

Tri-State U16 Rules

Introduction and General Overview

Welcome to the competition season. The following is an explanation of the Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association U16 Program and rules. This program has been developed for the tremendous young athletes we have in Tri-State. Good luck to our U16 group. Ski fast and have fun this season!

The U16 program is organized by the Tri-State U16 Committee. This committee is comprised of a committee chair and representatives from each of the three Tri-State regions. For the 2016-17 season the committee membership is as follows:

Name	Role	Club	Email
Roger Kimball	U16 Chair	Jiminy Peak	Rnkimball@gmail.com
Mike Kemmer	Connecticut Chair	Thunder Ridge	tr63coach@gmail.com
Jim Blondek	Eastern MA Chair	Wachusett	jblondek@gmail.com
John Borwick	Western MA Chair	Berkshire School	johnborwick@berkshireschool.org

The U16 Al Vinatier season long race series will consist of seven races, which includes the two races of championship weekend. Each of these races is open to both genders.

Date	Location	Event
1/6/2018	Berkshire East	GS
1/20/2018	Mt. Southington	SL
1/28/2018	Wachusett	GS
2/10/2018	Bousquet	SL
2/17/2018	Blandford	SL
U16 TS Championship Weekend		
2/24/2018	Jiminy Peak	SL
2/25/2018	Jiminy Peak	GS

U16 Tri-State Championship Weekend races are open to all U16s registered with USSA in the Tri-State region. i.e. The whole field eligible for this series is eligible for TS Championship Weekend.

The schedule for USSA Eastern Region and National post season races is as follows:

Date	Location	Event	TS Quota F	TS Quota M
3/8 - 3/13/2018	Stowe, VT	U16 Eastern Championships	3	4
3/22 - 3/25/2018	Waterville, NH	U16 Eastern Finals	11	12
3/23 - 3/25/2018	Canada	U16 Am-Cans	1	3
3/31 - 4/4/2018	West or RC	U16 Nationals	n/a	n/a

[Quotas shown were for winter 2017. Quotas for winter 2018 have not yet been established. Quotas are determined based upon a formula driven by divisional "participation" and "performance". Data is being collected and the actual calculation is performed by the Eastern office mid-winter. Please be patient. Best guess: For 2018 it is likely Tristate will lose a spot or two relative to 2017.]

Rules

1. All Tri-State U16s are expected to participate in this race series including Championship Weekend, which is required. (i.e. No racing up to U19 races or “chasing points” in other divisions on TS U16 series race dates.)
2. TS U16s are welcome to participate in TS U19 races or other events when those events do not conflict with TS U16 race dates. (Host programs manage racer starts. U19+ events may have limits / restrictions on their entries.) Results obtained may improve an athlete’s USSA point profile, but results outside the series will not be included in the U16 series ranking for post season teams.
3. SEEDING. Seeding will be based upon current USSA points by discipline. Random Seed Draw for the 15 athletes with the lowest points. 990s will be randomly seeded after racers with points. Second run start order will be flip 30 format based upon first run finish time. DSQ/DNF will be random draw after seeded racers.
4. SCORING. Cumulative scoring will be used for this race series using USSA points (for discreet TS series events, not the athlete’s USSA point profile). At the conclusion of this series these results will be used to determine selections for U16 Eastern Championships, U16 Eastern Finals, and U16 Am-Cans. Each athlete’s best three TS U16 series race results (in terms of USSA points earned for each event) will be added. Any series races for which an athlete does not compete or records a DNS, DNF, or DSQ will be tabulated as 990 points. Ties will be broken by the next best race point result. The next tiebreaker, if needed, is the sum of each racer’s SL and GS USSA points.
5. Post season teams will be based upon quotas determined by the USSA Eastern Region. When Tri-State quotas are not gender specific, the gender split will be determined by the gender proportions of U16 racers registered in Tristate as of December 31 of the race season.
6. Post season teams will be announced on TS Championship Weekend. All racers selected for post season teams are required to confirm participation to Tri-State U16 Chair by the announced date.
7. Post season selections will be made as follows. The highest ranking athletes will be invited to U16 Eastern Championships. The next highest ranking athletes will be invited to U16 Eastern Finals. The highest ranking athletes will be invited to U16 Am-Cans. Examples based upon 2017 Quotas: Girls ranked 1-3 will be invited to U16 Eastern Championships. Girls ranked 4-14 will be invited to U16 Eastern Finals. Girl ranked 1 will be invited to U16 Am-Cans. Boys ranked 1-4 will be invited to U16 Eastern Championships. Boys ranked 5-16 will be invited to U16 Eastern Finals. Boys ranked 1-3 will be invited to U16 Am-Cans. It is expected that athletes will attend the highest level post season events for which they qualify. It is a privilege to represent Tri-State at post season events. The performance of our athletes contributes to the determination of our division’s quota spots in future years. Anyone qualifying for the higher level shall not be permitted to compete in the lower level unless he/she has good cause and has received a waiver from the U16 Competition Committee. Waiver requests must be submitted by email and in writing to the committee with a copy to the athlete’s home program within 24 hours of the announcements of the post season team selections. Good cause shall be limited to medical / injury, non-negotiable school obligations, and inability to pay for the increased cost of attending the higher level event. It is worth noting that the potential incremental schedule conflict of the higher event may be minimized by opting out of speed events. (The committee does not encourage this, but it is an option.) Further, the increased cost of attending

the higher event may be mitigated by funding support. (Inquire as needed.) Any athlete who is selected to Eastern Championships and who elects to ski down to Eastern Finals, will not be permitted to participate in CanAms / AmCans.

8. Post season alternates set at (6) boys and (6) girls. Athletes are responsible for checking on opportunities to participate from Tri-State U16 Chair. If all alternates are used up, open Tri-State quotas will be filled by U16 committee discretion and competitors intent to compete list.
9. All Tri-State Membership and Eligibility rules apply to the U16 race series as does the Code of Conduct.

Out of State Training

Post season teams and divisional competition quota spots are available to qualified athletes who are affiliated and actively training with a program in the Tri-State division. Any athlete conducting their training with a program that is not a recognized Tri-State member program 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 activities must be completed by December 31 of the competition season, or a review of the activity may be conducted by the Eastern office and/or the Tri-State U16 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 Tri-State U16 Chair.

Other athletes may have opportunities to visit out of state programs during the competition season. Tri-State does not discourage these activities. However, the Tri-State U16 Chair must be notified of the location and duration of the training in advance. Notice must be made to Roger Kimball by email at Rnkimball@gmail.com. Examples of this type of training include a FLEX session at GMVS or a FAST week at SMS. 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 Tri-State U16 Chair.

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

Tri-State Membership Deadline for Quota Selection of Post Season Eligibility

- November 30 for renewal members
- December 15 for new members

Athletes must renew their USSA and Tri-State memberships before the selection deadlines to be eligible for quota selections.

USSA Elite Athlete Events

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

USSA Eastern Region staff selects the athletes for these events. Tri-State athletes invited to attend these elite events will be notified by USSA Eastern Region through the U16 Chair. Further information is available on the USSA website.