

UNITED STATES SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION CENTRAL DIVISION – REGION ONE

*****WELCOME TO THE 2009 – 2010 RACE SEASON *****

Dear Region I Racers and Parents:

Welcome to the 2009 – 2010 USSA Region 1 racing season! We particularly want to welcome all the athletes and families new to USSA racing into the Region 1 family! This year's Presidents letter is a bit different from year's past, and is intended to outline the resources available to experienced and new ski racing families to keep up to date as the Region 1 racing season progresses and where to go and whom to ask as you have questions.

For new families, Region 1 is the local sponsoring organization for USSA (United States Ski Association) alpine racing in Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and LaCrosse, WI. All athletes in Region 1 must register with Region 1 (see below). Region 1 is part of the Rocky – Central Division of USSA, and USSA is the governing body in the United States. All athletes must also register with USSA, which is available on-line at www.ussa.org, click on "Membership Tools" and proceeding to the "On-Line Registration" tab. Athletes 15 and older who desire to race in FIS races organized by the International Ski Federation must also proceed to register on-line at www.fis-ski.com. But it all starts for our athletes here in Region 1.

CHECK SKIFAST.COM WEEKLY

Region 1's website, www.skifast.com is the Region's primary communications tool for all the important dates and information on Region 1 racing, from on-line registration calendars, registration for optional races, race schedules, to pace teams for the next weekend's pace team, fees checklist. Take some time now and explore www.skifast.com and bookmark it and get in the habit of checking it weekly.

In addition to the registration materials you can find the following items on our website:

1. Race Schedules for J456, J321 and FIS Classes
2. Registration Forms for optional races
3. Registration for club clinics and November 1st and 2nd officials training sessions.
4. USSA Volunteer Race Worker Registrations for non-USSA member parents
5. Checklist of Fees

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Region One Secretary
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RACE SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

Race Schedules are posted on the Region 1 www.skifast.com website (do you have it bookmarked yet??) in the CALENDARS TAB. Notification of any schedule changes will be posted in the NEWS TAB on the website (is it bookmarked yet?).

AGE GROUPS NOTE: All racers born in 1996 or earlier will race in the J321 group this year. All racers born in 1997 or later will race in the J456 group.

REGION 1 REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 31, 2009 **REGISTER ON-LINE NOW**

RACERS AND PARENTS: Registration can now be completed online. Go to www.skifast.com and click the "Registration" tab on the left side of the Home page. You can fill out the registration form, complete the release form and pay online via credit card or PayPal. If you are having difficulty completing the registration online please contact Elaine at (952) 943-1214. Remember registration deadline is October 31, 2009.

Be sure the registration form is filled out entirely and the race fee is paid in full before the entry deadline.

The fees for this year by age class are as follow, which include a \$30 Central Division fee for J456 classes and \$50 Central Division for J3 and older):

J6 CLASS MEMBERS (birth years 2001 or later):	\$65
NEW J45 CLASS MEMBERS (birth years 1997-2000):	\$130.00
RETURNING J45 CLASS MEMBERS:	\$170.00 (\$130.00 if paid 10/31/09)
J321 (birth years 1990-1996):	\$275.00 (\$235.00 if paid 10/31/09)
SR. CLASS MEMBERS (birth year 1989 or earlier):	\$275.00 (\$235.00 if paid 10/31/09)

These are registration fees only for Region 1 and Central Division. Separate fees apply to the required USSA registration and optional FIS registration discussed below.

Registrations received after October 31 will be charged the full fee and may not appear on the run order for the first weekend. (However, a registration sent late is still better than waiting for the first race!) Those racers who have not paid by the first race will have to fill out a non-registered racer form at the race site on that day and will be added to the bottom of the run order. Payment in full (\$65.00 or \$170.00 or \$275.00) **MUST** be made at the first race. New racers not previously part of our program can register until the first regular race at the discounted fee.

Please note that separate registration and entry fee are required for the Jody Spooner Classic, Chuck Stone Invitational, Afton J456 Championships and Wild's Spring Fling as they are fundraisers for the sponsoring clubs.

COLLEGE RACERS: Fulltime college racers will be assessed a \$100 fee (\$60 if received by December 1) and must register with Region 1 to compete in any Region 1 races. This fee includes the \$50 Central Division fee. Additionally, to compete in any Region 1 race, a college

racer must pay an individual regular race entry at \$6.00 (per race) and must call Elaine Kolkmann at 952-943-1214 by Wednesday noon of the week of the race to be eligible and be placed on the start list.

CENTRAL TEAM RACERS: Athletes named to the Central Team must also register for Region One by the deadline and indicate status on form.

REFUND POLICY: Up until November 1, a full refund of Region One fees will be issued, until December 1 a 75% refund will be issued, and after December 1 there will be no refunds except under extraordinary circumstances. Requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to the Treasurer.

FEES CHECKLIST: Online you will also find the “Checklist of Fees” which summarizes the different charges racers may be required to pay. Read the checklist carefully to determine which charges apply to your racer. All charges do not apply to every racer.

SEPARATE REGISTRATION FOR USSA AND FIS: All athletes must register and become a member of USSA (National) to race in Region I races. Failure to register with USSA will prevent you from racing in Region I. USSA registration is available on-line at www.ussa.org, click on “Membership Tools” and proceeding to the “On-Line Registration” tab. It is your responsibility to become properly registered with USSA. Athletes intending to participate in FIS races must also register separately with the International Ski Federation at www.fis-ski.com.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED - OFFICIALS TRAINING OFFERED
!! RACES DON'T HAPPEN WITHOUT PARENTS !!

It is impossible to run USSA races without 30 – 40 volunteer workers for each race. These volunteers must come from the parents and friends of the racers. Many parents work races every weekend. Unlike other sports, ski racing is a way for parents to get out of the stands and off the sidelines and into the action. Volunteering is a great way to participate with your son or daughter in the race – learn about ski racing and make some great ski friends. We urge all parents and friends of racers to join USSA and to participate as race volunteers. Inability to secure a sufficient number of volunteers may require the cancellation of a race. But Region 1 has a proud history known throughout ski racing’s national community of hosting well run, top notch races every ski season. That happens because of parents like you, and you will meet great fellow parents eager to assist in volunteering and officiating at ski races. Here is how you get involved:

BECOME A USSA MEMBER: Becoming a USSA member provides you with liability and secondary medical insurance at USSA events, provides you certification for officiating courses you attend and track your progress as an official. Some members become certified officials, and many simply prefer to volunteer in one of the many necessary race positions. There are additional benefits to becoming a USSA member beyond the scope of this letter, but well worth the \$60 member fee. To become a USSA member, go to www.ussa.org, click on MEMBERSHIP TOOLS TAB in upper right corner, and click on BECOME A MEMBER. Renewing Members can follow the same path to MEMBERSHIP TOOLS TAB and log in to

their Member Account or, if have not previously established a Member Account, establish one and then renew your membership.

VOLUNTEER AS A NON-USSA MEMBER: If you do not intend to join USSA, but intend to assist at races, we ask you to complete the *USSA Volunteer Race Worker Registration* form for each non-USSA volunteer. This form can be found on Region 1's www.skifast.com (bookmarked yet by you??) , click on REGISTRATION FORMS TAB, and then click on "USSA Race Worker Volunteer Form" and print and complete and bring it to your first USSA race or mail to our Region 1 Administrator, Elaine Kolkmann, before the season starts. You only need to complete the form once for the entire season. website; please bring the completed form with you to your first race or mail to Elaine before the season starts.

BECOME A USSA ALPINE OFFICIAL: To become a USSA Alpine official, the first step is to become a USSA member. The next step is to complete a Competition Official ("CO") course, which generally last around 2 hours and will be offered at multiple locations identified below. The CO is the first step on the "officials ladder", and must be completed before the next step of becoming certified as an Alpine Official ("AO") in one of the specific category of officials, such as Chief of Race, Chief of Course, Referee, Chief of Timing, Race Administrator, Chief of Gates. We encourage all parents to become certified in one of these categories, even if you do not intend to serve the race in such capacity and volunteer in other capacities, because this will add to your knowledge and enjoyment of the sport. For those who enjoy working with folks indoors at a ski race, we encourage them to become Race Administrators which we are in great need of in our volunteer ranks.

CO & AO COURSES: The CO courses for the 2009 – 2010 season will be offered at the following locations – all are welcome at any of the locations regardless of club affiliation – just get to one! No fees to attend!

Team Duluth	Tuesday October 13 th , 6:30 - 8:30 PM Spirit Team Room Contact: Scott Ransom: race7244@msn.com Gretchen Ransom: gretch1099@msn.com
Team Gilboa	Saturday October 24 th , 9 AM Team Gilboa Competition Center, Hyland Hills Heidi Samuels Please RSVP by Friday, October 23 via email to hhsamuels@aol.com
Apex Alpine	Sunday October 18 th Lindey's Steakhouse, Arden Hills Contact Mark Lindemer marklindemer@msn.com
Buck Hill	Saturday October 24 th , 9 a.m. Team Clubroom Contact: Dave Tengdin: dctengdin@allisonwilliams.com

Afton Alps Sunday October 25th, 12 to 2PM, 2-3PM FAQ
Main Chalet – Oakwood Room, ,
Contact: Tony Olin tolin@aol.com

Welch Village Saturday October 24th, 9 a.m.
Chalet
Contact: Tom Alexander tomalex@earthlink.net

LaCrosse Tuesday November 3rd, 5 p.m.
Mt LaCrosse
Contact: Marci Kuhrt marci@mtlacrosseskiteam.com

Next, attend one of the AO (Alpine Official) certification courses on October 31st/ November 1st weekend at Buck Hill. There is no fee to attend! The details are as follows:

Advance Registration Appreciated / Contact:

Tom Alexander
Region 1 Training Coordinator
tomalex@earthlink.net
612-865-2145

Saturday October 31, 2009

8:00 AM Registration for walk ins.
8:30 AM General Session For All Attendees: General rules update nationally and internationally.

Courses to immediately follow the update and include:

Competition Officials
Technical Delegate
Chief of Race
Timing Equipment Familiarity

Sunday November 1, 2009

9:00 AM Start

Courses include:

Referee
Timing and Calculations Course
(Bring a calculator for Timing and Calculations class)

As is true with any sport, understanding the rules of the game and how it is played is critical to your understanding and enjoyment of the sport of ski racing. Be sure to attend one of the officials clinics offered this fall. I can personally guarantee that you will be glad you did.

Thank you for your participation and enthusiasm. Please call Elaine or myself if you have any questions. We are looking forward to a fast, fun, and exciting season and remember to tell others about the great experience of ski racing.

Let's ski race ! Looking forward to meeting you on the slopes!

Sincerely,

Mike Quinlivan
Region I President
2009-2010