



SNOWFENCE INSTALATION

A NEBRA GUIDE

SNOW FENCE / FABRIC FENCE SETUP

Snow fence/fabric fencing serves several primary functions in a cyclocross race. It is used to hold signage, separate opposing lanes of the course and in sections with two way traffic. It also provides a clean professional look to the event. For those reasons it's an important piece of the course to set up correctly.

Snow fence should be hung using wooden stakes, rope and zip ties. Snow fence is too heavy for plastic step in stakes. Metal stakes should be avoided for safety and to comply with race rules. Most fencing comes in 150 foot rolls, and ideally the openings in the mesh should be 1cm by 1cm square or smaller. Wherever possible make sure that you use the smallest number of fence pieces that you can a given section- i.e., use one long length instead of several smaller lengths.

Stake placement should be every ten feet. 150 foot rolls of fence should take 16 stakes. Use a tape measure to ensure accurate stake distribution as well as a straight line. Course designers can mark

out post placement and fence start/end points with spray chalk or marking paint. Stakes should be about 1 foot longer than the fence height, making them long enough to stick up above the fence a little bit.

Stakes should be driven in as straight as possible and deep enough to hold fast. They should be driven to a consistent depth throughout the run of fence. A slide hammer style post driver works best for straight easy placement. Sledgehammers should be avoided as they tend to result in crooked stakes and uneven depth.



Typically 6-8 inches should be driven in and 1-3 inches of post should extend beyond the top of the fence. Enough post should be exposed so the fence can be hung at full height, but avoid leaving excessive height above the fence. In some situations a row of course tape can be strung parallel to the fence using the tops of each stake to increase branding opportunities and clean up extra post space.

Rope should be tied at the bottom of the first post, then run diagonally to just below the top of the second post. From the second post onward rope should go parallel to the ground, looping around each stake. At the last stake the rope goes back to the bottom and is tied off. This keeps the rope as taut as possible- starting/ending at the top of a stake gives too much leverage to the

rope/fence and can loosen posts in short order. The loops should keep the line of rope and fencing towards the riders, so if they slide along the fence the slide over the posts rather than hitting them.

After the stakes are driven in and the rope is in place, fence should be held up and zip tied into place. Light tension should be used to ensure that the fence looks good without sagging. In general there should be a zip tie on the bottom and top of each stake, and two or three in the middle of each ten foot span. The excess zip ties should be cut flush.

SNOW FENCE / FABRIC FENCE BREAKDOWN

Snow fence should be removed in the opposite order in which it is installed.

1. Clip zip ties from any banners attached to the fence and remove the banners.
2. Clip zip ties from the fence and remove fence from the stakes and rope.
3. Roll the fence neatly and evenly. Do not fold it or bundle it.
4. Untie rope. Coil rope neatly or wind on a spool.
5. Use the stake puller to remove the stakes from the ground.

The use of a jack style stake puller makes removal significantly easier. It also reduces the number of damaged and broken stakes.



To use the stake puller:

With the handle parallel or slightly above parallel to the ground, place the base of the puller next to the stake. Place the notched plate around the stake. Push down on the handle to lever the stake straight up and out of the ground. It may take several tries in firm or frozen ground. Even pressure works better than sharp movements which can snap posts off.