



Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association

**TRI-STATE ALPINE SKI RACING ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Telecommunications via Zoom

**Mission Statement**

The mission of TSASRA is to create a positive framework and healthy environment which promotes camaraderie, competitiveness, athleticism, and sportsmanship in grassroots alpine ski racing programs.  
“The friendships made in Tri-State last a lifetime.”

**Agenda**

- ❖ Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Presidents Report
- ❖ Treasurer’s Report
- ❖ Report from Alpine Official Chair
- ❖ Report from Competition Committee Chair
- ❖ Report of Subdivision Chairs
- ❖ Report of Coaches Education and Development, Vice Chair
- ❖ Elections
  - President - incumbent Bruce Diamond
  - Secretary- incumbent Duane Bass
- ❖ Old Business
  - Paul Putnam Scholarship
- ❖ New Business

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**TRI-STATE ALPINE SKI RACING ASSOCIATION**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**October 25, 2023**  
Telecommunications via Zoom

**TSASRA Board Members**

Bruce Diamond - President  
Andy Lussier- Vice President  
Bob Zuber - Treasurer  
Duane Bass- Secretary  
Mark Colman – Competition Chair  
John Higgins – Alpine Official Chair  
Bob Brigham – Tri-State Historian

**Meeting Convened at 7:05pm**  
**General Business**

F -F23 G01 The President called the meeting to order.

**Motion to accept Agenda.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Colman

Discussion

**Unanimous Voice**

**Opposed**

**Abstain**

F F23-G02 Minutes

Motion – Bob Zuber

2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Colman

Discussion

**Unanimous Voice**

**Opposed**

**Abstain**

## REPORTS

### Report of TSASRA President

#### **IN MEMORY OF PAUL PUTNAM - June 3, 1950-September 6, 2023**

Over the years we have had a number of extraordinarily dedicated, knowledgeable, accomplished, and in some cases, fiery coaches, but none that I can think of who matched Paul Putnam in all of these attributes. Paul was the Race Director and Head Coach at Berkshire East from 1979 until his retirement in 2012. Paul was a unique character and fiercely devoted to the development of his athletes above everything else. He was committed to making them good skiers and good citizens. At times, his in-your-face attitude could be hard hitting (both literally and figuratively), but he was always motivated by what he felt was best for his athletes and the sport of ski racing. He expected a lot from his athletes, and they got a lot out of themselves in return. Paul's passion was evident in the long list of accomplishments of his athletes, many of whom he guided to successful D 1 college careers, including competing at the NCAA Nationals Championships. Others competed in USCSA where some athletes became National Champions. Others made it to the US National Team. We are grateful for all he did for Tri-State. The Board has decided that the best way to honor Paul is to establish an a scholarship to be awarded annually to a deserving Tri-State athlete based on financial need.

Paul was keenly attuned to the financial needs of talented athletes who struggled to afford the sport, and we think that he would be pleased to see the establishment of this scholarship. You can read remembrances from Jon Schaeffer and others and post your own on the attached link <https://berkshireeast.com/the-resort/blog/remembering-coach-paul-putnam>

#### **SEASON REVIEW**

TSASRA had a somewhat chaotic but ultimately successful 2022-2023 season. Our Competition Committee, led by chair Mark Colman, was kept hopping with numerous race cancellations all season caused by a winter that just didn't seem to want to happen. The warming trend of the past few years in southern New England seems to just be getting worse, and adversely affecting training and hosting races. Zoom team captains meetings the day before races remain popular.

**TSASRA is pleased to finally have received 501(c)(3) status as a charitable organization from the IRS.** As a charitable/educational organization, TSASRA will receive certain tax benefits, and those who donate to the organization (does *not* include membership dues) will be able to take tax deductions. As a charitable/educational entity we need to carefully plan how we manage our resources to further the mission of our organization. We have established a committee chaired by Bob Zuber to explore how to best administer the TSASRA Educational Fund for the benefit of our members. The committee is currently addressing budgetary needs and working to establish procedures and protocols. Other suggestions are to hire the incomparable Doug Lewis to come to our region for a few days to run workshops with coaches and athletes. We welcome input from our members.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Overall numbers remain healthy, particularly at the children's level. The overall # of athletes increased from 1,474 to 1528. We are a large organization. U12's increased from 601 in 2022 to 634; U14's increased from 293 to 345; U16's dropped from 219 to 199 (down from 274 in 2021); U18's dropped from 154 to 141; and U21-Sr's increased from 138 to 142; Masters remained steady at 67. The drop in U16-18's is concerning and raises a number of questions – why are they leaving and what can we do to retain them?

Alpine Officials increased 352 to 387. Thanks to our Alpine Officials chair, John Higgins for coordinating and teaching multiple Alpine Officials' clinics throughout the year. A challenge is to continue to train and certify TD's, RA's, and timers to run our many races. We need to step up our efforts fill these roles. Coaches increased from 352 to 387. Increasing Level 100, 200 and 300 coaches remains a top priority. While I don't have exact #'s currently available, roughly 2/3 of our coaches have achieved a minimum certification of Level 100.

## **RACING**

Despite a slow start, our athletes still got in quite a bit of racing. Connecticut Youth Ski League (CYSL) hosted a total of 8 U10 -14, 1 U16, and 1 U18 races, plus Championships. Massachusetts hosted 6 U10-14, 3 U16 and 6 U18 races, plus Champs, and 6 Interclub races.

Jiminy hosted the prestigious Williams Carnival for the first time since 2020. TSASRA continues to reimburse entry fees for sub-100-point athletes attending our races, which produced a 40-point penalty at the Jiminy race! After a four-year break Berkshire East hosted 2 successful FIS races. Glad to have BEAST back in the picture and hope it gives our athletes more FIS experience.

New ownership at venerable Bosquet made extensive use of their improved venue with expanded lifts, snow making and new chairlift. Catamount got back online hosting scored US SKI & Snowboard races this season after a 17-year hiatus and expects to host topflight USS&S U16-

18+ events as well as two FIS races. Blue Hills became active again and hoped to host a race this past season but was unable to pull it off.

Post-season races were well attended, and many of our athletes had great results and a lot of fun. I was impressed by how well coaches from various TSASRA programs worked together to enhance our athletes' experience at post-season events like Finals.

Post Season Qualification/Membership Procedures: Several parents and coaches complained vociferously about the TSASRA procedures for qualifying for post season events. Intertwined with this issue is the need to reassess our rules relating to out-of-region training. Current TSASRA Competition Rules for out-of-region training track US Ski & Snowboard rules, but don't clearly address athletes who may belong to a TSASRA club, but nonetheless have private coaches, and conduct a large portion of their training outside of the region. These issues have been reviewed by the TSASRA Competition Committee and the Board, with no significant changes to our rules expected.

We continue our attempts to adhere to US Ski & Snowboard open Championships requirements for U12-16's although the field sizes often overwhelm the host venues. We do not expect that U14 Championships will be open this year. U16 Champs ran a random/butterfly seed as required, which confused athletes, coaches and officials.

## **COACHES EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

TSASRA continued its initiative in training and certifying coaches through our TSASRA Coaches Education and Development Committee, which worked closely with US Ski & Snowboard to put on a number of Level 100 and 200 Certification On-Snow Assessments, Coaches Education Clinics, Workshops, and Symposiums. We held several well attended TSASRA events throughout the season, including a Zoom Language Locker session and a Fundamentals Development Clinic for the New Racer Zoom presentation. Unfortunately, many of our scheduled on-snow events were cancelled due to pervasive warm weather and, more troubling, low registration numbers. We continue to have 4 US Ski & Snowboard Certified Coach Developers. Billy Whicher has moved on to a larger role with US Ski & Snowboarding as National Alpine Education Director. We are grateful for his many contributions and will sorely miss him. We are working closely with Billy and US Ski & Snowboard to identify and train additional Coach Developers and CD Trainers. We conducted 4 Level 100 On-Snow Assessments in the region resulting in approximately 20 TSASRA coaches earning their Level 100 certifications, with another few pending. 6 TSASRA coaches attended, and 5 successfully completed their Level 200 certification at an On-Snow Assessment at Catamount.

John Higgins and Rich Hanbury conducted 7 Alpine Officials Clinics and exams during the course of the season to meet this need.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Racing.** Mark Colman and the Competition Committee have been hard at work drawing up the race calendar for the upcoming season. Mark will have more information in his report. Exciting news is that there are 4 FIS races scheduled in our region – 2 each at Berkshire East and Catamount. This should be a great opportunity for some of our more advanced athletes. Catamount also plans to host more US Ski & Snowboard regional Tri-State races this season.

**Coaches Education and Development.** Andy Lussier and his team have been busy this summer and have scheduled a number of Tri-State Workshops and clinics, and US Ski & Snowboard clinics and On-Snow Assessments which have been posted on the Tri-State website and will be posted on the US Ski & Snowboard website shortly. The tentative schedule is as follows:

1. December 9-10- TSASRA Workshop, Level 100 On-Snow Assessment Clinicians: TBD
2. January 8, Mt. Southington - Level 100 On-Snow Assessment Clinician : Rich Tingle
3. January 19, Catamount - Introduction to course setting Clinician :Bruce Diamond
4. February 2, Catamount - Level 100 On-Snow Assessment Clinician: Bruce Diamond
5. February 20, Butternut - Level 100 On-Snow Assessment Clinician: Tom Chase
6. March 6-8 – Catamount, 200 On-Snow assessment Clinician: Bruce Diamond
7. TBD - Catamount Coach Developer Clinic Clinician: Bruce Diamond

In addition to the above events, the committee is also planning to run On-Snow Assessments during the winter break geared toward college kids and junior coaches. Dates have yet to be determined. Billy Whitcher, who is back in our region as USS&S regional director of sports education is spearheading these events.

**Certifying new Level 100 coaches is critical for complying with US Ski & Snowboard mandates for the 2024-25 season remains a top priority.** Our goal is to increase the knowledge base and enhance the professionalism of our member coaches. We need to do a better job. The Coaches Ed and Dev Committee offered clinics spread throughout our region during the week, on weekends, during the day, and at night. Despite the multitude of options, turnout was dismal this season, with many clinics cancelled for lack of interest. I am suggesting that Program Directors take ownership of this task by pushing their coaches to get certified. TSASRA coaches are urged to be prepared by doing the on-line requirements this fall and attending early season clinics which we plan to offer.

Other goals include increasing the number of Level 200 and Level 300 coaches in our region.

## **SUMMARY**

In all it was another great season for TSASRA members. We accomplished much, but there is still a lot more to do. As Chris Gagne was always fond of saying, "It's all about the kids". I am grateful for the efforts of everyone who is working so hard for the benefit of our athletes.

Thank you all.

Bruce Diamond - TSASRA President



## Report of the Treasurer

### TRI STATE SKI RACING ASSOCIATION

#### Income Statement

5/25/2023-09/29/2023

#### Revenues

USSA Trade AP	\$10,581.22
Other Income	\$ 6,732.90
Interest Income	\$ 6.00
Admin Internet	\$ 0.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$17,320.12</u>

#### Expenses

Admin Fees	\$ 6,800.00
Gateway Fees	\$ 60.00
Postage	\$ 70.00
Gifts	\$ 0.00
Meetings	\$ 660.56
Office Supplies	\$ 499.00
Insurance	\$ 1,495.00
Equipment	\$ 0.00
Refunds	\$ 115.00
Championship Exp.	\$24,345.00
Banquet	\$ 0.00
B-net	\$ 0.00
Network Solutions	\$ 9.95
Lodging	\$ 0.00
Misc.	\$ 0.00
Coaches Education	\$ 0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$31,399.95</u>

**Net Income/Loss** \$(14,079.83)

#### Notes From Last Report:

Outstanding AP to Berkshire East for U14 Championship paid in June 2023

Outstanding AR from jacket order approx. \$3,650

**\*\*Current Checking account balance as of 09/29/2023 \$166,399.84**

**TRI STATE RACING ASSOCIATION**  
Statement of Financial Condition  
Ending **09/29/2023**

**Current Assets**

Cash	\$166,399.84
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ 3,650.90</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$170,050.74</b>
<b>Property &amp; Equipment</b>	
B-Net	\$85,050.00
Office Equip. & Supplies	\$ 1,800.00 *
Jacket Inventory	<u>\$ 3,952.50 **</u>
	\$90,802.50
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$260,853.24</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 0
<b>Total Current Liabilities &amp; Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Organization Equity</b>	<b>\$260,853.24</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Member Equity</b>	<b>\$260,853.24</b>

\*Office equip depreciated by 10%

\*\*Jacket inventory depreciated by 20% (1 Seasons use)

**Motion to accept Report**

2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Colman

Discussion

**Unanimous Voice**

**Opposed**

**Abstain**

# Tri-State Alpine Officials Report

October 25, 2023

## **Alpine Official Clinics**

Here is the initial listing of Alpine Official clinics being offered in Tri-State this fall. Other clinics will be added as additional training needs and resources are identified.

Date	Time	Location	Clinic	Exams
Oct ?		Southington	TD1	Yes
Nov 1	6:00 PM	Southington	Referee/Update	No
Nov 5	9:00 AM	Wachusett	Referee/Update	Yes
Nov 11	9:00 AM	Butternut	Referee/Update	Yes
TBD		TBD	TD Workshop	
TBD		TBD	RA Workshop	
TBD			Timing	
TBD		Virtual (On-line)	Update	No

Note: USSS plans to release AO education materials in mid-October. A review of the 'Workshop' materials will be necessary to determine how much time should be allocated for these clinics. (Last season, Tri-State delivered the TD Workshop over 2 days.) It is also important to understand if virtual clinic formats will be permitted this season. Updated information is expected from the AOEWG meeting scheduled for 10/5.

The Tri-State AO clinics schedule as well a link to all Eastern Region AO clinics will be posted on our website: <https://tristateskiracing.org/officials/clinics>

*If you need to attend a clinic this season to keep your AO credentials current, you must attend the clinic prior to serving at any U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event as a Course Setter, Chief of Course, Chief of Race, Referee, Assistant Referee, Jury Advisor, Chief of Timing & Calculations, Race Administrator, or Technical Delegate.*

## **TD Summer Review**

This year's TD Summer Review ran 8 sessions over a 17 week period with 6 participants including 2 TD applicants and 4 Tri-State TDs. As mentioned in the spring, this program covers TD (and jury) specific topics via practical exercises, reports/documentation, and jury-type problems with an emphasis on the rules and their applications. This affords the participants an extended exposure to topics that might only be briefly presented during a regular TD clinic. TD applicants become better prepared for a TD1 clinic and exam in the fall. Participants that completed all of the suggested readings and exercises and participated in all the review meetings invested an estimated 30+ hours in total. That's a substantial commitment of time to increase their knowledge and understanding of this sport. Do know that they did not earn any clinic attendance credit for their participation.

## **Race Organizer Training Needs**

In the spring, all Tri-State Race Organizers should have received a detailed summary of their club member AO certifications from their Subdivision chair. The intent of the summary was to help clubs identify their training needs. Clubs must have trained, credentialed officials in many positions on race day as required by their race scheduling agreement. Don't wait until January to figure this out. An AO can attend a clinic and take an exam in any division or state. Help your club members find the clinic that provides the training they need and best fits their schedule. Be sure to communicate your training needs to the Tri-State AO chair: [TriStateAO@gmail.com](mailto:TriStateAO@gmail.com)

## **Course Homologations**

The Jiminy and Otis re-homologations have been completed! The new homologation reports are now available on the USSS website.

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Trail</b>	<b>Expiration</b>	<b>Homologation Status</b>
Jiminy Peak	Whirlaway GS	2033	Current, complete
Jiminy Peak	Exhibition SL	2033	Current, complete
Otis Ridge	Slalom SL	2033	Current, complete
Jiminy Peak	'Race Arena' (Ace of Spades?)		Future plans
Eaglebrook	Amy's Run SL,GS	2020	Expired
Nashoba Valley	Bull Run/Chief SL,GS	2020	Expired
Wachusett	Challenger SL,GS	2022	Expired

Respectfully submitted,

John Higgins  
Alpine Official Chair Report

## **Report of the Competition Chair**

### TSASRA 2023 Fall Membership Meeting Competition Committee Report

#### **2024 Season Preview**

The schedule currently includes 40 separate Tri-State race days, which will create a heavy load for host venues and officials. Hopefully the weather will be an improvement and there will be fewer rescheduled races. We still need to organize an official speed training day for post-season teams. While efforts will be made to reduce racing expenses (e.g. limiting travel, no U14 or U16 Championship bibs, optional banquets), race fees will likely increase after a few years of holding steady (recommended \$80 scored, \$65 non-scored, \$45 IC). We purchased more Diel jackets for the U14s and U16s going to post-season, and will keep a \$50 subsidy partially covered by entry fees.

#### **U18+**

The season starts with the traditional New Year's Eve Schaefer Cup SL at Berkshire East. Fields will likely be capped at no more than 200. FIS level racing will return to Berkshire East and add Catamount. The low-point Reimbursement Program will continue. Finals will return to Gore, where the quota of 42 will likely be exceeded.

#### **U16**

The first race will be held over MLK weekend at Mt. Southington. Eastern Championships and Finals qualification (12 and 23 quota spots, respectively) will be based on the best 2 of the 6 possible race results (combined points plus penalty), using one each of SL and GS events. Priority for U18+ races will likely go to 2<sup>nd</sup> year U16s. The Championships weekend doubleheader conflicts with Eastern High School Champs so will be reconfigured as two regular qualifiers over separate weekends.

#### **Youth**

Following EACC guidance, the 2023 Tri-State U14 Championships was open to all, resulting in a field of 191 registered, with widely varying ability. Looking ahead, a cap of 150 will apply, and seeding will likely be used instead of the TRS random butterfly method. An open U14 event may be added. The selection criteria to the U14 Eastern Championships (quota 9B/7G) will again use the best single run/result from each of the SL and GS events, in an attempt to encourage more well-rounded skiers and reward aggressive effort. Athletes selected are expected to attend all scheduled events or pass on their spot. The U12 and U14 age groups in MA will be combined for just the first and last races, as fields hit 230-240 last season. CYSL will separate the U10s from U14s.

#### **Interclub**

The system of 3 races per team seems to work as long as the Catamount and Butternut programs are kept apart given their numbers. Jiminy Peak will return to the rotation. We're discussing awards and results for every YOB and going to age groups.

#### **College**

The Williams Carnival will be back at Jiminy for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.

**Race Entry Fees – Recommended for 2024**

Event	Suggested	Race Fee	Club Discount	Expenses/Head Tax	Net Revenue
Scored	\$80	\$50	\$30	\$17	\$63
Unscored	\$65	\$35	\$30	\$2	\$63
Interclub	\$45	\$15	\$30	\$2	\$43
Finals U12	\$160	\$70	\$60	\$24 (\$20 bib + 2x2)	\$136 (\$68x2)
Champs U14	\$155	\$70	\$60	\$19 (\$9 coat + 5x2)	\$136 (\$68x2)

**Race Entry Fees – Summary 2023**

Event	Suggested	Maximum	Minimum	Club Discount	Net Revenue
Scored	\$70	\$75 (Champs)	\$70	\$20	\$53
Unscored – MA	\$55	\$70 (WMRT)	\$50 (BSQ)	\$20	\$53-68
CYSL	\$63			\$33-53	
Interclub	\$40	\$50 (BSQ)	Free (Cat)	\$10-40	
Champs U12/14	\$65				\$65
Champs U16	\$75			\$50 (JP)	\$53

**Championships 2023**

U12s paid \$155 (2 x \$65 plus \$2 + \$18 bibs) = \$3 profit

U14s paid \$140 (2 x \$65 plus \$2 + \$3) = \$0 profit

U16s paid \$75 each day, including \$5 for jackets plus \$17 total head tax

**Head Taxes**

USS&S - \$12 scored

EASEF - \$3 scored and division championships

Tri-State - \$2 all races

**Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association (TSASRA)  
General Meeting  
October 25, 2023**

**Connecticut Subdivision Chair Report**

**Submitted: October 20, 2023**

The Connecticut Youth Ski League, Inc. (“CYSL”), acting as TSASRA’s Connecticut subdivision for the U10, U12, and U14 age classes, consists of five (5) United States Ski & Snowboard member clubs: Mohawk Mountain, Mount Southington, Powder Ridge Park and Resort, Ski Sundown, and Thunder Ridge. CYSL held its Fall Board of Directors meeting on October 19, 2023. Officers were elected and voting members were selected by each program to be on the Board of Directors.

During the Fall BoD meeting, the CYSL Board of Directors confirmed the 2024 Competition Schedule and reported it to the TSASRA Youth Committee. It is expected that CYSL will continue to have multi-age class race days, however, U10s will have their own competitions.

We continue to partner with our mountains and truly appreciate all their support of the race programs. It is our intent to have clear communication with parents and spectators at all Connecticut races regarding expected positive behaviors of guests at the mountains. CYSL RA incorporated more social media to help with communications. Once again, CYSL is honored to be hosting the U12 Tri-state Championships.

**Preliminary Connecticut 2024 Competition Schedule**

Host	Event	Date	Age Classes
Mohawk	GS	January 7 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Mt. Southington	TSASRA SL	January 13 (Sat.)	U16
Mt. Southington	Stubbie SL & SL	January 21 (Sun.)	U10/U12/U14
Powder Ridge	GS (3 Runs)*	January 28 (Sun.)	U10
Thunder Ridge	SL	February 3 (Sat.)	U10
Thunder Ridge	SL	February 4 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Sundown	SL	February 10 (Sat.)	U18
Sundown	GS	February 11 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Mt. Southington	GS (3 Runs)	February 18 (Sun.)	U10
Sundown	TSASRA SL Finals	March 3 (Sun.)	U16
Mohawk - TBD	U10 Festival	March 9 (Sat.)	U10
Mt. Southington	TSASRA SL Finals	March 10 (Sun.)	U12

\*CYSL decision 12/28 on Powder Ridge’s ability to hold race

Faithfully submitted,



Chip Simplicio  
Connecticut Subdivision Chair  
Connecticut Subdivision Chair

## **Tri-State Western Massachusetts Fall 2023 Board Report**

Clearly, we are looking forward to a less stressful season and more stable snow coverage. Last season there was a lot of cooperation and rapid adjustments to get the races in. We expect a stable mountain environment going forward after significant redevelopments of BSQ and CAT, and the unfortunate loss of Blandford several years ago. Jiminy Peak will be rejoining the Interclub racing circuit this year. IC has gone to a split format given the very large participation levels. Last year Berkshire East ran a dual GS for interclub with 4 runs for each racer.

Catamount supported this with additional timing equipment. The race was very successful and well received by the racing families. This concept is something that should be considered more with the youngest kids, as their confidence builds as they make more runs.

The U14 open format was not that well received by many programs. Running approximately 200 starts is seen as undesirable, as is the random order. Yes, the top athletes end up on top...but how fair is it to those in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place through the year?

Generally, qualifying for the event is often a motivating goal for some skiers and very often the weakest skiers are not fully participating in training and racing. This combined event should provide the best athletes an opportunity to compete for the Eastern Championships spots based on the race season.

The survey that 70% of kids quit at age 13 with the primary answer is that it is not fun, most likely does not capture more complex issues in sports. As a former cross-country skier no one expected you to show up for endurance sports practices for the fun feature. Much of the “not fun” is often related to parent and coaching behaviors. We also must realize that as our athletes enter high school they may be specializing in other sports and the weekend ski racing is what gets cut. Whether U14 championships are open or not is probably not a significant issue.



## **Eastern MA Tri-State Report Fall 2023**

Based on season inquiries/interest, US Ski and Snowboard/Tri-State membership in the eastern part of the state is expected to be up from 2022/23. Wachusett Mountain is looking to host two races and will reach out to the program at Blue Hills to discuss the possibility of helping them host a U10/12 event. The Buddy Werner program in the area appears to be going strong as usual.

Our challenges include a large number of interested athletes in the area but few mountains offering a US Ski & Snowboard program. Our parents with a solid knowledge of ski racing have also aged out of the system. We are working to educate new members but are struggling to gain certified timers/RA's parent volunteers etc. due to lack of interest. Ideas to manage this include hiring certified timers to host races and provide better guidance for parent volunteers.

The East appreciates working with the many mountains in the western part of the state and CT in the quest to host/support ski racing in Tri-State.

**Report of TSASRA Vice-President/ TSASRA Education & Development Committee  
October 4th, 2023**

The TSASRA Education & Development Committee is committed to providing training, continuing education and certification opportunities for our coaches in the Tri-State region. This effort is to meet the US Ski & Snowboard mandates requiring all coaches at USSS sanctioned events to have a minimum certification of Level 100. We continue to work closely with US Ski & Snowboard both regionally and nationally to offer coaches education clinics, certification clinics, workshops, and symposiums.

Our goal to keep TSASRA at the forefront of coach's education has been supported by Bill Whitcher, Anna Hosmer, and others at US Ski & Snowboard in Park City. We are fortunate to have direct access to both Bill and Anna as we develop and schedule certification opportunities in our footprint.

While we offered several coaches education opportunities, we still experience too few of our member coaches taking advantage of them. As we strive for our goal of 100% compliance for Level 100 certifications, we recognize the need for flexibility in scheduling these certification opportunities. To date roughly one third of the TSARA coaches are not compliant.

Program Directors should be reminded of their obligation to ensure that their staff members are certified.

**Certifying new Level 100 coaches is critical for complying with US Ski & Snowboard mandates moving forward.** The TSASRA Coaches Education & Development Committee will continue to offer both continuing education and certification opportunities for the 2023/2024 season.

Our continued goal is to increase the knowledge base, skill sets, and enhance the professionalism of our member coaches. We will continue to offer additional clinics across the TSARSA Region to accomplish the following goals:

- Partnering / advisement with Bill Whitcher/USSS
- Level 100 coaches in compliance with US Ski & Snowboard initiative
  - Goal: 100% compliance by 2024/25
- Keeping workshops affordable
- Flexible scheduling
  - Pre-season, in-season & post season
  - Certifications / workshops
  - In Tri-State Region
  - Mid-week & weekends
  - Possible indoor on-snow assessments
    - Big Snow
- Unwavering promotion
  - Program directors
  - Direct to coaching community
  - Clinics/workshops promoted as preparation for certification
- Increase USSS Certified Coach Developers in Tri-State Region
- Increase USSS Certified Level 200 & Level 300 in Tri-State Region

- Work with Alpine Official Chair to offer and promote Referee certification opportunities for all coaches to comply with US Ski & Snowboard mandates
- Explore and develop enhanced educational opportunities for TSASRA officials

**We urge all Tri-State coaches seeking certification to be prepared by doing the on-line requirements over the summer/fall months and attend early season clinics which we plan to offer.**

## **2023-2024 SEASON PLANS - GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The TSASRA Coaches Education & Development Committee is committed to offering a complete calendar of workshops, both virtual and on-snow, and certification opportunities for the coaches of the Tri-State region. In addition to certification clinics, we aim to offer a series of workshops in the following areas:

- Pre-Season Workshop
  - Annual Event
- Course Setting Workshops
  - Preparatory clinic
- Course Setting Certification
- Skiing Skills Workshop
- Movement Analysis Workshop
- Tactics Workshop
- Virtual Series
  - Language Locker
  - Foundational Development for the New Racer

### **2023/2024 Tentative Schedule**

#### **Level 100**

12/3/23 Berkshire East - Level 100 On-Snow Assessment	Clinician: Bill Whitcher
1/8/2024 Mt. Southington - Level 100 On-Snow Assessment.	Clinician: Rich Tingle
2/2/2024 Catamount - Level 100 On-Snow Assessment	Clinician: Bruce Diamond
2/20/24 Butternut - Level 100 On-Snow Assessment	Clinician: Tom Chase

#### **Level 100 (Juniors Only – 18 & younger)**

12/26/23 Berkshire East - JR Level 100 On-Snow Assessment	Clinician: Bill Whitcher
12/28/23 Bousquet - JR Level 100 On-Snow Assessment	Clinician: Bill Whitcher

#### **Level 200**

3/6-3/8 2024 Catamount 200 On-Snow assessment	Clinician: Bruce Diamond
3/18 – 3/20/24 Butternut - Level 200	Clinician: Bill Whitcher

#### **Workshop Series**

12/2/23 Berkshire East - Preseason Workshop (one day, same content)	Clinician: TBD
12/3/23 Berkshire East - Preseason Workshop (one day, same content)	Clinician: TBD

**Course Setting**

1/19/2024 Catamount - Introduction to course Setting

Clinician: Bruce Diamond

TBD - Catamount - Coach Developer Clinic

Clinician: Bruce Diamond

**BUDGET**

2022-2023 - The Board of Directors allocated \$12,000 to fund various projects, including \$200 per day stipends and mileage reimbursement for Development Team coaches presenting the clinics and workshops. Additional copies of US Ski & Snowboard Alpine Fundamentals were purchased for distribution to attendees of TSASRA scheduled clinics and workshops.

The Educational and Development Committee has met remotely since the end of the season to plan content and prepare a requested budget to the BOD. We will require the purchase of 250 US Ski & Snowboard Alpine Fundamentals Guides for clinic attendees for the upcoming season.

For the 2023-2024 season, the TSASRA Coaches Education & Development Committee is again requesting a budget of \$12,000, subject to approval of expenses as they are incurred. The Committee would again like consideration of a budget item allocated to subsidize coaches' education scholarships to help offset the high cost of attending certification clinics.

**SUMMARY**

As we continue to develop and invest in the Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association, it's paramount that we stay focused on athlete development through the continued education of our coaching community. Better coaches make better programs, better programs make better athletes. We're looking forward to another great season.

Andy Lussier

TSASRA Vice President/Coaches Education  
and Development Chair

TSASRA Board of Directors and Committees  
Fall 2023

Under the Bylaws effective 12/12/20 these are the current positions, and those needing election by members or appointment by the Board or Executive Committee

<u>Title</u>	<u>Holder</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>Selection Method</u>	<u>Has Vote</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Board:					
President	Bruce Diamond	2024	Election	Y	
Vice-President	Andy Lussier	2025	Election	Y	
Secretary	Duane Bass	2024	Election	Y	
Treasurer	Bob Zuber	2025	Election	Y	
CT Rep	Chip Simplicio		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
EM Rep	Jessica Fish		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
WM Rep	Peter Chudy		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
AO Chair	John Higgins		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
Comp Chair	Mark Colman		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
Imm Past Pres	Mike Kemmer		Ex officio	Ties	
Administrator	Laura Sullivan		Appointed	N	By Board
Historian	Bob Brigham		Appointed	N	By Board
Executive:					
President	Bruce Diamond			Y	Chair
Vice-President	Andy Lussier			Y	
Secretary	Duane Bass			Y	
Treasurer	Bob Zuber			Y	
Imm Past Pres	Mike Kemmer			Ties	
Competition:					
U18+ Chair	Mark Colman				Chair
U18+ Member					
U16 Chair	Scott Bellin				
U16 Member	Jessica Fish				
Youth Chair	Brian Seminara				
Youth Member	Paul Kondrat				
Youth Member	Melissa Sparks				
Youth Member	Rick Hanbury				
Youth Member	Pat Quinn				
Interclub	Greg Knight				
College	Jim Pietrovito				
Appeals:					
AO Chair	John Higgins				Chair

President	Bruce Diamond				
Comp Chair	Mark Colman				
Finance:					
Treasurer	Bob Zuber				Chair
Member	Peter Chudy				
Member	Chip Simplicio				
Ed & Dev:					
Vice-President	Andy Lussier				Chair
Member	Bruce Diamond (President)				Coach Education
Member	John Higgins (AO Chair)				AO Education
Member	Jen Mahmood				
Member	Rich Tingle				
Member	Ben Sullivan				
Member	Tom Chase				
Nominating:					
Secretary	Duane Bass				Chair
Member	TBD (CT)				
Member	TBD (EM)				
B-Net:					Special Committee
President	Bruce Diamond				Chair, ex-officio
Member	Laura Sullivan				
Member	Bob Zuber				
Charitable:					Special Committee
President	Bruce Diamond				Chair, ex-officio
Member	Bob Zuber				
Member	Chip Simplicio				
Member	Peter Chudy				
Eastern:					Regional Committee
EACC Rep	Bruce Diamond				By TSASRA Board
ECC Rep	Rick Hanbury				By ECC
Officials	Laura Sullivan				By EACC

Tri-State Homologation Reimbursement Policy  
[DRAFT Fall 2023]

As part of its mission to support grass roots alpine ski racing, the Tri-State organization (TSASRA) encourages the addition of new racing venues, and requires the updated homologation of existing race trails.

1. Tri-State will reimburse expenses incurred during the homologation and trail inspection process:
  - a. All expense requests must include supporting receipts and documentation
  - b. Expenses are capped at \$1,500 per trail for both new applications and renewals
  - c. Acceptable expenses include US Ski and Snowboard (and/or FIS) application fees, inspector fees (daily allowance plus travel expenses), required tree cutting and landscaping, electrician or timing company expenses, permanent buried cable and conduit
  - d. No temporary expenses or removable items (e.g. B-Net required by the protection plan, timing equipment or computers) will be included
  - e. Other related expenses may be considered at the discretion of the TSASRA Finance Committee or Board
  - f. Denied or uncompleted applications will not be reimbursed
2. Reimbursement requests should be submitted to the TSASRA Administrator within 6 months of receipt of the US Ski and Snowboard or FIS certificate. Late requests may be considered but are not guaranteed.
3. Requests should specify whether the reimbursement check will be made out to the mountain owner/management or the affiliated USS&S club, depending on which entity incurred the costs

Adjourn  
9:23pm

## **Presidents Report**





*Mission Statement: To create a positive framework and healthy environment which promotes camaraderie, competitiveness, athleticism, and sportsmanship in grassroots alpine ski racing programs. “The friendships made in Tri-State last a lifetime.”*

## **Spring General Membership Meeting – June 5, 2024**

### **Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association President’s Report**

#### **2023/2024 SEASON REVIEW**

TSASRA had yet another chaotic, but ultimately successful 2023-2024 season. Our Competition Committee, led by chair Mark Colman, spent much of the season playing Whack-A-Mole as race postponements continued to pop up in a winter that just didn’t seem to want to happen. Nearly half of our races had to be rescheduled. Kudos to Mark, the Comp Committee and the race organizers for working so hard to get the races in. The warming trend of the past few years in southern New England seems to just be getting worse, and adversely affecting training and hosting races. Zoom team captains meetings the day before races remain popular.

**TSASRA 501(c)(3) status as a charitable organization.** As a charitable/educational organization, TSASRA will receive certain tax benefits, and those who donate to the organization (does *not* include membership dues) will be able to take tax deductions. As a charitable/educational entity we are carefully assessing how we manage our resources to further the mission of our organization. Plans include implementing scholarship and financial aid programs to be administered within our organization through the Tri-State Educational Fund. Our first endeavor is establishing a scholarship fund in honor of long-time Berkshire East coach Paul Putnum, who passed away last year. At the BOD Fall 2023 meeting we established a Special Committee consisting of me, Bob Zuber, Chip Simplicio, and Peter Chudy to set up procedures to administer these funds. The first order of business is to determine our vision and mission, and then to establish a budget and procedures for awarding grants and scholarships. We also need to establish how we are going to fund this project going forward. The committee is tasked with working on this project during the off-season toward the goal of having procedures in place prior to the 2024-’25 season.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Overall numbers remain healthy, particularly at the children’s level. The overall # of athletes increased from 1,528 to 1,562. We are a large organization. U12’s increased significantly from 634 in 2023 to 676; U14’s decreased slightly from 345 to 321; U16’s decreased slightly from 199 to 191; U18’s increased a few ticks from 141 to 143; and U21-Sr’s increased from 142 to 152 ; Masters increased to 79.

Alpine Officials/Coaches were down a bit from 387 to 378. We have 33 non-coach Alpine Officials, and 49 registered Alpine Volunteers. Thanks to our Alpine Officials chair, John Higgins for coordinating and teaching multiple Alpine Officials’ clinics throughout the year. A challenge is to continue to train and certify TD’s, RA’s, and timers to run our many races. Increasing Level 100, 200 and 300 coaches remains a top priority. While I don’t have exact #’s currently available, over 2/3 of our coaches have achieved a minimum

certification of Level 100.

## **RACING**

Despite yet another slow start, our athletes still got in quite a bit of racing. Connecticut Youth Ski League (CYSL) hosted a total of 8 U10 -14 races, a parallel and SkillsQuest event for U12-14's, 1 U16, and 1 U18 race, plus U12 Open TSASRA Championships, and U10 end of season festival. Massachusetts hosted 9 U10-14, 6 U16 and 8 U18 races, plus U14 Champs and U12 Finals, , and 7 Interclub races. Warm weather forced Catamount to cancel the Eastern Region U14's Finals, but BEAST stepped up and hosted the event. Ben Sullivan and his crew received high marks from Sam Damon at the Eastern ACC and ECC meetings for pulling off a great event despite challenging conditions

Jiminy again hosted the prestigious Williams Carnival. TSASRA continues to reimburse entry fees for sub-100-point athletes attending our races.

FIS racing comes to Tri-State! Tri-State upped our game and opportunities for our athletes by hosting 4 FIS devo races, 2 GS's at Berkshire East and 2 SL's at Catamount. The races were well attended, and the venues received high marks from athletes and coaches. Catamount kept the momentum going by hosting the UVM Winter Carnival Slalom after it had been cancelled at Stowe. The Catamount hill proved to be a bit of a surprise for our friends from the north who did not expect such a cool and challenging hill.

Post season races were well attended, and many of our athletes had great results and a lot of fun. I was impressed by how well coaches from various TSASRA programs worked together to enhance our athletes' experience at post -season events.

This past season we attempted to adhere to US Ski & Snowboard open Championships guidance for U12-14's but the field size overwhelmed the host venue for the U14's, which capped the numbers at 150. Finding an area that is both suitable and willing to host U14 Championships is proving to be problematic.

Masters come to Tri-State Tri-State hosted a number of Masters races, including two SL's at Mt Southington, and a GS at Catamount for the first time in recent memory, which enticed me out of competitive retirement as I decided to enter the race. What a blast! Lots of fast skiing and fun hanging out with a bunch of really cool people. Big thanks to Carol and Jim Tomassetti for orchestrating this exuberant bunch!

## **COACHES EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

TSASRA did a great job continuing its ground-breaking work training and certifying coaches through our TSASRA Coaches Education and Development Committee, which worked closely with US Ski & Snowboard to put on a number of Level 100 Assessments, Course Setting Clinics, Coaches Education Clinics, Workshops, and Symposiums. We held several well attended TSASRA events throughout the season, including a remote Planning to Succeed with uber coach Mike Day, a Zoom Language Locker session, Fundamentals Development Clinic for the New Racer Zoom presentation, and Dig Deep with the popular and always inspirational Doug Lewis. Big thanks to Andy Lussier , who is doing a fantastic job chairing this this committee, and Jen Mahmood who is the brains behind the remote presentations. Thanks to Billy Whichter, who conducted four Level 100 On-snow Assessments, Rich Tingle, who conducted three On-Snow Assessments, and Tom Chase who did one. Unfortunately, many of our scheduled on-snow events were cancelled due to pervasive warm weather and low registration numbers for some clinics. We continue to have 4 US Ski & Snowboard Certified

Coach Developers in our region, two of whom are Coach Developer Trainers. We had a very successful year certifying our coaches! We conducted 9 Level 100 On-Snow Assessments in the region, certifying approximately 69 TSASRA coaches!!! We started a Level 100 for Juniors this year hoping to capture those moving on from the racing ranks into coaching. We also hosted 2 Course Setting clinics attended by about 20 successful attendees. Unfortunately, poor snow conditions forced us to cancel scheduled Level 200 Assessments.

John Higgins and Rich Hanbury conducted a staggering 12 Alpine Officials Clinics and exams during the course of the season and are expected to offer a full slate again this season.

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024/2025 SEASON**

**Racing.** Our Competition Committee is just starting to draft the race calendar for the upcoming season. As noted above, scheduling an open U14 Championships is problematic due to our large numbers and host mountain limitations.

Plans are to continue to host at least 4 FIS races in our region after last season's successful events. This should be a great opportunity for some of our more advanced athletes. Ideally, we will be able to weave mixed gender or women's races into the FIS mix. We are also exploring options to provide enhanced training and racing opportunities for athletes who want to compete in FIS races both within and outside of our region.

Some of the parents and coaches have expressed an interest in pooling resources to field a FIS team. This matter will require discussions with the Competition Committee, coaches, member clubs and mountain management/ownership.

**Long Term Athlete Development.** A big challenge facing our organization is how to improve our efforts to enhance the skill development of our athletes. The past few seasons have shown a few solid performances from our athletes at Eastern regional events, but to anyone who has been closely following the results of our athletes at such events over the years, it's clear that our athletes have been underperforming in recent years. We can either accept that that's just the way it is, or we can work harder to develop the fundamental skills that our athletes need to succeed. Enhancing coach development is a good start and the Coaches Ed and Dev Team continues to work hard on that front.

What more can we do? One of the keys to athlete development is simply more quality time on the snow, ideally under the watchful eyes of skilled coaches. As we all know, however, that can be expensive. The answer isn't always to go out to Mt. Hood, Colorado or Europe during the off-season. Jon Schaeffer from BEAST/Catamount is working with a number of highly experienced coaches to generate a blueprint for success that focuses on increasing the time that our athletes spend on the snow throughout the year. Options include athletes and coaches going up north to get on snow both before and after the competitive season. Jon is working with Killington/ KMS and other mountains to get substantially reduced tickets for TSASRA athletes. Other options are to put together training sessions at Big Snow in New Jersey - also at substantially reduced ticket rates – throughout the off-season. What we envision is a collaborative effort supported by clubs, coaches and program directors from throughout our organization. I have asked Mark Colman, the Competition Committee, Andy Lussier, and other interested coaches to join in this project. We would welcome the help of other coaches.

**Bnet.** As a 501(c) (3), TSASRA has a fiduciary duty to protect the assets of our organization, including Bnet.

The BOD spent a lot of time this season trying to resolve a long-outstanding issue with one of our member clubs involving Bnet that was destroyed while in the possession of the club. I am happy to report that this issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Board, and an agreement is in place that provides for scheduled payments of the replacement cost of the net.

In the past TSASRA had no written agreement or guidelines for the rental of Bnet to our member clubs and other organizations. The BOD remedied that deficiency by drafting a written lease that all race organizations and mountain managements must sign prior to renting or borrowing Bnet from TSASRA.

Bnet Storage: The cargo container that was formerly located at Blandford to hold TSASRA Bnet has been relocated to Catamount. A big THANK YOU to Mark Colman and Laura Sullivan for making this happen.

**Coaches Education and Development.** The 2024-2025 season will see the implementation of the US Ski & Snowboard mandate requiring all coaches attending races to hold a minimum certification of Level 100. Additionally, word out of Park City is that US Ski & Snowboard is completely revamping its certification process, and on-line Sport Education portal, which will now be known as the Sport Education Academy. The new system will have 3 levels, Bronze (free), Silver (\$50 annually), and Gold (\$100 annually), with varying levels of resources and services. Upgrading to Gold will be required for Coach Certification. The certification procedure will closely follow the PSIA model, with nine on-line modules that must be completed, and successful attendance at an On-Snow Assessment where the Examiner/Coach Developers will assess the candidates' movement analysis, teaching ability and skiing ability. Heavy emphasis will be placed on program directors working with their staffs to prepare them for the On-Snow Assessments. US Ski & Snowboard will be encouraging the state divisions to follow the TSASRA model of having an education committee consisting of experienced coaches to assist in preparing coaches for the On-Snow Assessments. The TSASRA coaches Education and Development Committee remains committed to providing training opportunities for our member coaches through our Clinics and Workshops. The new US Ski & Snowboard procedures are currently being worked out, and additional information should be available in the coming weeks and into the 2024-'25 season. More information is available here [4/1 Email & Forum Post - Google Docs](#) and here [FAQ - U.S. Ski & Snowboard Sport Education - Google Docs](#)

Our Coaches Education and Development Committee is already hard at work setting up Tri-State Workshops and US Ski & Snowboard clinics and On-Snow Assessments which will be posted on the Tri-State and US Ski & Snowboard websites at a later date.

**Certifying new Level 100 coaches is critical for complying with US Ski & Snowboard mandates for the 2024-25 season remains a top priority.** Our goal is to increase the knowledge base and enhance the professionalism of our member coaches. We did a really good job this past season certifying approximately 69 new Level 100's and 20 course setters and hope to keep the momentum going in 2025 as we strive for 100% compliance. The Coaches Ed and Dev Committee will continue to offer clinics spread throughout our region during the week, on weekends, during the day, and at night. We are again suggesting that Program Directors take ownership of this task by pushing their coaches to get certified. TSASRA coaches are urged to be prepared by doing the on-line requirements this summer and fall and attending early season clinics which we plan to offer.

Other goals include increasing the number of Level 200 and Level 300 coaches in our region.

## SUMMARY

All in all, it was another great season for TSASRA members. We accomplished much but are mindful that there is still a lot more to do. I am grateful for the efforts of everyone who is working so hard to pull it all off for the benefit of our members.

Thank you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Diamond - TSASRA President

## **Treasurer's Report**

**TRI STATE SKI RACING ASSOCIATION**

Income Statement

**9/29/2023-06/01/2024**

**Revenues**

USSA Trade AP	\$ 42,644.29
Other Income	\$ 2,403.07
Admin Internet	\$ 59,895.16
Interest Income	\$ 12.88
	<u>\$104,955.24</u>

**Expenses**

Admin Fees (Laura)	\$13,600.00
AuthNet	\$ 120.00
Postage	\$ 0.00
Gifts	\$ 31.86
Meetings (ESS)	\$ 495.00
Office Supplies	\$ 212.50
Insurance	\$ 1,495.00
Equipment	\$ 0.00
Refunds	\$ 80.00
Trophies	\$ 689.41
Banquets CCP	\$ 9,272.60
Doug Hall	\$ 770.45
B-net	\$22,530.00
Network Solutions	\$ 15.92
Black Peak Alpine Sale	\$ 7,745.00
Misc. WPI Pizza	\$ 269.90
Homologation CAT	\$ 1,500.00
Coaches Education	\$ 1,525.72
Goldern Pear	\$ 4.07
Zoom	\$ 339.79
Hampshire Towing	\$ 1,269.75
Mt Southington	\$10,725.00
Sync/Reliable Racing	\$ 4,465.04
Butternut U12 Champs	\$10,075.00

**Total Expenses** **\$87,232.01**

**Net Income/Loss** **\$17,723.23**

**Notes From Last Report:**

**\*\*Current Checking account balance as of 06/01/2024 \$184,123.07**

Checking account balance as of 09/29/2023 \$166,399.84

**TRI STATE RACING ASSOCIATION**  
Statement of Financial Condition  
Ending **06/01/2024**

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash	\$184,123.07
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$ 2,218.00</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>
 <b>Property &amp; Equipment</b>	
B-Net	\$99,075.00 *
Office Equip. & Supplies	\$ 1,620.00 *
Coaches Jackets	\$ 3,162.00 **
 <b>Total Assets</b>	
	<b>\$290,198.07</b>
 <b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	<u>\$1,468.00</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities &amp; Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,468.00</b>
 <b>Organization Equity</b>	 <b>\$288,730.07</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Member Equity</b>	<b>\$290,198.07</b>

\*Office equip & Bnet depreciated by 10% each year

\*\*Jacket inventory depreciated by 20% (2 Seasons use)

\$1,468 accounts payable reimbursement to Admin Sport (Head Tax)

Accounts receivable \$2,218 head tax owed tristate by Various Venues



# Competition Chair Report

## TSASRA 2024 Spring Membership Meeting Competition Committee Report

### **2024 Season Review**

The schedule had 42 sanctioned races, which was a heavy load for host venues and officials. Many races were rescheduled, as warm early season weather was then followed by weekend storms, creating an even worse problem than the past two years. Race entry fees were increased to \$80 scored and \$65 non-scored. We ran out of time to organize an official speed training day. We organized Diel team jackets for those going to post-season, with a \$100 subsidy partially covered by entry fees for U14 championships.

### **U18+**

The season started with the traditional New Year's Eve Schaefer Cup at Berkshire East, and finished there with an Open SL race. Eastern Finals moved back to Gore, with over 50 kids participating. Notable results: Women – SL: Winner (Mullen), podium sweep and 6 in top 10; GS: Winner (Mullen) and 4 in top 10 // Men – SL: 4 in top 10; GS: 2 in top 10.

### **U16**

Eastern Championships and Finals qualification (12 and 23 quota spots, respectively) was based on the best 2 of the 6 possible race results (with one each of SL and GS). The Championships weekend doubleheader was reconfigured to avoid a conflict with Eastern High School Champs, and all races counted the same. Results were stronger at Eastern Finals than Championships.

### **Youth**

Despite the Eastern rule on open youth selection events, the Tri-State U14 Championships at Jiminy was limited to a field of 150, down from 191 last season. The selection criteria to the U14 Eastern Championships (16 quota) used the best single run or result from each of the SL and GS events, in an attempt to encourage more well-rounded skiers and reward aggressive effort. There were a few outlier results, but this system seems fair. The U12 and U14 age groups in MA were combined for 3 races, resulting in fields of 225+. CYSL separated U10s from U12/14s. At the last minute, Berkshire East hosted the U14 Eastern Finals in late March. Notable Eastern results: Women – SL 12th and Can-Ams (Morlock) // Men – SL 27th (Maljanian)

### **Interclub**

Nearly 400 kids participated in the program, and the system of 3 regular races per team seemed to work. Field sizes ranged from 125-160, and even 4 run dual races were completed efficiently. The Catamount and Butternut programs were kept apart again given their numbers. A Finals event was added at Jiminy, which returned to this league.

### **FIS/College**

In addition to the Williams Carnival at Jiminy, Berkshire East hosted a men's GS Devo series, and Catamount hosted a SL Devo series, along with the UVM NCAA Qualifier makeup SL race. The division's quota spots for FIS races were used for many races, with 5 men and 6 women competing. The low-point reimbursement program was barely used, and USCSA participation is still negligible.

TRI-STATE RACE CALENDAR

DRAFT 6/1						
Dates 2024/25		Interclub	Connecticut	Massachusetts	Tri-State	Tri-State
			U10/12/14	U12/14	U16	U18+
31-Dec	TUES					Berkshire East SL (1)
1-Jan	WED	New Years	New Years	New Years	New Years	New Years
4-Jan	SAT					
5-Jan	SUN			Bousquet U12/14 GS		Berkshire East GS (2)
11-Jan	SAT			Catamount U14 SL	Berkshire East GS (1)	
12-Jan	SUN		Mohawk U12/14 GS	Butternut U12 GS		
18-Jan	SAT				MTSO SL (2)	
19-Jan	SUN					
20-Jan	MON	MLK Day	MLK Day	MLK Day	MLK Day	MLK Day
25-Jan	SAT		MTSO U10 Stubbie SL (3 runs)	Bousquet U14 SL		CAT GS (3)
26-Jan	SUN	Butternut GS (BNUT, BSQ, BE, JP) / Mohawk GS (MOH, CAT, OTIS)	MTSO U12/14 SL	Wachusett U12 SL [EM U10]	Cat GS (3)	Bousquet SL (4)
1-Feb	SAT		Thunder Ridge U10 SL (3 runs)	Jiminy Peak U14 GS		
2-Feb	SUN		Thunder Ridge U12/14 SL		Jiminy SL (4)	
4-Feb	TUE					
5-Feb	WED					
6-Feb	THU					
7-Feb	FRI					
8-Feb	SAT		Sundown U12/14 GS	Butternut U12/14 Par		Jiminy SL (5)
9-Feb	SUN	Bousquet GS (BSQ, BNUT, OTIS) / Catamount GS (CAT, BE, JP, MOH)	Sundown U10 GS (3 runs)			Jiminy GS (6)
15-Feb	SAT					
16-Feb	SUN		[Powder Ridge U10 GS (3 runs)]			
17-Feb	MON	President's Day	President's Day	President's Day	President's Day	President's Day
22-Feb	SAT			Speed Elements Training - TBD		
23-Feb	SUN	Otis Stubbie SL (OTIS, BNUT, MOH)	MTSO U12/14 Parallel/Skills	Speed/Skills?	Bousquet SL (5)	
1-Mar	SAT			U14 Champs - Berkshire East GS	Jiminy Peak GS (6)	
2-Mar	SUN	Jiminy Stubbie SL (JP, BE, BSQ, CAT)		U14 Champs - Berkshire East SL		Sundown SL (7)
8-Mar	SAT			U10 Festival - MOH GS / U12 Finals - MTSO SL		Berkshire East Open SL
9-Mar	SUN	Berkshire East P (all clubs, all ages)		U12 Finals - MOH GS		

	<u>Race</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>U18+</u>	<u>U16</u>	<u>%U18+</u>	<u>% U16</u>	<u>U14</u>	<u>%U14</u>
BE SL M		108	64	44	59%	41%		
BE SL W		82	47	35	57%	43%		
<b>Total</b>		<b>190</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>42%</b>		
CAT SL M		88	57	31	65%	35%		
CAT SL W		74	57	17	77%	23%		
<b>Total</b>		<b>162</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>30%</b>		
JP SL M		96	61	35	64%	36%		
JP SL W		79	56	23	71%	29%		
<b>Total</b>		<b>175</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>33%</b>		
JP GS M		110	68	42	62%	38%		
JP GS W		88	54	34	61%	39%		
<b>Total</b>		<b>198</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>38%</b>		
SUN M		73	59	14	81%	19%		
SUN W		66	54	12	82%	18%		
<b>Total</b>		<b>139</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>19%</b>		
BE GS M		109	62	47	57%	43%		
BE GS W		89	45	44	51%	49%		
<b>Total</b>		<b>198</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b>		
BSQ M		64	49	15	77%	23%		
BSQ W		57	55	2	96%	4%		
<b>Total</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>		
BE Open SL M		68	18	33	26%	49%	17	25%
BE Open SL W		61	14	28	23%	46%	19	31%
<b>Total</b>		<b>129</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Average M (ex. BE Open)</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>34%</b>		
<b>Average W (ex. BE Open)</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>29%</b>		
<b>Average Total (ex. BE Open)</b>		<b>169</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>32%</b>		
<b>Average Total (incl. BE Open)</b>		<b>164</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>34%</b>		

## **Subdivision Chair Report**

**Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association (TSASRA)**  
**General Meeting - Spring**  
**June 5, 2024**

**Connecticut Subdivision Chair Report**

**Submitted: May 31, 2024**

The Connecticut Youth Ski League, Inc. (“CYSL”), acting as TSASRA’s Connecticut subdivision for the U10, U12, and U14 age classes, consists of five (5) United States Ski & Snowboard member clubs: Mohawk Mountain, Mount Southington, Powder Ridge, Ski Sundown, and Thunder Ridge. The CYSL Spring Board of Directors meeting will be held in May 2024, date TBD.

In October 2023, the CYSL Board of Directors approved a preliminary 2024 Competition Schedule. Interesting fact, the 2024 winter weather was 5<sup>th</sup> warmest and the wettest on record in Connecticut, however, the race schedule was completed with no postponements. This year, CYSL brought back the Parallel/SkillsQuest event for U12/U14s.

CYSL continues to race U10s separately in their own events which allows for more challenging U12/U14 course sets. CYSL is committed to cultivating coaches into officials and course setters. Once again, our mountains were very supportive of ski racing and the partnership continues to benefit our athletes’ development. CYSL hosted the U12 Tri-State Finals SL and Mt. Southington pulled off a miracle by getting the race in.

**Final Connecticut 2024 Competition Schedule**

Host	Event	Date	Age Classes
Mohawk	GS	January 7 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Mt. Southington	SL	January 13 (Sat.)	U16
Mt. Southington	Stubbie SL	January 21 (Sun.)	U10
Mt. Southington	SL	January 21 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Powder Ridge	GS (was 3, cut to 2 runs)	January 28 (Sun.)	U10
Thunder Ridge	SL	February 3 (Sat.)	U10
Thunder Ridge	SL	February 4 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Sundown	SL	February 10 (Sat.)	U18
Sundown	GS	February 11 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Mt. Southington	GS (3 runs)	February 18 (Sun.)	U10
Mt. Southington	Parallel/SkillsQuest	February 25 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Sundown	SL	March 3 (Sun.)	U16
Mohawk	U10 Festival	March 9 (Sat.)	U10
Mt. Southington	TSASRA SL Champs	March 10 (Sun.)	U12

Faithfully submitted,



Chip Semplicio  
Connecticut Subdivision Chair

**Vice President  
Coached Education/Development Report**



## **TSASRA Vice-President/ TSASRA Education & Development Committee Report**

The TSASRA Education & Development Committee maintained our commitment to provide training, continuing education, and certification opportunities for coaches in the Tri-State region. Our goal continues to be to keep TSASRA at the forefront of coach education and development. This season it became clear that the hard work and diligence of this committee is paying dividends with our Tri-State coaches' community. In the 2023/2024 season, 341 coaches attend workshops, on-snow assessments, and virtual clinics. This is a 460% increase over the 2022/2023 season where 61 coaches attended events.

The TSASRA Education & Development Committee created an extensive schedule of events to offer to the Tri-State coaching community for the 2023/2024 season with no less than 20 opportunities for certification and continuing education.

### **Workshop Series**

12/02/23	Berkshire East
12/03/23	Berkshire East

### **Level100**

12/03/2023	Berkshire East
12/15/2023	Jiminy Peak
01/08/2024	Mount Southington
01/26/2024	Wachusett
02/02/2024	Catamount
02/13/2024	Butternut
03/04/2024	Wachusett
03/15/2024	Mohawk

### **Level100 (Juniors Only – 18 & younger)**

12/26/2023	Berkshire East
12/28/2023	Berkshire East

### **Level200**

03/06-08/2024	Catamount
03/18-20/2024	Butternut

### **Course Setting**

01/09/2024	Ski Sundown
01/19/2024	Catamount
03/04/2024	Wachusett



### **Virtual Workshop Series**

- 12/12/2023 Planning to Succeed (with former US Ski Team Coach Mike Day)
- 12/19/2023 Foundational Development for the New Racer
- 01/02/2024 Language Locker
- 01/09/2024 Dig Deep (with former Olympian Doug Lewis)

### **SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

Despite battling the challenging southern New England weather, a total of 66 coaches attended Level100 on-snow assessments, 10 coaches attended the on-snow Pre-Season Workshop, and 30 coaches attended the Course Setting clinics. This is a 41% increase over the 2022/2023 season. While we had a few on-snow events cancelled due to weather and snow coverage including Level200, attendance was still strong, and the Coaches Education Committee is excited about this continued growth. A big thanks to our Coach Developer team of Bruce Diamond, Rich Tingle, Tom Chase and Bill Whitcher for running these great events throughout the season. Tri-State is fortunate to have this passionate team of individuals as a valued resource within our footprint.

One of our highlights of the season was the overwhelming success of our Virtual Clinic Series and was extremely well supported by the Tri-State coaching community. We had 202 coaches attend virtual clinics live with 235 coaches viewing the recordings of these events. The committee worked to offer new and unique content with our virtual clinic series partnering with both Mike Day and Doug Lewis to provide coaches with lots of great considerations for working with their athletes. A special thanks goes out to Jen Mahmood for coordinating these two highly attended virtual workshops. Jen is also instrumental in setting up the infrastructure for our virtual clinic offering and a valued member of this committee.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Live</b>	<b>Viewed</b>	<b>Recording</b>
Planning to Succeed (with former US Ski Team Coach Mike Day)	68	79	
Foundational Development for the New Racer		40	49
Language Locker		32	35
Dig Deep (with former Olympian Doug Lewis)		62	71

### **WHAT'S TO COME...**

We will be seeing some significant, yet positive, changes coming from U.S. Ski & Snowboard with respect to certifications and coach development. US Ski & Snowboard is currently rolling out the updated certification process and on-line Sport Education portal. The new Sport Education Academy will offer 3 levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) with varying levels of resources available based on the membership. Each level will come at a different cost (Bronze - free, Silver - \$50, Gold - \$100) and a coach will be required to have

a gold level membership for going through Coach Certification.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard and PSIA have further converged, and now the certification process will be similar to the current PSIA model. As in the past a candidate will still be required to complete on-line coursework as well as the traditional on-snow assessment with the difference being the Examiner/Coach Developers will assess the coach's skiing ability, movement analysis capability, and teaching ability based on the level of certification. What this means is that mountain programs/program directors will have responsibility for training and preparing coaches for certification in addition to what the TSASRA Education & Development Committee offers for training and workshops. Information is still being rolled out and details are still being finalized. We expect to have the final program outlining these changes in the next few weeks and will proactively push correspondence to programs and program directors at that time. Remember, just because it's different it doesn't mean it's bad...

The TSASRA Education & Development Committee is currently working on training and education opportunities that will be offered for the 2024/2025 season to support and prepare coaches for success with the new certification process. The committee will continue to offer training and certification events across the Tri-State footprint to reduce the expense on coaches and programs. It is critical to athlete development in our region that we promote and encourage our coaches to keep building out their coaching skill sets. We continue to work with Bill Whitcher and USSS to offer a cross section of events throughout the region that strengthens our coaches' abilities. **We urge all Tri-State coaches seeking certification to be prepared by doing the on-line requirements over the summer/fall months.**

We all knew this was coming... A minimum certification of Level100 will be required for a coach to enter a race arena for the 2024/2025 season.

### **GOING FORWARD**

We need to stay focused on athlete development through the continued education and development of our coaching community. As a region, we need to create opportunities for increasing time on snow for our athletes and coaches through partnerships with northern mountains and programs that have extended seasons as compared to Tri-State. We need to invest in programs and projects that help to build a higher caliber pipeline of athletes. This applies to the coaching community too.

One of the main goals of the TSASRA Education & Development Committee is to increase the Pre-Season Workshop attendance, making it a pinnacle training and continuing education event to kick off the season for the Tri-State region.

Thanks to all who have supported the TSASRA Education & Development Committee and

our efforts this season. We're looking ahead to a productive 2024/2025 Season.

Andy Lussier

TSASRA Vice President/Coaches Education and Development Chair

### **Development Strategy for Tri-State and Tri-State Mountains:**

**Premise:** I have grown up being part of all aspects of ski area management. I also grew up a ski racer who never left Tri-State but competed in multiple US Nationals, Nor Ams, and other high-level competitions. After racing at Middlebury, I coached at GMVS and then the Middlebury Ski Team. Moving back to Berkshire East I have carried being part of the sport, from a distance, but have gotten back involved more heavily as the father of two young Tri-State racers.

As a dad who wants to see his kids 'do well' and is somewhat well versed in the development aspects of the sport, and with my unique access to mountains, the business of ski area operations, and many different race programs, I believe I see the proficiencies and deficiencies of our Tri-State programs well and am in a position to help optimize our grassroots programs without sacrificing who we are as a region.

I am convinced that a straightforward plan can be implemented to optimize our development pipeline in the next five years. This plan will support young racer skill development, increase athlete retention rates, and manage costs—all by leveraging a handful of resources we currently have.

There is plenty of ammo out there to tell you that ski racing is overpriced out of touch, and the centralized out-of-region leadership doesn't know what they are doing. The result is that only a handful of wealthy or extremely committed families are finding success. Beyond those semi-successful athletes at the top of the sport, there is a declining middle and lower class of athletes exiting the sport to free-skiing or high school-level competition in higher or higher numbers.

That's the narrative, and it is true from a particular perspective. Usually, the person who has that opinion doesn't see the huge Interclub fields or the packed high school races where hundreds of kids and parents gather around to enjoy some racing under the lights.

That being said, Tri-State has fallen off in many ways. The sport is different. The coaches of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s were taught the fundamentals of the sport differently than they are today. Bill Farrell, Paul and Steve Putnam, Mr. Schmidinger, and many others were highly trained ski instructors who moved into ski racing. Their instructors were European athletes who instilled a culture of development that is still beat into my head.

Unfortunately, we are now looking to train coaches on a day of free skiing.

I believe that Tri-State as a region can evolve to provide regional families and athletes with better competitive opportunities without sacrificing the spirit of Tri-State or without committing families to an expensive, multinational training program. We just need to acknowledge our deficiencies, choose attainable goals, be creative in achieving those goals, and give up the pursuit of 'perfection' in training and skiing while acting in the kids' best interests.

There is a prescription for success in ski racing: Early access, time on task, good-simple coaching, and a continued push towards great technique... ***gates are not required.***

A child's first exposure to the sport should give them

- A love of skiing that comes from being part of a hard-working team of coaches and young athletes
- Managed technical free skiing development by knowledgeable coaches
- A love of great fitness and health
- A spirit of hard work and team camaraderie in the pursuit of the ultimate individual goal
- Enough time on task to not lose ground against more elite programs

Additionally, I firmly believe that

- Success breeds success and is infectious
- A successful development program will attract more young racers and families
  - This means more athletes will stick with the sport to the U18 or college level. Deeper and more competitive fields will benefit all
- “Perfection is the enemy of the good,” and Tri-state needs to look at the resources available to us and just hit the easy button... we are surrounded by resources that can help us extend the ski season at low costs

### **Nationally, the problem can be defined as the following:**

50% of the number of athletes ranked in the top 300 in the world today, as there were in the year 2000. That drop is not necessarily a “Tri-State” issue but indicates a drop-off at the transition between the grassroots and regional talent growth. Building competitiveness in Tri-State while keeping our soul will only help to improve the regional development pipeline.

Tri-State is where many New England-based skiers get their first taste of snow, even if heading quickly north. It is our urban ‘kiddy pool’ where many great racers get their start. Getting those families exposed to the best early development opportunities (competent coaching, easy access, and other easy-to-deliver development strategies) will help grow youth ski racing and retain those kids into young teenagers. However, if we don’t get more organized and share the resources available to us, kids may continue to drop out of USSA for high school or other sports opportunities.

### **Is this a Tri-State Battle? *Think Global Act Local***

Grassroots race development is the historical heart of the sport, and far, far more great athletes have come from this path. As a region, we are responsible for acting in the kids’ best interests,

and since some of the potential fixes are so easy, why wouldn't we reach a consensus and implement best practices immediately?

### **What are some regional issues, and how did we get here?**

We all know that a handful of elite programs in northern New England compete hard for a relatively small number of elite athletes or wealthy families with the disposable income to commit time, wealth, and energy towards chasing ski racing opportunities around the country and planet.

These programs constitute the 'upper' class and are managed by a revolving door of coaches and former athletes who bounce from program to program. They also accumulate knowledge and athletes into small cohesive teams that don't share with smaller programs.

### ***In other words, they take and don't give***

These programs tend to dominate in the following areas;

- Acquisition of athletic talent. They do a great job of creating a competitive environment where kids can succeed
- Acquisition and replacement of coaching talent. They are constantly on the lookout for great coaches, and since it is their business model, they will pay for those coaches
- Dedicated race facilities to host premier races, with an increasing budget to manage their mountain operations
- Focus and ability to organize year-round training programs, acquire skis and equipment, and optimize equipment for athletic performance and more
- Run highly competitive and professional off-season programs that create a culture of mental and physical preparation and teach speed, fitness, and competitiveness.

In Tri-State and similar regions, there are a series of mountain-run clubs or non-profit clubs that are organized with various degrees of professionalism and seriousness regarding the following categories;

- Coaching athletes
- Organizing and hosting races
- Providing race training
- Access to the equipment
- Access to safety equipment
- Have adequate access to race-specific equipment (gates, timing setups, etc)
- Summer/offseason camps
- Dryland training and instilling a motivation to compete at various levels

These programs depend highly on the resort operator for training and race access. The pedigree or ability level of the 'volunteer' coaches and the capacity of the program and the

resort usually will dictate the success level of the young athlete. Unfortunately, much of the region is losing its connection to the sport of skiing. Many of the founders of the mountains were ex-racers, and as we move a generation or two away from those founders, we lose the tradition of ski racing at each hill, and you can see those historical programs fading away.

### **Low Hanging Fruit:**

Small clubs excel at bringing young families together in a competitive ski environment but generally lack coaches' education, funding, off-season opportunities, fitness programs, and other cohesive strategies for pulling together a regional-wide development system.

USSA can rank clubs by whatever color scheme it wants, but at the end of the day, there are tried-and-true fundamental coaching techniques that all coaches and racers must learn. There has been a tremendous push in coach development in Tri-State, but we need to double and triple down on it, even if it means going off the USSA coaching track and pipeline.

Additionally, young skiers need to be able to ski, have the right equipment, and have a clear line of sight for good training and coaching.

I believe that we can become organized in Tri-State and pull in volunteers such as Willy Booker (BMA), Igor Vanovac (MMSA), Dianne Roffe (BMA), Jimmy Cochrane (Cochrane's), Doug Lewis and more (all of whom I have spoken with) who can help advise and devise a plan that works for our mountains and region and can begin to effect our performance immediately.

### **The areas of focus are:**

**Coaches Education**  
**Athlete Training Access**  
**Equipment Optimization**  
**Pooled Resources**

## **Coaches Education: The Need**

How many superlatives are there about a 'great coach'? Unfortunately, skiing is very technical, and coaching techniques are based on the coach's ability to communicate effectively and simply to a child, correct the child as the child is learning the technique, and demonstrate that technique to a group.

Tri-State has done a great job expanding its coach's education, mainly along the USSA coaching program.

Step 1 is creating a parallel track of coaches' mentorship at Tri-State.

## **Coaches Mentorship Program:**

Multiple times yearly, experienced coaches, former athletes, and PG racers from northern programs should be embedded inside Tri-State programs. I can ski on a Tuesday at Burke and see more former racers of note than I can in winter in Tri-State. The collective wisdom of these programs needs to be transferred south - its in our best interests.

We need to reverse this trend and bring that know-how back to where the kids are.

Tri-State has easy access to multiple former Olympians, great coaches, and current PG racers looking for training. *(I have spoken to many folks who would participate)*

Ideally, a region or a program would host a coach for several days (the coaching fee would be split between USSA, club, and region), and the coach would be asked to bring a short curriculum (their top 10) of drills and advice and teach it to their host program.

Their time on the hill would be focused on a robust but simple information exchange, a modest amount of drills, analysis, risk management, comportment, work ethic, and good old-fashioned storytelling to guide and inspire the program.

While onsite, the mentor coach would ski with kids, coaches, and parents alike and be a touchpoint to a more fantastic world of ski racing.

This time would be invaluable for the Tri-State programs. Mentorship can take many forms, and this would bolster the excellent work of the current Tri-State program. We would also start to build credibility for our programs and region.



**Written Training Guide:** Small programs lack drills and training plans, and daily training is often ad hoc. Very few guides detail a development curriculum that a coach can follow. In fact, I have only seen one.

We must figure out how to produce simple, printable material that goes into every athlete's and coach's home and talks about children-oriented, simple, tried-and-true ski racing techniques.

Kids should be able to learn about the rise line at home and then see it on the hill. They should know about rolling the ankles into a turn and hear it from their coach on the hill. We need to get everyone on the same, simple vernacular and teach to it.

Developing a simple program of drills and techniques can be simple, effective, and easily promoted within the region. It does not have to be perfect, and its imperfections can be optimized over time.

There are multiple ways to do this:

- 1) We send a Google form ([I built this in 5 minutes](#)) to a list of coaches, Olympians, former racers, academies, etc., and ask them for their top 10 drills with descriptions. We ask them to define specific terms (rise line, fall line, etc.). We work with Tri-State coaches and academy directors to pick the best answers in a shareable Google Doc that **everyone** can print at home. *(This may already exist, but if I don't know about it, that's the point...).* I know that there is nothing designed for my 8-year-old or 11-year-old daughters to see, read, or watch that is easy, in their hands, and ready to go.
- 2) We promote good online content to each racer and their family. Eric Schlopy and Doug Lewis did great video work on the Skills Quest.
- 3) We encourage open discussions about these techniques and training ideas amongst ourselves and our programs

Simplicity is bliss, but we need to develop content that can go out into the athletes and coaches hands.

Kids can read and understand concepts. We need to get these products in their hands, but it's not just about the kids. Maybe, as importantly, this would be a helpful tool for young or new coaches who often need help remembering how to display their solid technique and coach the next generation of American ski racers.

## **Athlete Training Access and Time on Task**

On the surface, there are many challenges facing kids training in Tri-state;

- In many instances, they live in urban areas away from the 'premier' ski racing resorts and clubs—NYC kids who ski on the weekends...
- Midweek training (if they get it) is managed by volunteer high school coaches
- Their school may have a ski club program, but it is unsupervised skiing with friends and coaches
- The mountains aren't big...
- Other... I don't need to list them all...

That being said, every one of those 'challenges' can be seen as a benefit

- Urban areas are generally surrounded by multiple mountains, and kids have numerous places to access by many different means (friends, family, school programs, high school racing, etc)
- Urban areas have night skiing
- There are often training opportunities going on at those mountains many days per week
- Other... I don't need to list them all...

Our challenge is to think creatively to allow kids to get as much time on task as possible.

Before Piche's, I took my daughter to Burke to ski for a few days. While there I was talking to Dianne Roffe, who told me that they targeted 100 days of skiing per year, but that those kids my daughter's age were on 133 days of skiing. I admit, even I felt a little overwhelmed - and I run ski areas....

Then I did the math.

Taking last winter's calendar, if a child skis four days a week between December 15 and March 15, as well as their holiday allotment, they can ski for nearly 70 days. Adding time beyond those days gets harder, but is doable with access to New England / east coast based resorts.

Two Tri-State resorts were open until the first week of April, and many were open in November.

Many New England resorts were open by Thanksgiving.

Many of the Vail and Ikon properties closed on 4/21, and Jay Peak, Sugarloaf, and Killington remain open.

So now we have an access problem. Every resort operator (many of the ones above) I have spoken to is willing to provide discounted skiing (~\$40) to young Tri-State racers in the pre and post season. We just need to get our numbers organized and present a coherent plan.

I believe the motivated Tri-State families can be presented with discounted skiing deals that boost the annual ski days another 10 before December 15 and 10 post-March 15 without too much cost or difficulty. The trick is to coordinate that time on the snow with basic technical free-skiing coaching.

### **Mid-Week Coaching and Skiing Opportunities**

On a different track, most Tri-State kids probably live within an hour of a resort that has night skiing. Unfortunately, many kids may not consider that their 'home' mountain. So, we are left with the following challenges.

- Getting kids on snow close to their home
- Working with mountains to get Tri-State racers on snow and providing them a value proposition to support discounted access to non-pass-holding athletes
- Providing training (technical free skiing) that is not too invasive for the host mountain - they won't want to give access. Still, the truth is, most young Tri-State racers could use time on a bunny slope working on specific drills rather than skiing another slalom...
- Coordinating this effort with former great racers or coaches who attend more extensive weekend programs out of the region and integrating their knowledge base into our effort - i.e. NH or VT racers that live in Boston.
  - *I know of a particular ex US Ski Team members who live close to Blue Hills but whose children race at Stowe. How do we encourage him to host a night at Blue Hills? The answer is 1) he would - no one has asked, and 2) we need to work with Blue Hills on a cost, a technical free skiing space and just get to work on solving this issue... There are multiple people we are not asking who could be motivated to participate in this effort; it just needs to be coordinated*

Combining these midweek time slots with a competent youth coaching plan will have a real impact over a five-year period. The issue for Tri-State coaches is that they are volunteers by nature and work full-time jobs elsewhere. There are only a handful of full-time coaches in Tri-State, and they are outside of urban areas.

So again, we just need to identify and work around the problem.

### **A Boundaryless Tri-State Team**

This may be more challenging, but we must think about creating a more boundaryless Tri-State team and training opportunities. We have to do this in a way where there aren't 'freeloading' resorts. I invest heavily in ski racing, but other resorts with lesser programs charge more. There needs to be equality in these exchange programs, and I am certainly willing to discuss the best ways to do this while working in the best interests of the kids and programs. I think this would happen most realistically during non-peak training times.

In summary, getting quality high-volume technical training focused on miniature drill courses and disciplined technical free skiing will be far more productive than anything else. We need to coordinate this time with in-region and out-of-region resorts. Tri-State's value proposition is the volume of athletes and delivering those families and athletes to the host resort at the right time and place.

A mid-winter weekend Saturday at 10 am is not ideal.

We also need to leverage the in-region opportunities to our fullest potential. While the big programs are spending days in May in Europe, why can't we negotiate discounts at Killington and work on skiing Superstar in the bumps? I could argue it is better training...

We can negotiate discounted relationships with the resorts who are looking to attract the types of families that we would deliver them. They've already committed; we just need to formalize the request through Tri-State.

We also need a plan to optimize midweek training, maybe along the lines of scheduled midweek night Tri-State team coaching clinics at multiple mountains around Tri-State. These could be manned by current Tri-State coaches or by a parent - coach - ex-racer - ex-coach volunteers who live in region.

### **Summer Skiing**

By my rough math, a week at Mount Hood costs at least \$500 a day plus flights. Conversely, Big Snow is hungry to work with Tri-State to develop a connection with our athletes. Most of the academies do some form of indoor training each year. MMSC trains for 16 days at Big Snow each summer. If it works for Igor and Stowe, why aren't we maximizing our relationship with that facility?

A two-hour block at Big Snow costs \$3000 (before their offered discounts) or \$60 a head for fifty kids.

Is Big Snow ideal? No. Is it in region low-cost spring, summer, and fall skiing within easy driving distance of many of our athletes? Yes.

*I have already made contact with Big Snow on this concept.*

### **Time on Task**

As a Tri-State coach and athlete, you don't need an abacus to count your way to 100 days of skiing in and around New England at much lower prices than the sport currently advertises. We can also use that time more efficiently if our curriculum is in order, our coaches are better trained, and we draw from a larger resource pool of coaches and mentors.

## **Equipment Setup**

Many kids I see, especially at Berkshire and Catamount (I see them more) need proper canting, tuning, ski sizes, etc. Parents are mostly left on their own to figure this out. At each mountain and regionally, there is so much low-hanging fruit here.

## **Shops**

Most families just go down the road to the nearest shop. 99% of the time that shop has no clue about proper race setup, let alone boot work. Look if its hard for me, its hard for the average parent.

We need to direct families to a list of 'competent' shops (vetted by expert skiers, not low-level coaches who might be getting kickbacks). The manufacturers would also manage this program.

Rossignol, Nordica, and Head are ready to run, ready to run sizing and setup nights. These should be scheduled in the fall at regular intervals and various mountains close to where the athletes live. Turn shape, flex, etc, are all components of the sport, and tri-state coaches should be encouraged to attend and review the race documentation given by each company.

Some of us are doing this, but the opportunity needs to be democratized. This advice should extend to the used equipment market.

On the risk management side, we need to emphasize the binding indemnification certification for each coach who may be placed in a scenario where they have to adjust an athlete's bindings at a start. If the coach was not certified, they (and their resort employer) will be liable for the adjustment.

## **Boots**

Bootwork is critical. Again we need to provide our families with a list of bootfitters qualified to get kids to a solid, neutral position in the right boot to be successful.

Ray Rice at Killington Surefoot is excellent. PJ is great. Surefoot will run volume discounts for the kids we send them. We should find other options.

## **Other?**

My ideas are just my ideas.

We have a functioning organization, but the haves and have-nots are clearly defined. What I am proposing is a handful of strategies that provide better best practices to more and more of our constituents while building the knowledge base of the region.

I would ask that Tri-State vet this document for the best of what it and I can offer and then propose ways to make this part of the official program. Maybe you have your own ideas? That's great too.

I do know that the status quo is not our best. If we organize around acting in the best interests of the kids and getting the right people in the room to figure out an action plan we can do a much better job.

## **General Thoughts and Questions:**

What are reasonable expectations for an athlete in Tri-State? Can we develop kids through the U14 level? U16?

Can Tri-state be competitive at the top levels of the sport? Should that be our goal? Personally, my goal is to carry 20% more athletes through to the next level and to provide a structure where a young athlete can make U16 Nationals out of Tri-State?

What is the value proposition we are giving our athletes and families? What off ramps are there from the sport?

What is success? If its an Olympic bid, most people will be unhappy. If its a lifelong successful skier, who can hold their own on every mountain they step on?

How do we need to rethink our regional program to accommodate these goals?

What would it take to be competitive at those levels? And (potentially most importantly) provide that experience at the cheapest price possible. We have to remember that volume overcomes price gouging. We will all do well with a high volume, reasonably intense program.

Do all families have to participate in that program?

Are there benefits to that level of racing?

## **BOD Elections & Committee Membership**

TSASRA Board of Directors and Committees  
Spring 2024

Under the Bylaws effective 12/12/20 these are the current positions, and those needing election by members or appointment by the Board or Executive Committee.

Class A directors include the President and the Secretary and shall be elected at the annual meeting of members held in even-numbered years.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Holder</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>Selection Method</u>	<u>Has Vote</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Board:					
President	Bruce Diamond	2024	Election	Y	
Vice-President	Andy Lussier	2025	Election	Y	
Secretary	Duane Bass	2024	Election	Y	
Treasurer	Bob Zuber	2025	Election	Y	
CT Rep	Chip Simplicio		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
EM Rep	Jessica Fish		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
WM Rep	Peter Chudy		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
AO Chair	John Higgins		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
Comp Chair	Mark Colman		Appointed	Y	By Exec Comm
Imm. Past Pres	Mike Kemmer		Ex officio	Ties	
Administrator	Laura Sullivan		Appointed	N	By Board
Historian	Bob Brigham		Appointed	N	By Board
Committees:					
Executive:					
President	Bruce Diamond			Y	Chair
Vice-President	Andy Lussier			Y	
Secretary	Duane Bass			Y	
Treasurer	Bob Zuber			Y	
Imm Past Pres	Mike Kemmer			Ties	
Competition:					
U18+ Chair	Mark Colman				Chair
U18+ Member					
U16 Chair	Scott Bellin				
U16 Member	Jessica Fish				
Youth Chair	Brian Seminara				
Youth Member	Paul Kondrat				
Youth Member	Melissa Sparks				
Youth Member	Rick Hanbury				
Youth Member	Pat Quinn				
Interclub	Greg Knight				
College	Jim Pietrovito				



## **Old Business**



## **Paul Putnam Scholarship**

### **Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association Educational Fund**

In recognition of Paul Putnam, a beloved Tri-State coach, funds of \$2,500 will be granted on an annual basis at the fall membership meeting to a male and female athlete (\$1,250 each) whose nomination is submitted to and approved by the Tri-State board.

The criteria for the award shall include but is not limited to the following: Applicant must train with and be a member of a Tri-State Club in good standing. Applicant must demonstrate a commitment to the sport of ski racing and a desire to continue in the sport, receive a recommendation from their program director or coach, and demonstrate positive characteristics, behaviors and values. The award will consider both the ability and need of the athlete along with the demonstrated commitment and participation of the athlete's parent(s) in the success of their child.

**The decision to offer and award scholarships is based on available funds and applicant qualification.**

The application should be sent to the TSASRA Administrator at: [lauracsullivan@gmail.com](mailto:lauracsullivan@gmail.com)

### **Application**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

US Ski & Snowboard Number: \_\_\_\_\_

FIS Number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents or Guardian(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Tri-State Program Name/Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Tri-State: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach and/or Program Director Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Include written recommendation from Coach/Program Director**

**\*\*Athlete should include a list your 3 most significant racing and/or training accomplishments  
Attach additional pages as needed**