

TSASRA U14-U12-U10 Racing RULES and PROGRAM Overview

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OVERVIEW-

TriState Alpine Ski Racing Association (TSARSA) is part of US SKI & SNOWBOARD, including our talented and dedicated TSASRA member coaches at our member ski clubs. We promote the recommendations of US SKI and SNOWBOARD in the development of ski racing fundamentals and have designed our program to follow the age-appropriate developmental guidelines and levels of challenge recommended for youth athletes. It is the primary responsibility, of the coaches, to provide a challenging and rewarding atmosphere for their athletes to learn and exercise their skiing and racing skills.

This competition system is designed to keep athletes competitive and comfortable with their peers and surroundings, without exposing them to unnecessary pressure.

We take as our responsibility as parents, coaches, and TSASRA leaders, to ensure the TSASRA Youth Race Program provides a friendly, challenging, rewarding, and fun arena for our youth athletes. Our program is designed to “challenge and reward.”

The TriState U14/U12/U10 Competition Program is overseen by the Tri-State U14/U12/U10 Competition Committee (The Youth Committee). The Youth Committee is chaired by the TriState U14/U12/U10 Competition Chair and includes a Representative from each of the three TSASRA regions.

For the 2018/19 season, the TSASRA Youth Committee includes the following volunteers:

Title	Name (club)	Email
Western Mass Representatives	Peter Chudy – Catamount Pat Quinn - Jiminy Peak	peterchudy@me.com pgquinn@icloud.com
Eastern Mass Representative	Chris Fish - Wachusett	chrisgfish@gmail.com
CT Representative	Todd Bluestein – Ski Sundown	tdblue11@gmail.com
U14/U12/U10 Competition Committee Chair	Rick Hanbury - Mt Southington	ra@cysl.org

TriState Special Assistant to the Youth Committee - Ed Bassett

The TSASRA Special Assistant is a staff function with the Youth Committee and serves in an advisory role, organizes the youth related special training projects, and works with the Youth Committee in assigning athletes to fill TSASRA quota spots in Eastern Regional US SKI and SNOWBOARD projects.

Competition Age Classifications

U14 – Ages 12 and 13 ** (Birth Years: 2005 and 2006)

U12 – Ages 10 and 11** (Birth Years: 2007, 2008)

U10 – Ages 8 and 9** (Birth Years: 2009, 2010 and Later - the U10 Classification includes U8 - ages 7 and under)

**Competition Age group is determined solely by birth year and some U14 athletes may turn 14 during the competition season.

TSASRA athletes compete within their respective age classes following US SKI and SNOWBOARD rules.

Note: U10 (including U8) competition within TSASRA, is principally overseen and implemented by the individual TSASRA regions (Western Massachusetts - Eastern Massachusetts, and Connecticut). While there are no US SKI AND SNOWBOARD organized postseason events for U10 athletes, Mohawk's U10 Festival serves as a culminating event for the U10's in Tristate.

Membership and Eligibility :

Each athlete planning to compete in the TSASRA Youth Racing Program must:

1. Be a valid member of TSASRA
2. Be a valid member of US SKI and SNOWBOARD, including holding:
 - a. An Alpine Competitor – U14 or Alpine Competitor – U12 license, as appropriate.
NOTE: An athlete may compete under a one day “US SKI and SNOWBOARD Short-Term Alpine Membership,” but **must** hold a full Competitor membership to participate in any TSASRA Championships. See the US SKI and SNOWBOARD website for [Membership Information](#) or email membership@usskiandsnowboard.org for more information.
 - b. U10 athlete membership and eligibility requirements are determined by the athlete’s respective TSASRA region.

Out-of-Division Training:

Post-season team and Eastern Region quota spots are available to qualified athletes who are affiliated and actively training with a program in the Tri-State Division of the Eastern Region of US SKI and SNOWBOARD. Any athlete regularly conducting his or her training with a program, that is outside of TSASRA, is not eligible for Tri-State post-season teams and quota spots. Training activity that is in violation of US SKI and SNOWBOARD rules may result in a review of the activity by the US SKI and SNOWBOARD Eastern Region Office and/or the Youth Committee. If the training activities are found to violate US SKI and SNOWBOARD rules, 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 Youth Committee Chair.

Any TSASRA athlete found to be a simultaneous member of any other US SKI and SNOWBOARD Division will be disqualified from eligibility for any TSASRA quota spot or post-season team.

Early Season Exceptions:

It is recognized that some athletes may elect to pursue early-season training opportunities with other programs. These training activities must be completed by December 31st of the competition season, or a review of the activity may be conducted by the US SKI and SNOWBOARD Eastern Region office and/or The Youth Committee Chair. If the training activities are deemed in violation of the US SKI and 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 Committee Chair.

In-Season Exceptions:

Athletes may also have opportunities to visit out-of-region programs during the competition season. Tri-State does not discourage these activities, however, the Youth Committee must be notified of the location and duration of the training in advance. Notification must be made, by email, in advance of attending any training program after December 31st. Examples of this type of training might be attending a FLEX session at GMVS, or a FAST week at SMS.

TSASRA POST-SEASON EVENTS

TSASRA will conduct Championship Events for the U14 and U12 age classes. (there is no formal TSASRA sponsored championship event for the U10 age class) U14 and U12 age classes will have separate Championships. Each respective championship will consist of two (2) runs of slalom and two (2) runs of giant slalom. Each Championship’s daily program will be announced at least 2 weeks in advance of the competition. Any changes to the announced scheduling, calendar, program, or procedures for the conduct of these championships must be proposed in writing and ratified by all three Youth Committee Regional Representatives and the current TSASRA Alpine Officials Chair, no fewer than 7 days prior to the original scheduled date. In case of Force Majeure, the Championship calendar, daily program and / or seeding procedures, may be modified by the Youth Committee, provided the new procedures are announced prior to the Team Captains Meeting of the affected event.

Note: For all TSASRA Championship events, attempts will be made to equitably select course setters and referees from each competition region.

TSASRA U14 Championships -

Dates : 3/2/2019 - 3/3/2019

Ski Area: Berkshire East, Charlemont, MA

Banquet: 3/2/2019 Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA

Accommodations: A Group-Rate Room Block is reserved at the Delaney House under the Code "SKI19". Rooms in the block can be reserved until Feb. 9, 2019.

Entries-

There will be 150 total entries to the TSASRA U14 Championships (male and female combined).

There will be two TSASRA Competition Regions in TSASRA: One in Massachusetts (MASS) and another in Connecticut (CT).

The 150 entries to the U14 Championship will be allocated, to racers from the MASS and CT Competition Regions, based on the percentages of active U14 TSASRA members competing in each region, as of January 1 of the current competition year. Each Competition Region is guaranteed a minimum of 25 quota spots to the U14 Championships.

Each Competition Region will divide their assigned quota, by gender, using their own methodology.

Regional Chairs or Representatives must notify the Youth Committee Chair, as soon as possible, regarding qualified racers who decline their invitations, and identify alternates to fill their quota. In the event that one Competition Region does not fill all of its quota spots, the spots will be offered to the other Competition Region.

Seeding -

1. Creating Each Race Run Start List-

Each of the two Competition Regions (Massachusetts, and Connecticut) will submit a ranked list of its entries, based on each region's qualification procedures, to the Youth Committee Chair. The list must be separated by gender, and include each athlete's name, US SKI and SNOWBOARD number, Club Name, and YOB. The ranked lists from each Competition Region will first be divided into four, approximately equal, regional groupings, in rank order. These regional groupings will then be combined, with the respective regional groupings from the other Competition Region, to create four approximately equal sized seed groups. This should result in an approximately equal number of athletes, from any one Competition Region, being placed into each of the seed groups. To create the 1st run start orders for the first day of racing, the order of athletes within each seed group will be randomized and assigned sequential bib numbers. Athletes within each seed group will be randomized again, to create the second day's start list and bib numbers reassigned sequentially. These two unique sets of start orders will be provided to the hosting ski area, at least one week prior to the event.

2. Creating Each Day's Second Run Start List-

The second run start list will be created using a standard Flip-30 bibbo methodology.

A standard flip-30 reverses the start order of the racers ranked 1-30, with the rest of the field following in order of their first run rank.

The following steps will be followed to create the Second Run Start List:

1. Rank all competitors according to their first run time.
2. Break all ties, regardless of where they occur. To break ties, the competitor with the higher bib number is ranked higher.
 - a. Ties will not be broken in the 1st run Place Points, which are used for scoring the overall championships. First run ties are only broken for the purposes of creating the second run start order.
3. If a tie occurs at the reversal position, (racers tied at 30) include all of those tied competitors in the reversal number (flip). Competitors with the higher bib number will be ranked higher.
4. Reverse the correct number of competitors including ties, if applicable.
5. The remainder of the field will run in the order of their first run finish. First run racers who

are unranked (NPS, DNS, DSQ, and DNF) will run in their original bib order after the last ranked competitor.

Scoring-

Each athlete will be scored using the sum of the best two finishes (on a place point basis) selected from the six (6) scoring opportunities at the championships, i.e., 1st run, 2nd run, combined result for SL; 1st run, 2nd run, combined result for GS. NPS (Not Permitted to Start,) DSQ, DNF, and DNS in any run will be assigned a Place Point rank of 990.

If six scoring opportunities cannot be contested in the championship weekend, due to weather or other circumstances, the selection method will be the sum of the best place points from one half of the contested scoring opportunities, rounded down to a whole number of results.

Ties- Other than for Post-Season Selection, Seeding for Post-Season Events, and the Naming of Alternates for Post-Season Events, ties will **not** be broken.

In the case of Post Season Selection Order ties, Race Points will be used to break ties. Tie breakers are listed below, in the order they will be applied.

Post Season Selection Tie Breakers:

- 1) Lowest Combined/Overall Race Points for **either** the Slalom **or** GS results.
- 2) The Combined/Overall Race Points for the **other** Slalom **or** GS result.
- 3) Lowest Race Points for any single run in **either** the Slalom **or** GS competition.
- 4) Second Lowest Race Points for any single run in **either** the Slalom **or** GS competition.
- 5) Third Lowest Race Points for any single run in **either** the Slalom **or** GS competition
- 6) Fourth Lowest Race Points for any single run in **either** the Slalom **or** GS competition.

If for any reason, the TSASRA U14 Championship cannot be contested, the Youth Committee will convene to determine the appropriate selection criteria to fill the TSASRA quotas to any post-season events.

Selection:

For the 2018-19 season, US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Eastern Region has assigned TSASRA a total of **14** Quota spots to the U14 Eastern Championships. This quota will be split along gender lines, according to the percentages of male and female athletes that actually start the TSASRA U14 Championships.

Ski Areas, hosting a Championship event, shall provide the ranked results of each individual scoring opportunity and all tie breakers to the Youth Committee Chair, or his designee, in order to determine the results of the Championships. Official Results with individual run ranks should also be provided to the team captains. The ranked results from the TSASRA Championships will determine the ranking order of the TSASRA Team, which will be submitted to US Ski and Snowboard Eastern Office for seeding the U14 Eastern Championships.

Announcements:

The names, of the TSASRA athletes selected to attend the U14 Eastern Championships will be announced, along with two male and two female alternates, following the final event of the Championships. If for any reason it is impractical to announce the TSASRA U14 Eastern Championship Team on the final race day, the selected athletes and their program directors will be notified via email and the list of selected racers posted on the TSASRA website. Appeals of Team selections must be delivered to the Youth Committee Chair within 48 hours of event conclusion.

Participation at the U14 Eastern Championships:

Barring sickness or injury, athletes selected to represent TSASRA at the US Ski and Snowboard U14 Eastern Championships, are expected to participate in all of its scheduled events. Selection to a TSASRA post-season team is an honor, and our TSASRA team members represent the entire Division when they compete at the Regional Level. Selected athletes must honestly decide if they can make a full commitment to the event, or decide to pass the opportunity on to another deserving TSASRA athlete.

US Ski and Snowboard Eastern Events for U14's

Dates	Site	Event	Age Class	Gender	Notes:
3/16/19- 3/19/19	Whiteface Mt. Wilmington, NY	U14 Eastern Championships	U14	M/F	Dates are subject to change – consult the USSS website for the most recent info
3/28/19- 3/31/19	Mont Tremblant Quebec, CAN	U14 Can-Am	U14	M/F	

TSASRA U12 Championships –

Dates: 2/23/2019 – SL at Mount Southington, Southington, CT
2/24/2019 – GS at Ski Sundown, New Hartford, CT

Banquet – 2/23/2019 – Doubletree by Hilton, Bristol, CT

Registration fees: Based on two full days of participation and the banquet - no “single day,” or “race only,” fees are available.

Accommodations: A Group-Rate Room Block is available at the Doubletree Hilton, using the code “U12 TriState Room Block.” Rooms in the block must be reserved by Feb. 14, 2019.

Eligibility:

The U12 Championship is open to ALL active US SKI and SNOWBOARD U12 racers who are actively competing in TSASRA. An active racer is one who participates in at least one MASS Series or CT Series race during the current season. In addition, invitations to racers from Western Mass Interclub (WMIC) and Eastern Mass Buddy Werner League (EMBWL), will be extended to the top 3 boys and top 3 girls in each of those race leagues.

Note: All racers must hold an appropriate US SKI and SNOWBOARD Alpine Competitor Membership (no Short-Term / One-Event US SKI and SNOWBOARD Memberships will be honored), and all attending coaches must be current US SKI and SNOWBOARD Coaches.

Seeding:

The two Competition Regions of TSASRA (MASS and CT) will submit a ranked list of its U12 entries, by gender, to the Youth Committee Chair, based on each Competition Region's qualification procedures. Each Competition Region's ranked list will be broken down into four (4) equal sized groups and each region's groups combined to create the A, B, C, D seeds. Racers from EMBWL and WMIC will be inserted into Seeds B-C-D. The racers' position, within each seed group, will be randomized for each day of the Championship Series. Each racer will remain in their assigned seed group for the entire championship weekend.

For each run of the U12 Championship, the run order will be rotated through the seed groupings. This should give each athlete relatively equal course conditions throughout the weekend.

The seed order will rotate as follows:

- **Saturday**
 - o A-B-C-D for run 1,
 - o B-C-D-A for run 2.
- **Sunday**
 - o C-D-A-B for run 1,
 - o D-A-B-C for run 2

Scoring/Selection-

Each athlete will be scored using the sum of the athlete's best two finishes (on a place point basis)

selected from the six (6) scoring opportunities at the championships. These scoring opportunities are: 1st run, 2nd run, combined result for SL; 1st run, 2nd run, combined result for GS. A NPS, DNF, DNS, or DSQ in any run, or an incomplete combined finish, is assigned a place point rank of 990. If six scoring opportunities cannot be contested in the championship weekend, due to weather or other circumstance, the selection method will be the best place points of one half of the scoring opportunities, rounded down. If the U12 TSASRA Championship cannot be contested, the Youth Committee will convene to determine the appropriate selection criteria to fill any TSASRA post-season quotas.

Ties -Ties will not be broken.

Results - Ski Areas hosting a Championship event shall provide the results for each individual scoring run/race to the Youth Committee Chair, or his designee, for the purposes of scoring. The official results will be used to rank athletes for any post-season opportunities and copies of these results must be provided to the team captains.

TriState U12 Skills Events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ski Area</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Age Class</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Notes</u>
12/15/2018	Wachusett	Skills Quest	U8 – U14	M/F	
TBA	Gore	Future Stars	U12	M/F	Details to follow

NYSSRA - U12 Future Stars Festival-

The NYSSRA sponsors a Festival Style Event in March, for U12’s from NY, NJ, TriState, SARA, and PARA. The TSASRA Quota of 10 Boys and 10 Girls will be selected, from the overall results of the U12 Championships. Athletes who attend the Francis Piché Invitational, as part of their respective State Teams, may not accept a quota spot for this event.

TriState U10 Skills Events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ski Area</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Notes</u>
12/12/2018	Wachusett	Skills Quest	U8 – U14	M/F	
3/9/2019	Mohawk	Skills Quest	U8 – U10	M/F	
3/9/2019	Mohawk	GS Race	U8 – U10	M/F	

TSASRA U10 Festival -

This one-day SkillsQuest event, and GS race, is open to all U10/U8 TSASRA members.

Date: 3/9/2019

Site: Mohawk Mtn. Cornwall, CT

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Hanbury – TriState U14/U12/U10 Competition Committee Chair