's getting second runs for DSQ/DNF's states that they currently get a second run. I believe they absolutely should have a second run but this has not always been the case this season such as in the British where conditions were perfectly acceptable for this to happen. Question 16 regarding combi races. While I agree with use of regular combi for U10/12 I am not sure it is possible to hold more than there currently are as almost every major race I have been to have some variation of this.

18 More 'all mountain' skiing, less endless gates during training.

19 U10 /U12 Should race stubbies in a race format as this starts the learning process and correct technique needed. Combi courses are fun and can be used in training. I think the 2x1 race system for u14 gives them a chance if they have made a mistake on run 1. If they have a poor course they can choose not to race if they wish. I think this should be used in U16 as well. I have been to races abroad where they have not been given the chance to do the 2nd run it is a long way to go for one run. At great expense. You always want to finish on a positive experience.

20 Too much gate training, not enough free-skiing. Too much emphasise, at an early age, on results, podium. British Children's Team too prominent; team members should not wear GB outfits other than at actual international races. Races important but more club races as opposed to British/English races. British championships moved to Christmas - snow, conditions. Easter too late.

21 This survey has concentrated on u16 and under - on which I do have opinions based on several years participation by my children - however the main point I want to make is in respect of FIS-CIT races where British racers have benefited from a larger quota this season. It is imperative that there is a GBR CIT race next season to ensure the continuation of this quota.

- 22 Parents would benefit from clearer guidance on ideal training to race starts ratios in line with those stated in the Canadian (CSCF) Aim 2 Win document.
- 23 Slalom for younger racers becomes less of an issue if the course setters set flowing, skiable courses, as opposed to the gymnastic challenges favoured by some.
- 24 It is my view that we are narrowing the focus of children too soon in their development as athletes and kombi is a small step in that direction.
- 25 You should not train anymore than 4hrs a day
- 26 Limit race starts, graded number of starts as approach top end, bearing in mind limit os tech starts at J1 first year Use the combi format in training Full gates for U14 races, but mix of stubby and full for training

27 I think the reasoning behind not doing slalom with U12/U10 is flawed. They will all be playing sports with greater dynamic stresses than skiing (excluding crashes) I don't think they need to be skiing full gates but stubby slalom or slalom with GS gates could be a viable format for a few reasons; skiing is about the ability to turn - more turns should lead to greater learning; lower speeds should lead to less potential for big crashes; greater speed of movement should create more agile, quicker thinking athletes; the format is much more adaptable to conditions within the UK, indoor, dry-slope, Scotland; it would be easy to run as a head to head. I would like to see more opportunity for head to head racing for a couple of reasons; it's fun, it encourages competitiveness; you get more skiing. Many of those entering races have limited access to snow, a dual format almost always leads to many more runs than a standard race which a whole day can be used to complete one/two runs. It also can be run as a team race which can be great for team spirit. I don't there are probably about the right number of Kombi races and that it should remain as a race for U12. I feel that at U16/U14 whilst the number of races may be appropriate for academy racers it is too many for club racing particularly at Easter where you have seven consecutive days of racing. At that age you are looking for a training to race ratio of around 3:1 or 4:1. We had seven consecutive days of racing scheduled. That's an awful lot of pre-dawn wake ups for a U14.

28 Little support other than parental at any stage of development, Too many commercial / opposing "quasi official" organisations involved in British skiing. Taken years to get a understanding of the structure and now oldest child (16) gone into FIS this season but he doesn't see the point! No funding, no recognition and unless moves away from alpine no UK support..... Another loss of a promising athlete. Because of our experience youngest son now only races very rarely. British skiing so fragmented with so much lost potential.

29 What about a cup, based on a points system from each home nations championships. What about medals for first 5, rather than first 3 places? Could further leverage internet for buying/selling equipment, sharing travel costs, accommodation, training, etc.

30 Needs to be more accessible. My child trains with GPS where there is a more inclusive ethos, whereby there is a choice of pathway for children to follow which I believe means it engenders a more respectful and tolerant attitude towards other skiers.

31 Should look at year of birth results more rather than just group Coming 10th in group deflates athlete moral but really 1st year of birth

32 British kids do too much racing on artificial slopes which leads to a high level of performance at U16 then disappointments at FIS level

33 I disagree with u 16 racers having to complete both runs to get points. There are so few races if you can't afford lots of trips abroad that it's become very exclusive to get low points. In addition, it only takes poor conditions for kids to come away with no points from days of racing. I believe that this is very demoralising and puts lots of people off. There's no need for this older regulation to be enforced on children's races. They are children!

34 There should be an end to BSS and national squad selection for u16's Replacing this with the development of regional academies. Broaden the base and allow for longer maturation to elite status

35 An area that should be improved on is the requirement to consider the likelihood of a race being able to go ahead and where this is known to be unlikely before the day, this should be communicated promptly and races cancelled. Eg it is not in the best interests of racers or their families to not communicate promptly and openly that a Sunday race is not happening, even though a race on the Saturday needed to be curtailed due to lack of snow and over night thaw is forecasted. There needs to be more respect to the financial and time commitment wastes.

36 THE MAIN REASON FOR THE LOSS OF POTENTIAL ELITE PERFORMERS IS THE LACK OF SUPPORT FROM BSS AND THEIR TOTAL DISDAIN FOR ALPINE AND IN PARTICULAR ALPINE SPEED DISCIPLINES

37 We live in France and have two kids racing mainly in the French system, but have come along to a couple of UK races. Judging from the way this survey is structured, I think you are proposing to move in completely the wrong direction. If you don't have kids, and lots of them, developing racing skills in SL, GS and SG by age 12, the UK will continue not to be able to compete at the higher levels of the sport. Instead of trying to reduce your racing calendar, you should look much harder at how to make training and racing more accessible to more kids at the youngest age you can.

38 most continental races allow catsuits for younger age groups, the 'cold' element is nonsensical, and if we adhered to this then our club competitors would be at a disadvantage in these races, its only 'home' races where they are not allowed to wear their catsuits. Secondly, all for u10 and u12 doing slalom with the stubbies, the last 15 months of training have made a fantastic difference to our younger members training and racing on these.

39 Training should be fun and cover all the fundamentals of all mountain skiing to encourage good technique in all snow conditions. All year round training in other complimentary sports for the younger children.

40 Far too much emphasis on racing, more emphasis on training, free skiing, off piste (where safe) skiing, technical drills. Look at Shiffrin, barely raced as a child. Also Dave Ryding, barely raced on snow as a child and up to the early years of his FIS Career, he hasn't done bad!

41 Some guidance on what constitutes too much racing would be helpful. I currently work on the
premis that every 4 weeks of race training there should be a trial/ test but there currently are not
that many races. The kids love the competitions if there is not too much waiting around. The dual
slalom format is a great way for the kids to be active all day for not a lot of money and great fun.

42

As a nation we place far too much emphasis on the short term goal of race results. We do not allow
our kids to ski, and build a solid base. (the U12'S competing in two or three Kombis in a season will
not give a solid base) They generally are pushed and encouraged to race, and become big fish in a
very small pond. GB kids in general do not have the luxury of living in the mountains, and therefore
in general do not acquire the solid foundation that is needed to become a world cup skier. French
(mountain) kids get the opportunity to ski several times a week all winter. It is part of their
schooling. Our kids do not. Is it any wonder why we are so lacking when the short time we DO get
our kids on the snow, all they do is hang about waiting to do two runs a day, racing?! Surely they
should be learning their chosen craft? A typical example of this is the GB team. We are all guilty of
aspiring to get our kids in the British team. (I am as guilty of this as anybody). We need to be
"seen" to be doing the races to achieve this goal. (a bit controversial as apparently the selectors
were not even at the recent Christmas races!). So any budding racer is pushed hard and finances
43 are stretched to get him / her to all of the applicable races..."all results will be considered as a part
of the selection policy" and if successful and your racer actually gets selected...the following
season, not only does he/she feel obliged to compete in all of the domestic races.....(neither
he/she or his/her parents want him to lose his GB place), he also is asked to compete in
international races...leaving no time to build that solid base that is needed to become a world class
competitor!! It is my opinion that we need to change the culture of GB alpine in a radical way if we
are to compete on the world wide stage. Unfortunately I don't think this will ever happen. The whole
thing revolves around money and the blinkered perspective of parents in general. (After all it is us
parents who fund not only our kids, but also the academies). We want an instant champion, and we
in general do not look at the long term vision. ALSO...Currently the support given to budding GB
team athletes is absolutely shocking. The kids really deserve more than they are getting. I will
never understand why the governing body ban catsuits for U12'S....YET WE DO NOT ENFORCE
THE USE OF BACK PROTECTORS?? Crazy. Stubbies.....The French race their U12'S down full
gates.....why are we trying to reinvent the wheel?? Rant over!!

This survey almost ignores coaches input. The first third of the survey does not even give coaches
an option to answer. At the Meribel coaches meeting last Easter one of the main issues discussed
was the lack of engaging with coaches prior to decisions being taken about the future development
44 of our athletes. This survey just goes to prove that coaches advice/input is not being considered
much at all as most of the questions are aimed at parents, who often have no racing, training or
coaching knowledge, experience or education, yet those of us who have many years of racing and
coaching experience are largely being ignored for our advice. Doesn't make much sense to me... I
get paid to coach on snow and to develop our athletes, yet get little say in how the development of
our sport and athletes should progress.

45 There is little or no training for competitors with regard to rules.

46 More free skiing days and fitness

47 In my opinion, Seeding Points drive all behaviours. Removal of seed points in U14 would keep more kids active in the sport for longer, or have seed points from the outset in U10 when kids will quickly decide if skiing is for them or not.

48 Alpine races are too complex to run so as a result under 14's have had 2 timed slalom runs in Scotland so far this year. Forget seeding; get more fun races happening without all the stress of timing that's perfect. Have show up on the day series and then you'll get more involved who can go on to the official races. Race training is great; race day a pain as kids usually get one run. Have a simplified Scottish series like schools races which were very successful and had far more kids racing than the Scottish BASS races this year.

49 Too much emphasis in achieving points, not on developing skills. Too many dropping out of racing as a consequence. Other countries have a better ethos.

I think there needs to be more flexibility to adapt the race dependant upon conditions. In soft/rutted snow it can be very hard for U16 to complete 2 runs, often after a large U14 field has already been down the course. If conditions dictate it would be nice if the TD/CoR could agree to run 2 x 1 run
50 format if appropriate. Currently if an U16 racer fails to complete run 1 they don't even find out their time for run 2 - it's hugely de-moralising when you've travelled a long way and trained hard to have no result at all. So many of the U16 races this year seem to have had more racers DNF than finishing. Ski racing needs to be more about fun and encouraging the children rather than rules. (but safety first always) FIS is a big step up and that is when things should get serious, not before.

51 Less time spent in gates and more time working on core skills and fundamentals. Too many kids want to hit gates at a training session be it on dry slope or snow. Also kids are doing too many races and are not working on their skills enough instead just trying to go as fast as they can irrespective of whether their technique is good.

52 The cat suit question should be split between U10 - (should not wear catsuits) U 12 should be allowed if conditions are good. Additionally the U10/U12/U14 should do slalom but on with stubby gates.

I believe it is vitally important for young children that pressure is minimal. Children should be there to have fun. I'd like to note that parents should be restricted at races. Parents can create too much
53 pressure and therefore should be restricted on the race hill and not allowed near to the start. Any Parents found to be too pushy should be warned and made aware of the stress levels this can place on a child. Races should be made fun for children to allow for continued development through to FIS.

54 Need also to place more fun into the sport. Good example was the BIGP series, final races, where after slalom races, there was a fun relay race, with 4 in a team made up to min 1xU10, 1xU12 and two others one must be female - good idea on one race they teams choose themselves on another race teams are drawn out of hat - good way to get the fun back and to meet new people in diff age groups. Parents spend lots of £ travelling to races around Country/Europe/world, but lack of on site timing feedback, esp on U12/10 is very poor, so more info like timing boards, etc would help get parents more involved. We need to treat U12 & U10 races with more "respect" as more than often they are a filler in a race calendar / race day to attract more entrants, but not always given the same distinction or consideration given to older age groups - when all ages should have the same slope time, runs, timing feedback etc. (obviously I am parent of U10 so looking at it from a U10 point of view). Maybe to encourage more U10/12 racers, medal positions could be to 5th or 6th (depending on number of entrants - to generate massive enthusiasm and keep them interested in the sport). Happy to be contacted.

55 Most other sports have an age group structure for up to about age 13 then move into the adult training - if skiing doesn't offer this what incentive is there for parents to choose skiing as their age group sport - it's the parents who are most competitive - how does the sport attract youngsters? The main purpose of slalom (and freestyle) on dry slope is to keep the kids interested. They won't train without something to give the interest level needed to motivate them. How many UK artificial slopes have thriving ski training childrens groups that don't race and don't use ramps and jumps?

56 In considering options please bear in mind that some families do not have access to bottomless funds and for us our children's time racing on the mountain is limited, Imagine the disappointment of a child who skis out first run and does not get a second go, If you are able to race a number of times through the season then this may not be an issue but if this is your only race that year then it can be everything to a child, My son and I (U14) discussed the seed point issue. He says that he accepts he may not get placed in a race but if he sees his points reducing then he believes he has achieved something, It gives him a goal and something to focus on. He does not perceive there is any pressure placed on him to reduce his seed points only the goals that he sets himself.

57 need to be more training opportunity and less races in Christmas holidays. I was amazed to see the number of races this year. Although I understand the rationale behind the current u16 format, any benefit is outweighed by the detriment of the athletes, who participate in relatively few races, not being able to race a second run in proper order. As well as giving the athlete that experience, it would give Children Team selectors a better idea of potential and what is going on.

58 My daughter has spent the last 3 'winter' seasons, training and racing with her Austrian club, in the BezirkCup race series. She has just been selected to train/race with her regions LandesCup team for next season. Having watched, and helped within her club, I feel I have gained a great deal of insight into how the Austrians develop their kids, esp at the U12/U10/ and under level, and have now had 1 season with the U16/U14's. Too many things on here to comment on, but would be willing to discuss my views/experiences from a 'parents' point of view if you are interested.

59 U16 have enough time to experience FIS format so let them have the opportunity to have more runs and not penalise them for a DSQ or DNF

As the parent of a 1st year FIS racer who is currently struggling with deciding whether to give up or not because of college commitments he has always commented that in childrens races "why is every race a championship"... "why can't we just have a race where we can compete and have fun without it being too serious". Now in FIS racing, he seems to be faced with 2 choices: full commitment to training and racing and chase down FIS points or give up alpine racing and try and find another way to enjoy your skiing. He has been trying to do a few weeks training to fit in with A levels and fit in a few FIS races but starting bib No. >125 is just not conducive to enjoying his racing with little chance of improvement without far greater commitment. He says "Dad, I wish there was a way I could carry on racing in perhaps a sort of club race series where it is in one level down from full commitment FIS". Having flown home from Turin yesterday after a quick weekend to do a couple of races to try and reduce his FIS points without luck, Will had said he thinks those will be his last alpine races.

61 There should be more of a level playing field re skis etc - kids with multiple pairs/race prepped etc make those who can't afford it feel inadequate and that they wont do as well as they have not got multiple pairs for racing , training etc.

62 Whilst Kombi races are good in theory we have now attended 4 of these and they have all been poorly executed. There is no common standard for what a Kombi race comprises in terms of gates/jumps/type of turn or even whether slalom or GS skis should be used - this question is raised at every captains meeting prior to a Kombi race. They run the risk of turning into novelty races for which none of the competitors train. If held they must be run to an agreed format common to all Kombi races. Further due consideration should be given to the safety of such races, at the English in 2013 "tunnel" gates were invented by tying the tops of two GS gates together this led to one competitor crashing out as his head was caught in the gate, this was incredibly dangerous and a use for which these gates were never designed. As a test for U10/U12 stubby slalom is preferable as competitors train for this and it encourages the correct use of line in younger competitors.

63 I would like to see more racing and training opportunities at snow factor in Scotland . Last summer we spent a great deal travelling to Manchester, Leeds etc for summer races. I have also contacted snow factor as I have 3 minis regarding them setting stubby courses for minis to train on however they are very . reluctant. Think 2 or 3 runs with fastest to count good structure for u12/u 10 less pressure on minis. Would be better if combis started which ski would be better ie gs or slalom. Generally combi courses improving.

64 Encourage the younger skiers. Run their races properly. Don't think of them as an "add-on" to the main event. The youngsters are the future. Consider the costs for all skiers (or parents): try to maximise the number of runs per day: for all ages. Don't charge 2 entry fees for one day's racing. Stop telling kids they are not allowed to race: or they'll go off and play football instead.

65 We need to continue to develop well rounded skiers with skill and fun being the focus

66 Races are very slow to complete please don't set silly courses that cause half the field to ski out eg bormio slalom

In all other sports young athletes train during the week and have competitions each weekend.
67 There is no evidence that this sort of competition is bad for young athletes. Young people in sport are naturally very competitive. Stop trying to find excuses why they should not compete more often. If in skiing there is evidence then quote what the references for this evidence is so that all can access the information and make up their own minds.

68 As relative newcomers to the sport there appears to be a lack of structure and progression for the youngsters. If there is a structure, it is not well communicated / publicised. For example, if children are keen, committed and show signs of talent / ability, how do they get access to regional / national squads for training?

69 Ski racing should be for enjoyment. By adding or continuously changing the rules, racers and parents get confused and frustrated. By providing a structure which kids and parents, can follow will be enough motivation to enable the racers to strive for the next level.

70 Too much emphasis on slalom/short turns before kids have adequately mastered larger turns at speed. There should be division 1 and division 2 races to encourage more participation and more team races where even the lesser talented skiers can be valued.

71 Most our children's current racing is in Swiss regional races where stubbies for U10 and U11 races regularly used and catsuits for U10 and U12 the norm.

- U10 / U12 races in general need to be run more professionally (irrespective of the fact they are not seeded) and should not be seen as just an add on. - U14 / U16 course setting rules need to be
72 adhered to , and within this guidance given as to appropriate sets for age , conditions - Proper Kombi's are good , not skier-cross courses ! - need to prepare athletes for FIS - for many its a big step up and they get dis-spirited / drop-out. Dont see much emphasis on this at the U16 level. Though not sure what the answer is !

The worst change in recent times has been the treatment of U16 races as cumulative. This does not give competitors sufficient race practice if they come out in the race in run 1. This is extremely off putting to young athletes who have travelled far, often abroad, for the races. It tends to
73 demotivate them and they are certainly not keen to do a second hazardous run after all the Children including the boys have gone, particularly when it doesn't count. It serves as a punishment as there is no point to it rather than possible injury! U16's do not require to be exposed to FIS regulations in advance and have many years in FIS to gain this experience. They only have a few years in children's races and they should be allowed to be children and subject to the same rules as U14's.

74 The allowing of U16 DSQ/DNFs a free second run should be abolished due to inherent dangers

75 Current limitations on number of runs belie the efforts made to get to snow to compete. In my view 'competitor wear and tear' should be less of an issue as most drop out by 15/16. Thought is needed to the 14 and under format in respect of limiting the number of competitive events that are seeded, however this needs careful gamification. One possibility would be to create league strata within the age groups which mean that rising athletes are ranked within a subclass, and are recognised for progress rather than for winning. This is a complex area requiring a data driven approach, but races are the tool through which participation can be encouraged, maintained and rewarded in place of 'winner takes all' and a moribund survival rate amongst participants. Everything must be done to maintain accessibility to a non-fis competitive structure for 16yrs plus, in combination with other disciplines and ski sports.

76 Race structure for U12's needs to be about the core skills - more combo's and GS but this is already going in right direction. We are getting there with this. BUT it needs to be taken seriously still and the U12's/U10's need to be taken seriously. I am not talking about making the races more serious but the recent organisation at the English Champs made the U12's feel like an afterthought - delayed starts (to midday), no 'real' timing - if there is a group that gets the short straw it is always them - this has to change. They need to be treated specifically to their needs in terms of events but also treated with a little more respect. U14 - 2 run format is way to go, a stepping stone to U16. Also gives more the impression of racing to train. So 2 runs/chances to 'race'. U16 is another step and they need to experience pressure of having to finish both. So i would say we are getting there in this. Some of the U16 courses (length of piste etc) a rather than the course setter, could be more challenging & longer. Sometimes they are skiing very short courses which again is not getting them ready for FIS. Raise the bar for the U16's i would say and add a little pressure to it. Is there a way we can actively invite internationals to ski in our GBR children's races? We hold the events in foreign countries so inviting some others would again raise the competition - for U16's.

77 As above, please revert to the 2x 1 races. There are few opportunities to gain proper race experience without ruining an event and reducing the number of competitive runs. They have plenty of opportunity to ski FIS rules when they reach FIS, they don't have to get it any earlier. It's a wasted opportunity to get athletes racing. DON'T DO CUMULATIVE!

78 The whole emphasis in the skiers early development should be on the acquisition of skills from across as wide a variety of skiing situations as possible. That emphasis must strongly be on the fun and enjoyment element as possible and the rest will start to fall in to place. Racing and race training in the early years needs to be low key and fun filled. When the young skier starts to become more physically developed, and this will be different for each child, then they can start to become more serious and competitive with others that are on a similar physical stage of development. There is too much differential in the younger age groups for it to be a fair playing field. Therefore the serious nature and drive for early success needs to be played down. Challenges and competitiveness can be developed in many other ways in preparation for applying it to the race course when the young skier is physically and mentally ready. The skills acquired and developed across the whole mountain environment in the early stages will make for a much more rounded ski racer that can react, adapt and deal with the challenges that ski racing will throw at them.

79 Strongly agree with all changes to develop wide range skills in younger racers with gradual progression in race formality in prep for the move to junior

80 Too much tinkering around, keep the rules simple and straightforward. Stubbies etc are a great training aid but a race should be a proper race. Dumbing down races will not produce any results at the top level. TD forum should stick to upholding rules not trying to invent them. TD forum should not be involved in U12 or below - just another barrier to entry.

81 Not convinced that the tinkering seen in the last 2 years benefits alpine skiing in any way. U14 stubbies race in Meribel 2013 was a farce, U14 combi race a joke, as for the Easter egg hunt..... A well recognised performance pathway is required where racers are supported and encouraged, they are not babies. The sport needs role models but those at the top are being ignored by the powers to be- why were more athletes not sent to Sochi? If youngsters and their parents see there is no future why should they continue into FIS?

82 Kids want to race. Don't stop them - else they will do other sports instead. Like football. Encourage them instead.

83 I think the current format is working well. As more race formats for minis are focused on fun and all round skills this encourages all mountain skiing skills rather than "gates" and also takes away some of the advantages of early development - perhaps especially in boys where there can be huge differences in height and weight. The progression into U14 with single runs allows for mistakes to be made but progress also to be rewarded whilst the kids develop. Whilst I strongly believe that if an athlete wants to make a medium/long term commitment to the sport, training is crucial and racing is secondary in these years, we must not penalise those kids who are unlikely to continue beyond the early years and the U14 single run races allow less experienced racers to have a good run and be rewarded accordingly. The balance of training versus racing probably becomes more important at U16 level when athletes need consistency as well as technical ability and speed - this seems to be a good format to get the kids in a mindset to prepare them for FIS. It is important to get across to British based athletes that those who want to race medium to long term will have to gain experience of fighting from the back of the field, so making improvement from a higher start number is not a bad thing - if they spend most of a season training and free skiing then whilst they may not actually start with good points, their skills may well allow them to finish much higher and even on the podium in some cases.... (Often seen at the British with unregistered racers starting pretty much last but doing incredibly well due to more time on snow). More and more people seem to be advocating the less racing/more training approach but it's good to give a broad calendar of races to allow for different school holidays and give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in the sport.

84 Younger athletes should participate in more agility races such as slalom and kombi races. More free skiing should be done in powder and moguls.

85 Cost of entry, accommodation & travel are expensive; allow athletes a 2nd run after a DNF/DSQ, they qualified to attend. Want same opportunities at all ages but with stubbies for youngsters. Keep indoor, plastic and snow separate

86 Children should learn to ski in all snow conditions and have fun. Racing should occupy a small part of their snow time.

87 U14 & U16 different races add more complexity to running races in Scotland. There are few enough people who can do calcs - keep it as simple as possible,

88 Race training not easily accessible for over 18s no structure as "adult" status reached. Funding also becomes an issue for a number of reasons and as a result many racers drop out from system. This was not an issue for myself due to family support system and job as ski instructor who is encouraged to race.

89 Much can be learnt from the Austrian system.

90 You don't need to compete in all races on offer but select those with coaches advice that fit in with all round racing and training programme.

91 Re Qs 16-19: these questions are poorly framed. I am happy with the number of Kombi races currently offered, with no more nor less required at U12/10 age groups.

92 There still appears to be far too much emphasis on gate training with club coaches battling with parents and committees who think they know what is best for the athletes, surely the coaches are paid to give their expertise, if this is not taken then what is the point of employing them. Happy to discuss any points with anyone concerned, the start of this survey is very much aimed at athletes or parents rather than coaches or others in the industry

93 Fun and all-round skiing ability are important in the long run. unfortunately with limited skiing days available people tend to focus too much on gates

94 U10/12 catsuits - should be weather dependent. If children are racing in other systems - e.g. in Austria or France it will be normal to have them. The overemphasis on results at just a couple of events per year - e.g. English selection policy considering only English & British Champs - should be discouraged. Other events with large, quality entries (e.g. Anglo Scottish) should be given some recognition.

95 my son races and trains in Italy U10.. they don't do slalom... and do wear catsuits even for training.. don't seem to suffer from cold.. I couldn't answer Q3 as my son has a FIS card and competes on snow in Italy as well as plastic in Ireland.

96 question 9 is not clear - Yes U10/12 should be allowed to race slalom but with stubby gates

97 Training and racing are different things - they shouldn't be confused; the development of core motor skills shouldn't have anything to do with the number of Kombi races there are!

98 This does not address one other fundamental issue and that is the huge pressure that comes from parents and the lack of education for them. This also requires discussion and buy in from the coaches, so many conflicting views there. Final challenge will be ownership and leadership to drive through any changes. Odd way the survey is structured though

99 We have to do everything possible to encourage greater participation putting in additional restrictions only goes to hinder the competitors understanding of the sport. There is still too much emphasis on under 14 to succeed or give up and not enough attention to building the strength of 14 to 18 bracket to be able to deal with the strain on the body of high speed competitions.