



## U12 VARA Racing

**Children's Development Committee-** the CDC oversees rules and policies of U14 and younger racing in VT. This group works with the VARA Executive Director and VARA to create schedules, policies, qualifications, rules and state guidelines for the U14 and younger age groups. Committee members include; David Edry (Chair), 3 Council chairs ([David Edry/SVC](#), [Adam Julius/NVC](#), [Lori McClallen/MVC](#)) Sue Kramer/SVC, Taylor Mikell/NVC and Justin Lillie/MVC. This committee works closely with the VARA Youth Coordinator.

### **Children's Development Sub- Committee**

The Children's Development Sub Committee consists of the 3 Council Chairs from each of the three Councils and the CDC Chair – David Edry (North-Adam Julius, Mid-Lori McClallen, and South-David Edry,). The committee will work with the Executive Director and VARA Youth Coordinator regarding VARA U14 through U10 issues that arise at state championships and state governed events.

The VARA CDC recommends that the U12 racers remain under the domain of the councils. Councils communicate best practices of what works well in their councils and what is a challenge. There should be a council report for this age group for the VARA CDC to review in the spring meetings. The report should be sent to [Alex@vara.org](mailto:Alex@vara.org) by April 15.

The U12 age level provides non-scored competition for racers born in 2005-2006.

1. VARA is the governing body of U12 racing in Vermont.
2. VARA will delegate to the three state Councils (North, Mid, and South), the authority to design and administer their respective races and council rules. VARA shall make recommendations to the Councils.
- RACE STARTS: Councils should follow** USSA Guidelines for U12 race starts. Councils should be racing Duals and Stubbie courses. And incorporate Kombi's if time and space allow.
3. VARA will schedule open races and any U12 state event. Councils will schedule and administer council races.
4. Issues involving U12 VARA sponsored events will be resolved by the VARA CDC.
5. Councils must also follow all USSA and VARA procedures for running a fair and legal race.
6. A \$30 (plus applicable online processing fees) maximum entry fee for slalom (SL) and giant slalom (GS) events and \$40 (plus applicable online processing fees) for Super-G (SG) races and camps is recommended for council qualifier races.
7. To compete in VARA U12 races, there are two membership requirements that must be met:
  - a) You must have a current USSA Competitors Membership
  - b) In order to be considered in any VARA qualifying or selection process, you must be a current member of VARA.
8. VARA membership will be verified from the VARA website.
9. Council racers **MUST** be VARA members before the first council race to receive points for standings. Standings/qualifying points are not retroactive
10. Coaches must be VARA and USSA members to have on hill privileges.

11. U12 Council races must be USSA sanctioned events. Sanctioned races must be held on homologated trails.

**Out of Council/Out of State** – Councils may accept out of council and/or out of state competitors into their council races as per their council rules. Refer to the specific council for clarification. [MVC](#), [SVC](#), [NVC](#) (hyperlinks)

**Independent Racer**- VARA councils may accept independent VARA member racers as long as they adhere to the council policy on Independent racers. Refer to the specific council for clarification. [MVC](#), [SVC](#), [NVC](#) (hyperlinks)

### **Parent/Spectator Clause**

Any issues parents or spectators may have involving VARA rules, The Race Organizing Committee, Alpine Officials, the Jury, the race site or USSA while at a sanctioned council event, VARA States or Shootout must be handled by the responsible coach before being brought to the Race Organizer, Alpine Officials/Jury, registration volunteers or VARA. The athlete's coach must represent the competitor regarding the issue not his/her parent.

### **Petitioning Athletes-ski down**

Except for approved petitioning athletes, all racers will follow established USSA age classes. For an athlete to be considered for skiing **down** an age class at the council level they must first be approved by their council. A request from the Program Director is sent to the Council Chair and VARA Executive Director for a council vote. There are three areas as guidelines in considering a ski down athlete: Physical Maturation, Mental Maturity and Physical Condition. If approved through the council that request is then sent to the VARA CDC on or before December 15, 2016. The VARA CDC will review the request and respond to the council chair no later than Dec. 23, 2016.

If an athlete is approved they will follow council and VARA rules for that age class. The following conditions apply:

1. PA will be considered and treated as any other participant in that age class.
2. PA will be presented with award if so earned.
3. PA will be purged from results for selections to post season USSA Championship events.

### **Petitioning Athletes-ski up:**

Skiing up an age group in VARA first needs to be approved at the council level and then approved by the VARA CDC based on the exceptional athlete criteria of someone who is unlikely to have the desired level of peer competition within their own age classification. For an athlete to be considered for skiing **up** an age class at the council/state level the Program Director must submit the petition to the Council Chair and VARA Executive Director. The petition must first be approved by their council. If approved at the council level, the request will then be submitted to the VARA CDC. If approved by the VARA CDC it will then be submitted to the USSA Eastern Regional Director whom will then submit the request to USSA National Office. If approved by USSA National office the athlete will then race in the petitioned age class for the entire VARA Council Race season. Once approved to ski up an age class, that athlete **MUST** race in that age class for the entire season. There will be **NO** returning to the original age class. Petitioning athletes to ski up to the U14 age level may qualify in to U14 States and Eastern Championships. They will displace a U14 from both events if they qualify for them.

[See Ski Up Form](#)

**SKILL ASSESSMENT-SKILLSQUEST:** VARA recommends that all U12's be introduced to the USSA SkillsQuest Drills. U12's should ski the SkillsQuest drills within Council. Councils must have a plan to introduce USSA Skills Quest into their council schedule. For example councils may introduce a skill during competition race days (1 drill at a time per race). OR, host a skills assessment day where numerous skills are assessed.

**Skills info may be found on the USSA site and the links below:**

<http://ussa.org/alpine-programs/athletes/development/skillsquest/skiing-assessment>

ALSO See: <http://ussa.org/alpine-programs/regions/eastern-region>

**SPEED ELEMENTS/TERRAIN DAYS:** VARA recommends that all U12's be introduced to a U12 speed elements/terrain day. Athletes will use GS skis and work on terrain, longer radius turn shape, gliding and jumping. Councils should have a plan to incorporate this day in to their U12 council schedule.

#### **FRANCAIS PICHE INVITATIONAL**

The Piches Invitational event is for U14-U12 held in Gunstock, NH in mid to late March. There is also an optional training day for participants with an introduction to SG. This event is a great post season experience for the athlete. Each state receives a limited quota because of the large numbers of racers that attend.

**PICHE QUOTA: To be determined by the race coordinators.** VARA will split the Piche quota among participating councils and all eligible age classes. Unfilled quota spots will be distributed among the remaining participating councils. Councils must commit to Piche participation by February 1, 2017. Gender split determined by council. Qualifying methods are determined by council. Please see council rules.

#### **U12 NY-VT SL FUNDAMENTALS PROJECT**

**New York, March 21-April 2, 2017**

Vermont's quota is 20 (gender split) YOB 2005 ONLY. This project is a great post season event, an initiative to keep athletes skiing longer into the season. MVC and SVC athletes will be chosen by their individual councils. The project includes fundamental free-skiing drills, U12 brush and stubbie courses, 60"-27mm poles, set for learning proper gate clearing, SL tactics, line, pole usage, turn shape, balance and understanding pressure. Competitive dual and evening activities. Announcement will be posted on VARA website <http://www.vara.org/>

For issues that arise that are not addressed by VARA Rules then the USSA Comp Guide rules will be in effect and then Children's Racing FIS rules.

**There is \$2 VARA Head Tax per racer per race at this age only for open races and any state event.**