

## Tri-State U16 Rules – 2026 Season

### Introduction and General Overview

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

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

Name	Region	Program/Role	Email
Scott Bellin	Connecticut	Thunder Ridge / Head U16 Coach, U16 Committee Chair	bellins@me.com
Jessica Fish	Eastern MA	Wachusett / Program Director	jlfish6@yahoo.com
Mark Colman	Western MA	Catamount / Tri-State Competition Committee Chair	markcolman7@gmail.com

The U16 “Al Vinatier” season-long race series will consist of 6 qualifying races, which are open to all U16s registered with US Ski & Snowboard in the Eastern Region. The race schedule is available at:

<https://tristateskiracing.org/schedule/u16>

The schedule and quotas for 2026 Eastern Region post-season races is as follows:

Date	Event	Location	TS Quota F	TS Quota M
3/16-20	U16 Eastern Championships	Sugarloaf, ME	6	7
3/21-24	U16 Eastern Finals	Gore, NY	12	12

Quotas are based upon Eastern Region allocations and division gender split.

Other relevant U16 qualification information is available on pages 24-27 of the Eastern Handbook: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D4UbScvHLq8W68\\_gRFbEk6eyfRuL7kPOwMB6BPCChms4/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D4UbScvHLq8W68_gRFbEk6eyfRuL7kPOwMB6BPCChms4/edit?tab=t.0)

### Rules

1. All Tri-State U16s are expected to participate in this race series (i.e. no racing up to U18+ races or “chasing points” in other divisions on TS U16 series race dates). Eastern sponsored projects or high school racing that conflict with race dates are permitted.
2. Tri-State U16s are welcome to participate in TS U18+ races when those events do not conflict with T-S U16 race dates, although priority may be given to second-years (YOB '10) if the race fills up. Results obtained may improve an athlete’s USSS point profile, but results outside the U16 series will not be included in the U16 series ranking for post season teams.
3. SEEDING. Seeding will be based upon current USSS points by discipline. Random Seed Draw for the 15 athletes with the lowest points. 990s will be randomly seeded after racers with points. Second run start order will be flip 30 format based upon the first run finish time. DSQ/DNF for 2<sup>nd</sup> runs will be in bib order after seeded racers.

4. SCORING. Cumulative scoring will be used for this race series using USSS points (for discrete T-S series events, not the athlete's USSS point profile). At the conclusion of this series these results will be used to determine selections for U16 Eastern Championships and U16 Eastern Finals.

Athletes will be ranked according to their 2 best race results earned (in terms of USSS points), with one each of SL and GS. If there are less than 3 of either SL or GS events, then the best 2 overall results will be used for ranking.

Any series races for which an athlete does not compete or records a DNS, DNF, NPS or DSQ will be tabulated as 990 points. Ties will be broken by the next best race point result. The next tiebreaker, if needed, is the sum of each racer's SL and GS USSS points. Note: In order to create true head-to-head internal rankings, any racers from outside the TS Division will be purged from the race results, and a new penalty and race points calculation will be used if needed.

5. Post season teams will be based upon quotas determined by the US Ski & Snowboard Eastern Region. When Tri-State quotas are not gender specific, the gender split will be determined by the gender proportions of U16 racers registered in Tri-State as of December 31 of the race season.
6. Post season teams will be announced immediately following the last race of the series. All racers selected for post season teams are required to confirm participation to Tri-State U16 Chair by the specified date.
7. Post season selections will be made as follows. The highest-ranking athletes will be invited to U16 Eastern Championships. The next highest-ranking athletes will be invited to the U16 Eastern Finals. Examples: Girls ranked 1-6 will be invited to U16 Eastern Championships. Girls ranked 7-18 will be invited to the U16 Eastern Finals. Boys ranked 1-7 will be invited to the U16 Eastern Championships. Boys ranked 8-19 will be invited to the U16 Eastern Finals. **It is expected that an athlete will attend the highest-level event for which they qualify. It is a privilege to represent Tri-State at post season events. The performance of our athletes contributes to the determination of our division's quota spots in future years.** Anyone qualifying for the higher level shall not be permitted to compete in the lower level unless he/she has good cause and has received a waiver from the U16 Competition Committee. Waiver requests must be submitted by email and in writing to the committee with a copy to the athlete's home program within 24 hours of the announcements of the post season team selections. Good cause shall be limited to medical/injury, non-negotiable school obligations, and inability to pay for the increased cost of attending the higher-level event. It is worth noting that the potential incremental schedule conflict may be minimized by opting out of speed events (the committee does not encourage this, but it is an option). Further, the increased cost of attending the higher-level event may be mitigated by funding support (inquire as needed).
8. Post season alternates set at 5 boys and 5 girls. Athletes are responsible for checking on opportunities to participate from Tri-State U16 Chair. If all alternates are used up, open Tri-State quotas will be filled by U16 committee discretion and competitor's intent to compete list.
9. All Tri-State Membership and Eligibility rules apply to the U16 race series as does the Code of Conduct.

### **Out of State Training**

Post season teams and divisional competition quota spots are available to qualified athletes who are affiliated and actively training with a program in the Tri-State division. Any athlete conducting their

training with a program that is not a recognized Tri-State member program is not eligible for Tri-State post season teams and quota spots.

It is recognized that some athletes may choose to pursue early season training opportunities with other programs. These activities must be completed by December 31 of the competition season, or a review of the activity may be conducted by the Eastern office and/or the Tri-State Competition Chair. Other athletes may have opportunities to visit out of state programs during the competition season. Tri-State does not discourage these activities. However, the Tri-State U16 Chair or Competition Chair must be notified of the location and duration of the training in advance. If the training activities are deemed in violation of the US Ski & Snowboard rules governing such activity, further disciplinary action (up to and including suspension from competition) may be taken by the Tri-State Board of Directors at the recommendation of the Tri-State Competition Chair.

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

### **Tri-State Membership Deadline for Quota Selection and Post Season Eligibility**

- December 31 for all members

Athletes must renew their US Ski & Snowboard and Tri-State memberships before the selection deadlines to be eligible for quota selections. The U16 Committee can waive the December 31 deadline and vote to use events from the point/date of when an athlete is fully registered and in good standing in the division for season rankings towards postseason US Ski & Snowboard allocated quotas.

### **US Ski & Snowboard Elite Athlete Events**

US Ski & Snowboard sponsors events such as the U16 Regional Performance Series (RPS) during the season for athletes who achieve top level success at the regional level. Athletes and parents are reminded that some current U.S. Ski Team members have not achieved top level success as junior racers and future elite level success in ski racing may occur as athletes mature.

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

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