

2019 Tri-State U16 Rules

Introduction and General Overview

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

The U16 program is organized by the Tri-State U16 Committee. This committee is comprised of a committee chair and representatives from each of the three Tri-State regions. For the 2019 season the committee membership is as follows:

Name			Email
Gretchen Sonju	Chair	Mohawk Mountain	gsonju@gmail.com
John Borwick	Western MA	Berkshire School	johnborwick@berkshireschool.org
Garrick Dardani	Western MA	Jiminy Peak	garrick@steinersskibike.com
Mike Kemmer	Connecticut	Thunder Ridge	tr63coach@gmail.com
Rick McCowan	Eastern MA	Wachusett	rick@mccowan.net
Jon Pierce	Eastern MA	Wachusett	joncpierce@me.com
Rick Hanbury	Ex Officio (non-voting)	Youth Committee Chair	rhanbury@sbcglobal.net
Mark Colman	Ex Officio (non-voting)	U19 Committee Chair	markcolman7@gmail.com

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

Date		Location	Event
1/5/2019	Sat	Berkshire East	GS
1/12/2019	Sat	Mohawk Mtn	SL
1/21/2019	Mon	Blandford	Dual SL
1/27/2019	Sun	Wachusett	GS
2/9/2019	Sat	Bousquet	SL
U16 TS Championship Weekend			
2/23/2019	Sat	Jiminy Peak	SL
2/24/2019	Sun	Jiminy Peak	GS

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

The schedule and quotas for 2019 Eastern Region and National post season races is as follows:

Date	Location	Event	TS Quota F	TS Quota M
3/9 - 3/14/2019	Sugarloaf, ME	U16 Eastern Championships	4*	4*
3/15 – 3/18/2019	Gore, NY	U16 Eastern Finals	11*	12*
3/28 – 3/31/2019	Calabogie, Ont	U16 Rendez-Vous	tbd	tbd
3/29 – 4/2/2019	Rocky	U16 Nationals	n/a	n/a

*Quotas are estimates only, based upon prior year. Actual quotas for 2019 TBD.

Rules

1. All Tri-State U16s are expected to participate in this race series including Championship Weekend, which is required. (i.e. No racing up to U19 races or “chasing points” in other divisions on TS U16 series race dates.)
2. TS U16s are welcome to participate in TS U19 races or other events when those events do not conflict with TS U16 race dates. (Host programs manage racer starts. U19+ events may have limits / restrictions on their entries.) Results obtained may improve an athlete’s USSA point profile, but results outside the U16 series will not be included in the U16 series ranking for post season teams. NEW IN 2019: Two races in the U16 series include U19s (Blandford Dual SL & Wachusett GS). To be clear, these two races do count towards U16 series standings.
3. SEEDING. Seeding will be based upon current USSA points by discipline. Random Seed Draw for the 15 athletes with the lowest points. 990s will be randomly seeded after racers with points. Second run start order will be flip 30 format based upon first run finish time. DSQ/DNF will be random draw after seeded racers.
4. SCORING. Cumulative scoring will be used for this race series using USSA points (for discreet TS series events, not the athlete’s USSA point profile). At the conclusion of this series these results will be used to determine selections for U16 Eastern Championships, U16 Eastern Finals, and U16 Rendez-Vous.

Athletes will be ranked according to their best X number of TS U16 series race results (in terms of USSA points earned for each event), where X is one less than half of the total number of races in the series. For example, if the TS U16 series includes seven races, one less than half is determined as follows: 7 divided by 2 equals 3.5. Then 3.5 minus 1 equals 2.5. Then 2.5 is rounded to 3. Thus in this case an athlete’s best 3 results would be used. If the series has 6 races, for example, by the same methodology each athlete’s best 2 results would be used.

For the races that include U19+ athletes, for the committee’s purpose of U16 season standings and post season selections a separate calculation will be performed to remove any U19+ athletes from the USSA point calculation. Thus this event will be considered among the other events in the series on an apples to apples basis.

Any series races for which an athlete does not compete or records a DNS, DNF, or DSQ will be tabulated as 990 points. Ties will be broken by the next best race point result. The next tiebreaker, if needed, is the sum of each racer’s SL and GS USSA points.

5. Post season teams will be based upon quotas determined by the US Ski & Snowboard Eastern Region. When Tri-State quotas are not gender specific, the gender split will be determined by the gender proportions of U16 racers registered in Tristate as of December 31 of the race season.
6. Post season teams will be announced on TS Championship Weekend. All racers selected for post season teams are required to confirm participation to Tri-State U16 Chair by the announced date.
7. Post season selections will be made as follows. The highest ranking athletes will be invited to U16 Eastern Championships. The next highest ranking athletes will be invited to U16 Eastern Finals. The highest ranking athletes will be invited to U16 Rendez-Vous. Examples: Girls ranked 1-4 will be invited to U16 Eastern Championships. Girls ranked 5-15 will be invited to U16 Eastern Finals. Girls ranked 1-TBD will be invited to U16 Rendez-Vous. Boys ranked 1-4 will be invited to U16 Eastern Championships. Boys ranked 5-16 will be invited to U16 Eastern Finals. Boys ranked 1-TBD will be invited to U16 Rendez-Vous. It is expected that athletes will attend the highest level post season events for which they qualify. It is a privilege to represent Tri-State at post season events. The performance of our athletes contributes to the determination of our division's quota spots in future years. Anyone qualifying for the higher level shall not be permitted to compete in the lower level unless he/she has good cause and has received a waiver from the U16 Competition Committee. Waiver requests must be submitted by email and in writing to the committee with a copy to the athlete's home program within 24 hours of the announcements of the post season team selections. Good cause shall be limited to medical / injury, non-negotiable school obligations, and inability to pay for the increased cost of attending the higher level event. It is worth noting that the potential incremental schedule conflict of the higher event may be minimized by opting out of speed events. (The committee does not encourage this, but it is an option.) Further, the increased cost of attending the higher event may be mitigated by funding support. (Inquire as needed.) Any athlete who is selected to Eastern Championships and who elects (and is approved) to ski down to Eastern Finals, will not be permitted to participate in the Rendez-Vous.
8. Post season alternates set at (6) boys and (6) girls. Athletes are responsible for checking on opportunities to participate from Tri-State U16 Chair. If all alternates are used up, open Tri-State quotas will be filled by U16 committee discretion and competitors intent to compete list.
9. All Tri-State Membership and Eligibility rules apply to the U16 race series as does the Code of Conduct.

Out of State Training

Post season teams and divisional competition quota spots are available to qualified athletes who are affiliated and actively training with a program in the Tri-State division. Any athlete conducting their training with a program that is not a recognized Tri-State member program is not eligible for Tri-State post season teams and quota spots.

It is recognized that some athletes may choose to pursue early season training opportunities with other programs. These activities must be completed by December 31 of the competition season, or a review of the activity may be conducted by the Eastern office and/or the Tri-State U16 Chair. If the training activities are deemed in violation of the US Ski & Snowboard rules governing such activity, further disciplinary action (up to and including suspension from competition) may be taken by the Tri-State Board of Directors at the recommendation of the Tri-State U16 Chair.

Other athletes may have opportunities to visit out of state programs during the competition season. Tri-State does not discourage these activities. However, the Tri-State U16 Chair must be notified of the location and duration of the training in advance. Examples of this type of training include a FLEX session at GMVS or a FAST week at SMS. If the training activities are deemed in violation of the US Ski & Snowboard rules governing such activity, further disciplinary action (up to and including suspension from competition) may be taken by the Tri-State Board of Directors at the recommendation of the Tri-State U16 Chair.

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

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

- December 15 for all members

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

US Ski & Snowboard Elite Athlete Events

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

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