**ENGLISH SCHOOLS' SKI ASSOCIATION**

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The English Schools' Ski Association National Championships take place in the autumn each year. There are usually six Area Qualifying Races in September, followed by Finals in October. The series culminates in the British Schools’ Dry Slope Championships in November.

**THE AREA QUALIFYING RACES**

Schools wishing to enter teams must be paid up members of ESSKIA. The races are for **School Teams**, which consist of a maximum of FOUR skiers (minimum of THREE). Teams must be made up of pupils from the same school under one Head, and all skiers must be genuine full time pupils on the roll during the Autumn Term of the school they are representing.

The Area Qualifying races are **Age Group Races** in the following categories**:**

Category 1 - Pupils in Years 3 - 6

Category 2 - Pupils in Years 7 and 8

Category 3 - Pupils in Years 9 and 10

Category 4 - Pupils in Year 11 and above

The age of a pupil takes precedence over the year group, i.e. the date of birth determines the category – this definition will change each year. A team may be made up of school pupils of any age but the team must compete in the age group of the oldest skier in the team on the day of the Qualifier.

Schools may enter a maximum of **TWO boys’** teams and **TWO girls’** teams in each category.

Mixed teams can compete at Area Qualifying races only. They must comprise two girls and two boys (or 2 + 1. 3 + 1 is not permitted). **Only ONE mixed team per school is permitted.**

No skier may race in more than one team.

The race will consist of two runs over the same slalom course. The team score will be the aggregate of the best three times for each run. If less than three team members complete a run, the team will be disqualified. A disqualified team will not be eligible to race in the finals.

Teams in Categories I & 2 will race through stubby gates and teams in Categories 3 & 4 will race through full length slalom poles. If pupils in Years 7 & 8 race in a team with older skiers in Categories 3 & 4, they will race on full gates.

**THE NATIONAL FINALS**

**Age Group Races**

The Age Group Championships for Girls’ and Boys’ Teams Championship takes place on the Saturday. Teams are invited on the basis of performance at the Qualifiers evaluated over the country.

**The Open Championship for Girls’ and Boys’ Teams**

This will take place on the Sunday of Finals’ weekend.

To enter the Open Championship schools **must** have a team taking part in the Qualifiers.

Each school may enter a maximum of 2 Boys’ teams and 2 Girls’ Teams for the Open Championship. Only pupils in Year 7 and above are eligible to compete, as the race is on full gates.

The Open Championship for Girls’ and Boys’ teams acts as the qualifying race for the British Schools' Artificial Slopes Championships in November. This is hosted in turn by England, Scotland and Wales.