



VARA Guidelines and Race Series Events for U16 and Older

Vermont State and National Governing Body Guidance (NGB): VARA competitions will operate under the guidance of US Ski and Snowboard and VARA, participants, parents, and coaches are responsible for being familiar with these guidelines. All vara members must adhere to VARA, USS, and host site/venue guidance and code of conduct.

USS code of conduct. [Link](#)

USS Parent Code of Conduct [Link](#)

USS Safesport Resources - [Link](#)

Eastern Region Handbook - [Link](#)

For sanctioned race info, please see the [USS COMPETITION GUIDELINES](#)

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, U18, 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, U18/U21/SR racing in VT. This group works with the VARA Executive Director to create schedules, guidelines, qualifications, and state championship guidelines for the U16 and above age groups. Vara Development Committee members include Tim Curran (Chair), Thomas Erhard, Bobby Farrell, Miike Morin, Chelsea Marshall, Matt McKenna, and Ben Blakley.

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. The races are open to all U16/U18/U21/SR VARA members, except for U16 State Championships, which will only be for U16 VARA members.

OVERVIEW of U16 RACING IN VT

U16's race in the Vermont Cup (VT CUP) Series beginning in early December, along with Sr-U18's. Using the final VT CUP standings, VARA will award:

- Awards will be given to the top 3 males and females at each series event. If U16's are not in the top 3, they will still be recognized.
- The VT CUP series standings will be used to determine automatics for the USS 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 USS U16 Eastern Championships, and USS U16 Eastern Finals based on results at the U16 VT State Championships, All VARA U16 athletes who do not qualify for USS 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.
VC series standings will be used to determine Devo/NJR and Open Fis divisional quotas.

Open Races - All Open Events in Dec and January will be run with a random first run order and flip field for the second run.

VT Cup Series Events will be seeded on points and flip 30, then bibo.

George Tormey Series Races will start Mid-February and run into March. Overall event winners will be determined at the end of the series.

VARA U16 General Rules

1. VARA is the governing body of U16 racing in Vermont. US Ski and Snowboard 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, host sites must account for the need for more coach's tickets. General recommendation but NOT less than the following: 4 kids = 2 coaches, > 8 Kids = 3, >12 Kids = 4, >16 Kids = 5, >20 kids
7. **Field Size:** Scored racing field sizes will be determined by the race site organizers and may be limited. It is recommended that mixed gender scored racing will have no less than 175. Check the appropriate race announcement sheet for details under the "racing" tab "calendar" link on www.vara.org
8. All awards will be presented in the finish area unless otherwise designated, a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum 30 minutes after the final racer completes the course.

All VC and GTSand state champ results should be emailed to alpineresults@adminskiracing.com

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 at States.

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 & 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 Discretionary Spots for U16's

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

VARA Racer Admin Fee(RAF)/Head Tax (Race Organizers)

U16's - \$2/race start /racer. All U16 scored races; states, open events, are subject to Racer Admin Fee/Head Tax, which will be paid automatically to VARA via ASR at the end of the event.

TWIN STATE RALLY SERIES

Twin State Series is a scored series for U16s from VARA and NH

Jan 17 SL at Proctor

Jan 30th GS Stratton and Jan 31st SG at Stratton.

This series is only for U16s. The purpose is to provide head-to-head competition for VarA and Nh athletes before U16 Easterns and Nationals. Registration is open for U16s from each state.

Each race site will reserve 25 spots for Men and Women for the other state in case fields fill before the deadline.

VARA U16 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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)

[VARA Quota](#) (Quota Calc Link): TBD

U16 Easterns: TBD Finals

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. Provided a two-day event can be scheduled.

VT U16 State Championships will be SCORED event. **VARA will make every effort to schedule events on weekend days. Weekdays will be an option for some sites and events may be scheduled for weekdays.**

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 Comp Guide ([LINK](#)) 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:

Side 2:

Valid Points List

GS	SL
A	F
D	C
H	G
L	M

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 as an eastern quota spot.

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 participant gathering before awards. If VT state guidelines allow.

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.

NOTE: ALL VT CUP & GTS XML Race Files must be emailed to Admin Ski Racing
alpineresults@adminskiracing.com

Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix

(U16 Eastern Region Championships)

VT Quota - 66

SugarLoaf: March 13-17

USS EAST CALENDAR [LINK](#)

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. See the Eastern Handbook for more Regional and National event information.

U16 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 1-6 - Mission Ridge

Selection and seeding procedure can be found in the US SKI AND SNOWBOARD [Eastern Handbook](#)

US SKI AND SNOWBOARD U16 EASTERN FINALS

March 18- 21 - Attitash

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 USS 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 the [Eastern Handbook](#).

Whistler Cup

TBD USS International Event See USS East Handbook

VARA SR/U21/U18/16 Race Series and Guidelines

VARA Open Races, VT Cup Series & George Tormey Series

Complimentary entries, for athletes in the following groups, to a maximum of 5 athletes.

•Athletes with less than 55 points contact RA directly to enter race (skip the line, no online registration required). If more than 5 in this group, first-come first-entered.

•Athletes with 55.00 to 74.99 points register and pay in advance in accordance with ROC policies. If none under 55, promptly after the race the ROC will refund entries to the best 5 point holders to actually start the race. All Vermont Racers regardless of point profile are encouraged to race.

VARA Entry Fees For Scored Racing:

- SL \$65 - PSL/70
- GS \$65
- SG \$75
- 2 Super G (\$95 is a suggestion)
- DH will be a daily rate - Site Specific

Awards: It is recommended that the 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 with no over standings.
3. Dec and January Open VARA scored races will run with a random start order first run and flip field for the second run.

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 / VC)

1. The VT Cup Series begins in Dec. and continues through early February. It is the determining series for the Overall U18 and under 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 in each race. If there are two races in one day at one site only the first race will count for scoring for the VC series, unless notified otherwise. Ties are broken by the next best etc., if still a tie, then time differential will be used.

a. U16 and U18 plus will be scored together for the overall standings in the VT CUP series.

(*Note: please see also U16 VARA Racing Rules)

Out-of-state competitors who are non-VARA members will receive a trophy for earned results, if applicable. An out-of-state competitor and the non-VARA member will not be included in the scoring and selections for FIS series events on VARA quota. Foreign VARA member athletes and non-members will not be included in any 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 U18 and older for the Vermont Quota to Open Fis and Regional Development/NJR Series if requested by USS.
** 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 men/women. If no U16's are in the top 3, sites will award the top 3 U16s. (1.22)
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 overall winners will be awarded and if no U16s are in the 3 U16 overall winners of the VT CUP series will receive awards supplied by VARA. Scored VT CUP series winners must be VARA members. Ties are broken by next best etc.

6. The 1st place overall series winner will be named to the VARA Team. The overall winners must be VARA members.

7. **The out-of-state entry** criteria apply 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.

NOTE: ALL VT CUP & GTS Race Files must be emailed to Admin Ski Racing at alpineresults@adminsquiracing.com

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. The participant must have raced in a minimum of two GTS events to be scored in the overall. Out of state competitors and non-VARA members will receive a trophy for earned results but are not counted in the standings. 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, men/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 it is recommended no smaller than 150 mixed gender and the suggested limit be set at 175.

Foreign Athlete Status for SR, U21 & U18 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

USS EAST CALENDAR [LINK](#)

Eastern Regional Events for U18 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 U18+ Eastern events include; FIS events-Eastern Cup (EC), Devo FIS, FIS Open and USS Eastern Finals (non FIS)

Eastern U18 US Ski and Snowboard Finals

Attitash NH
March 22-25

Divisional Quotas (Combined both genders - U18, U21, SRs eligible)

Vermont quota TBD (12 in 2022)

1. The Eastern US Ski and Snowboard Finals VARA quota will be filled by using coach nominations for interested and confirmed athletes.
 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'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT VARA.

For 2023 USS U18 Nationals Information see the USS [Eastern Regional Handbook](#).

FIS

U18 and Older eligible athletes with a valid VARA, USS Competitor and FIS Membership
[FIS Website](#)

EASTERN CUP: 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 Regional Handbook/Site](#). There is NO state quota to these events. All VT club and academy FIS competitors must be members of VARA.

Open FIS has a quota of 3 divisional/state spots per gender

DEVO/NJR FIS events have a quota of 2 per gender FIS divisional quotas will be determined by going down the pending list of the USS Eastern Rankings prior to the start of VCs. After the VC series begins, the VC standings will be used for the quota selections once the series has started and there have been 2 or more races. If there are no eligible athletes from VC then the pending list will be used.

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

EASTERN REGIONAL CALENDAR CAN BE FOUND ON THE EASTERN REGION SITE -
[LINK](#) Please check this link for any USS Regional event information, quotas, etc.