Southern Vermont Council

2024-25

INTRODUCTION

The Southern Vermont Council is the governing body for children's-level ski racing in Southern Vermont. The Council is composed of Program Directors and ski coaches from all seven ski racing programs (Bromley Outing Club, Magic Mountain, Mount Snow Training Center, Vermont Academy at Mount Snow - aka Mount Snow Academy, Stratton Mountain School, Stratton Winter Sports Club, and Willard Mountain).

The purpose of the Council is to:

- Establish new and innovative approaches to ski racing in Southern Vermont that will be both beneficial and fun for all racers,
- Develop proposals and formulate recommendations for presentation to the Vermont Alpine Racing Association (VARA) and VARA's Alpine Competition Committees,
- Discuss and resolve specific race or racer-related issues,
- Establish the race schedule for the season,
- Establish SVC selection methods for state and regional projects/events,
- To review Council, VARA, and US Ski & Snowboard rules and regulations governing ski racing and to formulate appropriate rules and regulations for the various age classes and all Council-sponsored races.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Vermont Academy at Mount Snow (VAMS), Peter Stokloza Chair Stratton Mountain School (SMS), Jim Sullivan Assistant Chair - Bromley Outing Club (BOC), Mike Healy; Magic Mountain Ski Club (Magic), Chuck Ribinsky;; Mt Snow Training Center (MSTC), Nancy Logan; Stratton Mountain School (SMS), Mike Morin; Stratton Winter Sports Club (SWSC), Jason Weinberger; Willard Mountain (Will), Dan Spigner;

VARA BOD Representatives , Peter Stokloza (VAMS),,
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VARA CDC Representatives: Peter Stokloza (SVC Chairman); David Sklar (SMS)

Age Class Representatives: U14: Stephen Leonard (VAMS) U12: Mike Healy (BOC) U10: Galen Kemp (MSTC)

Program Directors: BOC-Mike Healy, Magic-Chuck Ribinsky, VAMS–Peter Stokloza, MSTC–Nancy Logan
SMS – Mike Morin, SWSC – Jason Weinberger, Will – Dan Spigner

COUNCIL-SPONSORED RACES:

The Council sponsors three separate race series: the Betty Clayton U12 & U10 Race Series and the Southern Vermont Council U14 Race Series. The Council also sponsors The U12 Meisterschaft.

Age Class determination: In keeping with US Ski & Snowboard rules a racer's age is determined by how old the racer is on December 31st of the current racing season.

2024/25 Age Class by year of birth (YOB):

U18	2007-2008
U16	2009-2010
U14	2011-2012
U12	2013-2014
U10	2015-2016

Betty Clayton U12/U10 League Race Series:
The Betty Clayton U12/U10 League has two separate race series, one for U12 racers: and one for U10 racers- YOB. Second year U8s (YOB 2017) are permitted to race in U10 races. In accordance with USSA & VARA rules, racers 7 years old and younger (YOB 2018 & younger) may not compete in any US Ski & Snowboard or VARA event.

The U10 and U12 races are entry-level races in the SVC. The SVC was created to promote and sustain greater interest in ski racing and to make Council sponsored races more exciting and fun for all racers, regardless of ability. Age and ability appropriate races are scheduled for junior racers, with awards based on combined run times. Awards are given for the top 10 boys and top 10 girls in each U12 and U10 race.

U12/U10 races shall start on or after Jan 15, 2022. * 2024/25 will commence no earlier than January 12, 2025 as an exception

The League is named in memory and honor of Betty Clayton, former Program Director of the Bromley Outing Club, in recognition of her tireless dedication and commitment to junior ski racing.

Southern Vermont Council U14 Race Series:

The Southern Vermont Council Race Series is designed for Junior racers 12-13 years of age interested in participating at a level of competition leading to State, Regional, and National Championships. Age-appropriate races are scheduled for the age class (U14: 12-13 yr olds) racing in the Council Series. Awards are presented at each race based on combined run times. For each age group the top 10 boys and top 10 girls receive an award.

All Southern Vermont Council junior racers, provided that they participate in at least two (2) of the SVC competitive events (not including council camps), are eligible to compete at the Vermont State Championships.

A council approved PA (Petitioning Athlete), which is U12 or U16 competing in the Southern Vermont Council U14 Race Series, may be selected to compete in the U14 State Championships to represent the Southern Vermont Council with VARA & US Ski & Snowboard approval. PA's will not displace qualified U14 athletes.

Please refer to the VARA.org calendar for additional rules and requirements for Vermont children's racing.

BETTY CLAYTON U12/U10 LEAGUE RACE SERIES

JUNIORS 20132016 YOB

MEMBERSHIPS:

All racers must have current memberships in VARA (Vermont Alpine Racing Association) and have a competition membership from the US Ski & Snowboard. 'General' USSS memberships will not be accepted at events. All racers must be affiliated with a council club or be a registered SVC Independent to be eligible for council standings. SVC Registered Independent racers that are not SVC club affiliated must pay an Independent Fee of $to the SVC to race in the series.

EQUIPMENT:

Helmets: The SVC complies with all rules and regulations of US Ski & Snowboard and recommends the use of helmets at all times. The US Ski & Snowboard requires helmets to be worn by all racers at US Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned slalom, giant slalom, and SG races, and requires full ear protection (no open/soft ear helmets) for GS and Super-G.

Suits: U10's racing in SVC events may not race in an exposed GS racing suit in U10 SVC events. Jackets and full pants (no shorts) are required.

U12s: Permitted to use exposed suits except for the first U12 race of the season. Skills event with a timed run does count as a race.

All other USSS Rules Apply: Athletes racing in the Clayton U12 series events must follow all current US Ski & Snowboard rules. These current standards can be found on US Ski & Snowboard Rules.

Seeding for First Runs: The race field is selected at random.

Second Run Start Order: Seeding for the second run will be the reverse order of the first run including DNF's, and DSQ's. This includes dual events.

Second Run Start Time: Second run start time is determined by the host mountain. The second run typically begins one hour after the completion of the second run course set.

"Additional Training Opportunity"

Organizers will work to include post-race training on the course and allow athletes to train an additional run/s should time allow and the course be maintained to the jury's approval. Organizers will delay awards to allow this training to take place and should discuss and note this "additional training opportunity" at the TCM and on any race announcements

Timing of Runs: Racers are individually timed on each run. All runs are electronically timed, with two back up timing systems used in accordance with US Ski & Snowboard timing guidelines.

Use of livetiming for U10/U12 events is discouraged. If possible, the organizer should provide a scoreboard for times and results.

Awards: Based on the combined time of both runs in slalom and giant slalom. Awards will be presented to the top 10 boys and top 10 girls. Awards are the responsibility of the host club and must be presented within minutes of completion of the event. that includes additional training time.

Number and Format of Races: VARA recommends 2 SL, 2GS, and 1 project. 5 events total. All SVC U10/U12 slalom events will use 'stubbie SL gates' slalom, U12 can use tall poles for their 2nd SL event. Prior to the first competition, SVC will run 1 day of skills challenge. No awards will be given on skills challenge.

Race Entry Fees (Recommended): The host mountain may charge up to $ 35.00 per racer for SL/GS, $45.00 for SG/terrain camps, and $45 for dual or two-race events. These fees are inclusive of athlete lift ticket. Fees are

payable to the host mountain or club. These fees do not include any necessary online surcharges required by the registration web-site.

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Submitting Race Results: SVC clubs hosting events are required to have all races 'coded' prior to the event, and results must be submitted to US Ski & Snowboard and VARA post-event.

Protocol for Parents: Parents are not allowed in the start area or race arena.

Parents, racers, and coaches are not allowed to enter timing buildings for any reason during a race. Only those individuals authorized by the host mountain are allowed in the timing building.

U12 Tri-Council Open:

Tri-Council U12 events - midweek in March

SVC U12s Piche Event

SVC will allow athletes to represent VARA in the 2025 Piche event.

Selection - Our SVC council has a quota of **(11)** for the 2025 Piche's Event.

Given we have more programs than spots for the Boys and Girls, we will work as a council to select quota spots that allow representation from each of SVC's programs. The 7 clubs will nominate one Male U12 athlete and one Female U12 athlete from their program at their discretion. In the event we have 7 nominations in a gender, we will randomly select the first 5 or 6 depending on a weighted gender representing the number of athletes racing in the council for the 24-25 season. Alternates will be selected for the 2025 Piche event.

Identification order will be picked at random for two rounds (given there is a potential of 14 athletes for 11 spots). The SVC Chair will manage these intents and submit a team entry to Piche's. All intended athletes for the event will need to be submitted by the SVC's program's Head coach or Director by Feb 15th, 2025.

The U12 programs in SVC are :

SWSC -

VAMS-

MSTC-

BOC-

Willard-

Magic-

SMS-

SOUTHERN VERMONT COUNCIL U14 RACE SERIES

JUNIORS 2011-2012 YOB

MEMBERSHIPS:
All racers must have current memberships in VARA (Vermont Alpine Racing Association) and have a competition membership from the US Ski & Snowboard. All racers must be affiliated with a council club or be a registered SVC Independent in order to be eligible for council standings. SVC Registered Independent racers that are not SVC club affiliated must pay an Independent Fee of $25.00 to the SVC to race in the series/ waived for the 24-25 season

EQUIPMENT:
All equipment must meet the current US Ski & Snowboard (US Ski & Snowboard Rules) requirements.
Helmets: The SVC complies with all rules and regulations of the US Ski & Snowboard and recommends the use of helmets at all times. US Ski & Snowboard requires FIS Approved helmets to be worn by all racers at USSSA-sanctioned slalom, giant slalom, and Super-Gevents and requires full ear protection (no open/soft ear helmets) for GS, SG, & DH events. SVC requires the use of a 'face-bar' in slalom events.
Athletes racing in the SVC U14 series events must follow all current US Ski & Snowboard equipment guidelines. GS Skis must be used for SVC U14 'Dual GS' events. Slalom Skis are recommended for 'Dual SL' events.

RACES:
Races: SVC will run two timed runs each race day for slalom and giant slalom events. The series should include giant slalom, slalom, and super-g events.
Second Run Start Time: Second run start time is determined by the host mountain. The second run typically begins one hour after the completion of the second run course set.
Seeding for Runs-U14: The start order for the 1st run will be random.
Second Run Start Order: Seeding for the second run will be the reverse order of the first run. All finishers, DNF's, and DSQ's will be included in the reversed start order. This includes dual events.
Number and Format: Recommended: **2** giant slaloms, 2 slaloms, and 1 Super-G. SVC will run 2 SG runs on the SG race day (weather permitting): 1 untimed training run, 1 timed race run. SVC will use 'age appropriate' U14 slalom gates (60" OTS height, 27mm thickness) for all SVC U14 slalom events.
Timing of Runs: Racers are individually timed on each run. All runs are electronically timed, with two back up timing systems always used in accordance with US Ski & Snowboard timing guidelines.

"Additional Training Opportunity"
Organizers will work to include post-race training on the course and allow athletes to train an additional run/s should time allow and the course be maintained to the jury's approval. Organizers will delay awards to allow this training to take place and should discuss and note this "additional training opportunity" at the TCM and on any race announcements.

AWARDS: Based on the combined time of the two runs in slalom and giant slalom, and one run in SG. Awards will be presented to the top 10 boys and top 10 girls. Each individual run placing and the combined time placing will count toward council standings. The Super-G will count as one score. Each duals race will have one council score (combined result). Awards are the responsibility of the individual clubs and must be presented after the completion of the"additional training time" and/or the completion of the event.

Race Entry Fees (Recommended): The host mountain may charge up to $ 35.00 per racer for SL/GS, $45.00 for SG/terrain camps, and $45 for dual or two-race events. These fees are inclusive of athlete lift ticket. Fees are payable to the host mountain or club. These fees do not include any necessary online surcharges required by the registration web-site.

SUBMITTING TO USSA: SVC clubs hosting events must have all races 'coded' prior to the event, and results must be submitted to US Ski & Snowboard and VARA post-event.
Protocol for Parents: Parents are not allowed in the start area or the race arena.

Parents, racers, and coaches are not allowed to enter timing buildings for any reason during a race. Only those individuals authorized by the host mountain are allowed in the timing building.

VARA U14 TRI-COUNCIL SERIES

This series is open to all eligible U14 VARA athletes. The series is meant to promote racing between all 3 councils throughout the season. These races will be single gender to allow for a maximum number of athletes to participate. Registration process: Registration is on a first come first serve basis with 2nd year U14 athletes having an opportunity to register 24 hours prior to opening registration for all U14s. Field size max recommendation is 120. Running order: Random full field flip for the 2nd run.

VARA U14 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Seeding of SVC athletes to the VARA U14 State Championships will be based on the final SVC Council Standings after the last SVC Council event. The scoring will be based on 1 less than 1⁄2 (50%-1, round down) of the racers lowest place points. SVC will score 2 SLs, 2 GSs and 1 SG. If the season scoring total is an odd number of runs, the number of runs taken into consideration will be rounded down. Ties will be broken externally by taking the next best result.

REGISTRATION for the VARA U14 State Championships: An athlete must have participated in 1 less than half of all council races. Rounding down.

Registration process - Open online registration with councils submitting final season standings order AND intents for the Vara U14 State SG event.

REGIONAL POST SEASON QUALIFYING EVENTS

USS EASTERN U14 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Vermont's quota is TBA (gender split). The Vermont U14 Championship Team will be determined as follows: The best single result from the runs and combined places of the VARA U14 State Championship events.

- TIES: broken externally by taking the next best results for ranking and selection of the team.
- AUTOMATICS: Each council will have 2 automatic spots (1G/1B) to the Eastern U14 Championships.
- AUTOMATIC SEEDING: Council automatics will receive seeding in at least the second seed for the Eastern U14 Championships.
- RACE REQUIREMENTS: To attend the Eastern U14 Championships, the athletes are required to compete in the majority (>than 1⁄2) of races at VARA U14 State Championships unless injured.

If an individual scores a Win AND a podium in another event at the Eastern U14 Championships said individual(s) may choose to represent the Eastern Region at the U16 National Championships or to race in the U14 Can Am Series described below. Selection procedure can be found in the USSS Eastern Handbook. Eastern Region Handbook

EASTERN U14 FINALS

See USSS Eastern Handbook for criteria.

U14 CAN-AM

It is an Eastern quota of 60 athletes (30G/30B). Selection procedure can be found in the USSS Eastern Handbook Eastern Region Handbook.

GENERAL

- Coaches and all racers shall read the mountain rules sheet and follow all area rules.
- Coaches are to actively encourage all racers and parents to attend the awards presentations at each Council-sponsored race.
- Emphasis should be placed on free skiing time after the race. The method used to permit free skiing and access to the lifts after a race is to be determined by each host mountain.
- The Council recommends that all coaches working in programs be a certified referee and hold a current Basic First Aid and CPR card.

MEMBERSHIPS:

- All programs/clubs must be "current" members of VARA and the US Ski & Snowboard and have current year memberships.
- All programs/clubs must have paid SVC dues by scheduled date.
- All coaches attending SVC events must be current members of VARA and US Ski & Snowboard.
- All programs/clubs must supply the Council Chair a list of active coaches prior to December 15th. This list will be used as the 'Coaches Ticket' list for all SVC events.
- Each mountain is responsible for assuring that all of its racers are members of VARA and US Ski & Snowboard and that all of its coaches are members of VARA and US Ski & Snowboard.

RACE REQUIREMENTS:

Start Cadence:

- The start cadence used for Super-G, giant slalom, and slalom must be consistent with those of US Ski & Snowboard & FIS.

Course Length/Set:

- The length of the course for Clayton U12/U10 League and Council U14 races must be consistent with US Ski & Snowboard age guidelines in effect at the time.
- Setting distances and gate counts must be consistent with US Ski & Snowboard age guidelines in effect at the time.

Flex Gates:

- Age appropriate gates (60" OTS FIS-B) are to be used for all U12 & U14 tall gate slalom events. Giant slalom gates will have US Ski & Snowboard approved panels with two flex gates. Single gate (no outside gate) giant slalom is permitted in accordance with current US Ski & Snowboard rules
- Slalom - inside flex gate. Single pole slalom (no outside gate) is permitted in accordance with current US Ski & Snowboard rules

Sanctioned Races:

- U10, U12, U14 races must be sanctioned by US Ski & Snowboard.

Jury:

- A certified jury is required (TD, Referee and Chief of Race) at all SVC events and Clayton League events, and there should be at least one US Ski & Snowboard Level 3 official on the jury and or race committee.
- All course setters for all age class racing must be at least a US Ski & Snowboard Level-1 updated/current referee.
- Jury and Course setter selection must be made prior to the day of the race. All jury members should join the course set crew to approve the course and hill.
- SVC will abide by current US Ski & Snowboard rules.

Coaches' Meeting:

- Zoom captains meeting should be held the night before the race if possible, morning of event in-person is acceptable if electronic meeting is not possible and is communicated on the race announcement
- All race day communication should be communicated through Whatsapp and controlled by the event's Chief of Race or his/her designee
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RACE RESULTS:

- A copy of the Split Second Race or Vola results file must be sent to the scorer within a day of the race, which include race results (first run, second run, and combined times for both boys and girls), and must be sent to the Council Chair within a day of hosting a race so that a consolidated record of all Council races and results can be maintained.

- Maintenance of an up-to-date race results file is extremely important for the naming of Council Teams to the State Championships, for selection of racers for participation at VARA and US Ski & Snowboard camps, etc.
- Race results should be posted on the Whatsapp at the completion of the run/event

ADDING/RESCHEDULING RACES DURING THE SEASON:

- The addition or rescheduling of a race in the Council schedule requires the Program Director of the mountain seeking to add/change a race to notify the Council Chair who shall poll all of the Program Directors as to whether the race should be added/changed. Majority vote rules.
- The Program Director of the mountain seeking to add/change a race will be informed by the Council Chair of the outcome of any vote taken.

INJURY CLAUSE:

- The SVC will make a decision on all Injury Petitions on an individual basis.
- SVC will decide the validity of the petition. If a petition has been determined to be valid, then the position in the SVC Series Standings will then be determined. The athlete will then be placed in the current standings.
- Any injury petition must be accompanied by a doctors' note at a minimum.
- The injury petition must be submitted to the SVC council chair at least 5 days prior to the last SVC Series event in the age class to let the SVC have time to review and decide on the outcome.
- Petitions may only be submitted by the Program Director of the club that the athlete is registered with.
- The Program Directors will have 48 hours from the time of the petition distribution to vote.
- The Majority vote will determine the petition outcome, regardless of number of votes cast.

SVC RACING OUT OF AGE CLASS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (Petitioning Athlete-PA):

- In order for an athlete to race out of age class, the PA procedure must be followed.
  - PA Procedure:
    - The Program Director interested in having one of their athletes race out of age class is to contact the Council Chair via email and provide a written rationale or justification for the PA request with supporting evidence by December 31st.
    - The PA request can also come from the Program's Head Coach, but only after consultation with and approval by the Program Director.
      1. Letters submitted directly via email to the Council Chair from the racer's parent(s) or coach will not be considered.
      2. The Council Chair will distribute the PA request with evidence to each SVC Program Director.
    - The PA request should consider the following:

      1. Physical Maturity/Condition 2. Mental Maturity 3. Training Age.
    - Each Program Director will then vote as follows or ask for more information:
      1. **Yes**. Voting 'yes' is stating that the Program Director approves the PA Request for an athlete to ski out of age class.
      2. **No**. Voting 'no' is stating that the Program Director does not approve the PA Request for the athlete to ski out of age class and should remain in their respective age group.
      3. **More information.** A Program Director may ask for more information regarding the athlete
    - The Program Directors will have 48 hours to respond with a vote.
    - The majority rules.
      1. The decision on the PA will be made without consideration for the number of votes cast within the two day voting period.
      2. The petitioning Program will be considered a 'Yes' vote.
    - The Council Chairman will vote only in the event of a tie.
    - The outcome of the vote will be reported back to all Program Directors.
      1. The voting is public and all votes submitted by the Program Directors will be attached to the decision.
      2. U14 and U12 PA ski-down's are granted by the council without VARA CDC approval.
      3. Skiing-ups and U16 PA ski-down's must be approved by the VARA CDC after council approval.
  - Considerations in PA Voting:
    - Program Directors voting on an Out of Age Class request should consider the following when reviewing the request.
      1. Is the athlete in question an 'exceptional' athlete?
      2. Will racing out of age class help this athlete further their development?
      3. Does the request meet one of the 3 PA Considerations? 1. Physical Maturity/Condition 2. Mental Maturity 3. Training Age.
    - If the PA request is approved by VARA, the PA may immediately compete in the next age class.
    - The athlete is then considered to be a member of the new age class and may not race in both aged class series.
    - U14's may not race 'up' into the U16 age class.

PA Guidelines: Out of age class racers (PA's) will be eligible to receive awards and have their names and times included on the race results and will be part of the series standings.

- U12 & U16 racers racing with U14's in the Southern Vermont Council League Race Series are eligible for selection to the U14 Council Team for the U14 State Championship.
- U16 PA's skiing with the U14's are not eligible for Eastern Championship Selection or the Piche's Invitational
- U14 PA's skiing with the U12's are not eligible for the Piche's Invitational or U12 Invitational SL Project.
- U14's are not eligible to 'ski up' with the U16's.

OUT OF COUNCIL RACERS:

The intent of allowing out of Council racers to participate in Council-sponsored races is to further the sport of ski racing. Customarily, out of Council racers are also racers from out of state.

The inclusion of an out of Council racer in a Council-sponsored race occurs on an infrequent basis. In some cases, an out of Council program may want to send a limited number of its racers to a Council-sponsored race to test the waters or to have its racers gain additional race experience. In other cases, a racer may be visiting a program to determine if he or she wants to join that program. If the visit coincides with a time that a race has been scheduled, the visiting racer may want the opportunity to participate in a race with his/her future teammates.

The following rules apply to those limited number of cases involving an out of Council racer.

- Out of Council racers or a representing coach can petition the SVC Chair to enter a Council-sponsored U14, U12 race. Out of Council guests are not permitted in SVC U10 events.
- The number of Out of Council racers allowed will be limited to 6 except for the SVC U14 SG where there is no limit for out of council racers from the MVC for the 24-25 season.
- The SVC Chair will request a vote from the SVC to determine participation.
- Out of Council racers must meet the same US Ski & Snowboard membership requirements as SVC and Clayton League racers, and have a valid competitor's license.
- A VARA membership or a State governing body membership is required for all out of Council guest racers.
- The membership status of non-Council racers must be determined when arrangements are being made for the inclusion of the racer(s) in a Council-sponsored race.
- Out of Council racers must have coach representation at the Team Captains meeting.
- Out of Council racers are to be included in the random draw for the first run. Second run start order will be based on the specific second run start order used in that age class.
- The out of Council racer's time(s), finish place, and home program/mountain are to appear on all published race results.
- Out of Council racers, regardless of run times and finish places, are eligible to receive awards.
- All out of Council racers must be excluded from all calculations of place points for selection of the Council Teams. Place points for each run must be calculated as if the out of Council racer(s) did not participate in the race.