VARA Rules and Race Series Events for U16 and Older

The VARA Development Committee

The VARA Development Committee shall be the principal body with oversight of development and competition programs for athletes in the Senior (SR), U21, U19 and U16 age groups. Responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:

* Monitor national and regional athlete development initiatives and make recommendations to the VARA Board of Directors of ways in which VARA can enhance athlete development at U16 and above.
* Report to the VARA BOD where national and regional development initiatives may vary from the goals, vision, and mission of VARA and make recommendations to the VARA BOD for policies and responses that are deemed to be in the best interest of VARA athlete development.
* Review, revise, and develop rules, qualifications, policies and procedures for racing at the U16 level and above, which are consistent with the overall development plan. *
  Develop rules, qualifying criteria and format for VT State Championships at the U16 level.
* Provide a forum for investigation and resolution of any other issues that may arise at the U16 level and above.

The VARA Development Committee oversees rules and policies of U16, U19/U21/SR racing in VT. This group works with the VARA Executive Director to create schedules, policies, qualifications, rules and state guidelines for the U16 and above age groups. Vara Development Committee members include Peter Cornish (Chair), Tom Sell, Dani Koch, Lorant Gudasz, Mike Morin, Jack Bailey and Matt McKenna.

U16 - AGES 14-15

The U16 age level features scored competition for racers aged 14-15 with racing opportunities in the VARA Open Series, Vermont Cup Series, George Tormey series and U16 Vermont State Championships. All races are scored events and seeded by the athlete's current points. The races are open to all U16/U19/U21/SR VARA members, except for U16 State Championships which will be for U16 VARA members only.

OVERVIEW of U16 RACING IN VT

U16's race in The Vermont Cup(VT CUP) Series beginning early December along with Sr-U19's. From the final VT CUP standings VARA will award:

- Awards will be given to the top 3 male and female U16 at each series event.
- Awards will be given to the top 3 male and female overall at each series event.
- The VT CUP series will be used to determine the automatics to the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 Eastern Championships (2G and 2B). (*rules and criteria below*) In late February, U16's will contest U16 Vermont State Championships, which every VARA member U16 will have the option to attend. Athletes will have the opportunity to qualify for US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 Eastern Championships and US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 Eastern Finals based on results at the U16 VT State Championships, All VARA U16

athletes who do not qualify for US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 Eastern Regional events (Championships or Finals) will have the opportunity to race in the George Tormey Series and Open VARA Spring races until the end of the season.

VARA U16 General Rules

1. VARA is the governing body of U16 racing in Vermont. US Ski and Snowboarding is the National Governing Body for Ski racing in the USA.
2. Issues involving U16 VARA Championship events will be resolved by the VARA Development Committee along with the VARA Executive Director.
3. To compete in VARA races, there are two membership requirements that must be met:

a. You must have a current US Ski and Snowboard **Competitors** Membership

b. To be considered in any VARA qualifying or selection process, you must be a current member of VARA. Qualifying points will not be retroactive for late VARA renewals. (ie if you race in a VT CUP race as a non-member you will not receive VT CUP overall points until you become a member.

4. Coaches **must** be VARA and US SKI AND SNOWBOARD members to obtain race site hill privileges, course setting and race official assignments.

5. **Sanctions:** All VARA U16 races and VT State Championships must be US SKI AND SNOWBOARD sanctioned events. Sanctioned races must be held on homologated trails. 6. **Coaching Tickets:** If races are happening simultaneously on the same day then host sites must account for the need of more coach's tickets. General recommendation but NOT less than the following:

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

7. **Field Size:** Scored racing field sizes will be determined by the race site organizers and may be limited, but will not be limited below 175 mixed gender. Check the appropriate race announcement sheet for details under the "racing" tab "calendar" link on www.vara.org

8. **ALL VT CUP Race Files must be sent electronically to skiracehelp@gmail.com after all reports have been signed by the TD**

9. All awards will be presented in the finish area unless otherwise designated, a minimum of 5 minutes, maximum 30 minutes after the final racer completes the course.

State Quotas and Gender Splits

Vermont quotas for U16 (i.e., U16 Eastern Regional Championships, U16 Eastern Finals), will be allocated among girls and boys based on the current statewide gender split. The gender split will be determined based on the number of competitors in Vermont after the first weekend of February.

Parent/Spectator Clause

Any issues parents or spectators may have involving rules set by VARA, The Race Organizing Committee, Alpine Officials, the Jury, the race site or US SKI AND SNOWBOARD while at a sanctioned council event, VARA States or Shootout must be handled by the appropriate 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 Skiing DOWN

Except for approved petitioning athletes, all racers will follow established US Ski and Snowboard 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. The VARA CDC will review the request and respond to the council chair no later than Dec. 23.

If an athlete is approved, they will follow council and VARA rules for that age class. However, they must register with VARA under their appropriate year of birth and 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 US SKI AND SNOWBOARD 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 US SKI AND SNOWBOARD 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.

VARA will not accept requests for athletes to ski up into the U16 age class or U19's to ski down.

Athlete Discretionary Spots for U16's

1. It is recommended to make any discretionary requests to the US Ski and Snowboard Eastern Youth Coordinator.

VARA Racer Admin Fee(RAF) (Race Organizers)

U16's - $2/race start /racer. All U16 scored races; states, open events, are subject to Racer Admin Fee. RAF is payable to the VARA office or will be taken out of the race registration fees for the host if using AdminSkiRacing for online race registration. VARA will need a TD report emailed to julie@vara.org. If results are electronically transmitted and automatic head tax payment is not selected then there must be a RAF form included with the check sent to the VARA office, if results are mailed then all Racer Admin Fees are to accompany TD reports. **NOTE: ALL VT CUP & GTS Race Files must be sent electronically to skiracehelp@gmail.com after all reports have been signed by the TD.**

U16 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

February 10 SG Stowe (1st SG will be scored as the State SG)
Friday - Saturday – March 1-2 GS/SL - M Stratton, W GMVS

Field Size: All VARA Member U16 athletes are invited to participate in the U16 Vermont State Championships.

The selection of the US Ski and Snowboard U16 Regional Championships and US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 Finals rosters will be determined from the VARA U16 State Championships. (See below)

1. **Format**: The Vermont U16 State Championships will consist of one Slalom race, and one GS race and 1 SG race. Weather permitting. Events will be split by gender (except for the SG) and held at separate race sites. The State SG will be mixed gender and will consist of a two-day event with the 1st SG counting as the state event and the second SG being an open. IF the state event cannot be run on the first day then the second day will become the State SG.

VT U16 State Championships will be SCORED events.

2. **Start order/Seeding**: Seeding will be by athlete's current US SKI AND SNOWBOARD points. Top 15 will be random draw, second run will be flip 30.

3. It is recommended that first run DNF's and DSQ's be allowed a second run, the final decision to allow DNF's and DSQ's a second run will be determined by the Jury and race organizer per US SKI AND SNOWBOARD rules.

4. **Scoring:** The Double Board method as outlined in the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD handbook will be used to select the Vermont team from the VARA U16 States to the Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix Series. VARA will use the most recent valid US SKI AND SNOWBOARD points list for the left side of the board and the right side of the board will use State Championship discipline place point rankings.

***In order to be eligible to qualify on the state quota to US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Regional Championship events, VT athletes must have participated in at least 1 VARA State Championship event.**

The Vermont Team selected to go to the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Regional Championship will be posted the evening of the final event of the state championships on the VARA announcements at Vara.org.

VARA Double Board Example: Selection proceeds from left to right on each row starting with USSA Valid Points list and ending with VARA State Championship event place point. When a racer who has already been picked is encountered in a column, the column is skipped, and selection continues with the next column in the same row. When the last column in a row is reached, selection continues with the first column in the next row.

Side 1:

Valid Points List

GS	SL
A	F
D	C
H	G
L	M

Side 2:

VARA State Champs Rankings

SL	GS	SG
A	C	B
E	B	G
I	C	J
N	O	P

Sample selection: 7 Person Team from VARA criteria for double board method: A, F, C, B, D, E, G

a. Ties will be broken by best place, then second, third, and so on. If there is still a tie then the best single run will be used, and next and so on. The top-ranking athletes will be named to the Vermont US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 Championship Team with the next athletes in order qualifying to the U16 Finals.

b. If awarded an extra spot from US SKI AND SNOWBOARD, the spot will be given to the next in line from the states standings and will not be used for a discretionary pick.

c. **Event Champions**: Will be State Champions for that event.

d. **Overall champions:** Will be determined by Old World Cup scoring for all events contested. Ties will be broken by best place point then next best etc.

e. It is understood that VT will send its strongest team to the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 Championships.

5. It is recommended by VARA that a training run be included at the VT State SG. However, the host site and race jury/TD will make the ultimate decision based on weather and snow conditions.
6. **Rabbits**: No Rabbits allowed at U16 States, U16 racers only, there will be NO racing up allowed at the U16 states.
7. **Guests**: No U16 guests from other states will be allowed to race in a VT U16 Vermont State Championships. NTG/USST athletes from out of region will need to request to race to VARA. The Development Committee will make the final decision.
8. **Automatics**: VARA automatics to the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 Eastern

Championships will be selected from

a. VT Cup series scoring for U16's for the top 2 U16 male and the top 2 U16 female.
b. Any VARA Member Competitor selected to an international children's or National USSA project that conflicts with the state championships will be an automatic to the USSA U16 Eastern Championships.

Discretionary picks to the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 Eastern Championships will be determined by the Eastern Region Office.

9. **Entry procedure**: Entries will be received as per standard VARA entry; race list or online entries, to be determined by the host site.
10. **Entry Fees**: VT U16 States will be $65 per Slalom, $70 per PSL, $65 per GS and $75 for SG. The fees will include the awards event for participants at the technical events, along with an event souvenir. Host Sites for VT State Championships must commit to making it a championship event. VT U16 States venue will not provide goodie bags they should provide one commemorative item for each participant. Additionally, the host site will provide a pizza party, or other type of participant gathering before awards.
11. **Course Setting**: The VARA Executive Director, VARA Development Committee Chair and Chief of Race will choose course setters. Referees will be selected by the assigned TD.
12. **Forerunners:** VT State U16 Championship forerunners will be selected by the host site.
13. **Awards**: The host ski club will provide awards/trophies for the top 3 Boys/Girls and medals for 4-10 boys and girls for each event. VARA will provide awards for the following:
    a. Overall awards will be provided by VARA for the top three girls and boys. (See scoring). Event winners will receive a VARA sweatshirt.
    b. Gold Medalists for the overall will be named to the VARA Team for the following season.
    c. All awards will be presented in the finish area unless otherwise designated, a minimum of 5 minutes, maximum 30 minutes after the final racer completes the course.

Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix

(U16 Eastern Region Championships)

March 9-13, 2019 Sugarloaf, Maine Quota: (64)

Qualification: The top athletes (gender split) from the VT U16 State Championships will be named to the VT state team for the Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix sponsored by Nordica. Top finishers from the Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix will represent the Eastern Region at the U16 National Project.

U16 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 29- April 2, 2019 – Hosted by the Rocky Region at Breckenridge, Colorado USA

Selection and seeding procedure can be found in the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Eastern Hand Book

US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 EASTERN FINALS

Hosted at Gore Mtn, NY – March 15-18, 2019

Vermont Quota: 22

Qualification: The VARA athletes from the VT U16 State Championships, who do not qualify for the Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix sponsored by Nordica, will be named (gender split) to the Vermont U16 Eastern Finals team. The Vermont Team will be seeded at the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Eastern U16 Finals based on their ranking at the VT

U16 State Championships. For more information on the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Eastern U16 Finals please refer to pages 29-30 of the Eastern Handbook.

U16 Can Event

Calabogie ONT - U16 Rendez-voux

March 28-31 2019 Vermont Quota: 23

Pg 28 under details in the Eastern Handbook

U16 Can Am – Is an International Competition of which VARA will receive a state quota from US SKI AND SNOWBOARD. Gender split will be the state gender split used for VT U16 State Championships. Qualification will be determined by using the VT U16 State ranking list from the VT U16 State Championships.

VARA SR/U21/U19/16 Race Series and Rules

VARA Open Races, VT Cup Series & George Tormey Series

All racers with 40 points or fewer automatically receive complimentary entry to any VARA sanctioned USSA scored event, and should contact RAs directly for entry. Athletes with points greater than 40 but less than 60 are to be refunded entry fees on race day such that a minimum of 5 athletes are comped.

All Vermont Racers regardless of point profile are encouraged to race.
Entry Fees: for VARA/US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Races will be SL$65, PSL/70 GS/$65, SG/$75- DH will be a daily rate.
2 Super G: Site Specific ($95 is be a suggestion)
Awards: It is recommended that host sites present awards within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the race.
VARA Open (VO)
The VARA Open Series consists of races scheduled throughout the state, throughout the season.

1. Out of state entry procedures and rulings can be referred to under the entry procedure section.
2. This series are for building point profiles. This is not a qualifying series.

Scheduling

1. There is a possibility that there will be weekday VARA races scheduled but VARA will make every effort to schedule and reschedule events on weekends.

2. **VT Cup or GTS reschedules** must have a minimum of one-week notice. If for some reason there is a last-minute race added to the calendar or there is a reschedule that was originally a VT Cup or GTS made in less than a week the rescheduled event must be a VARA open race.

Vermont Cup Series (VT CUP)

1. The VT Cup Series begins in Dec. and continues through early February. It is the determining series for the Overall SR/U12/U19 and U16 Vermont Cup Series Champion.

*2. **SCORING:** The VT Cup Series is scored using the New World Cup point scoring system for the top 30 men/women U19 - SR for each race and the top 30 U16 competitors. Ties are broken by best single place and then next best etc., if still a tie, then time differential will be used.

a. U16's will be scored separately for the overall standings in the VT CUP series
b. Overall top 3 U16s will receive VT CUP overall awards at the VT CUP Finals final event.
(*Note: please see also U16 VARA Racing Rules)

Out of state competitors, non VARA members will receive a trophy for earned results, if applicable. The out of state competitor and the non VARA member will be included in the New World Cup point scoring system, including foreign athletes that are VARA members, however foreign athletes and non-members will not be included in FIS quota selections. U16's will be pulled from selection to any FIS events for the VT quota lists. U16's are ineligible for FIS racing.

3. **SELECTION:**

The VT Cup standings will be used for selection for U19 and older for the Vermont Quota to Open Fis and Regional Development Series. For early season quotas, (if there are no VT Cup Standings) VT will use an NTSM from the Eastern Regional NTSM and FIS intent list.

For U16's, the VT Cup Series will be used to determine the automatics to the **Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix** taking the top 2 (1st & 2nd place) male and top 2 female competitors in the standings.

4. **AWARDS:** Trophies and prizes will be awarded by host race sites, 1st through 3rd places (regardless of age), men/women and U16 1st through 3rd places men/women. All awards will be presented in the finish area unless otherwise designated, a minimum of 5 minutes, maximum 30 minutes after the final racer completes the course.
5. **OVERALL:** Top 3 SR-U19 overall winners and the top 3 U16 overall winners of the VT CUP series will receive awards supplied by VARA. Scored VT CUP series winners must be VARA members.
6. The 1st place overall SR-U19 VT CUP series winner and the 1st place overall U16 VT CUP series winner will be named to the VARA Team. Overall SR-U19 winner and overall U16 winner must be VARA members.
7. **The out of state entry** criteria applies to this series. Entry priority before race deadline is reserved for VARA members. Out of state athletes will be pulled first if the race fills up before the deadline.
8. **The VT CUP field size** is limited and will be determined by host sites, but will be posted as no smaller than 150 mixed gender and the suggested limit be set at 175.

The George Tormey Series (GTS)

1. The VARA George Tormey Series consists of a race series following the completion of the VT Cup Series.
2. The George Tormey Series is a short intense set of races designed to bring together the top U16-SR racers in Vermont to build a point profile.
3. **Scoring:** for the VARA George Tormey Series will be done using the Old World Cup Point System for the top 15 SR-U16 men/women. Out of state competitors, non-VARA members will receive a trophy for earned results. Foreign Athletes that are VARA members will be included in the WC Scoring method for the overall. Non Vara members will be pulled from overall standings. Ties are broken by best single place and then next best etc., if still a tie, then time differential will be used.
4. **Awards:** Trophies and prizes will be awarded by host race site, Sr-U16 1st through 3rd places, nen/women, regardless of age class. All awards will be presented in the finish area unless otherwise designated, a minimum of 5 minutes, maximum 30 minutes after the final racer completes the course
5. **Overall:** Top 3 SR-U16 Overall VARA member winners of the GTS series will receive awards supplied by VARA and recognition as George Tormey Spring Series Winners.
6. The 1st Place overall Sr-U16 GTS series winner will be named to the VARA team. Overall winner must be a VARA member.
7. The GTS Field size is limited and determined by the host site but will be posted as no smaller than 150 mixed gender and the suggested limit be set at 175.

Foreign Athlete Status for SR, U21 & U19 Age Groups

1. Any foreign athlete participating in a Vermont program MUST be a current member of VARA and MUST meet all licensing requirements for US SKI AND SNOWBOARD.
2. Foreign athletes (x US Ski and Snowboard #'s) will not be included in State quotas for FIS events.
3. Foreign athletes may enter FIS events per FIS rules concerning foreign entries. Consult the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Competition Guide for details.

4. Foreign athletes will be recognized and receive any appropriate awards for their results in any VARA Events.

Foreign Athlete Status for U16:

Foreign Athlete U16's must compete with a US SKI AND SNOWBOARD and VARA Membership and will be considered for VT and US SKI AND SNOWBOARD quotas unless otherwise stated by US SKI AND SNOWBOARD.

US SKI AND SNOWBOARD EVENTS/FIS EVENTS

Eastern Regional Events for U19 and Older

Information regarding Eastern Regional Championship Series may be referred to in the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Alpine Competition Guide, under the Eastern Division Section. All VT club and academy FIS racers Must be members of VARA.

US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Eastern events include; FIS events-Eastern Cup (EC), Fis Open, Regional Development Series (FIS), FIS, Eastern Development Finals(fis)

Eastern Development Finals

March 22-25 Stowe (M) and Okemo (W) 2GS/2SL

This FIS event consists of: 2GS, 2SL (U19, 21) No state quotas for this series.

Eastern US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Finals

Hosted at Gore Mountain, NY

March 21-24, 2019

Divisional Quotas (Combined both genders - U19, U21, SRs eligible)

Vermont quota – 45

1. The Eastern US Ski and Snowboard Finals VARA quota will be filled by using coach nominations for interested parties.
2. Coaches must send athlete list with Name, Club, Yob and US Ski and Snowboard # to the VARA office 1 week in advance of the event.
4. If selections are necessary then VT CUP standings will be used to choose athletes.

** Eastern High School Championship Quota - The top 5 girls and the top 5 boys from the Eastern High School Championships will be automatics to the Eastern US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Finals event.

VARA requires a two-day minimum coach confirmation from any VT quota list for US SKI AND SNOWBOARD to regional events. The athlete will be considered non-eligible for that event and the next athlete will be chosen and notified. VARA WILL NOT CALL FOR CONFIRMATION IT IS THE ATHLETE'S COACH RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT VARA.

EASTERN CUP Sponsored by World Cup Supply: This is a FIS series- quotas are determined by US Ski and Snowboard Eastern Region.

Information regarding EC Selections may be found in the Eastern US Ski and Snowboard Handbook. There is NO state quota to these events. All VT club and academy FIS competitors must be members of VARA

Regional Development Series – VT Quota – 3

Regional Development Series is a FIS Series designed for competitors that have had some FIS experience and are looking to improve their FIS profile , selections are made by the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Eastern Region. VARA Quota is filled using VT Cup standings for VARA

members only. For early season (Dec & Early Jan if necessary) Development FIS selection of the VT quota will *use the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD Eastern selection method. The Eastern NTSM list will be used to select the next eligible VT U19 competitors. All VT program athletes racing FIS must be VARA members.*

*All VT program athletes racing FIS **must** be VARA members.

FIS Open Series: this FIS series is first come first serve registration for all FIS eligible athletes with State/Divisional memberships.

1. Open FIS series are entry level FIS races where FIS points may be earned. The intent of the open FIS series is to give the opportunity to competitors to test the FIS level competition and is considered an entry level FIS competition.
2. Participation is first come first serve. FIS points must be 150 or lower to be eligible.
3. There is no state/divisional quota for FIS Open Races. If the race doesn't fill within 10 days before the first TCM all FIS eligible athletes may register.