SOUTHERN VERMONT COUNCIL

2016-17 RULES

2016-17 SEASON

INTRODUCTION

The Southern Vermont Council is the governing body for children's-level ski racing in Southern Vermont. The Council is comprised of Program Directors and ski coaches from all eight ski racing programs (Bromley Outing Club, Magic Mountain, Mount Snow Training Center, Mount Snow Academy, Stratton Mountain School, Stratton Winter Sports Club, Willard Mountain, and Hermitage Club at Haystack).

The purpose of the Council is to:

- Establish new and innovative approaches to ski racing in Southern Vermont that will be both beneficial and fun for all racers,
- Develop proposals and formulate recommendations for presentation to the Vermont Alpine Racing Association (VARA) and VARA's Alpine Competition Committees,
- Discuss and resolve specific race or racer-related issues,
- Establish the race schedule for the season,
- Provide awards for all racers named to the Council Teams for the U12 and U14 State Championships,
- To review Council, VARA, and USSA rules and regulations governing ski racing and to formulate appropriate rules and regulations for the various age classes and all Council-sponsored races.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Stratton Winter Sports Club (SWSC), David Edry-Chair; Bromley Outing Club (BOC), Amy Zimmer; Magic Mountain Ski Club (Magic), Ethan Sullivan; Mt Snow Academy (MSA), Dave Gregory; Mt Snow Training Center (MSTC), Wayne Conn; Stratton Mountain School (SMS), Mike Morin; Willard Mountain (Will), Jerry Korenowski; Hermitage Club (HERM), Bob McGraw.

VARA CDC Representatives: David Edry (SWSC-SVC Chairman); Sue Kramer (BOC)

Age Class Representatives: **U14:** Naga Kusumi-SMS   **U12:** Bryan Borgia   **U10:** Galen Kemp-MSTC

COUNCIL-SPONSORED RACES The Council sponsors two separate race series: the Betty Clayton U12 & U10 League Race Series and the Southern Vermont Council 14 Race Series. The Council also sponsors The Meisterschaft for the U12's.

A racers age. In keeping with USSA rules a racers age is determined by how old the racer is on December 31st of the current racing season.

2016/17 Age Class by year of birth (YOB):

U19	1998-2000
U16	2001-2002
U14	2003-2004
U12	2005-2006
U10	2007-2009

Betty Clayton U12/U10 League Race Series:

The Betty Clayton U12/U10 League is for Junior racers ages 7-11 years of age (U12: 10-11 year olds-YOB 2005-06, U10: 7-9 year olds-YOB 2007-09). In accordance with USSA & VARA rules, racers under 7 (YOB 2010 & younger) years of age may not compete in any USSA or VARA event. These races are entry-level races in the SVC. The League was created to promote and sustain greater interest in ski racing and to make Council sponsored races more exciting and fun for all racers, regardless of ability. Age and ability appropriate races are scheduled for junior racers, with awards based on combined run times. Awards are given for the top 10 boys and top 10 girls in each U12 and U10 race.

The League is named in memory and honor of Betty Clayton, former Program Director of the Bromley Outing Club, in recognition of her tireless dedication and commitment to junior ski racing.

Southern Vermont Council Race Series:

The Southern Vermont Council Race Series is designed for Junior racers 12-13 years of age interested in participating at a level of competition leading to State, Regional, and National Championships. Age-appropriate races are scheduled for the age class (U14: 12-13 yr olds-YOB 2003-04) racing in the Council Series. Awards are presented at each race based on combined run times. For each age group the top 10 boys and top 10 girls receive an award. All Southern Vermont Council eligible junior racers participating in the Council Series, providing they participate in at least two (2) of the competitive events (not including council camps), are eligible to compete for selection to the Council Teams for participation at the Vermont State Championships. Racers with YOB of 2003-04 named to the Council Team compete in the U14 State Championship.

A council approved U12 competing in the Southern Vermont Council U14 Race Series may be selected to compete in the U14 state championships to represent the Southern Vermont Council with VARA approval.

For ease of use, all rules and regulations are arranged and presented by Race Series and, where appropriate, by age group classification.

Please refer to the VARA.org calendar for additional rules and requirements for Vermont children's racing.

BETTY CLAYTON U12/U10 LEAGUE RACE SERIES
JUNIORS 2005-2009 YOB

MEMBERSHIPS:

All racers must have current memberships in VARA (Vermont Alpine Racing Association) and have a competition membership of the United States Ski Association (USSA). All racers must be affiliated with a council club or be a registered SVC Independent to be eligible for council standings and State Team selection. SVC Registered Independent racers that are not SVC club affiliated must pay an Independent Fee of $25.00 to the SVC to race in the series.

EQUIPMENT:

Helmets: The SVC complies with all rules and regulations of the United States Ski Association (USSA) and recommends the use of helmets at all times. The USSA requires helmets to be worn by all racers at USSA-sanctioned slalom, giant slalom, and SG races, and requires full ear protection (no open/soft ear helmets).

U10's racing in SVC events may not race in an exposed GS racing suit in U10 SVC events. Jackets and full pants (no shorts) are required.

Athletes racing in the Clayton U12 series events must follow all current USSA equipment guidelines. These current standards can be found on USSA.org.

RACES:

Seeding for Runs: The race field is divided into cells of equal size. 1 cell for each scheduled race for the season. The cells rotate the first run of each race to allow each cell of racers the opportunity to race in the first seed. Example: If you have 5 races scheduled for the season you would have 5 cells, A, B, C, D, E. In the first race cell A would go first then B, C, D, and E last. For the second race of the season cell B would go first then C, D, E, A, and so forth.

Skills Assessment Competition start orders will be a random draw conducted by the race host.

Second Run Start Order: Seeding for the second run will be reverse order of the first run. All finishers, DNF's, and DSQ's will start in the same position as the first run.

Second Run Start Time: Second run start time is determined by the host mountain. The second run typically begins one hour after the completion of the second run course set.

Number and Format: Race numbers and discipline to be determined at SVC spring meeting. All SVC U10/U12 slalom events will use 'stubbie' slalom gates. For SVC Skills Assessment events, USSA's Skills Quest skills and scoring will be used. U10's will use Skills Quest Phase 2 skills. U12's will use Skills Quest Phase 3 skills. Skills Assessments will not count towards council standings.

Timing of Runs: Racers are individually timed on each run. All runs are electronically timed, with two back up timing systems used in accordance with USSA timing guidelines.

Awards: Based on the combined time of both runs in slalom and giant slalom, and based on the overall score in the skills assessment. Awards will be presented to the top 10 boys and top 10 girls in the U12 and U10 age classes. Awards are the responsibility of the host club. Clubs may not present Ribbons as awards.

U10 Betty Clayton Team Trophy: At the awards of each SVC U10 event, the **Betty Clayton Team Trophy** will be awarded. The trophy is presented to the top performing team at the event. The award is to encourage team spirit and pride within the SVC. The SVC Team Trophy scoring will be determined by the SVC. Scoring system TBA to clubs prior to January 1st.

Race Entry Fees: The host mountain may charge up to $ 35.00 per racer ($40.00 for SG/terrain camps & dual) entry fee for each Council-sponsored race. Fees are payable to the host mountain or club. These fees do not include any necessary online surcharges required by website.

Submitting Race Results: SVC clubs hosing events must have all races 'coded' prior to the event, and results must be submitted to USSA and VARA post-event.

Protocol for Parents: SVC has asked that parents be racer supporters on race days. In order to allow each racer some quiet time in the starting gate to mentally prepare for his or her run, to develop his/her own personal pre-race ritual, and to receive any last minute instructions from the coaches, it is important that the start area be as least distracting to the racer as possible. For this reason, parents are not allowed in the start area or race arena.

Parents, racers, and coaches are not allowed to enter timing buildings for any reason during a race. Only those individuals authorized by the host mountain are allowed in the timing building.

PICHE'S CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM: March 17-19, 2017

COUNCIL TEAM TO THE PICHE'S CHAMPIONSHIP: All U12 aged junior racers eligible to race in the Clayton U12 Race Series are eligible to compete for a position on the Southern Vermont Council Piche's Championship Team to represent the SVC at the Piche's Championships.

SCORING: Each individual run placing will count for one place point in the Clayton U12 Series SL, GS, & SG Events. At dual events days (2 races, 4 runs), only the combined time placing of each dual (2 scores/day) will be scored for standings. Individual runs will not be used at dual events. Skills day scoring will not be used for council standings.

QUALIFYING FOR THE PICHE'S CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM: The scoring will be based on one less than half (50%-1) of the racers lowest place points. If the season total is an odd number of runs, the amount of runs taken into consideration will be rounded down. Ties will be broken using the internal tie break method, then external.

- The number of female racers versus male racers chosen for the Piche's Championship Team will be based on the percentage of females versus males having started in the Clayton U12 race series after the 3rd council event.
- One less than half (50%-1) of the racers best results from the total runs contested in the SVC Series will determine that racers place point total.

NUMBER NAMED: The Piche's Organizers on an annual basis will determine the number of Vermont athletes named to the Piche's Championship Team. The quota is a VARA quota and will be divided equally among the three VARA Councils.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING NAMED TO THE PICHE'S TEAM: Racers must be members of VARA, USSA, a member of a SVC affiliated club, or a SVC registered independent at the time of a competition for the competitions results to be used for the SVC Team calculations. An event may not be used retroactively for scoring if a racer registers for VARA after said event.

THE MEISTERSCHAFT: March 18-19, 2017

SVC TEAM TO THE MEISTERSHAFT: All SVC member U12 aged junior racers are eligible to race in the The Meisterschaft.

EVENTS: The Meisterschaft is a two day event. Saturday is a 2-run Stubbie Slalom hosted by Willard Mountain. Sunday will be 2 dual races (1 in the AM, 1 in the PM) hosted by Magic Mountain.

START ORDER: To determine the start order, SVC Council Standings will be used. The SVC Start order will be the same for each event. 2nd run start order for the stubbie SL will be the same as the first run. The start order for each dual event will be the same as the stubbie SL event. MVC invited athletes will be inserted into the start order. One MVC council athlete will be added in every third start position. I.E.: 1. SVC 2. SVC, 3. MVC 4. SVC 5. SVC 6. MVC.

SCORING: The overall places of The Meisterschaft standings will be determined by New World Cup points. All 3 races of The Meisterschaft (1 SL, Dual #1, Dual #2) will be counted in the Meisteschaft overall standings.

NUMBER NAMED: All SVC athletes are eligible to participate in the Meisterschaft if they have enough SVC results to be scored in the SVC season standings. The Meisterschaft has a MVC quest quota of 40 (20 men/20 women). MVC will determine the qualifications to fill the MVC quota.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING NAMED TO THE MEISTERSCHAFT: Racers must be members of VARA, USSA, a member of a SVC affiliated club, or a SVC registered independent at the time of a competition for the competitions results to be used for the SVC Team calculations. An event may not be used retroactively for scoring if a racer registers for VARA after said event.

AWARDS: All athletes racing in The Meisterschaft are eligible for event and overall awards. Each event will present unique and fun awards at the end of each event. 10 places overall for each race (3 races: 1 SL, 2 duals) will be awarded to men and women. The top 10 overall places for the Meisterschaft Series will be awarded at the end of the last event. The host club will supply each individual event award. Overall Meisterschaft awards will be supplied by the SVC.

U12 NY/VT INVITATIONAL PROJECT: March 31-April 2, 2017

COUNCIL TEAM TO THE U12 NY/VT Invitational Project: All U12 aged junior racers eligible to race in the Clayton U12 Race Series are eligible to compete for a position on the Southern Vermont Council U12 NY/VT SL Fundamentals Project team. VARA's quota (20m/20w) second year U12's (YOB-2005) will be distributed throughout the three VARA councils.

SCORING: Each individual run placing will count for one place point in the Clayton U12 Series SL, GS, & SG Events. At dual events days (2 races, 4 runs), only the combined time placing of each dual (2 scores/day) will be scored for standings. Individual runs will not be used at dual events. Skills day scoring will not be used for council standings.

QUALIFYING FOR THE U12 NY/VT INVITATIONAL PROJECT TEAM: The scoring will be based on one less than half (50%-1) of the racers lowest place points. If the season total is an odd number of runs, the amount of runs taken into consideration will be rounded down. Ties will be broken using the internal tie break method. If a tie still exists the external runs will be used.

- The number of female racers versus male racers chosen for the U12 NY/VT Invitational Project Team will be based on the percentage of females versus males having started in the Clayton U12 race series after the 3rd council event.
- One less than half (50%-1) of the racers best results from the total runs contested in the SVC Series will determine that racers place point total.

NUMBER NAMED: The U12 NY/VT Invitational Project Organizers, on an annual basis, will determine the number of Vermont athletes named to the U12 NY/VT Invitational Project Team. The quota is a VARA quota and will be divided equally among the three VARA Councils.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING NAMED TO THE U12 NY/VT INVITATIONAL PROJECT TEAM: Racers must be members of VARA, USSA, a member of a SVC affiliated club, or a SVC registered independent at the time of a competition for the competitions results to be used for the SVC Team calculations. An event may not be used retroactively for scoring if a racer registers for VARA after said event.

SOUTHERN VERMONT COUNCIL U14 RACE SERIES
JUNIORS 2003-2004 YOB

MEMBERSHIPS:

All racers must have current memberships in VARA (Vermont Alpine Racing Association) and have a competition membership of the United States Ski Association (USSA). All racers must be affiliated with a council club or be a registered SVC Independent to be eligible for council standings and State Team selection. SVC Registered Independent racers that are not SVC club affiliated must pay an Independent Fee of $25.00 to the SVC to race in the series.

EQUIPMENT:

All equipment must meet the current United States Ski Association (USSA) requirements.

Helmets: The SVC complies with all rules and regulations of the United States Ski Association (USSA) and recommends the use of helmets at all times. The USSA requires FIS Approved helmets to be worn by all racers at USSA-sanctioned giant slalom, downhill, and super giant slalom races, and requires full ear protection (no open/soft ear helmets) for GS, SG, & DH events. SVC recommends the use of a 'face-bar' in slalom events.

Athletes racing in the SVC U14 series events must follow all current USSA equipment guidelines. GS Skis must be used for SVC U14 'Dual GS' events. Slalom Skis are recommended for 'Dual SL' events.

RACES:

Races: SVC will run two timed runs each race day for slalom and giant slalom events. The series should include giant slaloms, duals, slaloms, and super-g events.

Second Run Start Time: Second run start time is determined by the host mountain. The second run typically begins one hour after the completion of the second run course set.

Seeding for Runs-U14: The start order for the 1st run of the first 2 council events will be determined by a random draw conducted by the event organizer. Council standings after the first 2 events will be used as the start order for the remainder of the council events with the top 15 athletes in those standings drawn at random by the event organizer.

Skills Assessment start orders will be a random draw conducted by the race host.

Second Run Start Order: Seeding for the second run will be reverse order of the first run. All finishers, DNF's, and DSQ's will included in the reversed start order.

Number and Format: Recommended: giant slaloms, duals, slaloms, non-scored skill assessment, Super-G. SVC will run 2 SG runs on the SG race day (weather permitting): 1 untimed training run, 1 timed race run. SVC will use 'age appropriate' U14 slalom gates (60" OTS height, 27mm thickness) for all SVC U14 slalom events. For SVC Skills Assessment events, USSA's Skills Quest skills and scoring will be used. U14's will use Skills Quest Phase 4 skills.

Timing of Runs: Racers are individually timed on each run. All runs are electronically timed, with two back up timing systems always used in accordance with USSA timing guidelines.

AWARDS: Based on the combined time of the two runs in slalom and giant slalom, one run in SG, and overall score in the Skills Assessment, awards will be presented to the top 10 boys and top 10 girls. Each individual run placing and the combined time placing will count toward council standings. The Super-G will count as one score. Each duals race will have one council score (combined result). Skills assessments will not be scored in council standings. Awards are the responsibility of the individual clubs. Ribbons may not be presented as awards

RACE ENTRY FEES: The host mountain may charge up to $ 35.00 per racer ($40.00 for SG & dual) entry fee for each Council-sponsored race. Fees are payable to the host mountain or club. These fees do not include any necessary online surcharges required by registration website.

SUBMITTING TO USSA: SVC clubs hosting events must have all races 'coded' prior to the event, and results must be submitted to USSA and VARA post-event.

Protocol for Parents: SVC has asked that parents be racer supporters on race days. In order to allow each racer some quiet time in the starting gate to mentally prepare for his or her run, to develop his/her own personal pre-race ritual, and to receive any last minute instructions from the coaches, it is important that the start area be as least distracting to the racer as possible. For this reason, parents are not allowed in the start area.

Parents, racers, and coaches are not allowed to enter timing buildings for any reason during a race. Only those individuals authorized by the host mountain are allowed in the timing building.

SOUTHERN VERMONT COUNCIL U14 STATE TEAM

Stowe, VT: March 3-5, 2017

COUNCIL TEAM TO THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP: All Junior U14 racers eligible to race in the Southern Vermont Council League U14 Race Series are eligible to compete for a position on the Southern Vermont Council Team to represent the Council at the Vermont U14 State Championship.

SCORING: Each runs placing and the combined time placing will each count for one place point each in U14 Council Series Events (3 scores for SL/GS events, 1 score for SG). At SVC dual events, only the combined time placing of a dual will be scored for standings. Individual runs will not be used at dual events. SG Race scoring will be based on the overall standings of the race run for 1 possible score. Skills Assessment scoring will not be included in the SVC Standings.

QUALIFYING FOR THE COUNCIL TEAM: The scoring will be based on one less than half (50%-1) of the racers lowest place points. If the season scoring total is an odd number of runs, the amount of runs taken into consideration will be rounded down. Ties will be broken using the internal tie break method. If a tie still exists the external runs will be used.

- The number of female racers versus male racers chosen for the SVC Team will be based on the percentage of females versus males having started in the SVC race series after the 3rd council event.
- One less than half (50%-1) of the sum of the racer's best finishes will determine that racers place point total.

EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS AUTOMATIC SELECTIONS:

- SVC has 2 available spots for the Eastern Championships. The #1 ranked male and #1 ranked female in the SVC U14 standings after the last event will be selected as the SVC Eastern Championship Automatics.

NUMBER NAMED: The number of boys and number of girls named to the Team will be determined by the VARA on an annual basis. The selection will be based on council % within VARA.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING NAMED TO THE COUNCIL TEAM: Racers must be members of VARA, USSA, a member of a SVC affiliated club, or a SVC registered independent at the time of a competition for the competitions results to be used for the SVC Team calculations. An event may not be used retroactively for scoring if a racer registers for VARA after said event.

PICHE'S CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM: March 17-19, 2017

COUNCIL TEAM TO THE PICHE'S CHAMPIONSHIP: All U14 aged junior racers eligible to race in the 'VARA U14 State Shootout' are eligible to compete for a position on the Southern Vermont Council Piche's Championship Team to represent the SVC at the Piche's Championships.

SCORING: Scoring to determine standings will be based on the current VARA's U14 Shootout scoring method.

QUALIFYING FOR THE PICHE'S CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM: Athletes must be qualified to compete in the VARA U14 Shootout. The next (number TBD by VARA) U14 SVC athletes that have not been selected to compete in the U14 VT State Championship from the U14 Shootout, will be selected to attend Piche's Invitational.

NUMBER NAMED: The Piche's Organizers on an annual basis will determine the number of Vermont athletes named to the Piche's Championship Team. The quota is a VARA quota and will be divided equally among the three VARA Councils.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING NAMED TO THE PICHE'S TEAM: Racers must be members of VARA, USSA, a member of a SVC affiliated club, or a SVC registered independent at the time of a competition for the competitions results to be used for the SVC Team calculations. A event may not be used retroactively for scoring if a racer registers for VARA after said event.

U14 NY/VT INVITATIONAL PROJECT: March 23-24, 2017

COUNCIL TEAM TO THE U14 NY/VT Invitational Project: All U14 aged junior racers that have qualified to race in the Vermont U14 State Championships are eligible to compete for a position on the VARA U14 NY/VT Invitational team. VARA's quota (30).

SCORING: To be determined by VARA. Go to VARA.org for current scoring methods.

GENERAL

- Coaches are to encourage all racers to read the mountain rules sheet and to follow all area rules.
- Coaches are to actively encourage all racers and parents to attend the awards presentations at each Council-sponsored race.
- Emphasis should be placed on free skiing time after the race. The method used to permit free skiing and access to the lifts after a race is to be determined by each host mountain.
- The Council recommends that all coaches working in programs be a certified referee and hold a current Basic First Aid and CPR card.

MEMBERSHIPS:

- All programs/clubs must be "current" members of VARA and the USSA and have current year memberships.
- All programs/clubs must have paid SVC dues by scheduled date.
- All coaches attending SVC events must be current members of VARA and USSA.
- All programs/clubs must supply the Council Chair a list of active coaches prior to December 15th. This list will be used as the 'Coaches Ticket' list for all SVC events. Names not on this list will not receive a complementary race day ticket.
- Each mountain is responsible for assuring that all of its racers are members of VARA and USSA and that all of its coaches are members of VARA and USSA.
- The names, email addresses, and work and home telephone numbers of all Program Directors, Head Coaches, Head Age Class Coaches, and, at the discretion of the Program Director, other program coaches, should be sent to the Council Chair as early as possible at the start of the season (but no later than December 15th) so that a Southern Vermont Council Directory can be prepared and distributed to all Program Directors.
- The Program Director must also send to the Council Chair the name, email address, and telephone number of the Age Class Chair if he or she is a coach in that Program.

RACE REQUIREMENTS:

Seeding:

U14

- Random draw of field for 1st two races, council standings for the remainder of the season with the top-15 athletes in the council standings randomly drawn.
- Reverse 1st run start order for the 2nd run in all U14 SVC Council races, except duals. Duals will use the same start order for both runs.

U12/U10 SVC Events

- Modified Brown Bibbo is to be used.
    - Brown Method is to be used for the first run at all SVC Council races.
        - The race field is to be divided into cells of equal size based on the total number of races scheduled for each age group. The cells are to be rotated the first run of each race to allow each racer the opportunity to race in the first seed. After each race, the first cell is to be moved to the end of the start order and the second cell moved up the first seed (e.g., first race: A-B-C-D-E, second race: B-C-D-E-A, third race: C-D-E-A-B, etc.)
    - U12/U10's will reverse the start order for the second run.

Start Cadence:

- The start cadence used for Super-G, giant slalom, and slalom must be consistent with those of USSA & FIS.

Course Length/Set:

- The length of the course for Clayton U12/U10 League and Council U14 races must be consistent with USSA age guidelines in effect at the time.
- Setting distances and gate counts must be consistent with USSA age guidelines in effect at the time.

Flex Gates:

- Age appropriate gates (60" OTS FIS-B) are to be used for all U12 & U14 tall gate slalom events. Giant slalom will gates will have USSA approved panels with two flex gates. Single gate (no outside gate) giant slalom is permitted in accordance with current USSA rules
- Slalom - inside flex gate. Single pole slalom (no outside gate) is permitted in accordance with current USSA rules

Sanctioned Races:

- U10, U12, U14 races must be sanctioned by USSA.

Jury:

- A jury is certified required (TD, Referee and Chief of Race) at all SVC events and Clayton League events, and there should be at least one USSA Level 3 official on the jury and or race committee.
- All course setters for all age class racing must be at least a USSA Level-1 updated/current referee.
- SVC will abide by current USSA rules.

Coaches' Meeting:

- A coaches' meeting must be held prior to the start of the first run of each race. One coach from each program is to attend the meeting as well as a representative for any independent racers. Attendance must be taken by Chief of Race and submitted to the TD.

RACE RESULTS:

- A copy of the Split Second Race or Vola file must be sent to the Council Chair and the standings scorer within a day of the race, which include race results (first run, second run, and combined times for both boys and girls), and must be sent to the Council Chair within a day of hosting a race so that a consolidated record of all Council races and results can be maintained.
- Maintenance of an up-to-date race results file is extremely important for the naming of Council Teams to the State Championships, for selection of racers for participation at USSA camps, etc.

ADDING/RESCHEDULING RACES DURING THE SEASON:

- The addition or rescheduling of a race in the Council schedule requires the Program Director of the mountain seeking to add/change a race to notify the Council Chair and a poll all of the Program Directors as to whether the race should be added/changed, would be taken. Majority vote rules.
- The Program Director of the mountain seeking to add/change a race will be informed by the Council Chair of the outcome of any vote taken.

INJURY CLAUSE:
- The SVC will make a decision on all Injury Petitions on an individual basis.
- SVC will decide the validity of the petition (A YES or a NO). If a petition has been determined to be valid (A YES vote), then the position in the SVC Series Standings will then be determined. The athlete will then be placed in the current standings.
- Any injury petition must be accompanied by a doctors' note at a minimum.

- The injury petition must be submitted to the SVC council chair at least 5 days prior to the last SVC Series event in the age class to let the SVC have time to review and decide on the outcome.
- Petitions may only be submitted by the Program Director of the club that the athlete is registered with.
- The Program Directors will have 48 hours from the time of the petition distribution to vote.
- The Majority vote will determine the petition outcome, regardless of number of votes cast.

SVC RACING OUT OF AGE CLASS POLICIES AND PROCEEDURES (Petitioning Athlete-PA):

- In order for an athlete to race out of age class, the PA procedure must be followed.
    - PA Procedure:
        - The Program Director interested in having one of their athletes race out of age class is to contact the Council Chair via email and provide a written rationale or justification for the PA request with supporting evidence by December 15th.
        - The PA request can also come from the Program's Head Coach, but only after consultation with and approval by the Program Director.
            1. Letters submitted directly via email to the Council Chair from the racer's parent(s) or coach will not be considered.
            2. The Council Chair will distribute the PA request with evidence to each Program Director.
        - The PA request should consider the following:
            1. Physical Maturity/Condition 2. Mental Maturity 3. Training Age.
        - Each Program Director will then vote once for one of the following:
            1. **Yes**.   Voting 'yes' is stating that the Program Director approves the PA Request for an athlete to ski out of age class.
            2. **No**.   Voting 'no' is stating that the Program Director does not approve the PA Request for the athlete to ski out of age class and should remain in their respective age group.
        - The Program Directors will have 48 hours to respond with a vote.
        - The majority rules.
            1. The decision on the PA will be made without consideration for the number of votes cast within the two day voting period.
            2. The petitioning Program will be considered a 'Yes' vote.
        - The Council Chairman will vote only in the event of a tie.
        - The outcome of the vote will be reported back to all Program Directors.
            1. The voting is public and all votes submitted by the Program Directors will be attached to the decision.
            2. The decision will then be submitted to the VARA CDC for approval.
    - Considerations in PA Voting:
        - Program Directors voting on an Out of Age Class request should consider the following when reviewing the request.
            1. Is the athlete in question an 'exceptional' athlete?
            2. Will racing out of age class help this athlete further their development?
            3. Does the request meet one of the 3 PA Considerations?

        - Once the PA request is approved by VARA the PA may immediately compete in the next age class.
        - The athlete is then considered to be a member of the new age class and may not race in both aged class series.
        - U14's may not race 'up' into the U16 age class.

Racers Advanced to a Higher Age Level:

- Out of age class racers (PA's) will be eligible to receive awards and have their names and times included on the race results and will be part of the series standings.
- U12 racers racing with U14's in the Southern Vermont Council League Race Series are eligible for selection to the U14 Council Team for the U14 State Championship.
- U14's are not eligible to 'ski up' with the U16's.

OUT OF COUNCIL RACERS:

The intent of allowing out of Council racers to participate in Council-sponsored races is to further the sport of ski racing. Customarily, out of Council racers are also racers from out of state.

The inclusion of an out of Council racer in a Council-sponsored race occurs on an infrequent basis. In some cases, an out of Council program may want to send a limited number of its racers to a Council-sponsored race to test the waters or to have its racers gain additional race experience. In other cases, a racer may be visiting a program to determine if he or she wants to join that program. If the visit coincides with a time that a race has been scheduled, the visiting racer may want the opportunity to participate in a race with his/her future teammates.

The following rules apply to those limited number of cases involving an out of Council racer.

- Out of Council racers can petition the SVC Chair to enter a Council-sponsored U14, U12 race. Out of Council guests are not permitted in SVC U10 events.
- The number of Out of Council racers allowed will be limited to 6.
- The SVC will vote on Out of Council requests to determine participation.
- Out of Council racers must meet the same USSA membership requirements as SVC and Clayton League racers, and have a valid competitor's license.
- A VARA membership or a State governing body membership is required for all out of Council guest racers.
- The membership status of non-Council racers must be determined when arrangements are being made for the inclusion of the racer(s) in a Council-sponsored race.
- Out of Council racers must have coach representation at the Team Captains meeting.
- Out of Council racers are to be seeded at the end of the first cell (U12's) or top 15 (U14's) for the first run of the specific race day. If more than 1 out of council guest is entered in the race, each athlete will be placed at the end of each cell or seed (15 athletes). Second run start order will be based on the specific second run start order used in that age class.
- The out of Council racer's time(s), finish place, and home program/mountain are to appear on all published race results.
- Out of Council racers, regardless of run times and finish places, are eligible to receive awards.
- All out of Council racers must be excluded from all calculations of place points for selection of the Council Teams. Place points for each run must be calculated as if the out of Council racer(s) did not participate in the race.