



2020 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 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 ([Naga Kusumi/SVC](#), [Adam Julius/NVC](#), [Lori McClallen/MVC](#)) Sue Kramer/SVC, Taylor Mikell/NVC and Justin Lillie/MVC, Ryan Sheredy/SNSC. This committee works closely with the Executive Director.

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 (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.

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 [VARA](#) by April 15.

The U12 age level provides non-scored competition for racers born in 2008 and 2009.

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 US Ski & Snowboard Guidelines for U12 race starts.

Councils should be racing Duals and Stubbie courses. And incorporate Kombi's, paneled SL 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 US Ski & Snowboard sponsored 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 \$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 are 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 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.

8. VARA membership will be verified from the VARA website. On the [VARA Website](#) there is an option to print your VARA card-VARA does not issue a member ID #
9. Council racers MUST be VARA members before the first council race to receive points for standings. Standings/qualifying points are not retroactive. It is the coaches' and parents' responsibility to ensure athletes are current with their VARA memberships.
10. Coaches must be VARA and US Ski & Snowboard members to have on-hill privileges.
11. U12 Council races 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)

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 sanctioned council events such as VARA States or Shootout must be handled by athletes' 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 US Ski & Snowboard age classes. For an 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 and the request must be approved by the council. Council Approval is required. There are three areas as guidelines in considering a ski down athlete: Physical Maturation, Mental Maturity, and Physical Condition. 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 an award if so earned.
3. PA will not advance to the Piche Championships.
4. PA must register with VARA under their correct age class based on year of birth.

Petitioning Athletes-ski up:

For an athlete to be considered for skiing **up** an age class at the council level the Program Director must submit the petition to the Council Chairperson. The petition must first be approved by the council Chairperson. If approved at the council level, the request will then be submitted to the Chair of the VARA Children's Committee and the VARA Executive Director. If approved by the VARA Children's Committee the VARA Executive Director will then submit the request to the US Ski & Snowboard Eastern Regional Director who will then submit the request to the US Ski & Snowboard National Office. Once approved by US Ski & Snowboard National, 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 into U14 States and Eastern Championships. They will displace a U14 from both events if they qualify for them.

[See Ski Up Form](#)

SKILLSQUEST: VARA recommends that all U12's be introduced to the US Ski & Snowboard SkillsQuest Drills. U12's should ski the SkillsQuest drills within Council. Councils must have a plan to introduce US Ski & Snowboard Skills Quest into their council schedule. For example, councils may add 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 US Ski & Snowboard site and the links below:** [SKILLSQUEST](#)

Also See: [EASTERN REGION LINK](#)

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

VARA U12 GS/TERRAIN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

OKEMO MT. – February 7, 2020

Selection: By Councils

Approximately 60 athletes (10 boys and 10 girls from each council). This is a GS focused development project introducing terrain to enhance adaptability, skills, and tactics. Participants will work in groups with other VARA coaches and meet U12 VARA athletes from different councils.

FRANCAIS PICHE INVITATIONAL

NH Piche Event- Gunstock, NH, hosts a fun event in mid to late March. Gunstock invites other states, via quota, to join in the competition. VARA has a quota for U12 and U14, which is TBD. This event is not considered part of our development pipeline; however, it is a fun competition in which Vermont racers are invited to attend. Since attendance is quota-driven, VARA asks the councils for selection to fill spots for U12 competitors.

PICHE QUOTA: To be determined by the race coordinators. VARA will split the Piche quota (TBD) 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. The gender split is determined by the council. Qualifying methods are determined by council. Please see council rules.

U12 NY-VT SL FUNDAMENTALS PROJECT

New York, March 28-29, 2020

(arrival may need to be 3/27 based on distance)

Vermont's quota is 20 (gender split) YOB 2007 ONLY. This is a productive, fun project coordinated with NYSSRA. Athletes will get to know skiers from NY state. This project is designed to taking advantage of late-season snow for skill development and to keep athletes skiing longer into the spring. **Participants will be chosen by council.**

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. The announcement will be posted on VARA.org. Councils will confirm project attendance by Feb 1.

For issues that arise that are not addressed by VARA Rules then the US Ski & Snowboard 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.