

ALASKA DIVISION

Ski competition within the Alaska Division is administered by the Alpine Competition Committee (ACC), which is comprised of representatives from each USSA member clubs. The ACC coordinates race schedules and development programs, establishes competition guidelines, and makes team selections for regional and national events.

Divisional Rules and Procedures

Membership

All competitors are required to be current members of USSA and hold a current USSA alpine competitor license in order to compete in USSA scored races. Youth, student, competitor, or master's membership is required for all non-scored USSA sanctioned events. All Alaskan USSA competition licensed members are also required to pay an Alaska Division membership (athletes who subscribe to the national points list). Entrants in the Alaska Division 12 - Under State Championships must hold a current Alaska Division/USSA membership license (usually student or youth).

Age Groups

Alaska Division alpine competition follows the USSA grouping system. Classification ages are based upon the age of the racer as of Dec. 31 of the current season. Some restrictions apply to specific age groups. A description of the age grouping system can be found in the USSA competition guide (rulebook).

Finances

An athlete's divisional and national financial obligations must be paid prior to the athlete's departure for an out-of-division or championship competition.

Entry Deadlines and Entry Fees

Race entries, accompanied by entry fees, must be received by the host club by the entry deadline as listed on the Alaska race calendar or as noted by host club race announcement. Maximum entry fee: \$30/start for USSA races, and \$35/start for FIS races. Late entries may be accepted depending on the sponsoring club's published policy.

Entry Refunds

If a racer wishes to withdraw from a race, entry fees will be refunded only when notice is given to the race secretary prior to the draw at the team captain's meeting of the race in question. If a DH or SG is canceled, the organizing club may keep the entire training fee if a training fee has been set and included in the race announcement. If a SL or GS is canceled, the organizer will refund the entire entry fee. Refunds will be mailed out within 30 days.

Out-of-Division Travel

Athletes wishing to travel to any out of division races must notify the coaches working group chair, via their club coach, a minimum of 30 days before the event. Only these athletes will appear on the NTS board, which will be used to make the selections 25 days before the event. A description of the NTS board can be found in the USSA competition guide. Selected athletes will have 48 hours to accept their selection, at which time a \$250 deposit is due. This deposit is non-refundable except in the event of injury or illness. The balance of the cost is due before the start of the event. The division will be responsible for collecting the cost of the trip from athletes. Athletes not in good standing with Alaska Division as of travel day of all divisional quota events are subject to immediate sanctioning. Good standing is defined as current USSA and Alaska Division membership and no outstanding debts owed the division. Send a check for the cost of the trip to the divisional administrator.

Race Announcements

All host clubs will be responsible for sending out pertinent race information such as the schedule, field size limits, lift fees and area releases to all USSA Alpine clubs within Alaska, no less than 30 days prior to the scheduled event.

Racing Bibs

The host club will issue racing bibs. The host club may charge a bib deposit at race registration or a fee for a lost bib or a bib returned late.

Race Results

Host clubs of divisional qualifiers will generate overall results that include the age group and second run times for each racer. Overall results will be posted to the Alaska Division web site within 72 hours of the completion of that event or series.

Quotas, Team Rules and Selection Procedures Western Region FIS Races

Racers will be selected to attend these events according to the policy for out-of-division travel. Selections will be made 25 days prior to the event, and athletes will have 48 hours to accept.

Selection Procedures for FIS Races

Selection is based on the National Team Selection Board (NTSB) using USSA seed points from the most current list on the selection date. The NTSB method is described in the USSA competition guide.

Western Region automatics will not appear on the board. For Speed Series a modified NTSB board will be used, in that GS will always be the last pick on any line. Athletes must meet Alaska eligibility rules.

Selection Boards will include only the events to be held at the Series, with the exception that Speed Events Series boards will also include GS.

Discretionary Selections

Up to 20 percent of any Alaska divisional quota may be allocated to discretionary selections. The use of this discretionary quota shall be the decision of the ACC. Petitions for exceptions must be made in writing, including supporting documentation, to the Coaches Working Group by the protest period of the final selection race. Approval of exception and inclusion into the quota shall be made by a majority vote of the ACC. Appeals to the petition procedure must be made in writing with supporting documentation to the ACC Appeals Board.

Junior Olympics

Alaska Junior Olympic Selection Method

J1 / J2 Selection process for Western Region Junior Championships

*****Athletes must declare their intent to compete at the WR championships to be included in the selection process. An "Intent to Compete" Form must be filled out and submitted to the Alaska Division office prior to the first race series. Mail completed forms to: Alaska Division, 134 Pacific View Dr., Anchorage, AK 99515. Forms may also be submitted electronically to: darcy@aci.net.

***** Current AK rules require out of division travel intent to compete declaration 30 days prior to travel. The deadline for Western Region Junior Championships is Feb. 3, 2010.

For the 2009 – 2010 season one selection series of six races will be used. To be placed on the selection board, athletes must be entered and compete in a minimum of two races from the series. The races contested will be 2 SG, 2 GS and 2 SL. The series will be contested at the Alyeska Cup in February. In the event that qualifying series has to be reduced to 4 or fewer races, qualification will be done using each "run" vs. "race." Events used for qualifying purposes to the Jr Championships will be limited to those events scheduled at the Championship event. *Example: There were no speed events scheduled for the 2006 J1/2 Jr Championships therefore the DH and SG events held in Anchorage and Juneau did not count toward qualification.*

Naming the team shall be accomplished by utilizing a 2 column selection board. Each column shall be comprised of eligible athlete names ranked first to last. The first ranked athlete shall be placed at the top of the column; the last ranked athlete shall be placed at the bottom of the column.

LEFT COLUMN comprised of athlete names ranked by each individual athlete's sum total of his/her best three race finishes at the qualifying series. Finishes shall be scored using new world cup points. An athlete may use no more than two results from any single discipline. Ties shall be broken using the next best result.

RIGHT COLUMN comprised of athlete names ranked by each individual athlete's best national point average in only the discipline where that particular athlete possesses his/her lowest national points. DH shall not be considered. Points utilized will be from USSA List #7, usually valid during the third week in January.

SELECTION is accomplished by taking the top name in the left column, then the top name in the right column. Selection continues by going to the second name in the left column, and then the second name in the right column, then the third column etc and by following the procedure described in the previous sentence until the team is filled. If a name comes up a second time it is skipped. Always skip across from left to right, not down for repeats.

Alaskan Western Region automatics will also be automatic selections to the Alaskan Junior Olympic Team in their age group. These athletes will not appear on the selection board, although they will occupy a quota spot.

Selections will be made as described above until each quota, including alternates, is filled. Selections will be made by the Coaches Working Group (CWG) and ratified by the ACC. Programs or independent athletes will be notified of team selections no more than 24 hours after they are determined. Athletes must notify their club of their intent to participate on the Junior Olympic team, with payment, within 48 hours after selections are announced.

J3 Selection Process for the Western Region Junior Olympics

The qualification races shall be both super G races plus the first slalom and the first giant slalom races of the Alyeska Cup series in Girdwood, and the slalom and giant slalom races of Juneau qualification series. J3 qualification will consist of two runs of SG, 4 runs of GS and 4 runs of SL.

Note: At all JO qualifiers, if more than one race in a technical discipline (SL or GS) is hosted at a site, then the first race within that discipline will be the designated qualifier. Should an area be unable to host the scheduled qualifier races, they will be made up at another scheduled site whenever possible.

Ranking will be made on the basis of each "run's" finish order, with no more than two "runs" counted in each discipline. Finish points will be awarded based on "new" World Cup Points (see your competition guide). In qualifying GS and SL races, racers that are not ranked after the first run (DNF's) will be allowed to run at the end of their respective seeds (groups of 15) in reverse bib order during the second run.

For purposes of filling the quota, the racer with the highest number of points based on their three best run finishes will be ranked first. Each racer thereafter will be ranked in accordance with the number of total points accumulated in the best three "runs". No more than two runs may be used in any discipline. Ties in ranking will be broken by using the next best run finishes per discipline, not to exceed using more than

two "runs" in any single discipline. Selections will be made as described above until each quota, including alternates, is filled. Selections will be made by the CWG and ratified by the ACC.

Programs or independent athletes will be notified of team selections no more than 24 hours after they are determined. Athletes must notify their club of their intent to participate on the Junior Olympic team, with payment, within 48 hours after selections are announced.

Seeding for the J3 Championships will be determined by adding the best 2 qualifying results in each of technical events, and using the best result in SG. Athletes will be ranked in each discipline from highest to lowest. Athletes with less than 2 results in technical events, or 1 result in SG, will count a zero in the place of each missing result. Ties will be broken by the next best result, then by the best race point differential.

Arctic Winter Games



. The Arctic Winter Games (<http://www.arcticwintergames.org/>) is a **high profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and arctic athletes. The Games provide an opportunity to strengthen sport development in the participants' jurisdictions, to promote the benefits of sport, to build partnerships, and to promote culture and values. The Games celebrate sport, social exchange and cultures. The Games provide an opportunity for the developing athlete to compete in friendly competition while sharing cultural values from northern regions around the world.**

Arctic Winter Games (AWG) March 6 – 13, 2010

Every two years Alaska athletes have an opportunity to participate in AWG. This season the event is being held in Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada. Our team consists of 12 athletes and 2 coaches (one female, one male).

6 athletes (3 men, 3 women): YOB 1993 – 1994, these athletes are referred to as **Juniors**.

6 athletes (3 men, 3 women): YOB 1995 – 1996, these athletes are referred to as **Juveniles**.

Events contested at AWG: Slalom, Giant Slalom and Dual Slalom.

Alaska Selection Method: Athletes will be ranked using the method described for J3 selection process (see above) utilizing Alyeska Cup races only due to February 15th deadline for team selection. Note that only giant slalom and slalom runs will be used for ranking athletes since super-g will not be contested at the AWG.

No athlete may attend both AWG and Junior Olympics/Championships.

Team Fees: Cost for participation is \$650/athlete + coaching fees. Coaching fees will be determined prior to team selection. Fees are to be paid to Alaska Division. Passports are required and can take up to 8 weeks for processing.

Alaska Race Highlights & Teams

Juneau J3 J.O. Qualification Series This race series is hosted by the Juneau Ski Club at the Eaglecrest Ski area. This two day event will consist of one GS and one SL. This series will be used for J3 J.O. qualification, but the series is open to all age classes. Series race awards are given to the top-three racers in each junior age class (men & women) in each discipline. Awards are also given to the top-five overall combined female and male racers, based on World Cup points scored in all the races, with only racers finishing all events being eligible to win.

Alyeska Cup

The Alyeska Cup Series is held at Mt. Alyeska in February, and consists of both technical and speed events. The first race of each discipline is used for the Alyeska Cup and the Alaska Division championship selection. WC points are awarded for each of three races (1SG, 1GS, 1SL), and only athletes that finish all three events will be eligible to win.

Alaska State Championships

The winner of the first event in each discipline at the Alyeska Cup will be designated the Alaska state champion in that discipline.

Alaska J4/J5 State Championships

This event is generally held in late March or early April and rotates each year from Anchorage, then Juneau, and then Fairbanks. Races include one GS and one SL that are non-scored USSA races. Entrants in the Alaska Division 12 - Under State Championships must hold a current Alaska Division/USSA membership license (usually youth or student).

Team Alaska

"Team Alaska" is for those Alaska Division alpine competitors who have achieved a high level in ski racing and are recognized for their efforts. Being named to Team Alaska is one of the highest honors that an athlete can achieve within the Alaska Division.

Criteria for Team Alaska A Team: Top 3 finish at a JO event and/or National top 15 ranking in year of birth in any discipline by the May points list. Benefits: Team Alaska A Team members are provided entry into all Alaska Division USSA scored races. Members receive certificates of accomplishment from the Alaska Division and a Divisional patch.

Criteria for Team Alaska B Team: Regional top 15 ranking in any discipline in year of birth. Benefits: Team Alaska B Team members receive certificates of accomplishment from the Alaska Division and a Divisional patch.

Academic Team Alaska: The Alaska Academic Team is comprised of athletes enrolled in junior high school (7th and 8th grades) or high school representing a racing program in Alaska who maintained a 3.5 *gpa or higher for the entire academic year*. Benefits: Alaska Academic Team members receive certificates of accomplishment from the Alaska Division and a Divisional patch. To be considered for academic team Alaska, athletes must submit their transcripts or both semesters' report cards to their coach and the coach must forward the list of qualified scholar/athletes to the Alaska Division administrator by November 1 each year. Independent athletes should submit their grades directly to the administrator.

Team Alaska membership is recognition for results or academic achievements from the prior season.