



WMRT Frequently Asked Questions

- **My athlete is X years old and interested in racing. How do we know if he has the necessary skills?**
 - Skills necessary: To be able to ride the chair unassisted and should to be able ski all terrain at Wachusett with confidence and consistency. No prior ski racing experience necessary.
 - If our coaches determine that further development of basic skiing skills are required, they may recommend your athlete to participate in Wachusett's Dev team instead, also an introduction to ski racing but more focused on rudimentary skiing skills necessary in order develop specific racing skills
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- **Are there tryouts for WMRT**
 - Our race team does not conduct tryouts however if we feel that your athlete is better suited for the development team (Wachusett Mountain Dev Team) we will make recommendations as such.
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- **What training programs does WMRT offer:**
 - Please see: <http://www.skiwmrt.com/Page.asp?n=122961&org=skiwmrt.com>
 - WMRT may offer special training programs not listed on this web-site. Please contact wmrinfo@gmail.com for additional information.
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- **I see a Saturday only "introductory training program" for U8's and U10's listed on WMRT's program offerings. Why can't I find a Saturday only or a Saturday and one weeknight training program for my U12's and older?**
 - All athletes U12 and older must register for Saturday / Sunday minimum. These are full day, 8:00am to 2:30 pm training sessions.
 - Rationale: Unlike the recreational ski racing programs here in eastern Massachusetts such as NASTAR and the Buddy Werner League, WMRT is a fully competitive USSA sanctioned alpine racing organization. In order to achieve effective and efficient racer development the athlete must be exposed to adequate on-snow training time. We believe that a Saturday only or Sat and one weeknight only would not provide the minimum on snow training time necessary to facilitate optimum athlete skill development.
 - Exception: WMRT offers a special Saturday only training program for Eastern Massachusetts Buddy Werner League athletes seeking supplemental on snow training time. EMBW organization holds races on Sunday's so these athletes are not able to enroll in WMRT's full weekend training program. In order to participate in this special training Athletes must be an active participant in the EMBWL as well as hold current USSA and Tri-State memberships.
- **We live in Eastern MA but our children are members of a USSA alpine racing team in New Hampshire.** They are interested in mid week training opportunities closer to home. Does WMRT offer mid week training for non WMRT members?
 - Yes. There are limited Tuesday/Thursday evening spots available for athletes who participate on other USSA clubs other than WMRT. The athletes must have a current USSA alpine membership in order to qualify for this program. First come, First serve. More details can be found under the registration section of this website.
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- **What are the fees associated with WMRT membership (estimated)**
 - Training program fees are shown in the registration section of this web-site: Home Page>registration (scroll down to the program offering section). \$500 - \$1,050
 - A *Wachusett Mountain Pass* must be purchased as the WMRT fee schedule does not include lift tickets.
 - Many of our racers purchase Wachusett Mountain passes at a modest discount through Wachusett's GPS program. See Wachusett's website for details. \$560 with early season purchase (estimate)
 - USSA membership fees. All athletes must possess a current USSA (United States Ski and Snowboard) "Competitors" membership. Fees range from \$25 for U10 and under to \$150 for U16 and older.
 - Ski Equipment: All athletes must have the proper race ski equipment in order to participate and compete. Slalom and GS Skis are required for U12's and above. Proper race helmets and poles are also required for all racers. Race suits are recommended. \$750 - \$2,000 depending on equipment selected.
 - Race fees: Each club/resort that hosts a race must charge a registration fee. This fee used to cover the administrative costs of hosting an event. The fee includes the cost of the lift ticket for the day for the racer. Some resorts, but not all, may offer lift ticket discounts for family members as well. \$45 – \$65 ea per regular season.
 - If your athlete qualifies for post season events the fees for each event will include event registration fees (vary between \$50 and \$150 depending on the event), meals and lodging.
 - WMRT also charges a fee when hosting an event. WMRT athletes only pay the administration portion of the fee, not the lift ticket portion. \$25-\$30 typical
 - End Of Season Banquet sometime in Mid to late April. There is a small fee to cover the cost of the catering for this event. \$12 - \$15 ea typical.
 - Merchandise: WMRT holds inventory on selected items such as sweats, hats, mugs, T-shirts, Jackets, and other items with the WMRT Logo printed or embroidered on the item. Prices for these items are basically a pass-thru in that WMRT charges a slight margin over cost to cover the inventory and shipping costs. Items can be viewed in the Team Store section of the website.

- **Where does WMRT Race**

Depends on the age class of the racer. Younger racers (U14 and under) typically race at local (Eastern MA) resorts (Wachusett, Nashoba, Bradford). U16 and above race in Eastern MA, Western MA and Connecticut. In league championships season events are held in Western Massachusetts in the early March time frame for all age classes. We also will attend coach recommended races in Southern NH (including but not limited to Pats Peak, Sunapee, Crotched and others).

Out of league USSA Post Season Championships for U12's and above are typically held in NH, VT and Canada depending on the event.

- **How many races does WMRT participate in during the season?**

- WMRT follows the USSA guidelines regarding how many races an athlete should participate in during the season. It differs based on age, maturity, skill level.

- U8/U10 (Typical)

- Fundamental skill building is critical during this stage of a ski racers development. "If you want to be a great ski racer you must become a great skier first", is the motto we at WMRT covet. As such, this age group has limited race starts during the season. Rationale: More time at races means less time training, slower skill development process, propensity to develop poor skiing habits that are very difficult to overcome in later years.
 - They participate in mostly fun, non USSA sanctioned races at Wachusett, Supervised NASTAR training, and USSA sanctioned SkillsQuest and special festivals held at various Tri-State affiliated clubs.

- U12/14 (Typical)

- 5 - 6 race days including Tri-State Championships within our race league, Tri-State Alpine Race Association (TARA), and several other days starts in Southern NH. Other post season events in Southern NH may also be on the schedule if athletes qualify for these events. See Tri-State's website for more information on how the post season qualifications process works.

- U16 and Above (Typical)

- 8 – 10 race days including Tri-State Championships within TARA, and several other race days in southern NH. Post season events in NH, Vermont, ME, Canada, may also on the schedule if athletes qualify for these events. See Tri-State's website for information on how the post season qualification process works.

- **What is a typical schedule (start of season, practices, races, end of season etc) for the season?**

- We start out with 3 Sundays of dry land training beginning in early November; team building, conditioning, skill drills, and hit the snow when weather permits, typically right after thanksgiving.
- Races start as early as the last week in December and last through February. Post season events typically take place in March. (see TARA web-site for Post Season qualification process)
- End of season fun races (non-qualifier races) are scheduled in March and into early April
- WMRT holds an end of season Banquet typically scheduled in April.
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- **What is a typical race day like and how shall I prepare my racer for race day?**

- Please refer to: Home Page>General info tab>WMRT Participation Guides. Open the PDF file, scroll down to "A parents Day at the races"
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- **What are the typical equipment requirements?**

- This is perhaps the most common question we receive. Even seasoned ski racing families ask this question. It really boils down to the skill level of the athlete. Beginner racers really need one pair to train and race on. More advanced racers will typically have a pair of slalom, a pair of giant slalom, and a pair of twin tips for recreation or off training skiing on the terrain park.
- A race suit is not required but most of the athletes have them. Many new younger kids do not for the first year (U8/U10). Suits, skis, are not inexpensive but the cost can be mitigated by purchasing used, last year models Helmets definitely required for all. Must be a type approved by USSA skiing. Any ski shop will know which type is acceptable.
- For up to date USSA equipment rules see: <http://alpine.usskiteam.com/alpine-programs/athletes/rules>
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- **Does WMRT offer a Freestyle Team program?**

- Wachusett Mountain has an "Xtreem team" that is closer to a freestyle training program. It is not affiliated with WMRT. Details can be found on the Wachusett Mountain Web-site.

