Common Wax - Competition Ski Preparation

BEST PRACTICES MENU | Organizing Committee planning resource

How to use this menu: Select one option in each section, confirm the resources needed, and record the decisions on the event planning sheet at the end. These are adaptable best practices, not prescribed rules by competition category. Where practical, common glide waxing is encouraged, particularly for youth and development events.

1 | Select your event waxing model

Option A — Common Glide Wax Service

Organizer coordinates one glide wax, common facilities, shared technicians and a consistent preparation process. Best when every athlete can receive quality preparation within the available time. Benefits: strong equity, reduced equipment demands and lower athlete costs. Trade-off: high technician and facility workload.

Option B — Common Wax Recommendation

Organizer or designated technical authority publishes glide wax, structure, brushing/finishing and application timing; teams prepare skis independently. Best when common service is impractical but a consistent recommendation can be delivered. Benefits: scalable, less shared technician demand and reduced testing.

Publish a limited list of affordable glide products; coordinate testing or select one product before the race; let teams apply it. A shared grip-wax testing group can provide recommendations separately. This blends common information with decentralized preparation.

Hybrid choice — Restricted list and shared testing

Option C — Independent Team Waxing

Teams select, test and apply their own wax. Best when common service or reliable common recommendations cannot be delivered, conditions require independent testing, or the competition expects independent race service.

Decision check: Can all athletes receive equitable, high-quality common glide preparation? Choose A if yes. Otherwise, can a usable standardized recommendation be issued? Choose B if yes; otherwise choose C.

Guiding priorities: athlete equity and coaching time. Ask: What is the right thing to do for athletes at this event, and what resources would make it possible? A practical common recommendation or shared testing network may achieve these goals when full common service is beyond capacity.

2 | Size the technician and facility plan

Use workload and available hours—not athlete count alone—to assess feasibility. The comparison below assumes a four-hour ACTIVE preparation window, one pair per athlete and technicians working in parallel. Actual service time also depends on workstations, equipment, cooling/drying, breaks and ski condition.

Athletes	Iron-on glide wax (12 min/pair) **# of Technicians**	Liquid glide wax (8 min/pair) **# of Technicians**	Dry rub-on puck (7 min/pair) **# of Technicians**
40	2	2	2
80	4	3	3
120	6	4	4
160	8	6	5
200	10	7	6
250	13	9	8
300	15	10	9

Planning comparison: All three technician columns are recalculated using a FOUR-HOUR active preparation window and one pair per athlete. Staffing = round up (athletes × active minutes per pair ÷ 240 minutes). These are illustrative calculations, not validated production rates or guaranteed staffing minimums.

Illustrative active preparation time per pair: iron-on glide wax 12 minutes; liquid glide wax 8 minutes; dry rub-on puck 7 minutes. Iron-on cooling (approximately 15 minutes) is passive and can overlap between pairs; liquid drying and product-specific polishing may also affect elapsed time.

Example for 200 athletes: At 12, 8, and 7 active minutes per pair respectively, the estimated total active labour is approximately 35, 27, and 23 technician-hours. Staffing depends on the available preparation window, workstations, ski condition, technique, product instructions, and workflow.

Organizer best practice: Pilot the chosen product on a representative batch of skis, time each preparation stage, include breaks and contingency capacity, and adjust the staffing plan before confirming a centralized common wax service.

3 | Choose who provides and pays

Option A — Organizer infrastructure / team service

Organizer supplies facility, power, ventilation, tables and waste disposal. Teams supply wax, tools and technicians. A practical default for many events.

Option B — Team-rented wax cabins

Teams rent waxing space and manage their own service. A possible fit for Continental Cups and international events.

Option C — Partner-supported common service

Organizer supplies facility and basic infrastructure; Official Wax Partner supplies common glide wax; teams supply grip wax and tools. Confirm technician responsibility, any costs and sponsor terms locally.

Before selecting identify the actual payer for facilities, electricity, consumables, technicians, equipment and waste disposal; the source draft does not assign every cost in every model.

Additional funding option — Modest athlete service fee: Consider a clearly disclosed fee (for example, $5 per athlete) where appropriate to help cover common wax, consumables and shared equipment. Set the amount from a transparent event budget; avoid assuming it covers all technician and facility costs. A sponsor, federation, host or teams may share the remaining expense.

4 | Choose the wax supply arrangement

Choice 1 — Official Wax Partner

Preferred supply route where an approved partner can provide the selected product.

Choice 2 — Organizer/Governing body purchases common wax

Organizer/Governing body buys sufficient products for all applicable skis.

Choice 3 — Teams supply identical wax

Teams bring the specified common product and apply it as directed.

Choice 4 — Independent selection

Each team chooses its own products under the event's applicable rules.

Additional choice — Open sponsor participation: Invite any interested wax brand to contribute products, discounted supply, equipment or technical expertise, subject to transparent selection criteria and applicable agreements. Sponsorship should support fair access rather than dictate the fastest product or exclude smaller teams.

For common wax selection consider forecast and snow temperatures, snow age, humidity, contamination and fluorocarbon rules. Aim to announce the selection 24 hours ahead when possible, with final confirmation after the Team Captains Meeting.

5 | Choose operational practices

Grip wax

Recommended default: individual teams retain grip wax responsibility because of camber, weight, technique, preferences and changing tracks. Common grip wax is generally not recommended.

Optional restricted product list: Publish a short, affordable glide-wax list before the season or event, then select one product the day before racing. For classic events, a separate permitted grip-wax list or shared grip-testing recommendation may be used where practical. Teams can apply the chosen wax themselves. This is an option, not a requirement.

Ski testing

For common waxing, minimize testing: one testing pair, one validation run and one final confirmation. Avoid extensive fleet tests and multiple comparisons.

Optional shared testing model: Appoint a wax coordinator and invite rotating technicians/coaches from participating teams to test together. Publish findings through a single event chat group so smaller teams benefit without needing their own testing crew. Agree on access to the course, timing and responsibility with the Jury; do not assume testing access is exclusive without event authorization.

Facility menu

Minimum suggested: heated, dry, lit, ventilated, 120V power, waste collection and fire extinguisher. Additional choices: approximately 100 sq ft per technician, secure overnight storage, racks, dedicated brushing and scraping zones.

Communication menu

Suggested sequence: 72h weather outlook; 48h preliminary recommendation; 24h official glide announcement; 18h facility opens; race morning confirmation if required. Adjust to event logistics.

These examples are reported observations for discussion, not verified national regulations or requirements for Nordiq Canada events.

Menu choice — When will skis be prepared?

☐ Day-before collection after the start lists are posted, using scheduled delivery windows. This provides time for preparation, can reduce race-morning pressure, and may free technicians during competition.

☐ Race-day service, where weather, facilities or travel logistics make advance collection impractical.

Menu choice — What must teams do before handover?

☐ Deliver skis cleaned and prepared with the designated fluor-free base wax; scrape and brush using clean tools; label skis clearly.

☐ Have the common service complete the cleaning/base preparation instead. Specify permitted products, contamination controls and who supplies them.

Menu choice — How will the common station operate?

Example:

(1) receive skis at scheduled times and identify them by athlete/start number;

(2) clean bases with liquid cleaner and brush, then allow to dry;

3) apply the designated liquid or cold-application wax and allow prescribed drying time;

(4) polish with dedicated roto wool or roto brush and wipe off dust;

(5) permit manual structure within a defined pre-start window if the event chooses. Set exact tools, product instructions and quality checks locally.

Menu choice — Who supplies technicians and equipment?

☐ OC-operated crew

☐ Participating teams contribute technicians on a rotating/shared basis

☐ Hybrid crew (Technicians/Coaches)

Decide on staffing contributions transparently and avoid drawing coaches away from athlete support.

Menu choice — How will the event protect fairness?

☐ Common product and application instructions

☐ Consistent ski identification and return process

☐ Clean tools and fluor-control procedures

☐ Same access to optional structure/finishing

☐ Clearly communicated exceptions and review by the appropriate event authority.

6 | Assign responsibilities and contingency triggers

- **Nordiq Canada:** technical guidance, protocol maintenance, Official Wax Partner approvals and education.
- **Organizing Committee**: facilities, staffing coordination, schedule communications and safety.
- **Jury:** approval of protocol modifications, fairness monitoring and dispute resolution.
- **Teams**: equipment preparation, protocol compliance and technicians where applicable.

Reassess the selected model if staffing falls short, conditions change substantially, entry numbers exceed capacity or facilities become inadequate. Prioritize equitable and reliable preparation over preserving an unworkable initial choice.

- **Fail forward:** start with a manageable pilot, document lessons, and improve at the next event. A common service should never be retained if capacity or conditions make equitable preparation impossible.

7 | Event planning sheet — record your selections

Event / venue / dates: _____

Waxing model: ☐ Common service ☐ Common recommendation ☐ Restricted list / shared testing ☐ Independent

Expected athletes: _____ Technique(s): _____ Technicians available: _____

Facility arrangement: ☐ Organizer supplied ☐ Team rented ☐ Other: _____

Cost model: ☐ Organizer/team split ☐ Partner supported ☐ Athlete service fee ☐ Other: _____

Wax supply: ☐ Official partner ☐ Organizer purchase ☐ Identical team supply ☐ Independent

Athlete service fee (if any): $_____ Fee covers: _____

Grip waxing: ☐ Team responsibility ☐ Restricted list ☐ Shared testing advice ☐ Other: _____

Shared testing / communication: ☐ Group chat ☐ Shared glide testing ☐ Shared grip testing ☐ None

Testing plan / facility plan: _____

Communication lead and timing: _____

Jury review / contingency decision point: _____

Ski handover: ☐ Day before ☐ Race day Collection window / return: _____

Pre-handover preparation: ☐ Teams clean/base-wax ☐ Common station handles all ☐ Other: _____

Ski identification / contamination control / optional structure: _____

☐ Post-event review: What worked, what should change, and what can be shared with other hosts?

Appendix | Organizer milestone checklist

☐ Six months: select preliminary model, secure facility, identify potential wax partner.

☐ Three months: recruit technicians, confirm equipment, publish initial protocol.

☐ One month: finalize staffing, check ventilation, order supplies.

☐ Race week: monitor weather, publish recommendations, inspect facility, brief technicians.