

RECOMMENDATION to avoid the use of FLUORINATED SKI WAXES

December 12th, 2022

Fluorinated ski waxes

Ski waxes containing fluorine compounds have long been the be-all and end-all in winter sports. The resulting improvement in the gliding properties of skis is so immense that you simply can't compete without fluorine-containing waxes.

Unfortunately, fluorine is very harmful. On the one hand for the environment (residues remain in the snow, which then seep into the ground after the snow melts), but on the other hand above all for the people who handle it (service personnel, athletes, coaches and parents).

Therefore, a ban on fluorine-containing ski waxes has been discussed for years. The IOF has decided in autumn 2022 to implement such a ban of any fluorine compounds with the season 2022/23.

Regulation in Austria and Internationally

The fluor-ban established by the IOF means that starting with the 2022/23 season, no waxes containing fluorine compounds of any kind may be used in international (IOF) competitions. This concerns of course all international championships (WSOC, ESOC, JWSOC and EYSOC) the Ski-O World Cup but also World Ranking Events in Ski-O (WRE) but only in the WRE categories (H/D21 Elite).

The ÖFOL joins the planned efforts in that for all other competitions/categories a clear recommendation is given to avoid fluorine-containing ski waxing. We therefore ask all athletes, coaches and other support staff to refrain from using fluorine-containing ski waxes in all Austrian Ski O events in all classes.

How do I remove fluor residues from my skis?

- Take the usual cleaning brushes and thoroughly brush out the ski with them.
- Now take a cleaner for fluor-waxes (see example list below) and clean the ski thoroughly with it.
- For any further ski service activities, use (new) brushes that have never been in contact with fluorinated waxes or non-cleaned skis that have been prepared with fluorinated waxes.
- Clean all other ski service tools (Plexiglas blades, etc.) thoroughly as well (e.g. with one of the cleaners listed below).
- Use only 100% fluor-free products for ski preparation.

Examples Cleaners:

- Holmenkol Racing Base Cleaner
- HWK Fluorreiniger
- SWIX Base Cleaner
- etc.

Wax recommendation

However, to keep waxing as simple as possible, below is a listing of fluorine-free waxes that can be used very well for Ski-O competitions.

Solid cheap solutions:

- HWK Racing Wachs (+10 to -10 °C)
- SWIX PS6 (-6 to -12 °C), PS7 (-2 to -8 °C) and PS8 (+4 to -4 °C)

More expensive solutions for more performance:

- Holmenkol Syntec FF Bar Yellow (0 to -4 °C), Red (-4 to -10 °C), Blue (-8 to -15 °C)
- SWIX HS6 (-6 bis -12 °C), HS7 (-2 to -8 °C) and HS8 (+4 to -4 °C)

Due to the short notice with regard to the first Ski-O Austria Cup weekend in Seefeld, we already ask not to use fluor waxes for ski preparation this weekend, but understand that not all of the above explained measures can already be fully met.

Excluded from this are the WRE categories (H/D 21 E) as well as all categories that count for the Austrian Championships (H/D 20 and H/D 35). Here, due to the fact that both days are WREs, the complete IOF fluor-ban must be observed.

PLEASE NOTE: For those categories the IOF-Fluor Ban Form needs to be filled out and handed in at the competitions office.