



AMERICA'S
SNOWBOARD TEAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Alpine Snowboarding Fact Sheet

About Alpine Snowboarding:

Snowboarding, established as a winter sport in the United States in the 1960's, has developed various styles, each with its own specialized equipment and technique. Alpine snowboarding is unlike any other form of snowboarding and is a skill set acquired by the most elite boarders. Control, mixed with a desire to ride on the edge and carve fast clean arcs, characterizes the alpine rider. Alpine snowboarding is generally done on hard-packed snow or groomed runs with riders reaching extreme speeds in excess of 40 miles per hour. Alpine riders also demonstrate precise skill to execute sharp turning and smooth carving. The ultimate carving turn – the purest and most advanced of all turns – is a hallmark of alpine snowboarding. The board, flexed under pressure from the rider, carves with a single pressured edge in contact with the snow, leaving pencil-thin trenches in the groomed corduroy on the surface of the slope.

Equipment:

The gear for alpine snowboarding includes plastic hardshell boots called "hardboots" and a carving or race-oriented snowboard. Alpine snowboards are often longer, as well as stiffer and narrower than other snowboards. They vary in length from approximately 4 feet to over 5 feet and have small noses with square tails to maximize effective edge length.

Racing Events:

The alpine snowboard racing events include:

- Parallel Slalom – boarders race downhill navigating around gates in a head-to-head format that force extremely tight turns, requiring technical skill and quick feet.
- Parallel Giant Slalom- faster alpine snowboarding discipline where boarders make larger radius turns in a head-to-head format reaching higher speeds on a longer course. Parallel giant Slalom is the Olympic Alpine Snowboarding discipline.

Olympic Alpine Snowboarding Event:

In 1988, the International Olympic Committee accepted snowboarding as a full medal sport for the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan. Olympic alpine snowboarders compete in the men's and women's Parallel Giant Slalom (PGS). In the PGS, two snowboarders race head-to-head down a course, turning through a series of gates. After two qualification runs, one in each course, the top sixteen overall riders advance to a head-to-head KO format. The fastest rider goes on to the next round and the loser's day is over. It takes ten runs to win the race.

Interesting Fact:

- Chris Klug, America's Snowboard Team® (AST) founder and two-time U.S. Olympian, is the only alpine snowboarder to win an Olympic bronze medal after receiving an organ transplant.

America's Snowboard Team®, is an independent professional snowboard organization in the United States, created by athletes with the mission to raise the profile of alpine snowboarding and provide a premier training environment for Olympic hopefuls. Visit www.americassnowboardteam.com for more information. For media information and digital images, visit www.astpressroom.com