



VARA U14 RULES

The U14 age level provides non-scored competition for racers born in 2003-2004.

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 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.

1. VARA is the governing body of U14 racing in Vermont.
2. **VARA** will delegate to the three state councils (North, Mid, and South), the authority to administer their respective rules leading up to the Shootout and State Championship with the exception of race starts, scoring and gate recommendations.

RACE STARTS: The maximum number of races within a council will be six. The specific recommendation is four to six races within each council.

SCORING: To determine council seeding from councils to the U14 State Championships, scoring methods can be found on the specific council rules. [MVC](#), [SVC](#), [NVC](#) (hyperlinks)

Each council will need to have the race secretary for their first council race hand enter the rosters into their timing system, so the correct info will be loaded for the scoring spreadsheet (USSA number, Correct spelling, YOB.) Councils may then take that info back into their scoring spreadsheets. This will make lists for states easier to submit to VARA. Council lists for states require the following info EUSSA #, Last Name, First Name, Club, YOB to be provided by the council chair to VARA. Lists without the proper info will not be accepted. When race organizers upload results to USSA, with incorrect spelling or USSA #'s the race will get rejected when the name or USSA number does not match.

3. VARA will schedule **open** races, state super-G events, U14 Shootout and the U14 State Championships.
4. Issues involving U14 VARA sanctioned 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 \$35 (plus applicable online service fees) maximum entry fee for slalom (SL) and giant slalom (GS) events and \$40 (plus applicable online service fees) for Super-G (SG) is recommended for council qualifier races and camps.
7. To compete in VARA 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. Qualifying points will not be retroactive for late renewals.

9. VARA membership will be verified from the VARA website. Cards may be printed off the website.

10. Coaches **must** be VARA and USSA members to have on hill privileges.

11. U14 Council races and State Championships 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)

State and Council Quotas and Gender Splits

Council quotas for U14 VARA States will be based on each council's percentage of active U14 competitors. This percentage will determine the allocation of quota spots per council at states. Determination of each council's participants will be made after the second weekend of February. Each council will allocate its gender distribution of quota spots based on the percentages of male and female competitors within council. ***updated 1.23.14*

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.

Coaching Tickets

General recommendation but NOT less than the following:

> 4 kids = 2 coaches tickets, > 8 Kids = 3, >12 Kids = 4, >16 Kids = 5, >20 kids = 6

Petitioning Athletes Skiing 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. Petitioning Athlete (PA) may qualify for states in the age class in which they are competing. The following conditions apply:

1. PA will be considered and treated as any other participant in that age class.
2. PA may ski in the state championships but will not advance to a USSA post season event.
3. PA will be seeded at states according to their council placement.
4. PA will be presented with award if so earned.
5. PA will be purged from results for selections to post season USSA Championship events.
6. PA will compete in only one VT state championship series. The field size for states will not exceed 5 athletes to accommodate council PA requests.

Athlete Injury Clause for U14 States

Injured athletes petitioning to participate in VARA U14 States must go through their councils to request an additional spot to the U14 VARA Shootout. If approved through the council the request must then go to the VARA CDC for a vote as well as where in the council Shootout standings that athlete will be placed.

U14 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Burke, VT-Total Field: 166 (including Shoot-Out Athletes) March 3, 4, 5, 2017

The selection of the Eastern U14 Championships roster will be determined by place point scoring from the VARA U14 State Championships.

Gate Requirements: 60" height off the snow will be utilized for slalom.

U14 States host sites will not provide Goodie bags. The host site will provide:

- Only one commemorative item
- a pizza party, banquet or other type of social gathering before final awards (see below for more)
- Awards for top 10 Boys and Girls per event.* (see below for more info)

1. U14's allowed to compete in State Championships as governed by their council qualification process.

2. Mandatory Team Captain's Meeting (TCM) the night before the first race.

3. **Format:** There will be two traditional runs of GS, SL and one SG. Second run start order for the GS and SL will be bibbo (flip top 30).

The schedule at states may be switched to accommodate for weather issues but events will remain within the scheduled 3 day event. If the SG gets cancelled it will not be rescheduled.

4. **Qualification: 166 total** racers will qualify for the U14 State Championships. 120 racers from the councils with the remaining 46 racers selected from the U14 Shootout qualifier (see U14 Shootout Rules). Council quotas for the U14 VARA States will be based on each council's percentage of active U14 competitors. This percentage will determine the allocation of quota spots per council. Determination of each council's participants will be made after the **second weekend of February**. Each council will allocate its distribution of quota spots based on the percentages of male and female competitors within council.

5. **Entry fees:** U14 States entry fee is \$190. The fees will include the banquet or awards event for participants at the technical events, along with an event souvenir. Host sites for States must commit to making the states a championship event. (Podium, banners, hoop-la, racer souvenir)

6. **Awards*:** The host site will present awards to the top 10 boys and girls in each event. There is NO overall champion awarded at this level.

7. **Seeding:** The U14 States will be seeded as follows: seeding will be based on Council rankings. The start lists will be based on a Council rotation as determined by a random draw by VARA. Within the top 15 (top 5 from each council) the seed will be a random electronic draw done by the host Race Administrator for each race. Places 16 and higher will remain consistent in council ranked rotation for all races. The second run start order will be bibbo (flip top 30) the DSQ and DNF's will run at the end in bib order. The Shootout qualifiers will be seeded after the ranked qualifiers from council standings and in order they qualified at shootout. ***updated 1.23.14*

8. **Course setters:** Course setters and officials will be selected prior to the U14 States by the VARA Executive Director and VARA Youth Coordinator with input from the VARA AO Chair. Refs will be selected by the TD.

9. **Entry Procedure:** Councils MUST send racer rosters (in start order and with council based gender split) on a spread sheet which shall include USSA Number, Last Name, First, YOB, Club, and attending coaches list to the VARA Office 1 week prior to the U14 States. There will be no additions/substitutions to rosters **48 hours prior to first run of the first race.**

10. **Scoring:** (Quota to the U14 Eastern Championships is 51 this quota includes council automatics) Selection to the U14 Eastern Championships is determined by scoring the best single result from the runs and combined places of the VT State Championship events.

Ties: are broken externally by taking the next best results for ranking and selection of the team.

Automatics: Each Council will have 2 Automatics (1G/1B) to U14 Eastern Championships.

Automatic seeding: Council automatics will receive seeding in at least the second seed for U14 Eastern Championships.

Race Requirements: To attend the Eastern U14 Championships athletes are required to compete in the majority ($\frac{1}{2}$ or $>$ than $\frac{1}{2}$) of races at VARA U14 States unless injured.

If there is no race contested then the State Eastern U14 Championship Team will be selected based on a council allocation where each council's percentage of the total is based on its population percentages of all active VARA U14 athletes determined after the second weekend of February.

10. **Forerunners:** State Championships forerunners will be selected by the host site.

11. **VARA Head Tax:** Head Tax is due on U14 State Championships; the fee is \$2 per racer per start to be sent to VARA.

12. Substitutions for states see Shootout rules #6.

U14 STATE SHOOTOUT

Total Field Size: 165

BROMLEY, VT FEBRUARY 26, 2017

The U14 State Shootout is a one-day event designed to give 55 U14's from each council a second opportunity to qualify for the U14 State Championships. Competitors will have to have raced in at least 50% of their council races to compete at the Shootout.

Gender Split: The council quotas shall be split by gender based on each Council's field size after the second weekend of February, 2016. Councils will determine their quotas with gender split and council chairs must submit their quota of 55 in ranked order including USSA # and YOB and split appropriately by gender to the VARA office 1 week prior to the event date.

1. **Format:** The Shootout will consist of a 2 run sprint GS race. The course will be set by the host ski area.

2. **Qualification:** 55 racers from each council who have not already made the states will be selected by council to compete at the U14 Shootout. Competitors must have raced in at least 50% of their council races. Councils MUST send racer rosters (in start order and with council based gender split) on a spread sheet which shall include Last Name, First, USSA Number, YOB, Club, and attending coaches list 1 week prior to the event. UNFILLED council quota spots will NOT be filled. **Substitutions due to sickness or injury will be accepted up until 48 hours prior to the first run of the first race and will be added to the end of the running order.**

3. **Entry fee: \$50 and will include one commemorative item**

4. **Seeding:** The field will be seeded in order of ranking from each Council. The VARA Executive Director will execute the draw to determine the council running order. The running order will remain the same for each run. Council additions due to sickness or injury will be presented to the Council Chair for a council vote. If approved the Council Chair will then present the injured athlete to the VARA CDC with the seeded athlete council start position for a CDC vote. (Shootout qualifiers will be seeded after the council qualifiers for State Championships.)

5. **Scoring:** A total of 46 racers will be selected from the U14 Shootout to compete at the U14 States. 23 boys and 23 girls will be selected to go to the States. Selection will be based on the best single place point of 3 possible scores, including 1st run, 2nd run and combined result. Ties will be broken by next best run. Time differential will be used in case of 3 way tie, if still a tie then all the tied competitors will be selected.

6. **Substitutions for States:**

a. If an athlete qualifies for the U14 States from Council quota selection and cannot go to States and notification is prior to the Shootout, then Council will fill the spot with the next Council racer in line for the States. The alternate will be seeded at the end of the council order rotation. If a spot opens up, regardless of council, for U14 states following the Shootout then alternates will be selected based on the Shootout standings. The alternate following the Shootout will be seeded at the end of the Shootout qualifiers.

7. **Awards:** VARA U14 State Team Qualification announcement. U14 Piche VARA Team announced. Medals for top ten boys and girls overall?

8. **Forerunners:** Forerunners will be selected by the host site.

Athlete Injury Clause for U14 Eastern Championships

Injured Athletes unable to attend the U14 Shootout AND VARA State Championships petitioning for a discretionary spot to the U14 Eastern Championships must submit a request for a discretionary spot through the USSA Eastern Office. The VARA CDC Chair, the VARA Executive Director and VARA Youth Coordinator must be copied and notified of the request.

EASTERN U14 CHAMPIONSHIPS SUNDAY RIVER, ME MARCH 16-19, 2017

Vermont's quota is 51 (Gender Split). The Vermont U14 Championship Team will be determined as follows: (This quota includes council automatics) Selection to the U14 Eastern Championships is determined by scoring the best single result from the runs and combined places of the VT State Championship events.

Ties: are broken externally by taking the next best results for ranking and selection of the team.

Automatics: Each Council will have 2 Automatics (1G/1B) to U14 Eastern Championships.

Automatic seeding: Council automatics will receive seeding in at least the second seed for U14 Junior Eastern Championships.

Race Requirements: To attend the Eastern U14 Junior Championships athletes are required to compete in the majority (> than ½) of races at VARA U14 States unless injured.

Top finishers from the U14 Eastern Championships will represent the Eastern Region at the U16/U14 National Project in Snowbird/Park City, Maine March 29- April 2, 2016.

Selection procedure can be found on Pages 18-20 of the [USSA Eastern Handbook](#) (hyperlinked).

U14 CAN-AM
MARCH 30-APRIL 2, 2017, Tremblant, QC

Selection procedures can be found in the USSA Handbook hyperlinked above.

U14 INVITATIONAL PROJECT VARA/NYSSRA
STRATTON, VT MARCH 23-24, 2017

Vermont's quota is 30. The Vermont athletes will be chosen directly from their results from the Vermont State Championships. After the VARA USSA Eastern Championship Team is named, the next 15 boys and 15 girls will be chosen for this project. This event is a great post season experience for the athlete. Weather permitting the project will include GS skills and team GS duals. There are both individual and team aspects to this project. Awards for team duals.

FRANCAIS PICHE INVITATIONAL

Weekend event 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.

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