

# Tri-State Youth Racing RULES and PROGRAM Overview

## INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OVERVIEW

Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association (“TSASRA”) is part of US Ski & Snowboard (“USS&S”). We promote the recommendations of USS&S 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 on 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 Tri-State U14/U12/U10 Competition Program is overseen by the Tri-State Youth Competition Committee (The Youth Committee). The Youth Committee is chaired by the Tri-State Youth Competition Chair and includes representatives from each of the three TSASRA regions. For the 2024 season, the Eastern and Western Mass regions of Tri-State are competing together as one region.

The TSASRA Youth Committee currently includes the following volunteers:

Voting Members/Title	Name (Club)	Email
Youth Committee Chair	Brian Seminara - Bousquet	brian.seminara@gmail.com
Eastern Mass Representative	Melissa Sparks - WMRT	sparks.melissa07@gmail.com
Western Mass Representative	Pat Quinn - Jiminy Peak	pgquinn@me.com
CT Representative	Rick Hanbury - Mt Southington	rhanbury@sbcglobal.net
Interclub Chair	Greg Knight – Ski Butternut	gknight@wheelerandtaylor.com
At-Large Member	Paul Kondrat – Berkshire East	prkondrat@gmail.com
Competition Committee Chair	Mark Colman - Catamount	markcolman7@gmail.com
Regional (non-voting) Members/Title	Name	Email
Eastern Mass Chair	Jessica Fish	jlfish6@yahoo.com
Western Mass Chair	Peter Chudy	peterchudy@me.com
CT Chair	Chip Simplicio	chip.simplicio@gmail.com

### Competition Age Classifications

U14 – Ages 12 and 13\*\* (Birth Years: 2010, 2011)

U12 – Ages 10 and 11\*\* (Birth Years: 2012, 2013)

U10 – Ages 8 and 9\*\* (Birth Years: 2014 and later - the U10 Classification includes U8 for ages 7 and under)

\*\*Competition Age group is determined solely by birth year (e.g., some U14 athletes may turn 14 during the competition season). TSASRA athletes compete within their respective age classes following USS&S 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 USS&S organized postseason events for U10 athletes, the U10 Festival serves as a culminating event for the U10’s in Tri-State.

### 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 USS&S, including holding:
  - a. An Alpine Competitor – U14, or Alpine Competitor – U12 and Under Membership, as appropriate.  
**NOTE:** An athlete may compete under a one day “USS&S Short-Term Alpine Membership,” but **must** hold the appropriate Alpine Competitor Membership to participate in any TSASRA Championships. See the USS&S website for [Membership Information](#) or email [membership@usskiandsnowboard.org](mailto:membership@usskiandsnowboard.org) for more information.
  - b. U10 athlete membership and eligibility requirements are determined by the athlete’s respective TSASRA Competition Region (MA and CT).

### **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 USS&S. 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.

It is recognized that some athletes may elect to pursue early-season training opportunities with other programs. These training activities must be completed by January 1st of the competition season, or a review of the activity may be conducted by the USS&S Eastern Region office and/or the Competition Committee Chair. 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. Examples of this type of training might be attending a FLEX session at GMVS, or a FAST week at SMS. Notification must be made by email in advance of attending any training program after December 31<sup>st</sup>. Training activity that is in violation of USS&S rules may result in a review of the activity by the USS&S Eastern Region Office and/or the Youth Committee. If the training activities are found to violate USS&S 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 Competition Committee Chair.

Any TSASRA athlete found to be a simultaneous member of any other USS&S Division will be disqualified from eligibility for any TSASRA quota spot or post-season team.

### **Scored Racing for U14s:**

Tri-State 2<sup>nd</sup> year U14 athletes are allowed by USS&S to race for points in scored events within the Tri-State division after March 1. The goal of this policy is to help U14s develop a points profile before they become U16 athletes the following season. There is no out-of-Division scored racing for U14s prior to the conclusion of U14 Eastern Championships, and no out-of-Region scored racing permitted (unscored racing is permitted). An Open U18+ SL race is planned for March at Berkshire East.

### **“Race Local” Rule for out-of-region racing:**

U14 and younger athletes wishing to race out of their home Division must have their home club coach get permission from their home Division and the Division in which they are wishing to race. Divisions may designate certain races as “Open,” and these events can be open to competitors from the home Region without the requirement for specific/individual permission.

## **TSASRA POST-SEASON EVENTS**

TSASRA will conduct Championship and Finals events for the U14 and U12 age classes (the U10 age class has a season-end Festival). U14 and U12 age classes will have separate events. Each event 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 Championships/Finals 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 at Jiminy Peak**

#### **Dates:**

3/2/24 – GS

Banquet, 6:00pm, Country Club of Pittsfield

3/3/24 – SL

#### **Entries:**

150 total entries, based on season standings from qualifier races in MA (48M, 46W) and CT (33M, 23W).

#### **Seeding:**

The seed order will be based on season standings. Runs will use the TRS/Butterfly system to give each athlete relatively equal course conditions, and rotate as follows:

- **Saturday**
  - o Run 1, seeded start list, with top 15 spots randomized (e.g. bibs 1-150)
  - o Run 2, reverse of Run 1 start list (bibs 150-1)
- **Sunday**
  - o Run 1, second half of Saturday Run 1 start list followed by first half (76-150 then 1-75)
  - o Run 2, reverse of Sunday Run 1 order (75-1 then 150-76)

**Scoring** - Each athlete will be scored using the sum of their best two results on a place point basis, selected **with one each in SL and GS** from the six individual scoring opportunities at the championships. Those are 1st run, 2nd run, and 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 Event Selection, Seeding and the Naming of Alternates, ties will **not** be broken. In the case of Post Season Selection Order ties, Race Points will be used to break ties.

#### **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.

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.

#### **U14 Eastern Championships Selections:**

For the 2024 season, USS&S Eastern Region has assigned TSASRA a total of **16** Quota spots to the U14 Eastern Championships (9 boys, 7 girls). 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 in order to determine the results of the Championships. If possible, 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 used by USS&S Eastern Office for seeding the U14 Eastern Championships.

#### **Announcements:**

Following the final event of the Championships, the names of the TSASRA athletes selected to the U14 Eastern Championships Team will be announced, along with two male and two female alternates for each event. If, for any reason, it is impractical to announce the TSASRA U14 Eastern Championships 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 USS&S 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.

#### **USS&S Eastern Events for U14s**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
3/16 - 19	Sugarbush, VT	U14 Eastern Championships	16 – (9 boys & 7 girls)
3/23 - 25	Catamount, NY	U14 Eastern Finals	No quota, open to all with recommendation for 1st years
3/28 - 31	Sugarloaf, ME	U14 Can-Ams	30 spots per gender, ranked from U14 Eastern Championships results

#### **TSASRA U12 Finals**

##### **Dates:**

3/9/24 – GS at Ski Butternut, Great Barrington, MA  
3/10/24 – SL at Mount Southington, Southington, CT

##### **Eligibility:**

The U12 Finals event is open to ALL active USS&S U12 racers competing in TSASRA. An active racer is one who participates in at least one MA or CT series race during the current season. [Invitations will be extended to the top 5 U12 boys and top 5 U12 girls in Interclub].

##### **Seeding:**

The seed order will use the TRS system (aka Butterfly) to give each athlete relatively equal course conditions, and rotate as follows:

- **Saturday**
  - Run 1, fully random draw start list
  - Run 2, reverse of Run 1 start list
- **Sunday**
  - Run 1, second half of Saturday Run 1 start list followed by first half
  - Run 2, reverse of Sunday Run 1 order

**TSASRA U10 Festival**

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

**Date:** 3/9/2024

**Site:** Mohawk Mountain, Cornwall, CT

**More Information**

Please consult the Eastern Division website and Handbook.

<https://usskiandsnowboard.org/sport-programs/regions-divisions/eastern-alpine-region/eastern-region-calendar>

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1h1LWovd2SdYCTLOlJl8bPTZA3S7fsdnDV8uFPiVv0lo/edit#gid=195740344>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1T5jA6Wub7LAZdU0hH30jySjJAgsW3U87jWE6uRGlcDA/edit>