

## **Metro Ski League Equipment Information**

Metro Ski League currently keeps an inventory of gate poles and panels sufficient to set up two full GS courses and two full slalom courses simultaneously. In addition, we stock enough maintenance equipment to support two courses on race day. This write-up covers the organization of this equipment and provides information related to its transport to and from the mountain.

### **Gate Pole Organization:**

All of the course gate poles, both GS and slalom, are bundled by bungee cords into sets of 14 for manageable transport.

For slalom courses, there will be two types of bundles; flex poles with screw bases (used for the turning side of the gate) and straight poles (for the outside of the gate). Collecting the gates into the same 14-pole bundles at the end of race day is a good way of checking that you have everything when you leave the mountain, and also helps make sure you don't run out of bungee cords!

For GS courses, there will also be two types of bundles. One type has seven pairs of poles; each pair consisting of one flex pole and one rigid pole sharing a canvas panel (these pairs are used for the turning side of the gate). The other type of bundle has seven pairs of rigid poles sharing a canvas panel (used for the outside of the gate). The poles are organized this way to facilitate rapid setup of the race course.

Metro uses FIS-approved break-away panels for its GS gates. These panels have sleeves on each side that slip over the tops of the gate poles. There are small bungee loops at the top corners of the panels that get buttoned to hold the panels in a fixed position on the poles. These bungee fasteners are snug enough to keep the panels in place, even in windy conditions, but still allow the panels to be scooted along the poles by hand, or to pop off during collision with a racer. The fasteners can be easily unbuttoned as needed, which is useful when flex poles are being screwed into the snow, for example.

The rule book stipulates that during the race the GS panels should be positioned on the poles such that the bottom edge is at least 1m above the snow surface.

Prior to the race, the GS bundles will come prepared with the panels already in place on the poles, with the fasteners buttoned. At the end of the race, roll the poles together again in pairs, along with their fastened panel, just as they started out (gather seven pairs in a bungeed bundle, for fourteen poles total). Be sure to keep eyes peeled for loose bungee fasteners so they don't get lost.

Do not use duct tape or any other means to attach GS panels to the poles. Besides being unnecessary, it would interfere with the designed break-away action of the panels. Also, when setting the GS poles, please avoid flipping the poles to put a twist in the panels. This is also unnecessary. The panels are perforated with small holes to make them less resistant to wind. Keeping the panels open and flat helps to extend their life and allows everyone to see the names of the generous sponsors who bought them for us.

Note: In the interest of course setting uniformity, gates should be set with the first gate color being red.

### **Start/Finish Poles:**

For each course, there is a special bundle of poles for the start/finish areas, consisting of bamboo and heavier PVC. The bamboo should only be used for enclosure and fencing purposes and should never be used on the course itself. This large bundle of poles should be taken to the start area, where it will be distributed by race

officials from there. At the end of the day, the start/finish poles get brought to the finish area for rebundling.

### **Other equipment:**

Metro League provides several drills & large bits for course maintenance. Each drill comes with one battery and a spare (stored in a sock). A large auger bit accompanies the drill, stored in a PVC tube for protection (please do not lose the screw cap on this tube). The drills start out the day in particular equipment bags, with their forward/reverse switches in the neutral position, to help keep them from accidentally turning on.

During the race, it is best to change a battery on a drill before the initial battery is completely drained. If a battery is totally discharged, it is possible to damage it. (No intentional attempt should be made to completely discharge a battery by continually holding or taping the trigger button on.) Please make sure the drills are accounted for at the end of race day. Bits should be removed from chucks and stowed back in their storage tubes. Otherwise, the unprotected bits tend to make rips in our tote bags.

The league owns electronic timing displays boards. These boards are usually transported to the mountain separate from the gate poles and maintenance equipment and are hand carried from the lodge to the finish area. They need to be handled with care and kept from getting wet. (During the race, the displays should be sufficiently protected from weather when hanging from their supporting A-frames.) While being transported, they should be kept in their red carrying cases. At the end of race day, please make sure the electronic displays get brought back to the lodge. They should not be shipped home with the poles and other non-electronic equipment unless you are specifically asked to do so.

### **Transporting the equipment:**

On race weekend, one high school will be responsible for transporting the gate poles for one each of the two race courses along with the maintenance & support equipment that goes with it. You will be given an inventory checklist that details all of the items and also where they should be taken prior to the race. Some pieces go to specific locations on the race course, and others go to the lodge. It causes needless delay if equipment is taken to the wrong place, so please make sure to follow instructions on the checklist! At the end of the day, use the checklist to make sure all of the equipment is accounted for *before* leaving the mountain. Our experience has been that anything left behind is often lost for good.

Bring the right kind of vehicle to pick up the equipment! The course poles are slightly over 7 feet in length and some of the start/finish area poles are close to 8 feet. There are other large items such as start and finish tents and bulky equipment bags. There are also several stacks of 5-gallon buckets (for the gatekeepers to sit on), rakes, shovels and fencing bundles. For a slalom race, plan on bringing at least a mid-size truck or equivalent. For a GS race, a full size truck or Suburban-equivalent is needed.

Unless otherwise instructed, you should plan on having the equipment delivered to the ski area and ready to unload by 7am of race day.

When the equipment is returned to storage, please relay any knowledge you have of broken or missing items, so they can be repaired or replaced. Comments regarding bad drill or radio batteries are particularly useful. It is often not easy to detect a bad battery without actually attempting to use it.

With rare exception, all Metro equipment is individually marked with the words METRO or a METRO LEAGUE sticker. In addition, the equipment for each course is color coded. One course will be “green” and the other “blue”—identified by colored tape or ribbons. At the end of race day, when equipment is collected and loaded up, pay particular attention to unfamiliar, unmarked pieces and check them against the inventory. In the past, equipment from the ski area or other leagues has accidentally been taken home from the mountain. We don’t need any extra stuff!

**Equipment Location & Pickup:**

The course equipment is currently located at Dan's house in Aloha. Call (503-649-4136) to get directions and arrange pick-up and drop-off times. Equipment is usually ready for pick-up by the Thursday prior to the race.