



ABOM Mogul Challenge

THE SPORT

Mogul Skiing

Introduction

In the United States, the 1960s were a time of revolution, of young people challenging authority and demanding change. Freestyle skiing began in that decade, when social change and freedom of expression led to new and exciting skiing techniques. Originally a mix of alpine skiing and acrobatics, the first freestyle skiing competition was held in Attitash, New Hampshire, USA, in 1966.

A relative newcomer to the Olympic Winter Games program, freestyle moguls became an Olympic medal discipline in 1992, at the Games in Albertville, France.

The ABOM Mogul Challenge first operated in 1989, on Mt Buller's Wood Run.

What is Mogul Skiing

Athletes choose which of the three to four different lines they will ski down on the mogul course. After the start signal, they ski down a steep slope and over a series of offset large bumps (moguls) as high as 1.2 metres, spaced between three to four metres apart. There are two sets of 'air bumps', one near the top of the course, the other near the bottom, where the skiers are required to perform two different jumps of their own choice.

The goal is to ski down the course as fast as possible while performing the two jumps without technical errors or loss of balance. Different mogul jumps include the 360- to 1080-degree spins, loops (side flips), off axis jumps, back and front flips, and flips with twists. The jumps can incorporate different grabs or holds of the legs or skis. Going down the moguls, skiers need to keep their upper bodies facing straight down the hill while their lower body and skis are constantly turning. Maintaining snow contact with the skis is an important element.

Ski Wear

As knee control is essential, the colour of the knee pad is often different from the ski suit to draw the judges attention to the skiers expertise.

Skis

Skis are shorter than those used in Alpine Skiing and have minimal side cut.

Competition

The ABOM Mogul Challenge is a dual mogul event, which incorporates two different parts.

- Part A – Single Mogul Qualifications
- Part B – Dual Mogul Final

Part A – Single Mogul Qualifications

All competitors participate in a qualification round.

Skiers are judged by a panel of five judges awarding a maximum score of 30 points. Deductions are made for errors or falls. Three judges award points for turns (50 percent of score or 15 points). The judges independently evaluate the competitors' turns based on the use of the fall line, absorption and utilization of the bumps in turning, carving action, body position, pole plants, control and aggressiveness.

Two judges independently score the two upright jumps or "air" (25 percent of score of 7.5 points). Air is evaluated on: form, spontaneity, height, distance and landing, and multiplied by the degree of difficulty of the maneuver. The two air scores are then averaged and added to the turn points.

The remaining 25 percent of the score of 7.5 points is awarded for speed and calculated using a formula based on a pace time. The distance in slope is measured, from the start to the finish, and then this distance is divided by a predetermined speed measurement.

In the ABOM Mogul Challenge the top 16 men and top 8 women from qualifying then advance to the Dual Mogul final.

Part B – Dual Mogul Final

In the Dual Mogul final, the highest ranked qualifier duals off against the lowest ranked qualifier e.g 1st vs 16th, 2nd vs 15th etc... with the winner of each round advancing to the next round until a final result is achieved.

Five judges are used in Dual Moguls at the ABOM Mogul Challenge, with each judge having five points to allocate between the two skiers. The breakdown of judging is two judges on turns, one judge on air, one judge on speed and one judge overall impression.