

Tri-State U14 (2003-2004) / U12 (2005-2006) / U10 (2007+) PROGRAM (revised Dec. 2016)

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OVERVIEW

Welcome all U14/U12/U10 competitors to the 2016/17 competition ski racing season. The following is an explanation of the Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association, Inc.'s ("Tri-State") U14/U12/U10 Youth Racing Program and rules to help you understand our program. This program has been developed with the best interests in mind for our talented young athletes. Good luck to all U14/U12/U10 athletes this coming season. Ski fast, enjoy the camaraderie of this wonderful sport, exhibit good sportsmanship, be safe, and have fun this season.

The U14/U12/U10 Program is run by the Tri-State U14/U12/U10 Competition Committee. The U14/U12/U10 Committee is chaired by the U14/U12/U10 Alpine Chair and includes the Regional Chair from each of the three Tri-State regions. For the 2016/17 Tri-State season, the U14/U12/U10 Committee is comprised of the following volunteers:

Title	Name (club)	Email
Western Mass Chairs	Peter Chudy, Catamount Nikki Knight, Butternut (co-chairs)	peterchudy@me.com nikkiknight99@yahoo.com
Eastern Mass Chair	Jim Blondek, Wachusett	jblondek@gmail.com
Connecticut Chair	Kyle McClain, Sundown	mcclain.kyle@gmail.com
U14/U12/U10 Committee Chair	Bob Hazen, Berkshire East	reh@hazen.com

We take as our responsibility as parents, coaches, and Tri-State leaders, that the Tri-State Youth Race Program provide a safe, friendly, challenging, rewarding, and fun arena for our youth athletes to compete in. Our program is designed to "challenge and reward at every level."

We are a part of the USSA system including our talented and dedicated Tri-State member coaches at our member ski areas. We promote the recommendations of USSA in the development of ski racing fundamentals and have designed our program to follow the safety and level of challenge recommended for youth racers. It is the primary responsibility of the coaches to provide a challenging and rewarding atmosphere for their athletes to learn and exercise their ski racing skills.

This competition system is designed to keep athletes competitive and comfortable with their peers and surroundings, without exposing them to unnecessary pressure.

U14/U12/U10 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Age Classifications
U10 – Ages 8 and 9 and including U8 (ages 7 and under)
U12 – Ages 10 and 11
U14 – Ages 12 and 13

Age is determined as of December 31 of the current competition season. Tri-State athletes compete within their respective age classes.

Membership and Eligibility

Each U14 and U12 athlete planning to compete in the Tri-State U14/U12/U10 Youth Racing Program must:

1. Be a valid member of Tri-State Alpine Racing Association, Inc.; and
2. Be a valid member of USSA, including holding an "Alpine Competitor – U14" or "Alpine Competitor – U12" license, as appropriate.

U10 athlete membership and eligibility requirements are determined by the athlete's respective Tri-State region.

Out-of-State Training

Post-season teams and regional competition quota spots are available to qualified athletes that are affiliated and "actively training" with a program in the Tri-State region. Any athlete regularly conducting his or her training with a program that is out of Tri-State is not eligible for Tri-State post-season teams and quota spots.

It is recognized that some athletes may choose to pursue early-season training opportunities with other programs. These training activities must be completed by December 31st of the competition season, or a review of the activity may be conducted by the USSA Eastern Region office and/or the U14/U12/U10 Alpine Chair. If the training activities are deemed in violation of the USSA rules governing such activity, further disciplinary action (up to and including suspension from competition) may be taken by the Tri-State Board of Directors at the recommendation of the U14/U12/U10 Alpine Chair.

Athletes may also have opportunities to visit out-of-state programs during the competition season. Tri-State does not discourage these activities. However, the U14/U12/U10 Alpine Chair must be notified of the location and duration of the training in advance. Notification MUST be made by email in advance of attending a training program after December 31st. An example of this type of training might be attending a FLEX session at GMVS, or a FAST week at SMS. Training activity that is in violation of the USSA rules may result in a review of the activity by the USSA Eastern Region office and/or the U14/U12/U10 Alpine Chair. If the training activities are in violation of the USSA rules, further disciplinary action (up to and including suspension from competition) may be taken by the Tri-State Board of Directors at the recommendation of the U14/U12/U10 Alpine Chair.

Any Tri-State athlete found to be a simultaneous member of any other USSA division will be disqualified from eligibility for any Tri-State quota spot or post-season team.

USSA Elite Athlete Events- Overview

USSA sponsors events during the season for athletes that achieve top level success at the regional level. Youth athletes and parents are reminded that some current U.S. Ski Team members have not achieved top level success as youth or junior racers and future elite level success in ski racing may occur as athletes mature.

The 2016-2017 Elite Event selection process can be viewed on the Eastern USSA website. Selections will be done by USSA Eastern Region staff. Tri-State athletes invited to attend these elite events will be notified by USSA Eastern Region through the Competition Chair. Further information is available on the USSA website.

TRI-STATE POST-SEASON EVENTS

Tri-State will sanction championship races for the U14 and U12 age classes. Each of these age classes will have a separate competition. Each respective championship will consist of two (2) runs of slalom and two (2) runs of giant slalom. Start times, etc. will be announced 2 weeks in advance of each respective competition. Any desired changes to the proposed scheduling, calendar, program or procedures for these championship series must be proposed in writing and ratified by the 3 regional chairs and the current Tri-State Alpine Officials Chair no less than 7 days prior to the original program. There is no Tri-State-sponsored championship event for the U10 age class, although Tri-State clubs host preseason and postseason Skills-based events open to all Tri-State U10 athletes as described below.

Tri-State Championship Schedule for 2016-2017

U14 TRI-STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Date	Ski Area	Event	Class	Sex	Notes
2/25/2017	Sundown	GS	U14	M/F	
2/26/2017	Mount Southington	SL	U14	M/F	

U12 TRI-STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Date	Ski Area	Event	Class	Sex	Notes
3/4/2017	Blandford	SL	U12	M/F	
3/5/2017	Blandford	GS	U12	M/F	

U14 RACE DIVISION

Tri-State Skills Quest schedule for U14

12/17 – 12/18 Wachusett Skills Quest U8 - U14 M/F

ELITE EVENTS for U14 - 2016-2017

U14 Eastern Championships 3/16 - 3/19/17 Sunday River – Tri-State Quota TBD

U14 Can-Ams 3/30 - 4/02/17 Mont Tremblant, QC -USSA quota 50 athletes from U14 Eastern Championships

2017 U14 Tri-State Championship Quotas (2/25/17: Sundown GS and 2/26/17: Mount Southington SL – Banquet location TBD)

1. **130 General Entries.**
2. The 130 general entries will be allocated to each Tri-State region based on active Tri-State memberships of USSA Alpine Competitor U14 license holders in each region as of Jan 1st for the current season. Quota spots will be allocated according to the number of such athletes competing in each region as a percentage of the total number of such athletes competing in all of Tri-State. Each region will be guaranteed a minimum of 25 spots. In the event that the 25-spot minimum is awarded to one region because it would not have met the minimum through the calculation described above, the remaining quota spots will be split between the remaining two regions according to their numbers of competing athletes in a similar manner.
3. Unused regional quota slots will be distributed evenly to the other Tri-State regions. In the event of an odd number, the membership with the higher percentage of athletes Jan 1st will be given the spot.
4. Regional Chairs must notify the U14/U12/U10 Alpine Competition Chair as soon as possible regarding racers who are selected but who will not attend the championships and identify alternates, if any, who would take their places.

Tri-State Championships Races Seeding

Each of the three regions of Tri-State (Western Massachusetts, Eastern Massachusetts, and Connecticut) will submit a seeded list of its entries by gender to the **U14/U12/U10 Alpine Competition Chair** based on the respective region's qualification procedures. The seeding lists will be combined to form the start order that will be used for both the Slalom and Giant Slalom events. The start order will be provided to the host ski area one week prior to the event.

Each of the top seeded racers from each region (seed of 3) will be followed by the second seeded racers (seed of 3) from each region, and so on. For the 2014-2015 season, the order of seeding within each age class was CT, WM, and EM. The order shall be updated each season to reflect the current competition season, and the order of rotation will stay the same. For the 2015-2016 season, the order of seeding within each age class was WM, EM, and CT. **Therefore, for the 2016-2017 season, the order of seeding within each age class will be EM, CT, and WM.**

The seed list will then be separated into Run Groups labeled "A", "B", "C" and "D". There will be a rotation of Run Groups in each run of the championship weekend. This rotation of Run Groups has been used in Tri-State for several years to ensure an equal opportunity for all seeded athletes to run near the front of the order during the championship weekend. The rotation will be as follows:

<u>Run 1</u>	<u>Run 2</u>	<u>Run 3</u>	<u>Run 4</u>
A-B-C-D	B-C-D-A	C-D-A-B	D-A-B-C

Designation of Run Groups will be done at the time of seeding and will be dependent on the gender breakdown of athletes. The separation of Run Groups will be done on a percentage basis of athletes. i.e., the first 25% of seeded athletes will be designated Run Group "A", the second 25% will be designated Run Group "B", and so on.

DSQ's and DNF's from the first run of each day will run the second run in their seeded order.

Selection Procedures for Tri-State U14 Quota Teams for USSA U14 Eastern Regional Championships - (Quota spots given by USSA will be split by gender according to the ratio of athletes that start in the Tri-State Championships)

Each athlete will be scored using the sum of the best two finishes (on a place point basis) for the six (6) scoring opportunities at the championships (1st run, 2nd run, combined for SL; 1st run, 2nd run, combined for GS). In the event that six scoring opportunities cannot be contested in the championship weekend due to weather or any other circumstance, the selection method will be the best single place point out of anything less than 6 scoring opportunities. In case of selection order ties, the next best score which is not included in the first calculation will be used (e.g., 3rd). For continued ties, the 4th, 5th or 6th best place point will be used. In the case of an unbreakable tie using this system, a flip of a coin will be used. If the Championship is not held, the U14/U12/U10 Competition Committee will convene to determine appropriate selection criteria for post-season quota teams.

Ski Areas hosting a Championship event shall provide the results for each individual scoring run/race to a team captain from each participating team. The official results from all Championship races shall be used for selection purposes. Tri-State Quota Teams seed orders submitted to USSA shall correspond to the final selection ranking orders from the Tri-State Championships.

Announcement U14 Selections for Post-Season USSA Events

Tri-State Quota selections to USSA Post-season Events will be announced following the official scoring of the final event of the Tri-State Championship event. If for any reason the announcement is not practical on the final race day, the selected athletes will be notified and selections will be posted on the Tri-State website as soon as possible. Appeals of selections may be made to the U14/U12/U10 Competition Committee.

U12 RACE DIVISION

Tri-State Skills Quest schedule for U12

12/17 — 12/18	Wachusett	Skills Quest	U8 - U14	M/F
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2017 U12 Tri-State Championships March 4: Blandford SL; March 5: Blandford GS - All U12s are invited to this event

Races Seeding Each of the three regions of Tri-State (Western Massachusetts, Eastern Massachusetts, and Connecticut) will submit a list of its entries by gender to **the U14/U12/U10 Alpine Competition Chair** based on the respective region's qualification procedures. The lists will be combined to form the start order that will be used for both the Slalom and Giant Slalom events. For the 2012-13 season, the order of seeding within each age class was random and with Western Massachusetts followed by Connecticut, followed by Eastern Massachusetts. The order shall be updated each season to reflect the current competition season, and the order of rotation will stay the same. For the 2015-2016 season, the order of seeding within each age class was WM, EM, and CT. **Therefore, for the 2016-2017 season, the order or seeding within each age class will be EM, CT, and WM.**

The seed list will then be separated into Run Groups labeled "A", "B", "C" and "D". There will be a rotation of Run Groups in each run of the championship weekend. The rotation of seed groups has been used to ensure an equal opportunity for all seeded athletes. The rotation will be as follows:

<u>Run 1</u> A-B-C-D	<u>Run 2</u> B-C-D-A	<u>Run 3</u> C-D-A-B	<u>Run 4</u> D-A-B-C
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Designation of Run Groups will be done at the time of seeding and will be dependent on the gender breakdown of athletes. The separation of Run Groups will be done on a percentage basis of athletes. i.e., the first 25% of seeded athletes will be designated Run Group "A", the second 25% will be designated Run Group "B", and so on.

DSQ's and DNF's from the first run of each day will run the second run in their seeded order.

There will be a post season U12 Development Camp in late March, 2017. The 2016 camp was cancelled due to uncooperative warm weather and rain.

FRANCIS PICHE INVITATIONAL

The Francis Piche Invitational is a 3-day invitational event for qualifying U14-U12 athletes from throughout the USSA Eastern Region held at Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford, NH. It will be held this season March 17-19, 2017. It will consist of a training day on Friday, March 17th, a GS race held on Saturday, March 18th, and a SL race on Sunday, March 19th, with optional training days March 15 (SL) and 16 (GS). Questions regarding state (CT and MA) selection criteria should be directed to Kyle McClain (CT), and Robert Hazen, Jim Blondek, Nikki Knight or Peter Chudy (MA).

U10 RACE DIVISION

Tri-State Skills Quest schedule for U12

12/17 — 12/18	Wachusett	Skills Quest	U8 – U14	M/F
3/11 — 3/12	Mohawk	Skills Quest (Sat.) & GS Race (Sun.)	U8 – U10	M/F

U10 (including U8) racing within Tri-State is principally overseen and handled by the Tri-State regions (Western Massachusetts, Eastern Massachusetts, and Connecticut). There are no USSA or Tri-State sponsored postseason events for U10 athletes, although Mohawk's end-of-season U10 Festival has served as a culminating event for the U10 age class.