



VARA U14 RULES

The U14 age level provides non-scored competition for racers born in 2006 and 2007.

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 Youth Coordinator to create schedules, policies, qualifications, rules, and state guidelines for the U14 and younger age groups. Committee members include; Taylor Mikell (Chair), 3 Council chairs ([Naga Kusumi](#)/SVC, [Adam Julius](#)/NVC, [Lori McClallen](#)/MVC, Sue Kramer/SVC, Taylor Mikell/NVC, Ryan Sheredy/NVC, and Justin Lillie/MVC.

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 – Taylor Mikell/Chair, (North-Adam Julius, Mid-Lori McClallen, and South-Naga Kusumi,). The committee will work with the Executive Director 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 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 (US Ski & Snowboard 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 Eastern U.S. Ski and Snowboard #, 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 US Ski & Snowboard, with incorrect spelling or US Ski & Snowboard #'s the race will get rejected when the name or U.S. Ski and Snowboard 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 US Ski & Snowboard 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 US Ski & Snowboard Competitors Membership. b) In order to be considered in any VARA qualifying or selection process, you must be a current member of VARA. It is the **parent/coach responsibility** to ensure competitors are current VARA members.
8. Qualifying points will not be retroactive for late renewals.
 9. VARA membership can be verified from the [VARA website member look up page](#). Cards may be [printed](#) off the website.
 10. Coaches **must** be VARA and US Ski & Snowboard members to have on-hill privileges.
 11. U14 Council races and State Championships must be US Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events. Sanctioned races must be held on homologated trails.
 12. Host mountain is required to present awards 5-30 minutes after the last competitor.

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 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 at states. The determination of each council's participants will be made by the council chair 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. *Council chairs will submit numbers to the VARA office by the 1st Wednesday after the second weekend in February.*

Parent/Spectator Clause

Any issues parents or spectators may have involving VARA rules, The Race Organizing Committee (ROC), Alpine Officials, the Jury, the race site or US Ski & Snowboard 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:

1-7 kids=2 coach tickets, 8-11 kids=3 coach tickets, 12-15=4 coach tickets, 16-19 kids=5 coach tickets, 20+ kids=6 tickets

Petitioning Athletes Skiing DOWN

Except for approved petitioning athletes, all racers will follow established US Ski & Snowboard age classes. U14 and under athletes may be approved within the council to ski down. (see council rules)

For a U16 athlete to be considered for skiing **down** an age class at the council level, the Program Director must submit a request to the Council Chair. If approved by their council, the Council

Chair will submit the request to the VARA Children's Chairperson and VARA Executive Director on or before December 15 for a CDC vote.

There are three areas as guidelines in considering a ski down athlete: Physical Maturation, Mental Maturity, and Physical Condition. For U16 the VARA CDC will review the request and respond to the council chair no later than Dec. 23.

If an athlete is approved by the council or CDC, 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 US Ski & Snowboard postseason event.
3. PA will be seeded at states according to their council placement.
4. PA will be presented with an award if so earned.
5. PA will be purged from results for selections to postseason US Ski & 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.
7. PA will not displace a U14 to VARA States.
8. PA "ski up" is NOT eligible for U14 Eastern Championships.

An athlete who is skiing down must register for VARA and USS as their proper age class. For example, a U14 skiing down as a U12 would still register for VARA and USS as a U14.

Athlete Injury Clause for U14 States

There will be no spots given to sick or injured athletes to move directly to States. Injured or sick athletes petitioning to participate in VARA U14 States must go to the Shootout.

U14 STATE SHOOTOUT Total Field Size: Inclusive: March 1, Cochran's

The U14 State Shootout is a one-day event designed to give U14's who have not already qualified for state championships a second opportunity to qualify for the U14 State Championships, provided they have competed in two council races.

1. **Format:** The Shootout will consist of one run of GS and one run of SL.
2. **Qualification:** Racers from each council who have not already made the states will compete at the U14 Shootout. Councils MUST send racer rosters, (in start order) on a spreadsheet which shall include Last Name, First Name, U.S. Ski & Snowboard Number, YOB, Club, and attending coaches list 1 week prior to the event.
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. Any approved sick or injured athlete will be seeded by their council within their start list at the discretion of their council.
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.

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

U14 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - Okemo Mountain, VT
Total Field: 166 (including Shoot-Out Athletes) March 5-8, 2020

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 another 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 per gender on separate days. 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 4-day event. If the SG gets canceled, it will not be rescheduled. Priority will be given to tech events.
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. The 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)
7. **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.
8. **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*

9. **Course setters:** Course setters and officials will be selected prior to the U14 States by the VARA Executive Director and with input from the VARA AO and Council Chairs. Refs will be selected by the TD.
10. **Entry Procedure:** Councils MUST send racer rosters (in start order and with council based gender split) on a spreadsheet which shall include U.S. Ski & Snowboard 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.**
11. **Scoring:** (Quota to the U14 Eastern Championships is 57(*updated 2.20*) 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.
12. **Forerunners: State Championships forerunners will be selected by the host site.**
13. **VARA Head Tax:** Head Tax is due on U14 State Championships; the fee is \$2 per racer per start to be sent to VARA.
14. Substitutions for states see Shootout rules #6. There are NO petitions for U14 States. Athletes must qualify through the U4 Shootout.

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 US Ski & Snowboard Eastern Office. The VARA CDC Chair, the VARA Executive Director, must be copied and notified of the request.

EASTERN U14 CHAMPIONSHIPS Sugarbush, VT MARCH 14-17, 2020

Vermont's quota is 58 (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.

U14 US Ski and Snowboard Finals March 20-22, West Mtn, NY

VARA Quota - 15 (gender split)

After naming the U14 Eastern Team, VARA's quota selection will be made directly from the VARA U14 States taking the next TBD to fill the quota. Athlete and coaches will need to RSVP on site. The VARA Invitational Development Project will include Finals selections who decide not to attend.*

U16 NATIONALS Sugarloaf, ME. April 1-5, 2020

U14's YOB 2005 and 2006 are eligible for the U16 Nationals. Qualifying procedures are on the [EASTERN REGION LINK](#).

U14 CAN-AM -Sugarloaf, ME.- March 26-29, 2020

Selection procedures can be found in the US Ski & Snowboard Eastern site hyperlinked above.

U14 VARA INVITATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

STRATTON, VT- MARCH 20, 2020*

The Vermont athletes will be invited by using results from the Vermont State Championships. After the VARA US Ski & Snowboard Eastern Championship Team and Finals Team is named (gender Split), the next 20 boys and 20 girls will be chosen for this project and named by Wednesday after State Championships. Any Athletes named to both Finals and Invitational may only attend one project, not both. This event is a positive postseason development experience. Weather permitting the project will include GS skills and team GS duals.

NH Piche Event

NH Piche Event Gunstock, in NH, hosts a fun event inviting other states, via quota, to join in the competition in Mid to late March. VARA has a quota which is TBD by Piche organizers. This event is not considered part of VARA's development pipeline; however, there is interest in attending. After the VARA U14 State Championship Team is named from the U14 Shootout, the next boys and girls (number to be determined by Piche) regardless of council will be make up VARA's Quota for the Piche Invitational event. Participants coaches will be notified Monday after the shootout. Confirmation is required by Wed. (updated 2.20) Piche Info [Link](#)

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