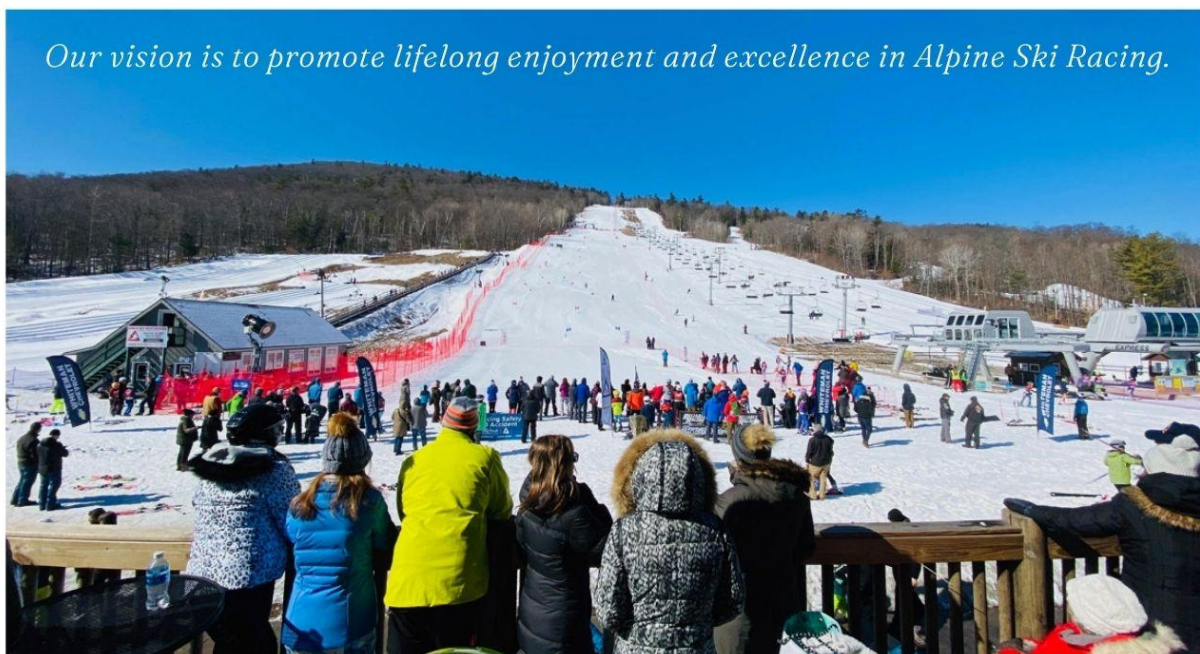




Competition Guide

Our vision is to promote lifelong enjoyment and excellence in Alpine Ski Racing.



Our Mission

To provide leadership and structure for high quality, sustainable and affordable programming, and communicate the competitive, recreational and lifestyle benefits of ski racing to the community.



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Section 1 – General Information

United States Ski and Snowboard (USSS) Membership Requirement

Deadline: October 15 at 7 PM EST for returning members to avoid late fees.

Requirement: Mandatory for USSS-sanctioned races and events.

Registration: Online at usskiandsnowboard.org

New York State Ski Racing Association (NYSSRA) Membership Requirement

Deadline: 7 PM EST on October 15 for returning members to avoid late fees.

Requirement: USSS membership is required prior to becoming a NYSSRA member. NYSSRA and USSS memberships are required for USSS Sanctioned events.

Restriction: Eastern Alpine athletes **must belong to only one (1) division (state) organization.**

Registration: Online at nyssra.org

Late Fee: No late fee for first time members. Late fees apply in increasing amounts at 10/15, 11/15 and 12/31.

Once your USSS membership is processed you may download and print verification of membership from the account you created on www.usskiandsnowboard.org.

Governance

USSS: Alpine ski racing in the United States comes under the organization of the United States Ski and Snowboard (USSS).

- Governs amateur ski racing in the United States.
- Maintains USSS Points Seeding List.
- Assign membership number when a skier first joins the organization and does not change as long as the skier retains membership.

USSS Points Seeding List: This list is maintained to show racers’ national rank in Downhill, Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G, and Alpine Combined. (U16+ only)

NYSSRA: The New York State Ski Racing Association, Alpine, Inc. is the official governing body for competition in the state of New York for United States Ski and Snowboard (USSS).

- Governs and administrates ski racing in New York State.
- Schedules USSS-sanctioned races.
- Selects teams for regional races and projects.
- Provides communication, education, development and financial support to NYS athletes, coaches, and officials.

Equipment Requirements

All athletes are required to ski and race on skis that meet current USSS equipment requirements (see nyssra.org, or usskiandsnowboard.org). Make sure to consult your coach, the local ski shops, and anyone else you might know who is up to date regarding ski equipment and regulations. NYSSRA provides educational zooms and development staff is readily available for questions and concerns.

Additional NYSSRA Support Initiatives

- Scheduling of all races for athletes U14 and older in New York State, including all USSS sanctioned races. Typically, races for U12s and younger are scheduled by the local council.
- NYSSRA provides communication and education for athletes, parents, officials, and coaches.
- Racer Support Fund is available for NYSSRA racers competing at Regional and National level events along with coaches attending regional and national educational events.
- NYSSRA provides athletic programming, youth development, and divisional governance through our board of directors, development committees, and NYSSRA staff.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES FOR 2025-2026

U10 - Born 2016 and later
U12 - Born 2014, 2015
U14 - Born 2012, 2013
U16 - Born 2010, 2011
U18 - Born 2008, 2009
U21 - Born 2005, 2006, 2007
SR - Born 2004 and earlier

Note: all age groups are based on the calendar year of birth.

Code of Conduct Policy

NYSSRA members are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner befitting worthy representatives of their families, ski areas/clubs, and in conformity with the best traditions of Alpine Ski Racing in New York State.

Item 1: All NYSSRA members, including athletes, coaches, officials, race organizers, and volunteers shall be subject to the jurisdiction of and shall abide by the International Ski Competition Rules (the "ICR"), USSS Competition Guide, bylaws, rules and regulations and NYSSRA Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, NYSSRA code of conduct, NYSSRA Competition Guide, and rules and regulations (the "competition rules").

Item 2: While in competitions, going to and from competitions, and while at ski areas hosting competitions, NYSSRA members shall:

Maintain high standards of moral and ethical conduct including self-control, responsible behavior, consideration for others' physical and emotional well-being, refrain from harassment, profane and abusive language, and must use courtesy and good manners in public places and while traveling. Abstain completely from alcohol and illegal use of drugs.

While at NYSSRA sponsored events, adhere to all rules; and be knowledgeable of all Competition Rules.

NYSSRA has a zero tolerance policy for the above items.

Item 3: Failure to comply with any of the above can lead to disciplinary action against NYSSRA members by: 1) the NYSSRA staff with the advice and consent of the NYSSRA Board of Directors; 2) the Race Jury on the recommendation of a member of the Jury; 3) the Technical Delegate; 4) the designated State Team leader at a regional project.

Item 4: Disciplinary action taken can include, but is not limited to:

- Any disciplinary measure allowed by the Competition Rules.
- Disqualification from a specific race and/or suspension from future races
- Withdrawal of future NYSSRA project invitations

All disciplinary action is to be reported to NYSSRA staff. Any disciplinary action taken shall be applied fairly and equitably to all parties involved. Any disciplinary action that would prevent a NYSSRA member will be conducted with due process in accordance with procedures set forth by USSS. Any disciplinary action that would prevent a NYSSRA member from participating in competition for a period greater than 21 days will be conducted in accordance with the Due Process procedures set forth by USSS and held before the NYSSRA Appeals Committee.

NYSSRA Values

The key to learning is to ensure a positive first experience that is fun. Fun facilitates learning which in turn motivates the young athlete. When first learning a skill, a relaxed, low-anxiety climate encourages the athlete to try new things. A young athlete has a natural self-motivated learning aptitude if the situation is suitable and attainable goals are set within their reach. The NYSSRA development philosophy supports promotion of learning through approval, praise, accountability, and encouragement.

It is important for our young races to learn that the real competition is within themselves. Learning the intrinsic rewards of sport can be the most valuable lessons we can teach them. The starting point, center, and future of learning should begin with the young athlete and focus on their growth and development.

Both NYSSRA and USSS are important organizations to familiarize yourself with as a competitor, official, volunteer, or supporter. **Amateur ski racing depends largely upon the efforts of parents as volunteers.** Your participation is critical for successful and fair events. Please read all Alpine ski related information available on usskiandsnowboard.org.

NYSSRA Governance and Board of Directors

NYSSRA Board of Directors:

President | David Temes | president@nyssra.org
Vice President | Andrew Minier | 1stVP@nyssra.org
Treasurer | Trent Hickman | treasurer@nyssra.org
Secretary | Nancy Bodnar | secretary@nyssra.org
Past President | Aaron Dewey | pastpresident@nyssra.org
Alpine Official | Steve Burgart | alpineofficial@nyssra.org
2 Year Term | Jennifer Allen | atlarge2@nyssra.org
1 Year Term | Kate McKenna | atlarge1@nyssra.org
Coaches Rep | Jeff Jenkins | coaches@nyssra.org
Athlete Rep | John Carbaugh | athleteRep1@nyssra.org
Athlete Rep 2 | Jack Conneely | athleteRep2@nyssra.org

Staff:

Alpine Sport Director | Stephen Mergenthaler | mergs@nyssra.org
Executive Director | Caitlin Croft | croft@nyssra.org

Other appointed members of the association:

Alpine Officials Committee Chair | Steve Burgart
Coaches Committee Chair | Jeff Jenkins
U16+ Development Sub-Committee Chair | Jerry Nenno
U14- Children's Sub-Committee Chair | Travis Widger
Coaches Education Sub-Committee Chair | John Morgan

The active committees of NYSSRA and their description:

Board of Directors | Total Program Organization
Officials Committee | Implement Officials Programming
Coaches Committee | Oversight of Sub-Committees
 Coaches Sub-committees:
 Coaches Education Committee | Education/Development of Coaches
 Development Committee (U16+) | Development, policy, selection process, and scheduling.
 Children's Committee (U14-) | Development, policy, selection process, and scheduling.
Awards Committee | Annual NYSSRA Awards Selections
Appeals Committee | Race related appeals
Racer Support Committee | Allocate funds for racer support
Discretionary Request Committee | Discretionary selection requests

Additional Committee Information:

Current committee membership can be found at nyssra.org

Committees consist of appointed NYSSRA Members who have expertise in their respective focus area. Committee reports are submitted at the annual spring meeting for BOD approval.

Proposals, comments, questions, and other NYSSRA business should be directed to the appropriate committee for consideration. This can be accomplished by passing the information through the council organization to the committee chair, contacting the committee members, board members, or staff.

Attendance at meetings is also welcome as they are open to all members. Find open meeting links on our website: 'meetings/events calendar' under the events tab at nyssra.org.

The Annual NYSSRA Membership Meeting is held in the spring. Meeting date and time will be posted on the NYSSRA website and is typically held the first weekend in May. Due to the yearly cycle of ski racing organizations, timely inputs to NYSSRA should take place at the end of the season (March/April).

New York State Team Discretionary Selection Rule / Process (Applies to all levels of competition)

This procedure is designed to be used only in rare instances in the selection of NYS Teams. The implementation of the procedure must be accomplished as soon as possible after the necessary results are available.

The designated team quota for both boys and girls, less the final 2 positions in each category, will be filled by the published selection procedure. One, or both, of the final 2 positions in either the boys or girls may be filled by discretionary choice of the appropriate committees. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event.**

All of the following criteria must be met to qualify for a discretionary choice:

Injury, illness, or other circumstance beyond the racer's control that has prevented the skier from qualifying.

AND

The skier has a record of outstanding performance. This would be defined as race results that would place the individual consistently among the top NY athletes in the same age category. The skier chosen has clearly exhibited superior potential. This would be defined as race results that indicate this racer could be expected to perform consistently at or above the level of the top NY skiers in the same age category.

In the event that no racers shall qualify for discretionary choice, the remaining two places will revert to regular team selection procedure.

NOTE: Written submissions for consideration under the Team Discretionary Selection Rule must be presented by a coach to the NYSSRA staff (mergs@nyssra.org AND croft@nyssra.org) 24 hours before the final qualifying race and will be processed by the NYSSRA Discretionary Request Committee.

NYS Team Rules & Requirements

Athletes **MUST** commit to racing in at least 2 events for Eastern Regional Championship events to hold their spot on the NYS team. NYSSRA and USSS Eastern recommend that athletes participate in ALL events.

Athletes named to a NYS team must confirm their spot within the published timeframe via the online confirmation process available on nyssra.org. Any unconfirmed athletes will forfeit their spot on the team and alternates will be selected using the next ranked athlete(s).

Any athlete named to a NYS team who is unable to attend after they have confirmed with NYSSRA must notify NYSSRA staff no later than 72 hours prior to the first Team Captain's meeting of the event.

Athletes who fail to do so may be declared ineligible for selection to future NYS teams in addition to possible sanction.

Race entries, withdrawals, and 'no shows'

Online race registration is the only method of race entry. NYSSRA uses adminskiracing.com for its online entries. Direct links to race entries are available on the NYSSRA website under 'calendars'. You can also go directly to adminskiracing.com and search under NYSSRA races or by club.

Late Fee/Withdrawal Policy

Clubs hosting NYSSRA races may not charge a late fee to any athlete registered before 5 PM on the Wednesday before the event. In the instance an event starts on a Thursday, the deadline shall not be before 5 PM on the Tuesday prior. The applicable late fee, if any, shall be determined by the Race Administrator and be published on the registration website. Any withdrawals and requests for refunds (other than documented medical circumstances) after these deadlines will be at the discretion of the host club.

Regular Season Events: Maximum late fee of **\$25**

Kandahar & Championship Events: Maximum late fee of **\$50**

No Shows: The athlete has the responsibility to notify the race organizer if they are not going to compete. Simply not showing up is unacceptable and causes many problems for the organizer and the race fee will be forfeited.

Race Program to be posted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Racer Support

Racer Support Funds partially reimburse top athletes for the extraordinary expenses they incur at a high level of racing which involve travel to out of region and national races. The committee may also recommend assistance for various development activities. Coaches are eligible to apply for support funds to defray the costs of out of state national or regional coach's clinics. Finally, funds may be used to promote coaches' education within New York State. Racer Support Funds are determined annually by the Board of Directors and come from the NYSSRA Head Taxes. For more details contact NYSSRA staff.

Appeals Process

The NYSSRA Appeals Committee hears challenges to decisions relating to selection, the Race Jury, the Technical Delegate, and disciplinary action taken pursuant to the Code of Conduct. The procedures as set forth in the USSS Competition Guide shall apply except as modified hereafter. Appeals must be filed with NYSSRA and the NYSSRA staff, within 48 hours after the announcement/publication of the decision from which the appeal is being taken.

On appeal, factual issues shall be overturned only if it is found that the decision was an abuse of discretion; issues relating to the interpretation and application of the Competition Rules, as that term is defined in the Code of Conduct, shall be reviewed de novo.

Seeding Methods

There are several seeding methods approved by the USSS. See the USSS comp guide for more information. The organizer must publish the seeding method to be used on the event announcement.

TRS is an approved seeding method for scored and non-scored racing. It is used in some NYSSRA events.

An example of applying the TRS seeding method is below:

Run 1 start list: Athlete entry list is randomized

Run 2 start list: First run start list reversed within gender

Run 3 start list: Starts with the second half of the first run order and continues with the second half of the first run order.

Run 4 start list: Start order for the third run reversed.

Example above using bib numbers 1-10:

Run 1 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10

Run 2 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1

Run 3 6-7-8-9-10-1-2-3-4-5

Run 4 5-4-3-2-1-10-9-8-7-6

Course Length Recommendations

The following are recommended course length targets measuring time. These would be used as a reference to determine the appropriateness of the venue and course set for the given age.

	U10	U12	U14	U16
Downhill	X	X	30 - 60 sec.	45 - 75 sec.
Slalom	25 - 35 sec.	30 - 40 sec.	35 - 45 sec.	40 - 50 sec.
Giant Slalom	30 - 40 sec.	35 - 45 sec.	45 - 55 sec.	55 - 65 sec.
Super-G	X	35 - 45 sec.	40 - 60 sec.	45 - 70 sec.
Kombi	30 - 40 sec.	35 - 45 sec.	40 - 50 sec.	45 - 60 sec.
Parallel *	20 - 30 sec.	20 - 30 sec.	20 - 30 sec.	25 - 35 sec.

Section 2 – Coaches and Officials Information

All Coaches and Officials must be current members of USSS and NYSSRA. USSS conducts periodic background screening for all coaches and officials. All coaches and officials when re-screened must initiate the process within 10 days of notification after you renew your USSS membership. In addition, SafeSport Training is required annually.

Coaches must earn at least 10 USSS coaches education credits every year to stay current. Many NYS coaches' education projects are recognized by USSS for credit. One credit equals ½ hour of recognized continuing education. This will be self reported via the Sport Education Academy. All officials must attend update clinics annually (**new for 2026**) to maintain their current certifications including coaches that serve as officials including course setters and referees.

In order to participate/register as a coach in a USSS/NYSSRA sanctioned event, training project, or education clinic, USSS and NYSSRA (or other state affiliation) memberships are required.

Section 3 – Children's Racing (U10-U14)

U12 and Under Council Racing

New York is divided into 6 different councils. Club affiliations can be found on the NYSSRA website. Each athlete can only be a member of one council which is dependent upon the club or program that is joined.

West

Niagara Frontier Ski Council: Buffalo Ski Club, Holiday Valley, HoliMont, Kissing Bridge
Genesee Valley Council: Brantling, Bristol, Hunt Hollow, Swain
Central Council: Greek Peak, Labrador, Song

East

Adirondack Council: McCauley/Polar Bear, Oak Mountain, Snow Ridge, Woods Valley
Rip Van Winkle Council: Hunter, NYSEF-Belleayre, Plattekill, Windham, Winter4Kids
Mountain Council: NYSEF-Gore, NYSEF-Whiteface, West Mountain

Each council runs events differently but the common focus is on skill development. Parents and athletes should communicate with council chairs, program directors and coaches to get more information on the event schedule that has been established for their club and council. Events that are contested at the council level may include Giant Slalom, Kombi, Panel SL, Stubbie SL, as well as Flight and Skills events. There are no U10 SG competitions at the council level. Newer to ski racing U14 athletes may choose to race in the council series. U14 athletes who race in council races may not also compete in the Mud, Sweat, n' Gears Cup races, nor in U14 State Championships. Councils may choose to purge U14 athletes from results before awards are handed out. These athletes are eligible for the Kandahar Festival Series only.

End-of-Season U12 & Under Events

Kandahar Festivals

Event content: 2-day event

1. **Optional** Friday Training Day with a SL Performance Project Day 1 Progression that is appropriate for U10s and U12s..
2. Development Day - Event to include some of the following - Scavenger Hunt, mixed groups, Skills Environments, obstacle courses, head to head environments, vertical challenge, ski cross, duals, team event. Skillquest stations could be incorporated into the day in some fashion.
3. Mountains to provide Scoring with assistance from NYSSRA Staff and Committees.
4. Competition Day - Event to include 3 Run Races.
 - a. Short Sprint Like courses approximately 30 seconds.
 - b. Kombi, Kombi, GS - 2 runs Kombi, 1 run GS
 - c. Place Points for Awards best two finishes

Awards: to include recognition for activities on DAY 1 and competition. Top 10 M/W in each age class (U10 & U12)-and best 2 of 3 place points in the 3 race runs. SkiMeister Overall-Award (M/W, U10/U12).

Event: to Include some of the following. Sense of Arrival, Recognition of event, Swag, Gift, Banquet, BBQ. Festival Atmosphere.

Scoring: To continue in the spirit of celebrating fast skiing we recommend we break ties by the best run..... (see wording below). We are bound to have ties so it makes sense to think about how we would also break a tie when the tie cannot be broken by the best run, hence bullet number 2.

- Best 2 of 3 runs using place points of each run. Ties will be broken by best run then next best run until the tie is broken
- If a tie still exists it will be broken using the athlete's best race points, then next best race points in the races used for selection

Skimeister: M/W, U10/U12: Lowest place points from combined GS, and 2 Kombi runs (combined LOW place points total from 3 event scores). Ties broken by lowest place points, then 2nd lowest, etc. If a tie still exists, tie will be broken by lowest race points of the 3 race runs, then 2nd lowest, etc, until the tie is broken.

Championship Events:

- Event hosts should plan on a zoom meeting with the previous years host to discuss things that went well and what can be improved on. The TD scheduled for this event should also be invited so they know what to expect.
 - Kandahar Festivals
 - Kandahar Championships

Kandahar Championship

Event Content: open event, 1st and 2nd Year U12s. There will be a protected window of registration for U12 Athletes. If the event is not full 2 weeks prior to the first day of the event registration will be open to U10 athletes.

2-day event

1. **Optional** Friday Training Day a SLPerformance Project Day 2 Progression to be Included if possible for U12s and U10s if protected window is opened to U10s.
2. Day 1 // Kombi Race - 3 Run Race
3. Day 2 // GS Race - 3 Run Race
4. Place points for Awards, Best two of 3 finishes each day.

****Short Sprint Like courses approximately 30 seconds.**

Awards: Top 10 U12s M/W age class. Overall Award- Skimeister for top finisher across all 6 runs.
Council Cup for Best Top Finishing Council

Event: to Include some of the following. Sense of Arrival, Recognition of event, Swag, Gift, Banquet, BBQ.

Kandahar Performance Series // SL Camp

2-day event Saturday / Open to 2nd year U12s ALL things SL

U14 Racing

Mud, Sweat n' Gears Cup

New York State is divided into 2 geographic regions: East and West. The disciplines included at this level are Slalom (SL), Dual SL, Giant Slalom (GS), and Super G (SG). Schedules can be found on nyssra.org. U14 Skills Events are recommended at U14 Mud, Sweat n' Gears races.

Western NY Region - Central, Genesee, Niagara

Eastern NY Region - Adirondack, Mountain, Rip Van Winkle

Awards for MSG Cup Races: All Mud Sweat 'n' Gears Cup races will award Top 5 M & W.

U14 Speed Development

NYSSRA recommends that councils be responsible for scheduling a flight camp (this can be done in council OR regionally if multiple councils wish to collaborate) AND a speed training day.

New for 2026 there is a scheduled east/west training and race weekend.

Note: All U14 athletes are eligible for open Speed State Championships at the discretion of their club's coaching staff.

U14 Mud Sweat n' Gears State Championships

For 2026, U14 State Championships will be held on 2 separate weekends as Open Events - Speed (SG) and Tech (GS/SL).

Super G

Day 1: Statewide optional to athlete speed training day

Day 2: States SG Training Run (required for participation in race)

Day 3: States SG Race

GS/SL

Women's GS and Men's GS will be held on separate days, M/W SL will be held together on one day.

Note: order of events is at the discretion of the organizer/host. Schedule to be published in advance.

These events are open to all NYSSRA U14's who meet the following requirements:

Eligibility for State Championships

U14s are required to participate in two tech, Mud Sweat n' Gears races should they wish to participate in either of the Open State Championships.

U14 NYSSRA State Championship Seeding & Ranking:

NYSSRA Children's Committee has decided athletes will be seeded by their performance throughout the MSG series leading up to States in order to seed the athletes into peer groups. The groups will be randomized within the seeds and seeds will run in all positions of the start order throughout the Tech weekend (first, last, middle, middle) in order to still provide a level of randomization while keeping peers running within the same general area of the start order each run. Seed order will be A-B-C-D for both days of SG and the first day/first run of the Tech weekend.

For both SG and Tech weekends, there will be 4 seeds for each gender (A-D). The number of athletes per seed will be $\frac{1}{4}$ of athletes registered for each weekend.

Seed apportionment (E/W %) will be determined by regional representation at close of registration.

Special for States: Registration will close on the Monday prior to the start of each weekend's events at 11:59 pm.

For SG weekend:

Seed order will be A-B-C-D both days and run order within seeds will be randomized.

For Tech weekend:

Women's GS: Seed order will be A-B-C-D for the first run and D-C-B-A for the second run.

Men's GS: Seed order will be A-B-C-D for the first run and D-C-B-A for the second run.

Day 3 (Slalom): Seed order for both genders will be C-D-A-B for the first run and B-A-D-C for the second run.

Run order within seeds will be randomized each day and reversed for the second run.

Ranking for seeds:

Athletes will be ranked within their respective regional (E/W) series races for seed purposes.

For SG, ranking will be best 5 of 13 results (by place points, races and runs from 3 MSG weekends)

For Tech, ranking will be best 6 of 14 results (by place points, races and runs from 3 MSG weekends PLUS SG States result)

Ties will be broken by best run/race, then next best, until the tie is broken. Final tie-break would be best race points, then next, etc.

Rankings will be used to place athletes in seeds A-D per regional apportionment (E/W).

Awards:

Top 10 M & W for each race (SG, GS, & SL) Top 3 M & W will receive trophies.

Top 3 M & W Overall Champions: lowest combined place points for all race results. Must complete all three races. Tie-break: best place points from all contested race results, then next best, etc. If a tie still exists, tie break goes to best race points, then next best, until tie is broken.

Course Setting at the U14 State Championships:

The course setters and referee nominations for Mud Sweat n' Gears U14 State Championships need to be sent to the Children's Committee or Staff. The jury will ratify the final selections. Any program may submit names to be considered for selection. 9 course setters (1SG, 4GS, 4SL) will be selected from the names submitted. Course setters must have current USSS Referee license and must be a USSS certified coach and NYSSRA coach. Coaches must follow USSS/NYSSRA course setting guidelines.

Note: 60"/27 mm SL poles are required for all single pole U14 SL events.

Note: Kandahar Festivals are still an option for any U14 that chooses not to participate in U14 States.

Eastern U14 Regional Championships

The Mud, Sweat n' Gears New York State Team will be named at the conclusion of racing at the NY State Tech Championships. Selection is based on the best 3 of 7 possible results for SL, GS, & SG using simple place points. Ties are broken by using the best result (of the 7 results) followed by the next best result until the tie is broken. If a tie still exists, it will be broken using the athlete's best race points. If an event is lost due to weather or force majeure circumstances the Children's Committee may modify the selection process as required.

Note: final 2 spots on each team are subject to NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule (procedure outlined in the New York State Team Discretionary Selection Rule / Process section of this manual). In the event that no racer shall qualify for the discretionary selection the next ranked athlete(s) will be used to fill the NYS team quota. Athletes with conflicts or extenuating circumstances may apply for discretionary consideration. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event.**

Note: The Eastern Children's Committee (ECC) has adopted TRS (random, or 'butterfly') seeding for U14 Eastern Championships.

Athletes MUST commit to racing in at least 2 of the events (SL,GS,SG) to hold their spot on the NYS team. NYSSRA and USSS Eastern recommend that athletes participate in ALL events. Athletes named to a NYS team must confirm their spot within the published timeframe via the online confirmation

process available on nyssra.org. Any unconfirmed athletes will forfeit their spot on the team and alternates will be selected using the next ranked athlete(s).

Any athlete named to the U14 team who is unable to attend after they have confirmed with NYSSRA must notify NYSSRA staff no later than 72 hours prior to the first Team Captain's meeting of the event. Athletes who fail to do so may be declared ineligible for selection to future NYS teams in addition to possible sanction.

NY Quota: Nine (9) girls and twelve (12) boys.

Eastern U14 Finals U14 Eastern Finals is an open event available to all U14 athletes NOT going to regional championships. This is a highly recommended event for post season regional racing.

Section 4 - Scored Racing U16, U18, U21, SR

USSS races provide a base for NYSSRA U16-U21 and senior athlete development. These USSS sanctioned and scored events are open to all current USSS & NYSSRA U16+ racers.

NYSSRA Sports Page Cup Series

A USSS sanctioned and scored race series with SL, GS and SG races. The Sports Page Cup Series is open to all U16 and older racers. Sports Page Cup Series races are also open to members of other divisions although NYSSRA members receive preference if races are full. Racers must be current NYSSRA and USSS members prior to registration to be counted in the overall rankings which are available at nyssra.org. The Sports Page Cup races are located in different areas around the state. Please visit nyssra.org for schedule information and more details.

Seeding and Awards for Sports Page Cup Series

As these races are scored races, seeding for most races will be per USSS rules using the most current USSS points list. The seeding method for the race should be listed on the race announcement.

Awards at all NYSSRA U16/U18 races are given to the top 5 U16, top 5 U18+ and a Hard Charger for each gender. Hard Charger is the athlete who moves up the most from their starting position. NOTE: In the event of a TRS (random seeded event) there will be no Hard Charger.

The top three overall Sports Page Cup men and women will be named at the conclusion of the season. Scoring is done by adding results from all SPC races and State Championships using New World Cup Points.

NYSSRA Projects

Projects are open events on a first come first serve basis, based on the number of athletes staff will support for that event. Additional project information will be available on the NYSSRA website.

Eastern Region U16 Projects

Information can be found in the [Eastern Region Handbook](#). You must submit your interest in writing to mergs@nyssra.org and copy croft@nyssra.org in order to be considered.

Empire State Winter Games at Whiteface

There is a cap of 150 athletes to the Empire State Winter Games. Gender split will be population based on membership as of 1/31/26. Ranking is done via results from the January and February Sports Page Cup races using simple place points. The qualification for Empire State Games is best 3 of 8 potential races. Both SG results may be used. If an event is lost due to weather or force majeure circumstances the Development Committee may modify the selection process as required. Selections will be posted online after the last qualifying Sports Page Cup Races.

ESWG Discretionary Process

- Athletes with conflicts or extenuating circumstances may apply for discretionary consideration. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event.**
- Additional spots to ESWG: Up to 10 out-of-state athletes plus any NYSSRA athletes who meet the following points criteria: less than 90 points in SL, GS, or SG for men, and less than 105 in SL, GS, or SG for Women.

Note: This is not to be used as a bypass qualifying via SPC races. This is for extenuating circumstances only.

Sports Page Cup U16 NY State Championships

U16 State Championships is a qualified, three event (SG/GS/SL), race series. Only U16 athletes may compete at this event.

Selection criteria for U16 States:

- A. Preliminary Quota: 120 - Gender and Region (E/W) quotas will be announced by Feb 1st. There will be separate East and West ranking lists.
 - a. Best 3 of 8 SPC results from Jan & Feb SPC races
 - b. U16's will be ranked separately from U18's and may only earn results within their region (E/W). Silversmith's weekend will be ranked separately for E/W U16 States.
 - c. Any combination of events may be used (For SG - only the 1st of any 2 per day race)
- B. Secondary quota from U18/"Last Chance" weekend - 20 U16's; 10M/10W.
 - a. Selection will be best 1 of 3 race results using low place points.
 - b. No regional (E/W) distinction
 - c. U16's ranked separately from U18's
- C. Those who have less than 90 USSS points in either GS or SL for Men, or less than 105 USSS points in either GS or SL for Ladies, on list #18 will automatically qualify.

Note: USSS points list #18 will be used for seeding at states.

Awards:

Top 10 M & W for each race (SG, GS, & SL) Top 3 M & W will receive trophies.

Top 3 M & W Overall Champions: lowest combined place points for all race results. Must complete all three races. Tie-break: best place points from all contested race results, then next best, etc. If a tie still exists, tie break goes to best race points, then next best, until tie is broken.

Non-NYSSRA Athletes to Sports Page Cup U16 NYS Championships

Up to 6 out-of-state U16 athletes may participate. Non-NYSSRA athletes are removed from the results when making NYS team selections. Requests must be submitted to NYSSRA staff through State Chairs 10 days prior to the series.

USSS Eastern Region U16 Championships

NEW FOR 2025-26: The Sports Page Cup New York State Regional Championships Team will be named in two stages:

- 1) 3 or 4 M & W will be named at the Empire Winter Games as follows:
 - a) The top U16 (M & W), not already qualified, each day will be selected for the Ronnie Berlack Eastern Region Championships. Three men and three women.
 - b) In addition, the Top Overall U16 from the weekend will also be selected if they have NOT already qualified. (We will not go to “next best” in the overall rankings). Overall ranking is lowest place points from all events contested - must finish all events.
- 2) At the conclusion of racing at the NY State U16 Championships. Remaining NY quota spots will be selected based on the best 1 of 3 possible race results from SL, GS, & SG using simple place points. Pre-qualified athletes (from #1 above) will be removed from results for ranking purposes.

Tie-break: best place points from all contested race results, then next best, etc. If a tie still exists, tie break goes to best race points, then next best, until tie is broken. If an event is lost due to weather or force majeure circumstances the Development Committee may modify the selection process as required.

Athletes **MUST** commit to racing in at least 2 of the events (SL,GS,SG) to hold their spot on the NYS team. NYSSRA and USSS Eastern recommend that athletes participate in ALL events.

Athletes named to a NYS team must confirm their spot within the published timeframe via the online confirmation process available on nyssra.org. Any unconfirmed athletes will forfeit their spot on the team and alternates will be selected using the next ranked athlete(s).

Any athlete named to the U16 team who is unable to attend after they have confirmed with NYSSRA must notify NYSSRA staff no later than 72 hours prior to the first Team Captain’s meeting of the event. Athletes who fail to do so may be declared ineligible for selection to future NYS teams in addition to possible sanction.

Note: final 2 spots on each team are subject to NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule (procedure outlined in the New York State Team Discretionary Selection Rule / Process section of this manual). In the event that no racer shall qualify for the discretionary selection the next ranked athlete(s) will be used to fill the NYS team quota. Athletes with conflicts or extenuating circumstances may apply for discretionary consideration. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event.**

Divisional quotas represent one divisional (state) team and will be determined by the EDC by Dec. 1 and published on the Eastern Website. (Source: [Eastern Region Handbook](#))

USSS Eastern Region U16 Finals

The Sports Page Cup New York State Regional Finals Team will be named at the conclusion of racing at the U16 NY State Championships (named after the Regional Championship team). Selection is based on the best 1 of 3 possible results from SL, GS, & SG using simple place points, based on the quota we receive from the Eastern Region.

Tie-break: best place points from all contested race results, then next best, etc. If a tie still exists, tie break goes to best race points, then next best, until tie is broken. If an event is lost due to weather or force majeure circumstances the Development Committee may modify the selection process as required.

Note: final 2 spots on each team are subject to NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule (procedure outlined in the New York State Team Discretionary Selection Rule / Process section of this manual). In the event that no racer shall qualify for the discretionary selection the next ranked athlete(s) will be used to fill the NYS team quota. Athletes with conflicts or extenuating circumstances may apply for discretionary consideration. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event.**

Athletes MUST commit to racing in at least 2 of the events (SL,GS,SG) to hold their spot on the NYS team. NYSSRA and USSS Eastern recommend that athletes participate in ALL events.

Athletes named to a NYS team must confirm their spot within the published timeframe via the online confirmation process available on nyssra.org. Any unconfirmed athletes will forfeit their spot on the team and alternates will be selected using the next ranked athlete(s).

Any athlete named to the U16 team who is unable to attend after they have confirmed with NYSSRA must notify NYSSRA staff no later than 72 hours prior to the first Team Captain's meeting of the event. Athletes who fail to do so may be declared ineligible for selection to future NYS teams in addition to possible sanction.

Divisional Quotas will fill the field of 155 competitors. Quotas will be published by Dec. 1 on the Eastern Website. (Source: [Eastern Region Handbook](#))

Sports Page U18+ State Championships

U18+ State Championships are an open three event race series. U18 and older athletes competing at this event must meet one of the following criteria:

- A. Athlete must have competed in at least 2 Sports Page Cup Series races in January or February, or
- B. Have less than 90 USSS points in either SG, GS or SL for Men, or less than 105 USSS points in either SG, GS or SL for Ladies

New for 2026 There is a Last Chance Qualifier component for U16 athletes not already qualified for U16 State Championships. See criteria for selection to U16 States in the above section.

NOTE: USSS points list #18 will be used for qualification and seeding.

Awards:

Top 10 M & W for each race (SG, GS, & SL) Top 3 M & W will receive trophies.

Top 3 M & W Overall Champions: lowest combined place points for all race results. Must complete all three races. Tie-break: best place points from all contested race results, then next best, etc. If a tie still exists, tie break goes to best race points, then next best, until tie is broken.

USSS Eastern Region U18+ Finals

NYSSRA uses the following selection procedures to name NYSSRA teams for the USSS Eastern Finals. Selection is made from Sports Page Cup U18+ NY State Championships using place points from the best 1 of 3 possible race results. (SG, GS, SL only eligible athletes will be ranked). The top athletes will be named to the USSS U18+ Finals Team based on the quota received from the Eastern Region Office.

Tie-break: best place points from all contested race results, then next best, etc. If a tie still exists, tie break goes to best race points, then next best, until tie is broken. If an event is lost due to weather or force majeure circumstances the Development Committee may modify the selection process as required.

Note: final 2 spots on each team are subject to NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule (procedure outlined in the New York State Team Discretionary Selection Rule / Process section of this manual). In the event that no racer shall qualify for the discretionary selection the next ranked athlete(s) will be used to fill the NYS team quota. Athletes with conflicts or extenuating circumstances may apply for discretionary consideration. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event.**

Athletes MUST commit to racing in at least 2 of the events (SL,GS,SG) to hold their spot on the NYS team. NYSSRA and USSS Eastern recommend that athletes participate in ALL events.

Athletes named to a NYS team must confirm their spot within the published timeframe via the online confirmation process available on nyssra.org. Any unconfirmed athletes will forfeit their spot on the team and alternates will be selected using the next ranked athlete(s).

Any athlete named to the U16 team who is unable to attend after they have confirmed with NYSSRA must notify NYSSRA staff no later than 72 hours prior to the first Team Captain's meeting of the event. Athletes who fail to do so may be declared ineligible for selection to future NYS teams in addition to possible sanction.

Divisional quotas will be posted on the Eastern website on 1 December. (Source: [Eastern Region Handbook](#))

Pathways post NYSSRA Racing

Education & online seminars are being held about engaging the athletes post-graduation or competition.

Pathways include but are not limited to; instructing, patrolling, officiating, coaching, Masters, USCSA and NCAA Collegiate Racing.

Development Committee Initiatives

Leader Bib - There will be male & female leader bibs for both U16 and U18 East & West. We hope this will encourage more SPC participation as they will be based off WPC from SPC events in each division of the states

Early Season Racing - Despite the challenges of shortened winters we will seek to bring back & bid out early season December events.

Youth Summit - The 2026 ski season will continue with the NYSSRA Youth Summit. It is an athlete board directed by the athlete representative & select members of the development committee and NYSSRA Board. Athletes apply to participate. The goal is to have athlete representation and input regarding the future direction of our sport in this state.

FIS Information

FIS (Federation of International Skiing) is the international governing body for ski racing. Just like USSS sanctioned events all around the country, the FIS sanctions events worldwide. The following is a quick overview of FIS racing for NYSSRA athletes. It's important for interested athletes and coaches to learn about USSS, NYSSRA, and FIS race policies and procedures pertaining specifically to FIS racing. Please make yourself familiar with the Eastern website and place yourself on their mailing list so projects and event news you receive will be current. Go to this link: [Eastern Region Resources](#).

General FIS Rules: This is not a complete list. Athletes and Coaches must understand all the rules set forth in the FIS ICR and the Eastern region handbook.

For selections to FIS events through the NYSSRA quota, athletes must be USSS, FIS, and NYSSRA members at least 5 days prior to the selection deadline.

An athlete submitted to any FIS race series must have an active FIS license. All names that are submitted must commit to participate in all races of the designated series. For more detailed information, see specific series information on the NYSSRA and USSS East website.

Team Captain's Meetings (TCM): There is a mandatory TCM the day before each FIS race. Time and location will be listed on the race announcement. The TCM includes race schedule/updates, other guidelines and the athlete roll call. TCMs are mandatory to attend as race updates and other important race related news in addition to the athlete roll call are reviewed. All athletes must be represented by a current licensed USSS coach at all TCMs. If you need assistance finding a coach, contact NYSSRA for updated lists of participating coaches. Arrangements must be made with the representative coach prior to the TCM in question.

Non-represented Athletes: Failure to be represented during the roll call will result in removal from the start list. Any NY racer selected to a FIS level race who finds they are unable to attend the race must notify the NYSSRA office at least 48 hours prior to TCM. Failure to notify the NYSSRA office within 48 hours prior to TCM may cause the racer to be declared ineligible for the next FIS Series.

No-Shows: It is unacceptable when you have been properly represented at a TCM to not be present for the race start. No-shows run the risk of sanction by the TD, USSS, and NYSSRA for future FIS events. Coaches and families need to take the responsibility to know the rules and guidelines in the FIS ICR and USSS Eastern Region Handbook.

Selection to FIS events is made in the following 3 ways: USSS point ranking via NTSM selection processed through the USSS Eastern Office. Consideration for selection per Eastern Region Handbook. Eastern USSS Development Quota processed through the USSS Eastern Office. (See Eastern Region handbook for guidelines) NYSSRA Quota when applicable to some events.

NYSSRA is not part of the intent and confirmation process for NorAm, FISU, U18 Nationals, US Alpine Championships, any out of region or out of country FIS events. Please contact the Eastern Office for more information.

All foreign athletes qualify for FIS races through their home Federation.

College Students-Ski Racing with NYSSRA

New York State college students are encouraged to continue racing in NYSSRA. All students need to thoroughly familiarize themselves with NYS Team Selection Procedures found in this manual. Racers must have a USSS competitor's license and may affiliate with only one Divisional Association. Per Eastern Region Handbook, all Eastern competitors must have a Divisional affiliation.

NYSSRA Alpine Elite Team

Team members are strongly encouraged to give back to NYSSRA and participate in 2 Sports Page Cup Series races in the 2025-2026 season. Elite Team members are named from 2024-25 results using New World Cup Points.

Criteria for 2026-27 Elite Team Selection (Mens and Ladies): The 2025–26 NYSSRA Alpine Elite Team is named based on 2024–25 race results. To be eligible for this honor, athletes must be NYSSRA members in good standing by December 31, 2025. Alpine Elite Team members are strongly encouraged to give back by participating in Sports Page Cup Series races, helping to strengthen and inspire the NYSSRA community.

Selection Criteria for the 2026–27 Elite Team (Men & Women):

- The Top 4 athletes from each region (East & West) (M&W)
 - U16+ selection is based on overall New World Cup Points earned in Sports Page Series races, excluding State Championships
- The top 2nd year athlete from U14 State Championships (M&W), who finishes all contested races, based on lowest simple place points.
- U16 Nationals Qualified athlete(s)
- U18 Nationals Qualified athlete(s)
- US Nationals Qualified athlete(s)

2025-2026 Elite Team members:

Women: Riley Ward (Northwood), Maïka Beaudoin (Northwood), Isabella Cummings (Northwood), Lilah Temes (Labrador), and Klaudie Berry (NYSEF-Whiteface).

Men: Hudson Marshall (Northwood), Wesley Fuller (West Mountain), Jacob Temes (Labrador), Landon Porterfield (West Mountain), and Rory Cullmann (Windham).