

# EMERALD EMPIRE YOUTH SKI LEAGUE 2016 Race Information

The Emerald Empire Youth Ski League (EEYSL) is another name for the ski teams residing in the Eastern Zone of the Pacific Northwest Ski Association (PNSA) of the Western Region of the United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA) dedicated to bringing together ski racers 15 years old and younger for healthy and fun ski racing competition. The ski races hosted within the EEYSL are sanctioned by USSA. Members in good standing, holding the age appropriate Competitor's License with USSA are eligible to enter these races. Every racer must be prepared to show a current USSA membership card when the race number/bib is issued. USSA membership CANNOT be purchased at registration – it must be in hand prior to registration.

## 2016 SCHEDULE OF RACES

January 23, 2016 – GS – 49 Degrees North (All age classes)

January 24, 2016 – GS – 49 Degrees North (All age classes)

February 6, 2016 – SGT/SG – Schweitzer (SuperG training and race for U12 and older)

February 7, 2016 – SG – Schweitzer (SuperG race for U12 and older (Sat. participation is required))

February 7, 2016 – GS – Schweitzer (GS U10 and younger following SuperG race)

February 20, 2016 – SL – Mt Spokane (All age classes)

February 21, 2016 – SL – Mt Spokane (All age classes)

March 6, 2016 – GS – Mt Spokane (All age classes)

March 19, 2016 – SL – Lookout Pass – League Finals (All age classes)

March 20, 2016 – GS – Lookout Pass – League Finals (All age classes)

## 2016 AGE CLASSIFICATION (Based on athlete age as of 12/31/15)

**U8** – Born in 2008 or later

**U10** – Born in 2006 or 2007

**U12** – Born in 2004 or 2005

**U14** – Born in 2002 or 2003

**U16** – Born in 2000 or 2001

## EEYSL RULES, RACE FORMAT AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- Helmets are required for all races in accordance with USSA rules
  - “Soft eared” helmets are only permitted in Slalom.
  - U14 athletes are required by USSA to wear FIS (International Ski Federation) Approved helmets for SuperG and GS
- For U14 Athletes – USSA rules state that the athlete will use event appropriate skis for the contested events. The skis must be marked, by the manufacturer, for the event. SL for Slalom, GS for Giant Slalom, and GS or SG for SuperG.
- Race Entries will be \$21 per start/event except at League Finals
- All Registration will be online, with \$19 of the entry fee refundable.
- Race Entries at League Finals will be \$70. This cost includes T-Shirt, Awards, and an athlete Banquet.
- Race entries are considered late if received after Midnight the Tuesday immediately preceding the race.
  - Late entries are subject to an \$11 late entry fee.
  - Late registration will end at noon on the Friday preceding the races.
  - Late entries are not guaranteed entry into the races.
  - If entered, late entries are subject to omission from the standard draw for start order and must race after all non-late registrants in their class in the 1st run. These entries will then run at the beginning of their age group in the second run.
- Racing Bibs with the racer's number are issued to the racers at race registration each race day.

- The athlete is responsible for turning in their bib at the conclusion of the race.
- Racers will be charged \$50 for lost bibs.
- Slalom and Giant Slalom awards are based on the combined time from both runs.
- SuperG is a one run race, awards are based on each individual run.
- In SL and GS, DSQ & DNF athletes from the 1<sup>st</sup> run are allowed to compete in the 2<sup>nd</sup> run in their assigned start order.
- Late or delayed starts. If a racer is late to an EEYSL race start, they will be inserted into the run order at the Race Organizer's convenience. Athletes are encouraged to always be on time for their start, but will not be formally sanctioned for late arrival.
- EEYSL will run "Short" and "Long" courses for the races in the 2016 season.
  - All courses are set according to the USSA Course Setting Guidelines.
  - U10 and U8 will run "Short" course races set at U10 standards.
  - U16, U14, and U12 will run "Long" course races set at U14 standards.
  - **\*\*Note\*\*** - "Short" courses may be the same length as "Long" courses where rules permit.
- Inspection at EEYSL races is with the team. Athletes must not ski the race line or free ski within the race arena.
- Special instructions regarding Inspection are typically for the protection or preparation of the snow surface for the race. Athletes and coaches MUST do their best to follow the inspection guidelines set forth by the Race Organizing committee.
- In GS and SuperG, if an athlete comes to a stop or misses a gate, their race run is over, and they are encouraged to leave the course.
- In all events, if a racer is passed by the following racer they must exit the course.
- Hiking is permitted in Slalom. Athletes must loop above the gate in accordance with Single Pole Slalom rules. Again, if the racer is passed or will interfere with the next racer in the process of hiking, they must exit the course.
- If a racer is interfered with in the course of his or her race run;
  - Immediately stop and find the nearest gate judge or official.
  - Explain that interference occurred.
  - Continue slowly down the outside of the course to the finish
  - Locate the finish Referee and request a re-run.
  - Once a racer has crossed the finish line, they will receive the time for their run and will not be allowed a re-run.

## **EEYSL INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM SEASON AWARDS**

At the final awards ceremony of the race season, the EEYSL recognizes the top three performers within each age and gender class for U14 and younger athletes by combining results from the entire season. The fastest overall team is also recognized with the travelling EEYSL Team Trophy. U16 athletes are not included in season awards, individual or Team.

- Individual results are accrued with World Cup Points by each run contested.
- Team results are accrued with World Cup Points by overall finishes (combined runs in SL and GS)
- Only races contested in each age group are considered (i.e. – U10 & younger will not earn points in SuperG while points will not be earned by U12 & U14 in the Schweitzer GS.)

## **U14 USSA WESTERN REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS (from PNSA)**

New for 2016, USSA Western Region will host a Regional Championship for U14 competitors. 60 U14 Men and 60 U14 Women will comprise the championship fields. Each of the 5 Western Region Divisions will receive a proportion of the quota based on second year U14 population as of early December. The 2016 Championship event will take place at The Village at Jackson Hole.

Each PNSA zone (Zone 1-Western Washington, Zone 2-Eastern Washington and North Idaho, Zone 3-Oregon) will select their zonal quota to fill the PNSA quota for the Western Region U14 Championships. Each race will be a USSA Sanctioned race. The following considerations are included:

- Zonal quotas will be determined in the same manner as Western Region quotas. Each zone's quota will be determined by their proportion of second year U14 athletes holding a current USSA license as of the second December USSA points list in the current competition season.
- Each Zone will use 2 Slalom, 2 GS, and 2 SuperG races, scored by run, where every racer has an opportunity for a second run to determine which racers will fill the quota.
- Race dates and venues, start orders and seeding and other questions of race structure will be determined by each zone.
- Of the 10 contested runs, the best 50% of each discipline will be considered; 2 runs of slalom, 2 of GS and 1 of SuperG.
- Each Zone will assign "Modified Buddy Werner Points" (30 for first, 29 for 2nd, etc) to each finisher to place 30 for the race runs identified as qualifiers. DNF, DSQ and above 30<sup>th</sup> place will receive 0.
- The highest accrued points will be first selection, moving down the scoring until the quota is filled.
- Seeding will be determined within the individual events with the same scoring system.
- In case of a tie, the tie will be broken by moving to the 3rd best GS result for each racer. If the athletes are still tied, the 3rd best SL result, the second best SuperG result, 4th best GS result and 4th best SL result will be used until the tie is broken. If the athletes remain tied after all 10 results are used, combined race points for the original best 5 will be considered. Each zone will determine their seeding order for each discipline. The zonal selections and seedings will be submitted to PNSA for final approval at least 2 weeks prior to WR U14 Champs.

#### **EEYSL CONSIDERATIONS FOR U14 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- The races used for U14 selections and seeding will be the first three on the EEYSL Schedule: 2GS at 49, 2SG at Schweitzer, and 2SL at Mt Spokane.
- PNSA staff selections will include 1 or 2 (at most) coaches from EEYSL. Other coaches wishing to participate will need to make arrangements themselves.
- EEYSL selection to U14 Championships will not be reflected in EEYSL scoring and vice-versa. The two scoring methods, while similar, are not interrelated and will stand alone for their respective purposes.