

# Snow Snake

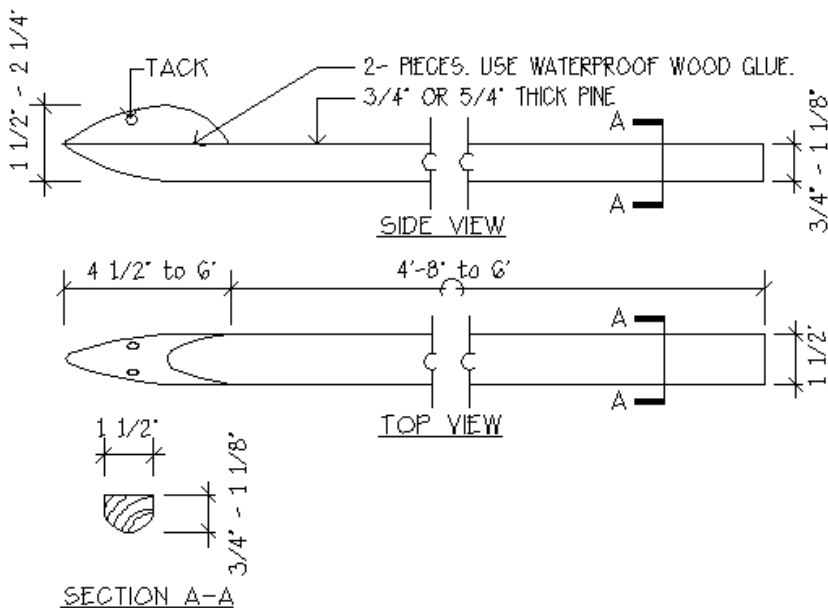
## Event Description

Scouts throw a six to seven foot long hand crafted stick from a starting line into a hard packed snow or ice trough. Javelin thrown snakes and snakes not gliding in trough are disqualified. Farthest “legally” thrown distance wins.

## Construction

**Traditional Method.** The snake, is a five - seven foot long pole of hardwood, about 1 1/2 inches high at the 2 to 4 inch long head. and tapers down to a half-inch diameter at the tail. There is a smooth notch for a finger at the end of the stick.. The head of this stick is carved in the shape of a snake, with eyes and a mouth. The underside of the head should curve up like a ski. The eyes of the snake where often weighted. The rounded head allows the snake to pass easily over the snow. The bottom is rounded, and the top, behind the head, is flat. Decorations and carvings should be done on the non-sliding surfaces.

**Adapted method** (See Diagram Below). Snake is made from a 3/4 to 1 3/4 inch wood stick between 5 to 7' feet long. Cut off a piece of one end of the stick on an angle to become the “head” of the snake. Carve or shape the snake with a wood rasp and sand paper. Be careful not to make the top to heavy. Paint and decorate the snake. Polyurethane, Gloss alkyd or latex paints all work well. Use several coats of auto wax for a highly polished surface .



The **Trough** is made by dragging a smooth-barked 10 inch diameter log lengthwise through the snow packing it firmly and removing any protruding objects. The track should be 100 to 150 yards long. Setup wooden stakes at 100' intervals along one side of trough and label distances from start line. Use a 100' vinyl measuring tape to measure between stakes. If sub freezing conditions exist then trough can be hand sprayed with water an hour before competition.



Throwing a snow snake effectively requires both strength and accuracy. The arm movement is a cross between a baseball side-arm pitch and a bowling delivery. With one finger on the tail of the snake and the other hand balancing the forward portion of the stick, the player leans toward the ground (see illustration) before taking a few steps toward the prepared track. With a flick of the arm and wrist, the player sends the stick down the track. Each person has two attempts to throw the snake. The patrol that sends the snow snake the farthest without it leaving the track wins the game.