



ISF MEMBERS' RULES

January 2026

1. MEMBERS DEFINITIONS & POSITION

ISF Members are Federations or Associations acting as the national representatives of the sport of skyrunning and skyrunning competitions in their countries. Members must be actively involved in overseeing and promoting skyrunning, teams and competitions in their country.

1.1 Admission

Admission criteria are fully explained in the [Statutes](#) and are summarised [here](#). Admission forms and documents must be verified, and application **approved** by the **General Assembly** (or the **Management Committee** between General Assemblies).

1.2 Membership type

There are four different types of ISF Membership with specific rights and duties fully detailed in the [Statutes](#):

- **Full Members** - Federations or Associations which act as the national representatives of the sport of skyrunning with full voting rights at the General Assembly
- **Aspirant Members** - Associations with no voting rights from countries where no ISF member exists. Aspirant Member status is temporary, with a maximum duration of three years. After that the Member is promoted to Full Member, cancelled, or the Management Committee may decide to extend the Aspirant Member status to allow the full formation of the Federation.
- **Associate Members** - Federations or Associations with no voting rights, affiliated with the sport of skyrunning, or associations in countries where a Full Member already exists
- **Supporting Members** - organisations managing only a specific discipline, not managed by the Full Member

Suspended Members - Members who have not paid the annual fee, have their voting rights suspended, but are entitled to send official teams to ISF Championships. They are not entitled to any contribution.

Observer Status - Members may require a temporary suspension of their obligations due to serious causes (war, revolution, famine, drought) that represent an impediment for the whole country.



1.3 Membership identification

1.3.1 NAME

The association or federation should include the word “skyrunning” and the nation’s name. An existing Association/Federation must include a section specifically dedicated to skyrunning.

1.3.2 INTERNAL ORGANISATION

ISF Members should have an internal organisation and Statutes complying with national sports rules and with open representation and management, following elections.

The Member is governed by an Executive Board of directors or Management Committee that makes policy and strategic decisions regarding the sport's development and growth.

General Assemblies must be held annually to report on the activities and share decisions with the members. Board or Management Committee meetings should be scheduled during the year to direct the activities.

1.3.3 MEMBERS’ WEBSITES

Members must have a dedicated website or website section to include activities, race calendar, rules, Member tag and ISF logo.

1.3.4 MEMBERS’ EMAILS

Each Member must have an official email, preferably including the Member’s name.

1.3.5 LOGOS

Each National Member must have an individual logo. The national Member logo may be used in all promotions, websites and social media. Members must display the ISF logo on their website, linking to the [ISF website](#).

Members’ logos cannot include the skyrunner figure and/or the word “Skyrunner®” which are registered trademarks.

1.3.6 ISF MEMBERS’ TAGS

The ISF provides National Members with the **ISF Member tag** to officially identify them as ISF Members. This tag cannot be used as the main logo on websites, social media or on any promotional material.



2. JURISDICTION

2.1 ISF jurisdiction

All races defined as “skyrunning” and/or including the word “skyrunning” on an international level, together with **international circuits, championships, continental and world titles** fall under ISF jurisdiction. *(Note the word “skyrunning” is lower case)
Events organised where no ISF Member is present, fall under direct ISF jurisdiction.

2.2 ISF Member jurisdiction

National races, national calendars, national championships and circuits without international connections fall under the Members’ jurisdiction.

2.3 Circuit management

Skyrunner® World Series (SWS): managed by SkyMan SA

Vertical World Circuit® (VWC): managed by FSA

VK OPEN World Cup (VK OPEN): managed by ISF Head Office

Skyrunner® National Series (SNS): managed by ISF Head Office through Members (first option) or third party (see 7. SKYRUNNER® NATIONAL SERIES)

All circuits, when not managed directly, are sanctioned by the ISF.

2.4 Additional circuits

In countries with many skyrunning races, only Members have the right to create circuits (or cups), in addition to the SNS. The SNS must have priority over any other skyrunning circuit the Member may organise.

Circuits specifically dedicated to VERTICAL and SKYSNOW disciplines are permitted. They can be managed by ISF Members or contracted to third parties by the ISF Member. Format and race selection must conform to ISF Rules. CC Label races are preferred.

3. FINANCE

3.1 Membership fee 2026

The ISF Membership fees are outlined below. They are in Euros:

- € 1,000 Full Member
- € 500 Aspirant Member
- € 500 Associate Member



Members who have not paid their dues in full prior to the General Assembly are not entitled to vote. The GA can approve the cancellation of the member after two years of outstanding payment.

3.2 Waivers & contributions

Full Members, Associate Members or potential Members, may have access to **contributions** and/or a **fee reduction** based on team participation at ISF Championships or in specific circumstances approved by the Management Committee.

3.2.1 ANTI-DOPING CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions for anti-doping tests can be requested by the national member and will be evaluated by the Anti-Doping Committee.

3.3 Revenue

ISF members have the right to obtain revenue from the following:

- fees from organizers to include competitions on the National Calendar
- fees from National Championship races
- sponsors of National Championships and Members' partners
- fees from SNS races and sponsors (if Member is the SNS manager)
- membership from local skyrunning clubs
- national licences/membership cards

3.3.1 SPONSORS

Only the ISF has the right to engage a title sponsor for the Skyrunner® National Series in any country in agreement with the SNS manager. Other sponsorship levels can be managed by the Member or third-party manager.

3.3.2 FEES

Members have the right collect fees for events organised in their country. Fees can be requested for inclusion in the National Calendar, for the assignment of National Championships and for inclusion in the SNS, when managed by the Member. No extra fees can be requested when an event is selected as ISF Championship.

3.3.3 LICENCE

Where not already present, Members are invited to implement a licence system, possibly including insurance.

The international **ISF Card** is not in competition with national licences, offering specific benefits. The ISF card is compulsory for Official Teams to enter ISF Championships.



4. RIGHTS & DUTIES

4.1 Rights

4.1.1 ISF MEMBERS' AUTHORITY

The ISF Member, as ISF representative of a given country, is the sole authority to manage skyrunning there.

4.1.2 NATIONAL RACE CALENDAR

Each Member has the right and duty to create and publish an **annual race calendar**, selecting races compliant with ISF Rules and potential promotional races where non-compliant. Members may ask organisers a fee to be part of the calendar and to sanction races.

Races complying to skyrunning parameters should be proposed as Certified Courses (see 6. ISF CERTIFIED COURSE LABEL).

4.1.3 DISPUTE WITH OTHER FEDERATIONS

ISF Members have the right to dispute the affiliation of a given race with another Federation if the race course fits the skyrunning parameters (ie a race affiliated with the Athletics Federation for example, that should be in the Member's calendar). The ISF Head Office is available to support any such dispute.

4.1.4 RECORD SANCTION

ISF Members have the right to oversee and certify records in their country as well as oversee and certify records set by national athletes. The ISF can oversee, certify, and sanction records in any country when it is of particular interest to the sport.

4.1.5 WORKSHOP ORGANISATION

ISF Members have the right to organise courses, workshops and training camps in their country or in a different country for the national athletes.

The ISF can organise international workshops and training camps involving ISF approved instructors and coaches in any country as an introduction to the sport or as a training course for advanced athletes.

4.1.6 ISF COMMITTEES

Members have the right and duty to present candidatures for all Committees. All Members must nominate a member of the Athletes Committee.



4.1.7 CONTINENTAL COUNCILS

Members have the right and duty to present candidatures for the relevant Continental Council.

4.1.8 CERTIFIED COURSE LABEL

Members have the right and duty to submit courses that comply with ISF Parameters for the Certified Course Label. In the event a race organiser has already submitted or obtained a request, the member should be advised.

See 6. ISF CERTIFIED COURSE LABEL.

4.2 Duties

4.2.1 STATUS MAINTENANCE

To maintain the ISF Member status each Member must:

- pay the fee
- comply with the ISF Statutes
- provide an annual report on the activities

Membership can be reviewed, suspended or cancelled in case of **lack of activities** and **failure to pay the fee** for **two** consecutive years.

4.2.2 AUTOMATIC INCLUSION IN NATIONAL RACE CALENDAR

Races in circuits such as Skyrunner® World Series, Skyrunner® National Series and Vertical World Circuit® sanctioned or managed by the ISF, that take place in the Members' country, must be included in the national calendar of each ISF Member.

4.2.3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Members have the duty to organize **National Skyrunning Championships** selecting the most suitable races for each category/distance/discipline:

- Vertical
- Sky
- SkyUltra
- SkySnow - where possible
- Stairclimbing (optional)
- SkySpeed (optional)
- SkyBike (optional)

Races selected for National Championships must have the Certified Course Label. (see 6. ISF CERTIFIED COURSE LABEL)



4.2.4 NATIONAL TEAMS

Members have the duty to **select athletes** to compete in **ISF Championships**: World Championships, Continental Championships, Youth World Championships, Masters World Championships, SkySnow World Championships, etc.

5. ISF EVENTS

5.1 ISF Championships

- **Skyrunning World Championships**: biennial competitions, managed by the ISF, assigning World titles and medals in the three main disciplines (VERTICAL, SKY, SKYULTRA and COMBINED). These competitions are open only to National Teams and are held every even year
- **Skyrunning Continental Championships**: competitions, managed by the ISF, assign Continental titles and medals in the three main disciplines (VERTICAL, SKY, SKYULTRA and COMBINED when relevant). If not all the disciplines can be organised, the SKY is compulsory.
These competitions are open only to National Teams and are held annually or every odd year, depending on the decision of the Continental Council
- **Youth Skyrunning World Championships**: annual competitions, managed by the ISF, assign World titles and medals in two disciplines (VERTICAL, SKY and COMBINED). These competitions are open only to National Teams and athletes are divided in four categories Youth A (15-16 years old), Youth B (17-18 years old), Youth C (19-20 years old) and U23 (21-22-23 years old)
- **SkySnow World Championships**: biennial competitions, managed by the ISF, assign World titles and medals in the SkySnow disciplines (VERTICAL, CLASSIC and COMBINED). These competitions are open only to National Teams
- **SkySnow Continental Championships**: biennial competitions, managed by the ISF, assign Continental titles and medals in the SkySnow disciplines (VERTICAL, CLASSIC and COMBINED). These competitions are open only to National Teams
- **Stairclimbing World Championships**: competitions, managed by the ISF, assign World titles and medals in a single skyscraper race. The competition is open and may be held annually
- **Masters Skyrunning World Championships**: competitions, managed by the ISF, assign World titles and medals in at least one discipline (SKY). These competitions are open, and athletes are divided in four categories: Over 40 (40 to 44 years old), Over 45 (45 to 49 years old), Over 50 (50 to 54 years old) and Over 55 (55 years old or more). They may be held annually



5.2 Circuits

- **Skyrunner® World Series:** annual independently owned circuit sanctioned by the ISF. The Series consists of races with the SKY and SKYULTRA disciplines and may adopt more stringent rules and regulations than the ISF. In case of dispute, ISF rules prevail
- **Skyrunner® National Series:** annual promotional circuit organised in ISF Member countries and sanctioned by the ISF. The ISF Member has the first option to manage the Series, otherwise a third party can be selected by the ISF. The Series consists of the SKY and SKYULTRA disciplines. The VERTICAL can also be included. Each Member has the right to establish the format as well as the final Prize Money
- **VK OPEN World Cup:** managed by the ISF, assign titles and prizes in the VERTICAL discipline
- **Vertical World Circuit®:** annual circuit organised by third parties, sanctioned by the ISF. The Circuit consists of races falling under the STAIRCLIMBING discipline and may adopt more stringent rules and regulations than the ISF. In case of dispute ISF rules prevail

5.3 ISF event selection

The venue for the ISF Championships is decided together with the ISF Members, based on the candidatures presented. When no candidatures are available, the ISF has the right to select the most suitable venue.

ISF Championships and Skyrunner® World Series races must be selected from those already with a Certified Course Label. Members have the right to present a bid, but if the presented venue is selected, the Member cannot pretend a fee from the organiser, unless agreed by the parties.

6. CERTIFIED COURSE LABEL

6.1 Definition

The ISF has developed a system to identify and award skyrunning races with a course certification label and difficulty level. The label is awarded to courses compliant with ISF parameters. Together with the GPX data, they are evaluated, and an exclusive algorithm is applied.

Full information on the [website](#).

6.2 Parameters

The essential factors for the Certified Course Label are:

- Average incline
- Altitude



- Distance
- Terrain
- Uphill section
- Vertical climb

6.3 Procedure

- Organiser or Member completes online form
- Organiser or Member provides GPX course profile, photos and/or video
- ISF elaborates GPX track analysis elaborated with dedicated algorithm
- ISF analyses the technical level of the course and rules

Races that receive ISF approval and pay the designated fee will receive the **Certified Course certificate** and relative **CC Label**. Races that do not meet the minimum requirements will not be included.

In case the form is presented by a race organiser, a preliminary check with the ISF Member, where present, is done, to ensure that the race is included on the National Calendar and that the data presented is correct.

7. SKYRUNNER® NATIONAL SERIES

7.1 Definition

The Skyrunner® National Series (SNS) organised on a national level is a promotional circuit derived from the Skyrunner® World Series.

If Members wish to organise a circuit in their country, the SNS has the priority over any other circuit at National level.

ISF Members can organise other national circuits **only** in addition to the SNS or if they're dedicated to other skyrunning disciplines (see. 2.4 Additional Circuits).

7.2 SNS structure

The SNS consist of a series of SKY and SKYULTRA discipline races. The inclusion of VERTICAL races is permitted and optional. Each SNS manager shall issue their own Rules and Regulations for the Series, setting the calendar, the ranking formula (number of races valid for the final ranking) and prize money. ISF rules prevail in case of dispute.

7.3 SNS managers

ISF Members have the priority to manage and select the Skyrunner® National Series for their country. If Members decide not to manage the SNS, the ISF is entitled to look for a third party to manage the circuit.



Members must recognise the SNS manager contracted by ISF through third parties, as the sole and exclusive organiser of the SNS and, as a consequence, **feature all races chosen by the third party on their National Calendar.**

SNS managers (Members or third parties) must pay a fee to the ISF for the right to organise the Series. The fee is based on the number of races included in the SNS.

In the event the **ISF Member does not manage the SNS and the ISF cannot find a third party to become the SNS manager**, no Circuits, Series or Cups may be organised in the country and only promotional events organised by the Member are permitted, unless authorized by the Management Committee.

NB: National Championships in all disciplines are always permitted.

Each SNS manager is responsible for the ranking and paying the prize money.

8. SKYRUNNER® WORLD SERIES

The Skyrunner® World Series (SWS) is an annual promotional circuit organised by SkyMan SA (SMSA) and sanctioned by the ISF. The Series consists of races falling under the SKY and SKYULTRA discipline.

The races are selected by SMSA together with the ISF. Members can propose races for the SWS through the ISF, providing they have the CC Label.

National teams are not classified in the SWS, but it is possible for Members to negotiate with SMSA the participation of National athletes in the SWS.

9. VK OPEN World Cup

The VK OPEN World Cup is a competition, managed by the ISF, that assigns titles and prizes in the VERTICAL discipline. The Cup consist of races falling under the VERTICAL discipline.

The races are selected by the ISF following bids submitted by the Members. When no bids are presented, the ISF has the right to select any race.

10. VERTICAL WORLD CIRCUIT®

Stairclimbing circuit featuring races with an incline over 45% on stairs indoors or outdoors. The minimum vertical climb is 100m.

Members are encouraged to include skyscraper races in their National Calendar and to promote the discipline also by selecting athletes to participate in the VWC or eventual World, Continental and National Championships.



If indoor activities are not promoted by the Member, a Supporting Member may be selected to specifically manage the discipline.

11. TRADEMARKS

11.1 Trademark list

The ISF is the licensee of the following trademarks:

- SkyRace®
- SkyMarathon®
- Vertical Kilometer®
- Skyrunner® National Series

Such trademarks include the registered logo.

11.2 Trademark use

Trademarks can be used by race organisers in the race name only if they conform to the Certified Course parameters and are included in the National or International Calendar.

Races that use the above trademarks without adhering to the above restrictions may be liable to legal action.

The SNS trademark can be used only by SNS manager together with the logo and branding.

11.3 Control over trademark use

Members are responsible for overseeing inappropriate use of skyrunning related brand names and logos in their country and to report such use to the ISF for appropriate action.

12. MEMBER RELATIONS WITH ISF

Members are invited to keep in touch with the ISF at the following email addresses:

- info@skyrunning.com - all kind of communication
- secretary@skyrunning.com - letter, request to the Management Committee or Board, etc
- president@skyrunning.com - direct contact with the ISF President
- ivanhouten@skyrunning.com - media inquiries
- mregis@skyrunning.com - day to day communication and ISF Championships details (entries, accommodation, race details, etc.)
- certification@skyrunning.com – for CC Label requests



Members can **propose amendments** to ISF Rules. The presented proposals can be examined by the Executive Board, the Management Committee and/or the General Assembly, depending on the topic.

Members can propose Bids for the following events:

- Skyrunning World Championships
- Youth Skyrunning World Championships
- Masters Skyrunning World Championships
- Skyrunning Continental Championships
- Skyrunner® World Series events (in association with SkyMan SA)
- SkySnow World Championships
- SkySnow Continental Championships
- VK OPEN World Cup

13. ANTIDOPING

Members must commit to combat doping and all other processes and procedures that might undermine the sport, applying the IOC Medical Code and WADA anti-doping regulations.

Members are invited to raise awareness of this issue with race organizers and athletes with a view to keeping skyrunning a clean sport. See [here](#).

A budget dedicated to the Anti-Doping controls is set each year and is managed by the Anti-Doping Committee. Members can request for WADA Anti-Doping controls to be carried out through the ISF. If the ISF budget cannot manage the request, a contribution will be requested to the Member.

Competitors with a positive result will be disqualified immediately. The disqualification duration will be decided by the Management Committee together with the Anti-Doping Committee.

14. ENVIRONMENT

Members are invited to spread awareness about environmental issues to all races in their country, in the spirit of a sport that leaves no trace.

Organisers must take all necessary measures to avoid designing routes that cross areas with sensitive ecosystems, ensure the rapid removal of race marking at the end of the race, rapid removal of all waste material discarded by spectators and participants and that only natural biodegradable products are used for marking, etc. For info, see [ISF Environmental Rules & Guidelines](#)