



Ski Racing Australia Statement to Competitors 02/03/16

Cookie Helmet Suspended.

A review of the skier falls in Australia since 2011 that SRA is aware of reveals that out of the five fatal falls each of those five skiers was reported to be wearing a Cookie branded Helmet. From a recent skier survey it was found that less than 30 percent of skiers are using this helmet brand.

Although Ski Racing Australia has no direct or firm evidence as to whether this helmet brand and type is a contributing factor in the tragic result of these falls (in many cases, but not all, speed was also a common factor), the pure statistical weight indicates that there may be an as yet unknown issue with the Cookie branded helmet. On balance the most appropriate course of action from the sport's governing body is to suspend the use of the Cookie branded helmet pending the findings of the McIntosh Consultancy research.

As previously announced, we are working with McIntosh Consultancy and Research in an effort to understand the injury mechanism and we will provide ski racing competitors those findings when this research is complete.

As with all helmets used by skiers in Ski Racing events, they are not specifically fit for the purpose or designed for the rigours and forces applied while skiing. In fact, the manufacturers of these helmets (including the Cookie branded helmets) are careful to ensure clear warnings are placed regarding use of these items outside of the design specifications and intentions.

As there is currently no helmet specifically designed as being fit for purpose for use in the sport of ski racing, competitors are required to make their own choice as to the skiing helmet they wish to use based on their own assessment of their comfort and needs. In the short term, subject to the above suspension, this will continue until any findings or recommendations are presented through the McIntosh project regarding new skier protective equipment.

Helmet Clips.

Following up the safety committee advice provided in October 2015:
<http://www.skiracing.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Safety-Committee-Update-141015.pdf>.

Ski Racing Australia is aware that competitors may have modified the manufactured clips on the skiers helmets. Ski Racing Australia does not support this approach and advises competitors to source an appropriately manufactured clip from their supplier in line with their own personal views according to how they want their clip to behave. Clips are available on the market with measurements from 18kg – 87kg and competitors are advised to source their clips accordingly.

Scrutineers will be checking helmet clips accordingly at the Robinvale Ski Race and modified clips will be identified. Modified clips will not be accepted to race from the Mildura 100 onwards.