

# NO FLUORO WAXING POLICY 2022



In line with the decision by the International Ski Federation (FIS) to ban the use of all fluorinated waxes for the 2022-2023 and beyond, Snow Australia Cross Country Committee (SAXC) is bringing in a **no-fluoro policy for the 2022 Australian winter**. This prospect was flagged in 2021.

Unlike the previous low-fluoro protocol endorsed by SAXC for club and school level competitions since 2016, which was designed to reduce costs and time spent on waxing, this new no-fluoro policy endorsed by Snow Australia and FIS is based on protecting the environment.

## NO-FLUORO IMPLEMENTATION

- For 2022 **all Snow Australia organised events** will be covered by the no-fluoro waxing policy. This includes **state and national championships**, and **all Interschools events**.
- Other club events listed on the national race calendar may choose to follow this policy.
- Snow Australia organised events will include in the participant waiver as a condition of race entry a commitment not to use fluorocarbon-based waxes.
- Coaches supporting club, state and national teams may also be required to sign a similar declaration.
- Information will be distributed via state / club / school networks.
- TD's & FIS race organisers are working with FIS to develop appropriate Jury guidelines for enforcing the rule, and sanctions are already included in the latest FIS rules.

In addition to the fluoro ban, SAXC **recommends** for junior athletes and all national team athletes not to use top layer waxes (e.g. powders, sprays, rub-ons) in club level competitions. This follows the aims of the earlier low-fluor protocol that has been in place for club and state level competitions since 2016. These aims have been to:

- Create a **LEVEL PLAYING FIELD** at events that demonstrate the skiing ability of participants.
- **REDUCE** time spent waxing so more focus can be put on preparing for competition.
- **REDUCE** the cost to athletes, parents and teams to compete in XC Skiing.

This is an honesty system and it is hoped that all athletes, parents and coaches will follow the principles of the protocol. The protocol is supported by all the state committees and teams operating under Snow Australia, including the NSWACT XC Team and Victorian Cross Country Team. Self-policing, education, and the cooperation of the cross country community should make these protocols viable and keep costs low to encourage increased participation in the sport.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STATE COACHES

- **Where possible state team coaches will confer and give a recommendation of no-fluoro waxes for each event, so that everyone can choose to be on similar waxes.**

