Competition Guide



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

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

New York State Ski Racing Association (NYSSRA) Membership Requirement

Early Bird Pricing: Ends at 12 Midnight EST on October 31st for returning members.
Requirement: USSS membership is required prior to becoming a NYSSRA member. NYSSRA and USSS memberships are required for USSS-sanctioned events.
Restriction: Eastern Alpine USSS and FIS athletes must belong to only one (1) division (state) organization.
Registration: Online at nyssra.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.
- Assigns membership number when a skier first joins the organization and this number 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 administers youth ski racing in New York State.
- Schedules U14 and older 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 webinars 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, various committees, and NYSSRA staff.
- NYSSRA Youth Summit committee aims to bring athlete voices to applicable NYSSRA staff, board, and committees. The committee works on social programming for athletes.
- NYSSRA supports PARA athletes in sanctioned alpine events. (Link to USSS Alpine Guide)

Competition Categories 2026-2027

U10 - Born 2017 and later
U12 - Born 2015, 2016
U14 - Born 2013, 2014
U16 - Born 2011, 2012
U18 - Born 2009, 2010
U21 - Born 2006, 2007, 2008
SR - Born 2005 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: Without limiting the foregoing, NYSSRA Members are expected to 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 at NYSSRA sponsored events.

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 Statement

The NYSSRA development philosophy supports promotion of learning through approval, praise, accountability, and encouragement. It is important for our young racers 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, parent, 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 Rep | Steve Burgart | alpineofficial@nyssra.org
At-Large I | Jennifer Allen | atlarge2@nyssra.org
At-Large II | Kate McKenna | atlarge1@nyssra.org
Coaches Rep | Jeff Jenkins | coaches@nyssra.org
Athlete Rep I | John Carbaugh | athleteRep1@nyssra.org
Athlete Rep II | 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 | Taylor Feldeisen
Coaches Education Sub-Committee Chair | John Morgan

The standing committees of NYSSRA:
Executive Committee | Act on behalf of the Board of Directors when not in session.
Finance Committee
Audit Committee
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.
Racer Support Committee | Allocate funds for racer support
Nominating Committee
Officials Committee | Implement Officials Programming
Discretionary Request Committee | Discretionary selection requests
Appeals Committee | Race related appeals

The active working groups of NYSSRA:
Awards Committee | Annual NYSSRA Awards Selections
NYSSRA Youth Summit
Governance Working

Additional Committee Information

Current committee membership can be found here.

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. You can also use the suggestion box found on the main page of the nyssra.org website or here. Link to Suggestion Box

Find open meeting links on our website: 'meetings & updates calendar' under the calendars 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 and open to all. All current NYSSRA members 18 and older are eligible to vote. Due to the yearly cycle of ski racing organizations, timely inputs to NYSSRA should take place at the end of the season (March/April).

NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule and Process

This rule 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 (i.e. 9 AM on the 2nd to last day of racing). Any requests past this time line will be addressed as a force majeure consideration.**

The following criteria must be met to be considered for a discretionary selection:

1. Injury, illness, or other circumstance beyond the racer's control that has prevented the skier from qualifying.
2. The skier has a record of outstanding performance. This would be defined as current season race results that would place the individual consistently among the top NY athletes in the same age category.
   OR
   The skier has clearly exhibited superior potential. This would be defined as past season 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 selection, the remaining two places will revert to regular team selection procedure.
NOTE: This is not to be used to bypass qualifying via NYSSRA sanctioned races. This is for extenuating circumstances only.

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 Captains' 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 registrations 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 EST on the Wednesday before the event. In the instance an event starts on a Thursday or Friday, the deadline shall not be before 5 PM EST 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. Championship events entry deadlines are at the discretion of the host and NYSSRA.

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 may be forfeited.

Race Programs are to be posted by host venue on the registration platform at least two weeks prior to the event.

Racer Support

Racer Support Funds partially reimburse top athletes and/or coaches for the extraordinary expenses they incur at a high level of racing or education which involve travel to out of region and national races. The committee may also recommend assistance for various development activities. Racer Support Funds are determined annually by the Board of Directors and come from the NYSSRA Head Taxes. For more details contact NYSSRA staff or visit Racer Support Description.

Appeals Process

The NYSSRA Appeals Committee hears challenges to decisions relating to selection and disciplinary action taken pursuant to the Code of Conduct. Appeals to NYSSRA policy must be filed with NYSSRA staff, within 48 hours after the announcement/publication of the decision from which the appeal is being taken.

USSS appeals process can be found in the comp guide under rule 647. (Link)

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 first 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.

Definitions

Complete Race for U16+ Competition

A race that has been fully contested and scored in accordance with USSS rules.

- **SL and GS:** Combined time from two completed runs
- **SG:** Single-run result

Complete Race for U14- Competition

A complete race is the combined time of 2 or 3 runs. Awards, standings, and qualifications may consider each run as a result (i.e. First Run Place, Second Run Place, and Combined Time Place). Council events may use alternative race formats and seedings.

Place Points

Points awarded based on an athlete's finishing position in a race or run and used for ranking, qualification, and selection purposes.

World Cup Points

Please see USSS Comp Guide. (link) Note: there are both old world cup points and new world cup points used at times.

USSS Points

Points calculated and assigned by U.S. Ski & Snowboard (USSS) based on race results, used to evaluate athlete performance and ranking within the USSS system. (link)

Section 2 – Coaches and Officials Information

All NYSSRA 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 along with periodic Avalanche and Concussion Training updates.

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.

Reminder: All officials must attend update clinics annually 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. 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, and is governed to their own accord, but the common focus is on skill and athlete 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.

Newer to ski racing U14 athletes may choose to race in the council series. Councils should recognize U14 athletes participating as their own category. U14 athletes participating at the council level are eligible for the Kandahar Festival Series or NYSSRA Top Gun Finals. Pathways should be decided by their coach, parent, and athlete. U14 athletes who race in council races may not also compete in the Mud, Sweat, n' Gears Cup races, nor in U14 State Championships. Athletes may choose to switch pathways after the first two events of the season.

End-of-Season U12 & Under Events

Kandahar Festivals (East, West, and Central)

Event content: 3-day event

****In 2027 Hunter and W4K participating athletes will attend Central Kandahar****

Day 1: Optional Athlete Training Day

Friday | SL Performance Project

a. Required for the mountain to host an optional training day focused on athletic development, movement quality, and skill progression appropriate for U10 and U12 athletes.
b. Goal: Develop better athletes first, then better skiers. The session should be age-appropriate, fun, highly active, and progressive, with U10s and U12s working through the same concepts at different levels of complexity.

Day 2: Competition Day

a. Short sprint like courses approximately 30 seconds.
b. Two runs of Kombi
c. Scoring will use simple place points for daily awards, best two finishes of three possible results (run 1, run 2, and overall combined place).

Day 3: Competition Day

a. Short sprint like courses approximately 30 seconds.
b. Two runs of Giant Slalom
c. Scoring will use simple place points for daily awards, best two finishes of three possible results (run 1, run 2, and overall combined place).

NYSSRA will provide scoring guidance to the host venue.

Awards: Top 10 M/W in each age class (U10 & U12) ***must*** be awarded with the top 3 awards being more substantial. Festival Overall Award (M/W, U10/U12). Each race will be awarded on the overall combined times of two completed runs.

Overall Scoring: M/W, U10/U12: Lowest place points from two GS runs (combined low place points total from 2 out of 6 potential results).

Skimeister: Athletes must complete all contested runs for the weekend. Award top 3 M/W for each age group.

Events must include some of the following: Swag, Gift, BBQ, etc.

Scoring Tie Breakers: Ties broken by lowest place points, then 2nd lowest, etc.

Kandahar Championship

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

Day 1: Optional to athlete training day. (Mountain is required to host.)

Day 2: Athlete Team Event
Saturday | Team Dual Slalom Shootout

a. Co-ed teams will be randomized across councils to ensure balanced skill levels.
b. Athletes get a minimum of three runs.
c. Eliminated athletes will continue participation via host led activities.
d. Goal: Create a fun, competitive team environment that develops head-to-head skills, confidence, tactics, and sportsmanship while bringing athletes from different clubs together.

Awards: Top 3 teams will be awarded. There will be no individual awards.

Day 3: Competition Day

a. Short Sprint Like courses approximately 30 seconds.
b. Two runs of Giant Slalom

Awards: Top 10 M/W ***must*** be awarded based on combined time (not individual runs) with the top 3 awards being more substantial.

Events must include some of the following: Swag, Gift, BBQ, etc.
Scoring Tie Breakers: Ties broken by lowest place points, then 2nd lowest, etc.
Future RPS Opportunities: Selections will use simple place points. Best one finish of three possible results (run 1, run 2, and overall combined place).

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.

U14 Mud Sweat n' Gears State Championships

******For 2027, U14 State Championships will be held on one weekend as a four-day qualified event.******

Day 1: Statewide optional to athlete training day
Day 2: States SG Training Run (required for participation in race) and SG Race
Day 3: States GS Race
Day 4: States SL Race

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

Regular Season Qualification Pathway for State Championships

A total of one hundred and ten (110) of one hundred and fifty (150) U14 athletes will qualify for the U14 State Championships, from the regular season, with spots allocated between the East and West regions. The final East/West allocation will be determined based on race participation numbers at the conclusion of the U14 technical calendar.

States qualification will be based on 7 of 13 best results from the five (5) regular season races. Athletes ***MUST*** participate in the Regional SG Training Day to be eligible to participate in U14 SG at State Championships.

Quota: Link to Quotas

NYSSRA Horst Derby

Any athlete that does not qualify for U14 State Championships through the in season races, may attend the Horst Derby. A total of forty (40) U14 athletes (Twenty (20) men and Twenty (20) women) will have the opportunity to qualify for U14 State Championships at the Horst Derby, last chance qualifier.

Awards: Top 10 M/W *must* be recognized and top 5 M/W *must* be awarded based on combined time (not individual runs) with the top 3 awards being more substantial. Awards will be given each day.

NYS Championship Selections: The best two (2) of six (6) contested results (runs and races) using simple place points will determine those who qualify for U14 State Championships. If an event is lost due to weather or force majeure circumstances the Children's Committee and Staff may modify the selection process as required.

U14 NYSSRA State Championship Seeding:

The technical events (SL/GS) will use TRS Seeding as outlined in the Seeding Section.

Super G: All qualified athletes will be randomly seeded to establish the starting order. The SG race, regardless of its place in the order of the championship events, will be a random draw. The SG training run will use the same draw order as the race.

Awards: Top 10 M/W for each race (SG, GS, & SL) Top 3 M/W will receive awards that are more substantial. Top 3 M/W Overall Champions: lowest combined place points for all race results (not runs).

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.

For the Eastern Regional Selection Process see the Eastern Region Handbook.

NYSSRA Top Gun Finals

This event is open to all U14 athletes who do not attend the U14 State Championships. The two-day event is designed to provide continued development and competitive opportunities.

Day 1: Giant Slalom Development Training
A full day focused on GS skill development, technical progression, and tactical application.

Day 2: Giant Slalom Race
A competitive GS race provides athletes with the opportunity to apply the skills developed on Day 1 in a race environment.

Awards: Top 10 M/W *must* be recognized and top 5 M/W *must* be awarded based on combined time (not individual runs) with the top 3 awards being more substantial. Awards will be given each day.

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 Championships.

Selection is based on the best 3 of 7 possible results (races and runs) 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 and Staff may modify the selection process as required.

Note: final 2 spots on each team are subject to NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule (Section 1). 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. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event (i.e. 9 AM on the 2nd to last day of racing). Any requests past this time line will be addressed as a force majeure consideration.**

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 Captains' 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.

Quota: Link to Quotas

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.

Francis Piché Invitational

The Francis Piché Invitational is a recognized and supported NYSSRA event.

U14 Selections
Selection for quota allocated to NYSSRA U14s by Francis Piché Invitational organizers will be based on standings from the 2027 U14 Tech and Speed State Championships.

U12 Quota Allocation for the Francis Piché Invitational will be determined by the Alpine Sport Director and Executive Director. Quotas will be allocated to each of NYSSRA's six councils based on membership data as of January 15, 2027.

Each council is responsible for determining criteria to fill its allocated positions.

Questions regarding U12 quota allocation should be directed to: mergs@nyssra.org or croft@nyssra.org.

Quota: Link to Quotas

Regional and State Projects

Selection for Eastern Regional Projects will be at the discretion of the NYSSRA Sport Director and Executive Director, with input from the Children's Committee, and in alignment with applicable U.S. Ski & Snowboard (USSS) policies. The selection process may give preference to athletes who attend Kandahar Champs for state and regional projects for first year U14s next season and U14 States for second year U14's.

NYSSRA Council Cup Award

Each year, this permanent Cup is awarded to the winning Council at the U14 State Championships. The Cup is determined by the lowest total points earned by each Council's top three finishers per race in each gender category, using the Simple Place Points scoring method.

Six (6) total results are counted, three (3) per gender, per race.

IE: Eighteen (18) total results are counted, nine (9) per gender.

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 and NYSSRA U16+ racers.

Steiner's Sports Center Cup Series

A USSS-sanctioned and scored race series with SL, GS, and SG races. The Steiner's Sports Center Cup Series (SSC Cup) is open to all U16 and older racers. SSC 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. The SSC Cup races are located in different areas around the state. Please visit nyssra.org for schedule information and more details.

Seeding and Awards for SSC Cup Series

As these races are scored races, seeding for all races will be per USSS rules using the most current USSS points list.

Awards at all NYSSRA U16+ races are given to the top 5 U16, top 5 U18+ along with a Hard Charger per gender. Hard Charger is the athlete who moves up the most from their start position.

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

NYSSRA Projects

Project information will be available on the NYSSRA calendar.

Eastern Regional Projects

Information can be found in the Eastern Region Handbook.

Selection for Eastern Regional Projects will be at the discretion of the NYSSRA Sport Director and Executive Director, with input from the Development Committee, and in alignment with applicable U.S. Ski & Snowboard (USSS) policies.

These projects are designed to promote camaraderie and regional team culture among Eastern athletes while providing a competitive and supportive training environment. Athletes will gain experience skiing at peer-group pace, develop confidence, and build the ability to push performance limits in a high-level setting.

National Performance Series (NPS)

The National Performance Series (NPS) is intended to bring U16 athletes from each region together for national-level exposure and team building, consistent with USSS development objectives.
National selection procedures are outlined in the 2027 Alpine Competition Guide (USSS).
Regional selection procedures are outlined in the respective regional handbooks

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 1/31/27. Ranking is done via results from the January and February SSC Cup races using simple place points. The qualification for Empire State Games is best 2 of 6 potential races. Both SG results may be used. If an event is lost due to weather or force majeure the Development Committee and Staff may modify the selection process as needed. If there are two Super-G Races in one day only the first race will be a qualifier. Selections will be posted online after the last qualifying SSC Cup Races.

Quota: Link to Quotas

ESWG Discretionary Process

Athletes who meet the NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule (Section 1) may apply for discretionary consideration. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event (i.e. 9 AM on the 2nd to last day of racing). Any requests past this time line will be addressed as a force majeure consideration.**

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 any event for men, and less than 105 in any event for Women.

Note: This is not to be used to bypass qualifying via SSC Cup races. This is for extenuating circumstances only.

Steiner's Sports Center 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 2 of 6 SSC Cup results from Jan & Feb SSC Cup races.
    b. U16's will be ranked separately from U18's and may only earn results within their region (E/W).
    c. Any combination of events may be used (If there are two Super-G Races in one day only the first race will be a qualifier.)
B. Secondary quota from Silversmiths/Woods Valley "Last Chance" weekend - 20 U16's will qualify 10M/10W.
    a. Selection will be best 1 of 2 race results using simple place points.
    b. No regional (E/W) distinction
    c. U16's ranked separately from U18's
    d. The preliminary quota is 100 with these selections completing the total quota of 120.
    e. The selections made at these races will not impact the current ranking; they will be in addition to the preliminary quota.

C. Those who have less than 90 USSS points in any event for Men, or less than 105 USSS points in any event for Ladies, on list #34 will automatically qualify. These athletes and any out of state are in addition to the total 140 quota.

Note: USSS points list #34 will be used for seeding at states.

Quota: Link to Quotas

Awards
Top 10 Men & Women for each race (SG, GS, & SL) Top 3 Men & Women will receive awards that are more substantial.
Top 3 Men & Women Overall Champions: lowest combined place points for all race results. Athletes 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 SSC 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

The SSC 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 and Staff may modify the selection process as needed.

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 Captains' 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 (Section 1). 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 who meet the NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule requirements may apply for discretionary consideration. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event (i.e. 9 AM on the 2nd to last day of racing). Any requests past this time line will be addressed as a force majeure consideration.**

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

Quota: Link to Quotas

USSS Eastern Region U16 Finals

The SSC 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, and SG using simple place points, filling 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 and Staff may modify the selection process as required.

Note: final 2 spots on each team are subject to NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule (Section 1). 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 who meet the NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule requirements may apply for discretionary consideration. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event (9 AM EST on the 2nd to last day of racing).**

Athletes MUST commit to racing in at least 2 of the events (SL, GS, and 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 Captains' 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 published on the Eastern Website. (Source: Eastern Region Handbook)

Quota: Link to Quotas

Steiner's Sports Center Cup U18+ State Championships

New for 2027: ALL U16+ athletes are eligible for this event if they meet the criteria below.*
U18+ NY State Championships are an open three event race series. All athletes competing at this event must meet one of the following criteria:

A. Athlete must have competed in at least 2 SSC Cup Series races in January or February, or
B. Have less than 90 USSS points in any event for Men, or less than 105 USSS points in any event for Ladies

Awards
Top 10 U18+ Men & Women for each race (SL, GS, and SG) Top 3 U18+ Men & Women will receive awards that are more substantial.
Top 3 U18+ Men & Women Overall Champions: lowest combined place points for all race results. Athletes 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.
Top 5 U16 Men & Women for each race (SL, GS, and SG)

USSS Eastern Region U18+ Finals

NYSSRA uses the following selection procedures to name NYSSRA teams for the USSS Eastern Finals. Selection is made from SSC Cup U18+ NY State Championships using place points from the best 1 of 3 possible race results. (SL, GS, and SG; 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 (Section 1). 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 who meet the NYS Team Discretionary Selection Rule requirements may apply for discretionary consideration. **Discretionary requests MUST be presented, in writing, to NYSSRA staff 24 hours prior to the final qualifying event (i.e. 9 AM on the 2nd to last day of racing). Any requests past this time line will be addressed as a force majeure consideration.**

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 U18+ 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 Captains' 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.

Quota: Link to Quotas

Leader Bibs

There will be male and female leader bibs for both U16 and U18 East and West divisions. We hope this will encourage more SSC Cup participation as they will be based off NWCP from SSC Cup events in each division of the state. Leader Bib Standings will be published and updated on the NYSSRA site.

Youth Summit

The 2027 ski season will continue with the NYSSRA Youth Summit. It is a working group comprised of current NYSSRA athletes facilitated by the athlete representatives, 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 alpine ski racing in NYS.

FIS Information

FIS (Fédération Internationale de Ski) 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 Captains' 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. 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.

Pathways Post NYSSRA Racing

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

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

NYSSRA Alpine Elite Team

Current team members are strongly encouraged to give back to NYSSRA and participate in 2 SSC Cup Series races in the 2026-2027 season, to help to strengthen and inspire the NYSSRA community.

2026-2027 Elite Team members:

East - Carson Cheney, Jace Bush, Carter Ward, Liam Meilhede, Georgianna Larkin, Nora Petrocci, Ellie Smith, and Chloe Brown.

West - Robert Marshall, Maddox Paul, Oliver Blumpkin, Nicholas Randall, Lilah Temes, Braelyn VonBergen, Charlotte McClintic, and Ella Gray.

- The top 2nd year athlete from U14 State Championships (M&W), who finishes all contested races, based on lowest simple place points. -- Analena Liskovic & Oliver Murray

- U16 Nationals Qualified athlete(s) -- Wesley Fuller & Luke Wardlaw
- U18 Nationals Qualified athlete(s) -- Hudson Marshall
- US Nationals Qualified athlete(s) -- None

Selection Criteria for the 2027 - 28 Elite Team (Men & Women):

To be eligible for this honor, athletes must be NYSSRA members in good standing for the 2027/2028 season by December 31, 2027 and meet the following 2026/2027 competition criteria:

1. The Top 4 U16+ athletes from each region (East & West) (M&W)
    a. U16+ selection is based on overall New World Cup Points earned in NYSSRA Series races, including State Championships.
2. The top 2nd year athlete from U14 State Championships (East & West) (M&W), who finished all contested races, based on lowest simple place points.
3. U16 Nationals Qualified athlete(s),
4. U18 Nationals Qualified athlete(s), OR
5. US Nationals Qualified athlete(s)