



NYSSRA U14 Excelsior Cup and Options for beginning U14 racers

As we described in earlier emails, this season U14 athletes will compete in the Excelsior Cup series of races. This race series is divided into East and West divisions. Below are the council's that will make up each division.

West – Niagara, Genesee, Central

East – Mountain, Rip Van Winkle, Adirondack

Athletes may not compete out of division for the Excelsior Cup series.

Each race series includes 2 SL races, 2 GS races and a SG Skills Camp and Race.

These races are used to determine who qualifies for the U14 State Championships which will be held at West Mountain in early March. NYSSRA will maintain the qualifying sheets after each set of races and post them on the NYSSRA web site. Final quota for East/West representation at the State Championships will be determined by U14 NYSSRA membership data on January 15.

The SG skills camp portion is done in-council so athletes are closer to home while the race/training portion is at either Bristol for the west or Gore for the east. Each race consists of mandatory SG training, followed by the SG race. Athletes do not need to compete in the SG race/training portion, however all athletes interested in qualifying for the U14 State Championships, must fully participate in the Camp portion. (Some councils are combining U12 and U14 athletes for the skills camp portion)

At the NYSSRA U14 State Championships, the NY State Team will be selected to represent NY at the U14 Eastern Championships at Sunday River, ME. Qualifying procedures are fully outlined in the NYSSRA Competition Guide on the NYSSRA web site.

Options for U14 athletes new to ski racing.

While many of our U14 athletes have been racing for many years, we understand that sometimes skiers join programs later than others and may not feel comfortable racing at the U14 level. For these few athletes, NYSSRA will allow programs to include these "new to racing" U14 athletes in the U12 Council Cup Race Series. Athletes, parents and coaches need to make this decision in mid-January and athletes may NOT compete in both the U14 Excelsior Cup and the U12 Council Cup. Athletes choosing the U12 Council Cup series MAY NOT qualify for the U14 State Championships. For these athletes, the Kandahar Festivals are available after the regular season is complete. If an athlete is unsure which race series is appropriate for them, they may try the **First** set of Council Cup Series races and if this is not challenging enough for them, they can switch to the Excelsior Cup. This trial is only available for the first set of Council Cup races.

