

SFN - COMPETITION GUIDE AND RULE BOOK - 2017 edition

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Skateboard Federation Netherlands

Skateboard Federation Netherlands, in this contest guide and rule book referred to as SFN, is a non profit organization that consists of a president, secretary and a treasurer. SFN also has representatives from all current national indoor skateparks in the Netherlands, a riders-committee and various other committees. As a whole SFN functions as the official governing body for dutch skateboarding.

Please visit the official website or contact the SFN Head Office for more information.

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1 General information

1.1 Official disciplines

Disciplines officially recognized by SFN are Street, Park, Vert Ramp, Mini Ramp and Pool or Bowl. Special events recognized by SFN are Vert Doubles, Highest Air, Best Trick etc.

1.2 Disciplines currently on review

SFN Board of Directors support recent initiatives to try and re-establish old school skateboarding disciplines such as various forms of Slalom, Downhill and Flatland Freestyle and will be open to reconsider the official disciplines at a later time.

2 Participation

2.1 Participants

According to the general guidelines all dutch riders should be allowed to participate in any National Championship Event. Exceptions to this rule, for instance invitational events, require special permission from SFN and shall state this clearly on all official announcements. Although SFN will try their best to keep this as clear as possible it's the responsibility of the contest organizer/promoter to make sure exceptions are posted accordingly.

2.2 Membership requirements

All competitors in SFN sanctioned events become registered members of SFN. The membership year is January 1st until December 31st the same year.

SFN member information will be handled as per 2.3.

2.3 Registration

All participants must register during the official announced registration time. Membership and entry fees must be paid no later than during registration or the participant will be disallowed entrance.

If there are special reasons, such as train or flight delays etc, an already ranked skater is allowed to register and compete after deadline only if:

- a) The skater or a team manager has notified the contest director in advance.
- b) The skater must complete registration before the semi-final round or finals if there is no semi-final.

The skater will then be allowed two qualifying runs, if they receive a score that is higher than the last qualifying score they will be added to the semi-finals, or finals if there is no semi-finals. No one will be subtracted from the original list of advancing skaters.

Registration forms shall require the following information for inclusion in the official SFN result and ranking database:

- a) Email
- b) Birth Date
- c) Surname
- d) First name
- e) Address
- f) Nationality
- g) Contact numbers
- h) Sponsors

All riders must also complete the release and waiver of liability before being permitted to participate at any SFN events. All riders must have a current medical insurance policy. All riders under 18 years of age must have the appropriate release and waiver signed by a parent or guardian.

Personal information (especially with reference to category A, B and G) filed in the SFN results and ranking database will be available to SFN and servant event officials only, will not be officially published, not be shared on request and will not be sold for marketing or other purposes.

2.4 Rider fees

The Organizer/Promoter is allowed to charge rider fees in accordance with its agreement with SFN. Fees will not exceed 50 EUR for one discipline.

If a competitor registers for an event and does not compete, his or her entry fee will not be refunded without a valid excuse (medical certificate). Once a competitor takes part in a practice session the refund is limited to 50%. Once a skater has taken a judge run there is no refund.

2.5 Competitors equipment

A skateboard is comprised of one skateboard deck which can be made of wood, fiberglass etc, two skateboard trucks usually made of metal and four wheels of a urethane composition with bearings. It can vary in length from about 60 to about 120 cm with circa 80 cm being most commonly used in street, ramp and bowl competitions. Wheels may also vary in size though a diameter of about 50-60 mm are usually preferred.

Refer to 4.1 for safety equipment regulations.

2.6 Advertising on equipment and appeal

Competitors are permitted to enter into independent sponsorship agreements.

The size, form, color and quantity of sponsorship markings on equipment or apparel is at the discretion of the competitor. Such markings must, however, be in good taste and not of an offensive nature. Only at National Televised events may an event Organizer or Contest Director disapprove commercial markings for being in conflict with the event sponsors. A compromise or solution should be worked out.

2.7 SFN conduct code

The SFN conduct code applies to all participants at all SFN sanctioned events, including but not limited to riders, coaches, managers, sponsors, industry representatives, photographers, media personnel and guests.

Each participant is reminded that when participating at SFN sanctioned events he or she has an obligation to act in a manner that reflects positively on skateboarding and SFN.

No controlled substances or beverages containing alcohol are allowed at SFN sanctioned events. For more information see 2.8.

For safety reasons throwing free product into the spectators area, the contest area, or adjoining facilities are not allowed before, during or after the event. Product includes but are not limited to boards, wheels, helmets, pads, clothing, stickers, drinks or snacks.

If a participant exhibits a disregard for the safety of participants and/or spectators, a disruptive influence on the event, or a lack of respect for and/or cooperation with the contest staff, he or she may be banned from access to the restricted area(s) and further participation in the event.

Any participant who has been disqualified or banned from access to the restricted area(s) must immediately leave the restricted area(s).

If a participant who has been disqualified or banned from the restricted area(s) represents a disruptive influence, he or she may be directed to leave the event site for the duration of the event.

Ignorance of this code is no excuse.

2.8 Use of drugs and alcohol

The use of drugs, with reference to the official IOC list, among participants in SFN sanctioned events is strictly forbidden. Tests may be performed to determine the presence of prohibited substances and any such positive result will lead to disqualification from the competition. Competitors under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be disqualified from competition and banned from the venue. Further review from the Contest Jury may result in disqualification from future events.

2.9 Attendance at official ceremonies

Competitors shall attend the official event ceremonies at the times specified on the event schedule. All top three finishers must be readily available to the media. Failure by a competitor to attend the official award ceremonies will result in the forfeiture of the competitor's prizes and prize money, unless prior consent has been granted to the Contest Director.

3 Organization

3.1 Required performance

Organizers must adhere to the rules and conduct the event in a proper manner. Failure to do so may necessitate cancellation of the event by SFN and SFN may discipline such organizers.

Any penalty for non-performance must be recorded on the contract between SFN and the organizer/promoter. The penalty may be either a monetary fine and/or a restriction from conducting other SFN events.

3.2 Modifications

The Technical Supervisor or Competition Director may make modifications or changes to the rules if conditions or situations develop prior to or during a competition. Input from the contest jury will be considered.

All modifications, changes in schedule, program alternations and cancellations, must immediately be communicated to the SFN Head Office or onsite SFN Technical Supervisor.

Any significant modification must also immediately be announced over the PA as well as in writing posted at the official onsite message board and other appropriate places for everyone to see.

3.3 Insurance and liability

The Organizer/Promoter is responsible for liability insurance during the entire event.

The Organizer/Promoter must list SFN and its officials as an additional insured on the event liability insurance policy.

All riders must have a current medical insurance policy and must complete the release and waiver of liability before being permitted to participate at any SFN events, as per 2.3.

3.4 Media and sponsorship rights

All media and sponsorship rights belong to the Organizer/Promoter with approval from SFN.

3.5 SFN Technical Committee

The SFN Technical Commission are responsible for:

- a) Preparing and updating the SFN rules.
- b) Organizing the education of the SFN technical personnel.
- c) Providing educational materials including manuals and visuals.
- d) Appointment of SFN technical officials at competitions.
- e) Responding to questions or concerns regarding the SFN rules.
- f) Establishing the SFN Events Calendar and up-dating it.
- g) Maintaining current SFN rankings.
- h) Deciding penalties for any infringement of SFN rules.

3.6 Contest Jury

Each SFN sanctioned competition must have a Contest Jury composed of:

- a) Contest Director.
- b) Promoter Representative.
- c) Head Judge.
- d) SFN President or representative.
- e) Riders Representative.
- f) Riders Representative.

Each member of the Contest Jury shall have voting rights.

The Contest Jury are responsible for:

- a) Maintaining and enforcing SFN contest rules.
- b) Deal with protests.
- c) Making necessary decisions pertaining to any problems that may arise.

3.7 Official communication and advertising

All communications and documents relating to a SFN sanctioned event must include the SFN logo.

3.8 Announcement

The Organizer/Promoter must publish an announcement of the event and submit it to appropriate media within the time frame of these rules 1.3.

The announcement must contain the following:

- a) Date, time and place of each competition with related information.
- b) Technical data and conditions for participation.
- c) Time and place for the awards and official ceremonies.

3.9 Official results

The official results report shall be emailed immediately after every SFN sanctioned competition to the SFN Head Office.

The official results report must contain the following information:

- a) A list of the contest staff (director, head judge, judges etc).
- b) A detailed program of the event.
- c) Copies of the qualifying heats, semi-finals and finals.
- d) Results and purse displacement.

3.10 Approval of official documents

The Technical Supervisor or the Competition Director must review and sign as approved all official documents.

4 Competition

4.1 Safety gear

In all SFN sanctioned events, safety equipment will be required per the event organizers liability insurance. However, it is recommended that all Vert Ramp competitions require full safety equipment.

4.2 Practice

Every rider is allowed equal practice time in the competition area in question after registration has been completed and all entry fees are paid. Sessions should occur in an orderly manner in which all skaters receive ample practice. If the Competition Director or Practice Coordinator receives, or is witness to, a skater disrupting a session, the skater will be eliminated from the rest of that practice session.

4.3 Interference and material failure

If a spectator, photographer, another competitor, failure to the skating surface, structure or personal equipment or if an object dropped in the skating area is interfering with the skaters run, the skater should immediately raise his hand.

If the Competition Director and/or Head Judge determine that interference did indeed occur, and the skater was less than 30 seconds into his run, the skater will be allowed to restart the run from the beginning.

If, in the opinion of the Competition Director and/or Head Judge, the surface or structure in question is defective, the surface or structure will be repaired and the heat will be restarted at the point it was deemed un-skatable.

The condition of personal skateboard equipment is the responsibility of the competitor. However, if an equipment breakdown occurs during the finals, semi-finals, or any other phase of seeded skating, right before a first or second run and/or during the first 30 seconds of a run, the rider will be allowed to skate at the end of the heat, or in case of a final run where the rider will skate second to last, still letting the first qualified rider skate last.

After 30 seconds of any run has elapsed it will be scored as a completed run with no penalty.

If the interfering party is another competitor he or she may receive a warning. Repeated warnings at the same event or severe first time interference may lead to disqualification from the current contest.

4.4 Missed heat or run

Decision to still compete although a skater missed his or her heat or run will be the decision of the Contest Director.

4.5 Ties

In case of a tie, the next best run score will be considered. If a tie still exist, the next best run score will be considered. If a tie still exist, all scores from the best run will be considered, including the previously non considered high and low scores. If a tie still exist, all scores from the second best run will be considered. If a tie still exist, all scores from the third best run will be considered. If a tie still exist a one run runoff will occur.

4.6 Weather

In the event that an outdoor competition are subject to severe weather conditions or any other act of nature, it is the decision of the Contest Jury to cancel, postpone or reschedule the competition. Announcements should immediately be made through all appropriate channels (official website, at the venue etc) as well as reported to SFN for the official events calendar and news section. In the event that a competition is cancelled and cannot be rescheduled, the distribution of the purse and prizes will be decided by the Contest Jury and event promoter.

4.7 Judging

SFN must approve all judges for all National Championships Events.

The minimum number of judges for any contest recognized by SFN is three (3) though all National Championships Events require at least five (5) judges. More than five can be used but is not recommended.

All judges, including but not limited to those judging National Championships Events, should have a strong background in skateboarding, be strong enough individuals not to be easily influenced by their peers, be mature, patient and able to maintain their concentration for extended periods of time. All judges at National Championships Events must have prior judging experience.

The Head Judge needs special approval from SFN, needs extensive judging experience, must be able to direct others and handle controversy and must be willing to attend every National Championships Event.

A Judge Meeting should be held prior to all events in which the Head Judge should inform judges, timekeepers, announcers and DJ's about the time schedule, contest format, review what to look for as well as determine the penalty for falls and step offs.

Scoring should be based on a 1-100 point scale and should meet the following scale:

(a) Amazing run	90-100 points
(b) Very good run	80-89 points
(c) Good run	70-79 points
(d) Above average run	60-69 points
(e) Average run	50-59 points
(f) Below average run	40-49 points
(g) Poor run	30-39 points
(h) Very poor run	1-29 points

The high and low scores are discarded and the average of the remaining three (3) gives the final score.

General judging criteria:

- (a) Number of tricks.
- (b) Degree of difficulty.
- (c) Bionics and amplitude (height of airs, length of grinds etc).
- (d) Utilizing of contest area.
- (e) Variety of maneuvers and lines.
- (f) Originality, flow and style.
- (g) Continuity of run and consistency.

Judges will take falls and step offs into consideration and penalty should be addressed as per prior instruction from the Head Judge. However, it is a general suggestion that judges always take into account what was being attempted when the fall or step off occurred as well as the riders ability to recover the continuity and overall fluidity of the run.

4.8 Structure and design requirements

All contest area structures should be designed to showcase the current state of that discipline skateboarding.

Street courses should somewhat resemble natural street skating elements, such as ledges, handrails, banks, quarter pipes, hips, center pieces, pyramids etc. Street courses for all National Championships Events should be a minimum of 600 square meters and should allow a variety of skateable lines.

The many aspects of Vert and Mini Ramps can vary but should be at least 10 or 7 meters wide and 3,5 or 1,2 meters tall respectively and in the case of the Vert Ramp with about 45-60 cm of vert.

All ramps and obstacles should have a safe and sound structure with a surface finish suitable for skateboarding.

Please contact SFN for design and/or construction assistance.

4.9 Contest format in general

There are many contest formats to choose from depending on whether it's an open contest, invitational or invitational with qualifier. The rule of thumb being Quality Time, as referred to the time the riders spend skating rather than sit around waiting for their next run as well as the duration of the entire event for everyone involved, makes the most suitable format depend most of all on the total number of skaters.

All contests are generally conducted in four phases: practice, elimination or qualifying, quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals. Once a competition format has been announced it cannot be changed once on site practice has started.

Time will start running at the competitors first trick. A 15 seconds warning will be announced and the judges will stop scoring the run at the end of the allotted time.

4.10 Competition formats

Competition formats are the method used in order for the athletes to perform their competition routine and being evaluated by the jury. There are several competition systems that can be applied at the Organizing Committee's discretion and in accordance with the Technical Commission.

- **RUN** – The procedure of “Run” competitions provides for the presence of only one athlete in the competition area for a period of time that may vary depending on the characteristics of the facilities and competition format.
- **OPEN RUN** – It is just like “Run”, but when the athletes' time is up he/she has the chance to continue with his/her performance until he/she makes the first mistake.
- **JAM** – The Jam Session provides for the presence of several athletes inside the competition area. The length of a Jam may vary depending on the number of athletes performing simultaneously during competition on the characteristics of the facilities and competition format.
- **ORGANIZED JAM** – It constitutes a compromise solution between “Run” and “Jam”. The athletes split in groups are asked to skate in a given order giving them the chance to use the facility while alone in the competition area. Each athlete can continue his/her performance until he/she makes a first mistake or reaches the maximum time allowed on the facility.

5 Sanctions and penalties

5.1 Failure to follow rules

The SFN Board of Directors, the Technical Supervisor or the Contest Jury can sanction Participants or Organizers/Promoters who do not follow the rules.

5.2 Sanction categories

There are five categories of sanction:

- a) Written warning.
- b) Money fine payable to SFN.
- c) Withdrawal of accreditation.
- d) Suspension from the competition.
- e) Suspension for a definite or indefinite period of time.

5.3 Fines or dues

Participants will not be allowed to register or attend in any future SFN events until they have fulfilled their financial obligation. Failure to fulfill their financial obligation may result in legal action being taken against them.

5.4 Penalties

The minimum penalty for a competitor is disqualification from the current event.

The minimum penalty for all other participants is being banned from access to the restricted area(s) for the duration of the current event.

Participants will be held financially responsible for any property damage that results either directly or indirectly from their actions at SFN sanctioned events. They will also be responsible for any personal injury caused by their actions.

5.5 Protests

All protests during an SFN sanctioned event should be made to the Head Judge, who will then organize the Contest Jury (see 3.6 for more information) to review the case and make the final decision. The fee to file a protest during a National Championships Event is 50 EUR and should be paid when filing the protest. No protest can be made until the heat in which the rider is skating is completed and the Head Judge is available. Any skater that approaches the Head Judge during a judged heat will be means of an immediate disqualification from the event. Repeated infractions will be means of disqualification from future events and/or a fee. The decision of the Contest Jury is final.