

## **U-14 Proposal**

The proposal below is designed to assist in the development process of U-14 athletes who might be on a track to qualify for the new U-14 Western Regional Championships.

Proposal:

As we know the Western Region will now host the U-14 Championships. Quotas for our ND Divisional Team to the WR Championships will be much smaller than the quota currently is for the Tri-Divisional Championships. Competition at a WR U-14 Championships will be even keener than the Tri-Divisional Championships by adding another group of top level of U-14s from the other Western Region Divisions.

If our athletes are to be competitive with this field, our athletes will have to be well prepared for that level of competition.

This proposal would have our U-14s qualify to the WR U-14 Championships through the U-16 and older qualifiers. (These are the USSA Scored series currently used to qualify athletes to the U-16 and the U-18(now U-19)/U-21 Western Region Championships)

The U-14s skiing with the U-16 and older group would be exposed to a level of competition that would be more akin to the level they will see in a Western Region U-14 Championship Series. This would be an opportunity to better prepare those who might want to attend the WR U-14 Championships for that level of Competition.

Additionally we know, course setting specifications for U-14 align themselves more closely to the U-16 age group than the U-12 age group. This is especially true in GS and Super G. We currently, without hesitation, place the U-14s solidly with the U-16 group in the case of the Big Sky Speed Series and in the tech series this past season at Whitefish and again at the OHG. This past January in Whitefish there were U-14s placing on the first page of the overall results.

We believe it best to allow those U-14 athletes who will benefit to follow the U-16 and older track to qualify and prepare for the U-14 Regional Championships. They have proven themselves capable of skiing in that series and would benefit from doing so on a more regular basis.

We would suggest that the next 5- 8 athletes (more or less depending on the determined Northern Tri-Divisional quota) in this qualifying procedure become Automatics to the Tri-Divisional Championships.

The remaining Tri-Divisional Quota would be filled from the ND YSL series by the same procedure as 2015.

Thanks for your consideration.

Roy