



Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association

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

October 26th, 2024

Thunder Ridge Ski Area 1-3pm

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
 - Schedule
- ❖ Report of Subdivision Chairs
- ❖ Report of Coaches Education and Development, Vice Chair
- ❖ Old Business
 - Paul Putnam Scholarship

MEETING MINUTES

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

June 5th, 2024

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

S -S24 G01 The President called the meeting to order.

Motion to accept Agenda.

2nd Bob Zuber

Discussion

Unanimous Voice

Opposed

Abstain

S S24-G02 Minutes

Motion – Mark Colman

2nd Andy Lussier

Discussion

Unanimous Voice

Opposed

Abstain

REPORTS

Report of The President

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 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 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	\$ <u>12.88</u>
	\$104,955.24

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**

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

*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 \$2,2es18 head tax owed tristate by Various Venues

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

**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 5th 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



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.

Event	Live	Viewed	Recording
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?

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				



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

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

Spring 2024 Elections **Candidates running unopposed**

TSASRA President, Bruce Diamond
TSASRA Secretary, Duane Bass
Adjourn
8:45

Presidents Report



Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association

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."

General Membership Meeting – October 2 , 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 it's 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 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

TSASRA Alpine Officials Chair Vacancy

After 23 years as Alpine Officials Chair, our beloved John Higgins, has decided that it's time to move on from that role. He will, however, stay on as a TD. I can't adequately express how much I admire and respect John. Nor can I find the words to convey how grateful I am to John for all that he has done for our members. Through the years John has administered countless clinics, seminars, and exams to educate our officials and coaches. He has always been eager to share his vast wealth of knowledge with our members, without ever losing his patience or composure. A true, legendary gentleman of sport. John has also had the grueling task of assigning TD's to races throughout our region. John's stellar reputation extends throughout the far reaches of US Ski & Snowboard. We have all learned so much from him. We were beyond fortunate to claim him as ours. His job will be extremely difficult to fill. The Executive Board is considering options and would welcome input from the full Board of Directors.

Thank you, John, for your rock-steady leadership and guidance! I look forward to seeing you on the hill and in the timing booth as TD this season.

Racing. Our Competition Committee has prepared the race calendar for the upcoming season. Despite the challenges of hosting an open Championships, due to our large numbers and limited hill space, we plan to on hosting such an event this season

Plans are to continue to host at least 6 FIS races in our region after last season's successful events. Berkshire East will host 2 GS, Catamount will host 2 slaloms, and Jiminy will host 2 races. 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 looking into hosting McConnell Division FISU races at Berkshire East on February 8 and Catamount on February 9. Stay tuned for details.

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 improving 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 could have accepted that that's just the way it is, but we decided at the spring meeting to 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.

So, what have we been doing? 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 wrote a thoughtful essay proposing a blueprint for success that focuses on increasing the time that our athletes spend on the snow throughout the year. Several TSASRA coaches, under the leadership of Andy Lussier, have met remotely throughout the summer to implement a plan. 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. We are planning to schedule several fall training sessions at Big Snow in New Jersey - at substantially reduced ticket prices. CYSL has scheduled a training session at Big Snow on Sunday, November 10, which will be open to other TSASRA members from Massachusetts on a first-to-register basis. Registration is on Adminskiracing.com. Details for additional training opportunities should be available soon and will be posted and emailed to program directors. 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, and other interested coaches to join in this project. We would welcome the help of other coaches. We'd also like to see our member organizations opening up training sessions to TSASRA athletes to other clubs in our region. Cooperation is the key to enhancing the skill development of all our athletes (and 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 last season resolving a long-outstanding issue with one of our clubs involving Bnet that was destroyed while in the possession of the club. I am pleased to report that the issue has been resolved to everyone's benefit.

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 either hold a minimum certification of Level 100 or be actively working on obtaining certification by the end of the season. Additionally, 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 coaches in our region.

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Looking forward to our first in-person General Membership meeting on October 23. Thanks to Thunder Ridge for hosting the event and arranging for Doug Lewis and his Eliteam to conduct a dryland clinic that day for or athletes that day.

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

Treasurers' Report

TRI STATE SKI RACING ASSOCIATION

Income Statement
07/01/2023-06/30/2024

Revenues

USSA Trade AP	\$ 53,057.60
Other Income	\$ 5,440.00
Admin Internet	\$ 60,783.07
Interest Income	<u>\$ 17.07</u>
Total Revenues	\$119,297.74

Expenses

Admin Fees (Laura)	\$ 20,400.00
AuthNet	\$ 180.00
Postage	\$ 70.00
Gifts	\$ 31.86
Meetings (ESS)	\$ 495.00
Office Supplies	\$ 212.50
Insurance	\$ 1,495.00
Equipment	\$ 0.00
Refunds	\$ 195.00
Trophies	\$ 689.41
Banquets CCP	\$ 9,272.60
Doug Hall	\$ 770.45
B-net	\$ 22,530.00
Network Solutions	\$ 25.87
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
Sundown	\$ 9,165.00
Jiminy Peak	<u>\$ 17,855.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$121,306.96

Net Income/Loss **\$ 2,009.22**

Notes From Last Report:

**Checking account balance as of 07/01/2023 \$171,511.43

Checking account balance as of 06/30/2024 \$169,502.21

Difference: **\$2,009.22**

TRI STATE SKI RACING ASSOCIATION

Statement of Financial Condition
Ending **06/30/2024**

Current Assets

Cash	\$169,502.21
Accounts Receivable	\$ <u>2,218.00</u>
Total Current Assets	\$

Property & Equipment

B-Net	\$99,075.00 *
Office Equip. & Supplies	\$ 1,620.00 *
Coaches Jackets	\$ 3,162.00 **

Total Assets **\$275,577.21**

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00
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Total Current Liabilities & Long-Term Liabilities **\$ 0.00**

Organization Equity **\$275,577.21**

Total Liabilities and Member Equity **\$275,577.21**

*Office equip & Bnet depreciated by 10% each year

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

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

Competition Chair's Report

TSASRA Fall Membership Meeting
Competition Committee Report – 10/26/24

2025 Season Preview

The schedule currently includes 45 separate 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 want to organize an official speed training day for post-season teams. Efforts have been made to reduce racing expenses (e.g. limiting travel, no U14 or U16 Championship bibs, optional banquets), and hold steady on race entry fees (recommended \$80 scored, \$65 non-scored, \$50 IC). We will purchase more Diel jackets for those going to post-season events, including a \$75 subsidy partially covered by Championship entry fees.

U18+

The season starts with the traditional New Year's Eve Schaefer Cup SL at Berkshire East. Fields will be capped at 200. If these fill, priority will likely go to 2nd year U16s. The Eastern U18+ Finals (Attitash, March 28) quota of 42 will likely be exceeded.

U16

Eastern U16 Championships (Mittersill, March 15) and Finals (Attitash, March 22) qualification will continue to be based on the best 2 of the 6 possible race results (combined points plus penalty), using one each of SL and GS events. The quotas (expected 11 and 23 spots) have declined slightly over the past 4 years. The Championships weekend doubleheader has been reconfigured and all regular qualifier races count the same. This method also avoids a conflict with Eastern High School Champs.

Youth

Per EACC guidance, the 2025 Tri-State U14 Championships at Berkshire East will be open to all. Seeding will be used, along with the TRS butterfly method. The selection criteria to the Eastern U14 Championships (Whiteface, March 20) 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 (expected quota 9B/7G) are expected to attend all scheduled events or pass on their spot. Eastern U14 Finals will also be held at Berkshire East (March 15). The U12 and U14 age groups in MA will be combined for just two races (first GS and Parallel), as fields hit 230-240 last season. CYSL will separate the U10s from U12/14s.

Interclub

Given the nearly 400 kids last season, we will keep the system of 3 races per team (2 GS, 1 stubbie SL), and add a Finals Parallel event for all ages/clubs. The Catamount and Butternut programs will be kept apart given their numbers. The awards and results will continue for every YOB instead of age groups.

FIS/College

FIS level racing will return to Berkshire East, Catamount and Jiminy Peak (there is no Williams Carnival this year). The low-point reimbursement program was barely used (\$160 instead of the more typical \$800-900) due to rescheduled EISA races, and USCSA participation is still negligible. The division will continue to get 2 or 3 quota spots for FIS races, with more for our hosted series.

TSASRA Board of Directors and Committees
Fall 2024

Under the Bylaws effective December 12, 2020 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. Class B directors include the Vice President and the Treasurer and shall be elected at the annual meeting of members held in odd-numbered years.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Holder</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>First Full Term</u>	<u>Selection Method</u>	<u>Has Vote</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Board:						
President	Bruce Diamond	2026	2022	Election	Y	
Vice-President	Andy Lussier	2025	2023	Election	Y	
Secretary	Duane Bass	2026	2022	Election	Y	
Treasurer	Bob Zuber	2025	2021	Election	Y	
CT Rep	Chip Semplicio			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	[TBD]			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	[TBD]					
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	[TBD]					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 Ed
Member	[TBD] (AO Chair)	AO Ed
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 Comm
President	Bruce Diamond	Chair, ex-off
Member	Laura Sullivan	
Member	Bob Zuber	
Foundation:		Special Comm
President	Bruce Diamond	Chair, ex-off
Member	Bob Zuber	
Member	Chip Simplicio	
Member	Peter Chudy	
Eastern:		Regional Comm
EACC Rep	Bruce Diamond	By TSASRA Board
ECC Rep	Rick Hanbury	By ECC
Officials	Laura Sullivan	By EACC

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					
9-Feb	FRI					
10-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					
23-Feb	SUN	Otis Stubbie SL (OTIS, BNUT, MOH)	MTSO U12/14 Parallel/Skills	Speed/Skills?	Bousquet SL (5)	
1-Mar	SAT				Jiminy Peak GS (6)	
2-Mar	SUN	Jiminy Stubbie SL (JP, BE, BSQ, CAT)				Sundown SL (7)
8-Mar	SAT			U14 Champs - Berkshire East SL 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		

Subdivision Chair's Report

**Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association (TSASRA)
General Meeting
October 26, 2024**

Connecticut Subdivision Chair Report

Submitted: October 22, 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 Park and Resort, Ski Sundown, and Thunder Ridge. CYSL will hold its Fall Board of Directors meeting on October 22, 2024.

In May 2024, the CYSL BoD approved a preliminary 2025 Competition Schedule and since has collaborated with TSASRA Youth Committee on updates. During the upcoming CYSL Fall BoD meeting, the schedule should be finalized and reported 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 in most instances.

We continue to partner with our mountains and truly appreciate all of 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 12 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Mt. Southington	TSASRA SL	January 18 (Sat.)	U16
Mt. Southington	Stubbie SL (3 runs) & SL	January 25 (Sat.)	U10
Mt. Southington	SL	January 26 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Thunder Ridge	SL (3 runs)	February 1 (Sat.)	U10
Thunder Ridge	SL	February 2 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Sundown	GS	February 8 (Sat.)	U12/U14
Sundown	GS (3 runs)	February 9 (Sun.)	U10
Mt. Southington	GS (3 runs)	February 16 (Sun.)	U10
Mt. Southington	Parallel SL/Skills	February 23 (Sun.)	U12/U14
Sundown	SL	March 2 (Sun.)	U18
Mohawk - TBD	U10 Festival	March 8 (Sat.)	U10
Mt. Southington	TSASRA SL Finals	March 8 (Sat.)	U12
Mohawk	TSASRA GS Finals	March 9 (Sun.)	U12

Faithfully submitted,



Tristate US Ski & Snowboard Membership for the winter 2024-25 season is expected to remain consistent. Athlete interest is high across all age groups in both US Ski & Snowboard and Buddy Werner (EMBWL) programs. At this time, we have a greater number of mountains supporting EMBWL than US Ski & Snowboard. This is positive for the overall interest, enthusiasm and growth of alpine ski racing in the area but puts significant pressure on one mountain to support US Ski & Snowboard. Wachusett Mountain Race Team is available to help interested local mountains in the East start a US Ski & Snowboard club. Although limited in the number of races we can currently host, the east is able to consistently supply certified coaches, referees and volunteers to support the large number of races held in the western part of the state and Connecticut.

Jessica Fish

**Vice President
Coached Education/Development Report**

Board of Directors Meeting – October 2nd, 2024
TSASRA Vice-President/ TSASRA Education & Development Committee Report

The TSASRA Education & Development Committee continues to work towards the goal of keeping TSASRA at the forefront of coach education and development. Our alignment with U.S. Ski & Snowboard to provide training, continuing education, and certification opportunities for coaches in the Tri-State remains crucial to athlete development in our region.

Change has been implemented in the certifications process and coach development this season from U.S. Ski & Snowboard. U.S. Ski & Snowboard has taken queues from the PSIA model for certification, and the certification process will be like the current PSIA model where a candidate will be assessed by the Examiner on the coach's skiing ability, movement analysis capability, and teaching ability based on the level of certification being sought. As in the past, a candidate will still be required to complete on-line coursework.

What this means is that mountain programs/program directors will have responsibility for training and preparing coaches for certification. The TSASRA Education & Development Committee will offer training and workshops to augment training offered by the Tri-State programs.

As a result of this change, there will be less certification opportunities and only a fixed amount available in the Northeast. However, the quantity of attendees at these certification events will be 20-24 versus the 10-12 as in the past. The final schedule is still being developed at the time of this report and will be published to the Tri-State website and pushed out to all the program directors.

US Ski & Snowboard has rolled out the updated certification process and on-line Sport Education portal. The new Sport Education Academy offers 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 any Coach Certification.

As noted in the spring 2024 general meeting, there is now a minimum certification of Level100 for a coach to enter a race arena for the 2024/2025 season.

BUDGET

2023-2024 - The Board of Directors allocated \$12,000 to fund various projects, including \$200 per day stipends and mileage reimbursement for Development Team coaches presenting clinics and workshops.

For the 2024-2025 season, the TSASRA Coaches Education & Development Committee is again requesting a budget of \$12,000, subject to approval of expenses as they are incurred. We will require the purchase of 100 US Ski & Snowboard Alpine Fundamentals Guides for clinic attendees for the upcoming season. 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 that may be associated with the new certification model.

2024-2025 OBJECTIVES

The TSASRA Education & Development Committee is currently finalizing the 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 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 expect to have the schedule of training events and workshops published and correspondence to the program directors prior to November 1st. The Tri-State Coaches Education Committee aims to offer a series of workshops in the following areas:

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

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.

2023/2024 SEASON Highlights

The Coaches Education Committee is proud of the fact that 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 Virtual Clinic Series was extremely well supported by the Tri-State coaching community. 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.

Event	Live	Viewed Recording
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

NEW INITIATIVE

To further evolve the Tri-State Region, a working group of coaches has been put together to brainstorm ways to improve our offering to the membership. The group has met a few times already and as a result, has brought back the opportunity for the membership to attend the annual fall meeting live with tracks for coaches, parents and athletes. This working group was initiated to develop roadmaps on the topics below to enrich our member experience.

Topics:

- Tri-State athlete development programs
 - o Open to all interested athletes
 - o Skills based
 - o Discipline based
 - o Level focused
 - U12, U14, U16, U18+
 - o Speed training
 - We need a plan
 - Partner with mountain/programs who can support
 - Gore
 - Okemo
 - Others?
 - o Speed support
 - Gear
 - Tri-State to purchase inventory?
- Supplemental athlete training opportunities
 - o Early/late/off season training opportunities (it's all about touches on snow)
 - o Tri-State coordinated/run
 - o Program coordinated/run
- Tri-State FIS athlete support
 - o Grow exposure
 - o Team concept?
- Coaches Education
 - o Continuing education
 - o Certification preparation
- Equipment Workshops
 - o Garrick Dardani

We're not limited to this list. All ideas are to benefit the membership are welcomed. Any coaches interested in becoming a part of this working group, please feel free to reach out to the Board of Directors.

The TSASRA Education & Development Committee is thankful for the continued support of the Board of Directors and our efforts thus far. We're looking ahead to a productive 2024/2025 Season.

Andy Lussier
TSASRA Vice President/Coaches Education and Development Chair

Homologation Reimbursement Policy

Tri-State Homologation Reimbursement Policy Spring 2024

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 either new applications or 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

Venue Selection Guidelines

Tri-State Race Venue Selection Guidelines

Who Selects the Venue?

Venue selection ultimately rests with the Tri-State (TS) Competition Committee, consulting with the appropriate age group – Youth (U10 through U14), U16, or U18+. The TS Board then approves the schedules as proposed.

If a program / venue is interested in hosting an event, they must express that to the relevant committee. Expressing a willingness or desire to host an event is no guarantee that a race can be accommodated.

Timeline

A preliminary schedule for the following winter's events is drafted prior to the spring annual membership meeting, at which time this schedule is shared with the broader community for discussion. The spring meeting usually occurs on or prior to the first Wednesday in June.

For the exercise of drafting a preliminary schedule to be productive it is necessary for program directors, mountain ownership, and TS committee members to coordinate prior to the spring meeting. In practice the good intentions of race program directors is not enough. For a race date to be confirmed, mountain ownership must be on the same page. This commitment should be established offline prior to the spring meeting. Pieces of the puzzle can shift for a variety of reasons. Sometimes confirmations among race directors, mountain ownership, and TS committee members cannot be finalized until after the spring meeting.

The schedule is generally approved at the Tri-State Board of Directors fall meeting, usually in early October.

The schedule is generally published at the Tri-State General Assembly fall meeting, which usually occurs on or prior to the fourth Wednesday in October.

Selection Considerations

Venue selection is performed through the collective judgement of the relevant committee members. The following considerations are taken into account, but it is important to note that the application of these criteria is more art than science.

- Alignment with the broader region's goals to create better athletes and operate in a safe environment.
- **Homologation.** The trail must have a current homologation in order to host a properly sanctioned US Ski & Snowboard event.
- **Geographical diversity within Tri-State.** In a perfect world each of the three regions of Tri-State – Connecticut (CT), Eastern Massachusetts (EM), and Western Massachusetts (WM) – are able to host an event. This should not be taken for granted, however. It is a goal, but it is also necessary for the venue to meet other criteria.
- **Mountain / program diversity.** In a perfect world all programs would be equipped with a venue suitable in all other ways, and hosting responsibilities / privileges could be spread around to different mountains. It is not a perfect world in this regard, but to the extent practical and appropriate, this remains a consideration.
- **Age, skill level, & event type appropriate.** The race venue must be appropriate from a standpoint of age and skill level as well as the caliber of the event. i.e. A trail that is appropriate for a U12 race may or may not present an ideal degree of challenge for a U14 Championship or a U16 series event. A trail may work well for SL but not GS. And so on. It is very important as our young athletes grow and become more skilled that they be challenged in a progression that

allow them to both build confidence and prepare for more challenging terrain and conditions in post season events or in future years.

- **Mountain management / ownership support.** There must be genuine supportive of ski racing and support for hosting the specific event. This does not mean they do whatever race coaches, event organizers, and divisional leadership say. It does mean that they are reasonable, treat racing families with respect, work collaboratively with the event organizers to help host a successful event, and do not put undue burden on racers, coaches, officials, parents, volunteers, or other event workers.
- **Proposed Start Time.** A start time prior to 8:30am, barring unexpected weather or other events, must be approved by the Tri-State Competition Chair or Board. An earlier start may be appropriate when most/all families are locally based, but does not work well when significant travel from across the division is required.
- **Snow quality.** A host venue ideally has the expertise, the equipment, the natural resources, and the commitment to make snow when necessary to improve or provide a safe race environment. Likewise a host venue ideally has the expertise, the equipment, and the commitment to groom and prepare the race trail in an appropriate manner. This means making sensible decisions about when to groom so that the surface is firm at race time. It also means preparing any special features, such as a start ramp, as needed.
- **Timing equipment.** A host venue must have timing equipment, wiring, and software that is homologated and reliable.
- **Timing operation.** A host venue must have a timing crew that is experienced and reliable, along with a properly certified Head of Timing and Calculations (TC1). They should be able to produce accurate results as well as minimizing timing related delays without compromising safety (e.g. overly aggressive start intervals that do not adequately space out the athletes).
- **Officials.** The host race organizing committee (ROC) is responsible for ensuring that outside officials have been arranged. All positions on and off the hill requiring USS&S Alpine Official certification must be filled appropriately (current Referee certification for Course setter and Start/Finish Referees, RA certification for the Race Administrator, etc.) including up to date clinic attendance. This requirement is true for all USS&S sanctioned races, with more experienced officials suggested at scored events.
- **Gates, fencing, and other equipment.** A host venue must have gates that comply with the regulations and must have these gates in sufficient quantity to set the whole course and have an ample supply of spares staged on the hill for course maintenance. The host venue must have enough safety net to comply with the homologation report and the discretion of the jury. The host venue must have all other equipment necessary for the set up and operation of an event. This may include shovels, rakes, salt, finish fencing, anything required to safely control or restrict traffic on the hill, etc.
- **Gatekeepers, course crew, patrol, and other workers.** A host venue must have a sufficient number of sufficiently experienced and trained gatekeepers as well as course crew to replace gates and maintain the quality and safety of the race course in an efficient manner. Patrol must be on hand and must be tuned into the specific risk factors and protocols associated with hosting a ski race. A member of patrol should be present at the Team Captains Meeting (TCM). The host venue should also be prepared to supply other workers such as spotters, starters, scoreboard scribes, registration staff, certified start and finish ref, etc.
- **Registration and late fees.** The cost of the event and the late fee policy should be consistent with other host venues within the series and within recent history. This does not mean identical, just within a reasonable range.
- **Parking.** The venue should have sufficient parking capacity and a reasonable parking policy.
- **Spectator friendly.** This means convenience of the race venue to the lodge and the ability of parents and spectators to enjoy watching the race.

Athlete Reimbursement Program

Athlete Reimbursement Program

Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association, Inc. U18+ Series

Adopted: 5/3/2017, Revised 12/31/21

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Goal: To improve the quality of the Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association, Inc.'s ("Tri-State") U18+ series by reimbursing race fees for eligible athletes who would not normally be expected to participate.

Eligibility: Athletes meeting the following qualifications shall be eligible to participate in this program. An eligible athlete must be a registered USSA U18 or U21 alpine competitor with a point profile equal to or under 120 (women) or 100 (men) in either giant slalom or slalom when registering for a race of the corresponding discipline. Athletes participating in this program must be registered as a USSA U18 or U21 alpine competitor and be a member of a USSA division, which may include membership in the Tri-State Division of the Eastern Region. An eligible athlete whom is not a member of Tri-State is responsible for obtaining permission to race in a Tri-State U18+ race according to his or her division's procedures for racing outside of the division, if any.

Qualifying Athletes: Up to five (5) eligible men and five (5) eligible women may qualify for reimbursement at each race of the Tri-State U18+ series each competition season. Eligible athletes are encouraged to pre-register, late fees may apply in accordance with each venue's rules, Tri-state will not reimburse late fees. The eligible athletes of each gender with the lowest point profiles, that are pre-registered and start the race, will have their race fees reimbursed. Race organizers are encouraged to additionally reimburse athletes that do not receive reimbursement as part of this program, e.g., athletes whom may travel in groups, etc.

Post Season Participation: Eligible athletes participating in this program who are members of the Tri-State Division and complete the required number of races according to Tri-State postseason selection rules may compete in postseason events as part of the Tri-State quota(s) for such events.

Reimbursement Process: On the day of each Tri-State U18+ race series race, the Tri-State U18+ Chair, or his or her designee, will complete a form and direct this to the Tri-State Administrator. The Tri-State Administrator will issue a check for the total amount of race fees reimbursed by the race organizer as part of this program. Checks will be mailed by the Tri-State Administrator at the earliest opportunity to the race organizer, who will provide the appropriate address for reimbursement. In the case of an athlete pre-registering and paying through Admskiracing, the race fee may be refunded though this website, the site fee of 5.95% will still be charged to the credit card.

Penalty Manipulation: Any athlete observed trying to manipulate the penalty calculation by not racing to his or her full potential by any member of the jury may be disqualified from the race and declared ineligible to receive further reimbursement as part of this program by the Tri-State Board of Directors. Additional sanctions may be imposed by the jury

