



**Fall 2014 Report**  
**Welcome to the 2014-15 Season!**

As we embark on Year Two, similar principles continue to guide our staff: synergy, transparency and collaboration.

The desire to collaborate with members is often lost for a number of reasons. Sometimes the timing of information release isn't ideal, sometimes the words "let's collaborate" aren't specifically spoken, sometimes there are personal feelings that get in the way, but I can assure you that we want to work together. We want to make the sport of ski racing great in our clubs, in our states, in our region and in our country and we can't do it alone.

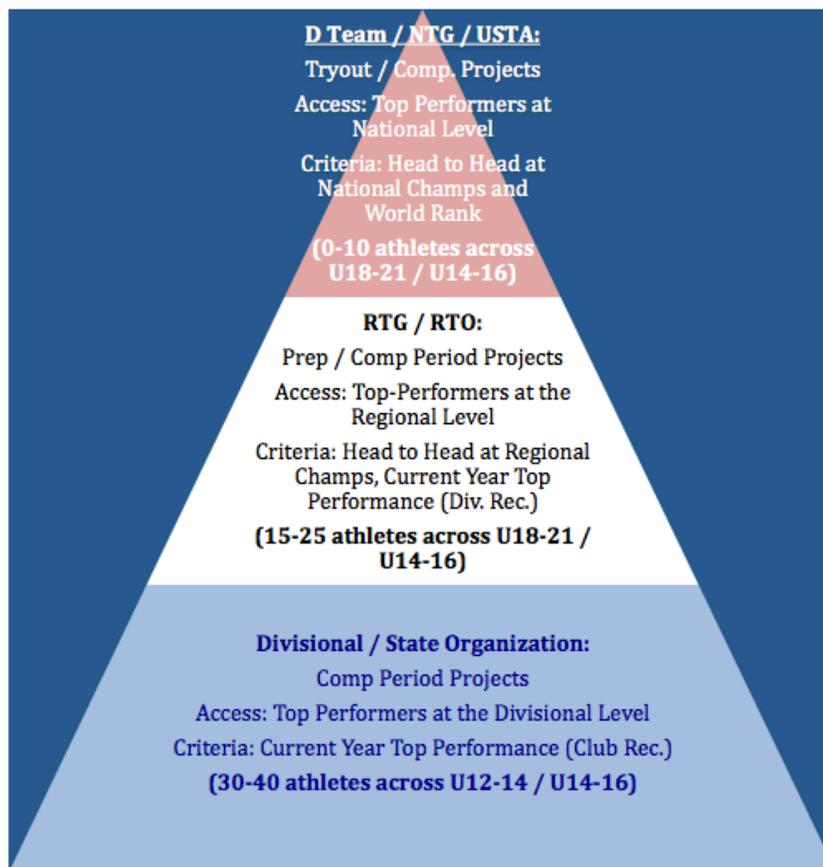
Plenty of what's contained in this report has been discussed at length in certain committees and with some members at large. Much of it will require further discussion and it's something USSA East staff looks forward to.

Thanks for your support and collaboration thus far; we are proud members of the Eastern Region!

Eric Harlow, Regional Development Director  
Martin Guyer, Regional Development Coach  
Patti Nichols, Regional Manager  
Tom Ashworth, Regional Youth Coordinator

**USSA Regional and State Projects:**  
**“Taking responsibility for our part of the pipeline”**

**USSA East: Project Pyramid**



Adding a layer of programming to the state level makes sense and many states are doing it already. Currently, the D-Team and the NTG offer programming to the top performing junior athletes in the country. USSA National staff runs this programming. At the Regional level, we include the athletes who are performing at the top of the region, but have not yet been picked up by the D-Team or NTG. The USSA Regional staff runs this programming. For 2014-15, we are looking to support increased programming at the state level. Staff from within the state, a State Youth Coordinator or the State’s Children’s Committee, would organize this programming with athletic support from USSA Regional staff and financial support from the Regional budget.

We have been in touch with several states already and have begun to work with them on how the timing of the events fit into our individual calendars. We are excited to be involved with this level of programming.

**Proposed FIS Race Registration Change:**  
**“Cleaning up the current system”**

From Patti Nichols - from the reach out email to the ROCs:

*As many of you are aware, the last few years have seen dwindling fields in our FIS series races - especially on the ladies' side. Coupled with the smaller fields are no-shows we are having for races. For the ladies' fields as many of you know, we had already exhausted any possible alternates for add lists before we even sent you the race files. For the men, however, the lack of follow through on race confirmations created havoc. The bottom line, however, is that we understand that for organizing committees it is really tough to run events when you can't field enough athletes to pay for your expenses and it is difficult to plan your race day schedules when you can't even predict your field size. In addition, it is hard to have a team captains' meeting that focuses on the race essentials when you spend half the time on the board and adds and pulls.*

*As many of you may know, there is a national pre-proposal out that would significantly change the number of FIS events that would be calendared across the country in the coming years. The background for this proposal is varied, but it does include putting value back into USSA racing, keeping the FIS series a truly elite series, and hopefully generating larger fields for FIS races due to a lower supply and bigger demand. If you haven't seen a copy of the pre-proposal, please go to the Eastern website landing page ([www.ussa.org/east](http://www.ussa.org/east)) and review it. We would appreciate your feedback.*

*That is not the purpose of this note, though. This year we are hoping to try something a bit different with the Eastern FIS series races. The idea behind this proposal, which has provisional approval by the Eastern Development Committee, is to get hard confirms from athletes, so that we can have a fair entry procedure for all Eastern FIS athletes and "hard" entry lists for the ROCs with as many athletes as possible populating the field. In order to do this we are finally going to ask the athletes to put their money where their mouths are. In other words we asking them to pay pre- team captains meeting. So we are writing you to get your input. We hope you will be on board, but we want to make sure we address your concerns before we roll this out.*

*This is how the process would work. For those of you - the wonderful Eastern RAs - who worked with me in the last season, most everything will be the same. Approximately three days prior to your TC meeting I will send you a split second file with entries and a small group of potential ADDS. The difference, however, will be the financial status of the athletes - most of them will have already paid. Let me introduce you to the process.*

*When the Eastern athletes have confirmed by the deadline, which is 14 days before the TC meeting. The first 140 athletes will be directed to the Admin Ski Racing site where they will pay for your event on line. Now, there are some other deadlines and I have attached the procedure to this email as well as the deadline sheet I will send out to the programs. You can take a look at them, but basically by 7 days before the race we will know who is coming and*

*the majority of them will have paid. By the time I send you the Split Second file, most of them will have paid.*

*There are a few things you should know. First, AdminSkiRacing was chosen as the online system do to features they have offered.. I can load athlete lists, so only those athletes on our entry list can pay. I can also pull that list down at deadline and add new lists of people who are now in. Admin Ski Racing is working with me so that a coach can go in and pay for their whole team. I can also upload foreign athletes so they can pay on line. Even though the account will be mine, payment will be made directly to the ROC, so USSA never touches the funds. You will be able to go in and refund athletes and look at payment lists and ask for final payment. We will discuss process at the Eastern FIS RA clinic in November. You will still be responsible for all the head tax and EASEF contribution when the race is finished.*

*All that being said you are all probably asking, but what will we, the organizer, get paid. So let's look at an example. If your race fee is \$70 - that is what you will put on your race announcement. When a racer pays online they will pay \$70 plus the credit card processing fee. When you are paid you get \$70 for the athlete. The bank gets paid part of the credit card fee and a percent of the credit card processing fee goes to the company. So now you are asking isn't this increasing the cost to the athlete and unfortunately the answer is yes it may be. Some of our FIS venues were already accepting credit cards, so the only difference is that the athlete may be paying a different percentage. For those venues that were only taking checks, yes it will be an increase of cost to the athlete. I might also suggest having a computer set up at your TC meeting or registration to have the last few people pay - possible adds, foreign athletes, etc. We would all have to talk about what we should charge (i.e. - should the few late comers who might want to pay by check be charged the same total fee that the online people will pay?)*

*Now the question is when would you get paid. That is up to you. As soon as you know all the racers started on the last day, you can log in and ask the company to pay you once you have done any refunds you need to do. Admin Ski should cut the check within the next 24 hours and have it on its way. (They are based in New England so US Postal Service shouldn't take too long).*

*I know this is just a brief synopsis, but I wanted you all to know what we are thinking of putting in place. I really need your feedback by the end of this week. All of you are my eyes and ears to your own unique race procedures at your venues and I hope you can find a way to incorporate this system. This process will only be in place for the FIS OPEN and EC races. This process will not be in place for the UNI or NorAM races. Okemo and I can talk about the FIS finals, as that is a unique series and technically is not covered by the proposal.*

Supporting Document:

Eastern FIS Dates Document (Timeframe)

Eastern FIS Dates Document

| VENUE            | Series   | First Team Captains Meeting | Competition Start Date | Competition Finish Date | Intents Close | Kind of list | confirm start | Confirm end and publish date | First Pay by date or be purged | Development Requests Open |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sunday River, ME | OPEN   | 5-Dec-14                    | 6-Dec-14               | 7-Dec-14                | 7-Nov         | SL rank      |               | 8-Nov                        | 21-Nov                         | 18-Nov                    |
| Whiteface, NY    | OPEN   | 12-Dec-14                   | 13-Dec-14              | 14-Dec-14               | 14-Nov        | GS rank      |               | 15-Nov                       | 28-Nov                         | 25-Nov                    |
| Sunday River, ME | OPEN   | 18-Dec-14                   | 19-Dec-14              | 22-Dec-14               | 20-Nov        | 3 event NTSM |               | 21-Nov                       | 4-Dec                          | 1-Dec                     |
| Sugarloaf, Me    | OPEN   | 18-Dec-14                   | 19-Dec-14              | 22-Dec-14               | 20-Nov        | 3 event NTSM |               | 21-Nov                       | 4-Dec                          | 1-Dec                     |
| Sugarbush, VT    | OPEN   | 20-Dec-14                   | 21-Dec-14              | 22-Dec-14               | 22-Nov        | SL rank      |               | 23-Nov                       | 6-Dec                          | 3-Dec                     |
| Proctor, NH      | OPEN   | 29-Dec-14                   | 30-Dec-14              | 31-Dec-14               | 1-Dec         | SL rank      |               | 2-Dec                        | 15-Dec                         | 12-Dec                    |
| Stratton, VT     | EC   | 8-Jan-15                    | 9-Jan-15               | 11-Jan-15               | 11-Dec        | 3 event NTSM |               | 12-Dec                       | 25-Dec                         | 1-Jan                     |
| Waterville, NH   | EC   | 8-Jan-15                    | 9-Jan-15               | 11-Jan-15               | 11-Dec        | 3 event NTSM |               | 12-Dec                       | 25-Dec                         | 1-Jan                     |
| Sugarbush, VT    | OPEN   | 19-Jan-15                   | 20-Jan-15              | 23-Jan-15               | 22-Dec        | 3 event NTSM |               | 23-Dec                       | 5-Jan                          | 2-Jan                     |
| Burke, VT        | EC   | 24-Jan-15                   | 25-Jan-15              | 26-Jan-15               | 27-Dec        | GS rank      |               | 28-Dec                       | 10-Jan                         | 7-Jan                     |
| Stowe, VT        | EC   | 24-Jan-15                   | 25-Jan-15              | 26-Jan-15               | 27-Dec        | GS rank      |               | 28-Dec                       | 10-Jan                         | 7-Jan                     |
| Sugarloaf, ME    | EC and Open  | 31-Jan-15                   | 1-Feb-15               | 6-Feb-15                | 3-Jan         | 3 event NTSM |               | 4-Jan                        | 17-Jan                         | 14-Jan                    |
| Middlebury, VT   | EC   | 7-Feb-15                    | 8-Feb-15               | 8-Feb-15                | 10-Jan        | SL rank      |               | 11-Jan                       | 24-Jan                         | 21-Jan                    |
| Suicide 6, VT    | EC   | 7-Feb-15                    | 8-Feb-15               | 8-Feb-15                | 10-Jan        | SL rank      |               | 11-Jan                       | 24-Jan                         | 21-Jan                    |
| Sunapee, NH      | OPEN   | 11-Feb-15                   | 12-Feb-15              | 13-Feb-15               | 14-Jan        | GS rank      |               | 15-Jan                       | 28-Jan                         | 25-Jan                    |
| Attitash, NH     | OPEN   | 11-Feb-15                   | 12-Feb-15              | 13-Feb-15               | 14-Jan        | GS rank      |               | 15-Jan                       | 28-Jan                         | 25-Jan                    |
| Sugarbush, VT    | OPEN   | 18-Feb-15                   | 19-Feb-15              | 20-Feb-15               | 21-Jan        | SL rank      |               | 22-Jan                       | 4-Feb                          | 1-Feb                     |
| Proctor, NH      | OPEN   | 18-Feb-15                   | 19-Feb-15              | 20-Feb-15               | 21-Jan        | SL rank      |               | 22-Jan                       | 4-Feb                          | 1-Feb                     |
| Sugarloaf, Me    | EC and Open  | 22-Feb-15                   | 23-Feb-15              | 24-Feb-15               | 25-Jan        | 3 event NTSM |               | 26-Jan                       | 8-Feb                          | 5-Feb                     |
| Sugarbush, VT    | OPEN   | 23-Mar-15                   | 24-Mar-15              | 25-Mar-15               | 23-Feb        | GS rank      |               | 24-Feb                       | 9-Mar                          | 6-Mar                     |
| Stratton, VT     | OPEN   | 23-Mar-15                   | 24-Mar-15              | 25-Mar-15               | 23-Feb        | GS rank      |               | 24-Feb                       | 9-Mar                          | 6-Mar                     |
| Killington, VT   | OPEN   | 25-Mar-15                   | 26-Mar-15              | 27-Mar-15               | 25-Feb        | SL rank      |               | 26-Feb                       | 11-Mar                         | 8-Mar                     |
| Sugarloaf, Me    | EC   | 29-Mar-15                   | 30-Mar-15              | 31-Mar-15               | 1-Mar         | 3 event NTSM |               | 2-Mar                        | 15-Mar                         | 12-Mar                    |
| TBD              | EC   | 31-Mar-15                   | 1-Apr-15               | 2-Apr-15                | 3-Mar         | 4 event NTSM |               | 4-Mar                        | 17-Mar                         | 14-Mar                    |
| Sunday River, ME | EC   | 31-Mar-15                   | 1-Apr-15               | 4-Apr-15                | 3-Mar         | 5 event NTSM |               | 4-Mar                        | 17-Mar                         | 14-Mar                    |
| Notes            | Athletes on the Eastern FIS list are automatically intended for EC races, but must be registered by the intents close date.  |                             |                        |                         |               |              |               |                              |                                |                           |
|                  | Any athlete turning down a development selection spot must do so by the first Pay by date listed for that particular series. |                             |                        |                         |               |              |               |                              |                                |                           |
|                  | Athletes added to the list after the first pay date should pay by the last chance to pay online date.                        |                             |                        |                         |               |              |               |                              |                                |                           |
|                  | Alternates will not be able to pay online.   |                             |                        |                         |               |              |               |                              |                                |                           |

Eastern FIS Dates Document

| VENUE            | Development Request Deadlines | Regional Development quota selected and posted | State DEVO quotas due in Eastern Office | Updated Entry List Posted | Entry is final - on live timing and google. Last chance to pay online | send to ROC | Confirm to ROC | list to use for rank | list racing under |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---|-------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday River, ME | 23-Nov                        | 26-Nov   |   | 29-Nov                    | 4-Dec   |             | 2-Dec          | 4-Dec                | 5                 |
| Whiteface, NY    | 30-Nov                        | 3-Dec  |   | 6-Dec                     | 11-Dec  |             | 9-Dec          | 11-Dec               | 5                 |
| Sunday River, ME | 6-Dec                         | 9-Dec  |   | 12-Dec                    | 17-Dec  |             | 15-Dec         | 17-Dec               | 6                 |
| Sugarloaf, Me    | 6-Dec                         | 9-Dec  |   | 12-Dec                    | 17-Dec  |             | 15-Dec         | 17-Dec               | 6                 |
| Sugarbush, VT    | 8-Dec                         | 11-Dec   |   | 14-Dec                    | 19-Dec  |             | 17-Dec         | 19-Dec               | 6                 |
| Proctor, NH      | 17-Dec                        | 20-Dec   |   | 23-Dec                    | 28-Dec  |             | 26-Dec         | 28-Dec               | 6                 |
| Stratton, VT     | 27-Dec                        | 30-Dec   |   | 2-Jan                     | 7-Jan   |             | 5-Jan          | 7-Jan                | 7                 |
| Waterville, NH   | 27-Dec                        | 30-Dec   |   | 2-Jan                     | 7-Jan   |             | 5-Jan          | 7-Jan                | 7                 |
| Sugarbush, VT    | 7-Jan                         | 10-Jan   |   | 13-Jan                    | 18-Jan  |             | 16-Jan         | 18-Jan               | 7                 |
| Burke, VT        | 12-Jan                        | 15-Jan   |   | 18-Jan                    | 23-Jan  |             | 21-Jan         | 23-Jan               | 7                 |
| Stowe, VT        | 12-Jan                        | 15-Jan   |   | 18-Jan                    | 23-Jan  |             | 21-Jan         | 23-Jan               | 7                 |
| Sugarloaf, ME    | 19-Jan                        | 22-Jan   |   | 25-Jan                    | 30-Jan  |             | 28-Jan         | 30-Jan               | 8                 |
| Middlebury, VT   | 26-Jan                        | 29-Jan   |   | 1-Feb                     | 6-Feb   |             | 4-Feb          | 6-Feb                | 8                 |
| Suicide 6, VT    | 26-Jan                        | 29-Jan   |   | 1-Feb                     | 6-Feb   |             | 4-Feb          | 6-Feb                | 8                 |
| Sunapee, NH      | 30-Jan                        | 2-Feb  | 4-Feb                                   | 5-Feb                     | 10-Feb  |             | 8-Feb          | 10-Feb               | 8                 |
| Attitash, NH     | 30-Jan                        | 2-Feb  | 4-Feb                                   | 5-Feb                     | 10-Feb  |             | 8-Feb          | 10-Feb               | 8                 |
| Sugarbush, VT    | 6-Feb                         | 9-Feb  | 11-Feb                                  | 12-Feb                    | 17-Feb  |             | 15-Feb         | 17-Feb               | 9                 |
| Proctor, NH      | 6-Feb                         | 9-Feb  | 11-Feb                                  | 12-Feb                    | 17-Feb  |             | 15-Feb         | 17-Feb               | 9                 |
| Sugarloaf, Me    | 10-Feb                        | 13-Feb   |   | 16-Feb                    | 21-Feb  |             | 19-Feb         | 21-Feb               | 9                 |
| Sugarbush, VT    | 11-Mar                        | 14-Mar   |   | 17-Mar                    | 22-Mar  |             | 20-Mar         | 22-Mar               | 10                |
| Stratton, VT     | 11-Mar                        | 14-Mar   |   | 17-Mar                    | 22-Mar  |             | 20-Mar         | 22-Mar               | 10                |
| Killington, VT   | 13-Mar                        | 16-Mar   |   | 19-Mar                    | 24-Mar  |             | 22-Mar         | 24-Mar               | 10                |
| Sugarloaf, Me    | 17-Mar                        | 20-Mar   |   | 23-Mar                    | 28-Mar  |             | 26-Mar         | 28-Mar               | 10                |
| TBD              | 19-Mar                        | 22-Mar   |   | 25-Mar                    | 30-Mar  |             | 28-Mar         | 30-Mar               | 10,11             |
| Sunday River, ME | 19-Mar                        | 22-Mar   |   | 25-Mar                    | 30-Mar  |             | 28-Mar         | 30-Mar               | 10,12             |
| Notes            |                               |  |   |                           |   |             |                |                      |                   |

In-Region Intent/Confirmation Procedures

All deadlines for intent, confirmation, and development requests for the 2015 season are published on the Eastern FIS Dates Document (EFDD) that is found on the Coaches page of the USSA East website. Intent Deadlines for EC and Eastern OPEN races can also be found on the Eastern Competition Calendar on the USSA East website.

#### Eastern Cups:

1. All Eastern athletes who wish to participate in Eastern FIS Series races and be ranked on the Eastern Cup ranking list need to be registered by their coaches/athlete representative with the Eastern Office. If your athlete is currently not on the rankings list and would like to be entered, you may do so on the Eastern Website. (<http://alpine.uskiteam.com/alpine-programs/regions/eastern-region/coaches>)
  - a. Please look at the Entries and Requests part of the page.
2. All athletes on the Eastern FIS ranking list are automatically intended for all Eastern Cup Series races as long as they are on the list 28 days previous to the first Team Captains' Meeting for the Series. (Intents close at 28 days).
3. Final date for intent for all foreign athletes on travel letters who are associated with Eastern programs will be 28 days previous to the first Team Captains' Meeting for the Series. These athletes may be intended through the foreign athlete entries portal on the coaches' page. (<http://alpine.uskiteam.com/alpine-programs/regions/eastern-region/coaches>)
4. List rankings/Automatics lists for the Eastern Cup Series will be posted on the Selections page of the USSA East website.
5. On the "Confirm start" date on the EFDD, you will receive an email link from the Eastern Office to a Google spreadsheet that includes all athletes on the Eastern FIS EC ranking list, out of region confirmed entries, foreign athletes on travel letters associated with Eastern Programs who have been intended and any foreign federation entries that have been received at that point, Automatics and other Eastern USA athletes will be in ranked order. (There will be no second ranking if a new list is published during the confirmation period.) There will be a cut off line (Green highlighted line) below the athletes in the race at that time. Coaches must confirm or pull their athletes including Automatics and all other Eastern athletes by the confirmation close list date, which is 14 days from the first Team Captains' Meeting. If an athlete is not confirmed, they will be considered a pull and removed from the list. Be sure to confirm athletes below the line also. It's appreciated if coaches would pull any foreign athlete at this time if they are not going to attend the event. Foreign athletes will not be pulled from the entry list if they have not confirmed, but please remember these athletes are occupying quota spots that could be filled by other athletes if they end up not racing.
6. During the confirmation period the Eastern Office will try to adjust the Highlighted "IN" bar.
7. On the "publish date" found on the EFDD, which is 14 days from the first Team Captains Meeting, the list will be finalized in the Google spreadsheet and athletes whose names appear above the green line will have their information uploaded into the

Adminskiracing website. An email will be sent reminding coaches to look at the list and it will also give a link to the website for payment. Eastern Athletes will have 1 week to pay for the race series or they will be pulled with no recourse for getting back on the entry. Only athletes whose names appear above the green line will be able to access the race and pay for it.

8. Three days before the confirmation close date, requests for development spots will be opened for 5 days. Athletes not in the race may request a development spot through online forms located on the Eastern website coaches page. (<http://alpine.uskiteam.com/alpine-programs/regions/eastern-region/coaches>)
  - a. See the entries and requests box. An email will be sent as a reminder that development requests are now open. Athletes not confirmed during the confirmation period will not be considered for a development request spot.
  - b. Development selections will be posted to the confirmation list 5 days after the close of confirmation. These athletes will be able to pay on line after selection. If any development selection athlete is unable to attend to the race after they have been selected they need to let the Eastern Manager know by 7 days prior to the Team Captains meeting.
9. After the 7 day payment window, all Eastern athletes who have not paid, development selections excluded, will be purged from the entry list with no recourse to get back on the list and the green entry line will be readjusted on the Google spreadsheet and 15 alternates named. The additional athletes who have been added to the list will now be uploaded into the Adminskiracing website and they along with development quota athletes will have until 1 day before the TC meeting to pay. The alternates will not be able to pay online.
10. Foreign athletes will be able to pay through the Adminskiracing site up to 24 hours before the team captains meeting.
11. Since the organizers must have a final and complete list not later than 24 hours before the first draw (ICR 215.1) the final entry will be reflected on the Google spreadsheet and live timing the evening before the team captains meeting. The entry will include 15 Alternates.
12. Please check the final entry, as it is possible that the Eastern Office will have had to remove some athletes due to late arrival of entries by foreign federations. Athletes that have paid and are removed from the entry due to this reason will be notified and be refunded.
13. At team captains' meetings this year the only pulls from the board should be:
  - a. Foreign athletes intended by federations that do not show
  - b. Out of region athletes that do not show
  - c. Athletes injured in the last 24 hours or athletes who have been notified by their schools they are on academic probation. (Please notify the Eastern office as soon as possible when you become aware of this situation.)

14. At team captains meetings this year the only adds will be an athlete that was listed on an alternate list or a USST member. If foreign athletes not on travel letters arrive at a Team Captains' meeting, the Eastern Office must be contacted.
15. If athlete numbers exceed 140, pulls proceed as outlined in the Eastern Region Selection procedures.
16. Athletes pulled off the board at team captains meetings or pulls in the last week will not have their entry refunded unless they are injured, on academic probation, or cannot attend due to a force majeure. The credit card processing fee is not refunded
17. Foreign athletes attending Eastern programs repeatedly pulled off the board this year have their Federations notified.

Note: Payment from Admin Ski Racing will go directly to the ROC. USSA East is not collecting any funds.

#### FIS Open

1. Eastern Athletes are intended for Eastern FIS Open races using forms available on line on the Coaches page of the Eastern Website. (<http://alpine.usskiteam.com/alpine-programs/regions/eastern-region/coaches>.) Final date for intent is 28 days before the first Team Captains meeting.
2. Final date for intent for all foreign athletes on travel letters who are associated with Eastern programs will be 28 days prior to the first Team Captains' Meeting for the Series. These athletes may be intended through the foreign athlete entries portal on the coaches' page. (<http://alpine.usskiteam.com/alpine-programs/regions/eastern-region/coaches>)
3. See 5-17 in Eastern Cup Procedures above.

### **USSA Staff Pre-Proposals:** **Calendar and Grand Prix**

These pre-proposals are an effort by USSA staff to vet potential Congress 2014 proposals with appropriate committees and club leaders. Our goal is to circulate these pre-proposals in the Fall by October 1<sup>st</sup>, gather information through the season and then have an official proposal ready to be circulated in the spring by April 1<sup>st</sup>, prior to Congress.

Calendar:

**USA FIS Calendar 2015-16**

**Pre-Proposal 10/1/14**

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**Objective:**

To create a more structured race calendar to facilitate clear pathways to racing success at all levels.

**Rationale:**

The issues that have been identified by staff and sport committee members include, but are not limited to:

- Too many layers of FIS races across all levels of competitors has led to the dilution of the quality of FIS fields
- Many athletes do not need to compete at the FIS level, which gives access to international competition and unnecessarily increases travel and equipment expenses.
- The perceived value of USSA racing is declining, as most competitors gravitate toward the FIS races.

**Proposal:**

USSA staff will create the FIS calendars (NorAm, FISU, NC; FIS; NJC; NJR) with best athletic practices in mind. The result would be nationally coordinated FIS calendars with fewer races and fewer levels of racing that still meet the regional needs. Demand for entry into the FIS races will be higher, emphasis on performance at the USSA level will be increased in order to gain access to the FIS level, and the difference between USSA and FIS racing will be better defined highlighting a clear athletic pathway at the two levels.

**Factors for Consideration:**

- Input from the interested committees is still important and valued.
- Potential to decrease attrition with increased value of USSA races; U16 "participant" athletes will see an opportunity to continue racing USSA races.
- Athletes not yet eligible for FIS racing will attend USSA races, increasing field size in those races.
- FIS races will feature the region's best athletes who have performed at the USSA level previously.
- Fewer FIS races will allow larger, often used sites a chance to host various levels of USSA racing.
- Just changing the FIS calendar will not automatically re-emphasize USSA racing; a variety of additional factors will come into play:
  - Educating members as to why the change was needed.
  - Helping the divisions find creative ways to make USSA racing important, but also more fun.
- Revenue affected: FIS license (decrease in FIS members), Head Tax (Decrease in FIS scored races)
- Cost of ski racing is reduced for the competitor: localized travel, one less license.
- Highlight pathway to USCSA college racing through USSA racing

National NJR FIS Series (Grand Prix):

**Objectives:**

To raise the level of competition and intensity for male junior athletes, encourage head to head competition and focus, and provide a competitive environment for them to meet WJC success.

To create a more functional qualification procedure for U18 men into the national levels of USSA and USST development programs (NTG; D-Team).

**Rationale:**

Need to maximize head to head (H2H) competition opportunities in a shorter time period to create more training opportunities with less cost.

Qualification procedures for U18 men into select national development programs currently use the U18 National Championships and NorAm races, which do not provide adequate data for fair selection:

- NorAm access for U18 men, particularly for those in their first year of FIS eligibility, is difficult or only possible with discretionary selection. Given that, seeding in these races make junior competition comparisons with older athletes questionable.
- The U18 National Championships are currently the only competition where the top athletes nationally of this age group compete H2H, making this a very narrow selection window.
- 4 event competition at U18 Championship does not always produce best results due to course preparation requirements and full schedule.

**Proposal:**

Institute a Men's National NJR series, where the U18 athletes can score qualification race points (QRP) in the same manner as juniors do at NorAms. U18 qualification to the NTG or D-Team would use these QRP's as well as NorAm results. Races that make up the series will be held across the whole season at multiple sites.

**Factors for Consideration:**

- The series would create national H2H peer group competition; pace; urgency
- Tech events only; continue to use NorAms for speed as access is not the same issue
- NorAm access and scoring continues for all juniors
- Use existing regional NJR races, or stand alone series?
  - Quality surface and ROC
  - 2 or 3 SL/GS series of 2 SL+2 GS
  - Geographical distribution; one in each region?
- Quota for visiting regions; target U18 racers really on that track

**In Conclusion:**

This report is succinct and should drive good discussion. To wrap things up, I'd like to speak for the USSA staff in the region: Our goal is to get it right, even at the expense of being right. We strive to see athletic development across all levels in an environment that values synergy, transparency and collaboration. Year two, here we go!

Eric Harlow  
October 15, 2014