VARA Exceptional Athlete Policy

1.   It is important that programs and racer advancement structure be set up with three groups in mind: 1) The average skier, 2) The top end racer advancing through the system, 3) The exceptional athlete.
2.   There must be room for the exceptional athlete to move up, so that they are challenged and have to work at winning. Exceptional means; the athlete that comes through the system every few years, that needs a program well advanced from that designed for the top end racer.
3.   Through identification at the state level, state associations may petition, in writing, the VARA Children's Development Committee to consider an athlete as "exceptional" and in need of an advanced program.
4.   On approval, the State Chairperson, Council Chairperson and the athlete's coach will work together to design a program specifically for that particular athlete.
5.   An exceptional athlete program may include racing up in age for the entire season and could include state championships at that advanced age group. There will be no movement up to U16. **
6.   The program may be designed with a goal orientation and adjustments made throughout the season, based on performance. The athlete's program would be designed with long range goals in mind, but would be re-evaluated each season.
7.   If the athlete is not granted exceptional status, the VARA Director/Children's Development Committee may make recommendations to the Council Chairperson and the athlete's coach for possible adjustments to the athlete's program, within the state structure or in conjunction with other state structures, through agreement of all parties. Such recommendations may include racing within age groups in a more competitive environment or racing up within a state program.
8.   The intent of these recommendations is to enhance the athlete's program and assist in a successful development program.

        **Any athlete that is accepted as a ski up/exceptional athlete MUST be approved by the USSA and possess a ski up waiver.

SKI UP RELEASE (LINK HERE) - This form must be compete.