



Approved by: Management

Effective Date: September 2011

Updated: October 2017

## Alberta Alpine Ski Association

### Policy Title

3.8 Out of Category Competition

### Policy Objective

In an effort to allow late developers to have a positive competitive experience Alberta Alpine has developed the following policy for athletes wishing to race in a younger age category. It also outlines the provisions for the advancement of an exceptional athlete to U16 a year prior to regular eligibility.

### Procedure

#### General

- The policy is intended to allow members to compete at a level that is consistent with their technical skills and physical development.
- Clubs may recommend that individual members compete for an extra year in U12/NGSL as 12 year olds, in U14 as 14 year olds, and in U16 as U19 & FIS racers.
- Clubs who wish to have 14 year old athletes race U14, and 12 year old athletes race U12/NGSL must make written application to Alberta Alpine prior to the first race of the season. The application must be endorsed by the club head coach or alpine chair.
- Applications will be reviewed by Alberta Alpine and applicants who are approved will receive written authorization to race out of category. A copy of the authorization must be submitted to the Race Administrator with race entries.
- Athletes should be registered through Alberta Alpine in their correct age category regardless of the level which they compete at.

#### U12

- 12 year old skiers who receive authorization to race U12/NGSL must race exclusively in U12/NGSL events. However, any athlete achieving a podium result will be required to compete in the U14 category for the remainder of the season.

#### U14

- Authorization for 14 year old skiers to race U14 applies to the U14 Provincial Series (including Zone events). At Open and Regional Kinder Series these athletes must race in the U16 category.
- 14 year old skiers who receive authorization to race U14 may switch to the U16 Series at any time but once they have started a U16 Series race they will not be permitted to race U14 for the remainder of the season.
- 14 year old athletes racing U14 will be eligible for awards, but are not eligible for U14 Westerns or AWG. However, an athlete achieving a podium result will be required to compete in the U16 category for the remainder of the season.

#### U19

- Clubs who choose to have non-FIS U19 Athletes race the U16 provincial series must make written application to Alberta Alpine prior to the first U16 race of the season. The application must be endorsed by the member's club Head Coach or Alpine Chair.
- If there are sufficient entries (3+) medals will be awarded in the U19 category.
- U19 athletes are not eligible for series points in the U16 category.



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- FIS athletes in most cases are eligible to start in the U16 provincial series but must follow the rules and guidelines as stated in the U19 entry at U16 provincial series memorandum.

### Early Advancement

- In the event an exceptional athlete is involved in our sport system, the following regulates the process to advance them forward to an older age group for competition.
  - Athletes may not be moved early from U12 to U14.
  - Athletes may not be moved early from U16 to FIS.
- Athletes may be moved early from U14 to U16 if approved by the Alberta Alpine Athletics Director and the Alberta Alpine High Performance Committee (HPC). The following points outline the application process for this situation. All submitted information is confidential and would not be shared outside of the Athletics Director and HPC. Athletes that are approved will not be allowed to move back down to the U14 age group or be eligible for U14 specific events such as U14 Westerns and the AWG. Other restrictions on entry into U16 events outside of Alberta Alpine sanctioning may occur, pending that events organizing committee and/or governing body. The application process and decision will be expedited as soon as it is convenient for the Athletics Director and HPC to meet and review.
- U14 athletes that wish to move to U16 early, as a 13 year old must apply in writing to the Alberta Alpine Athletics director and provide the following information:
  1. Written reference from the club head coach or program director outlining the need for this athlete to move forward to the U16 group. All competition results from the previous year must be included and show that the athlete is no longer benefiting from participation in a U14 program and competitive environment. Results should show that the athlete's abilities are beyond all of those that they would compete against in U14. A technical evaluation of the athlete's ability on and off snow must also be a part of this reference letter.
  2. Detailed medical records from the athlete's physician that clearly shows that the athlete's growth and development is beyond the individual's peak height velocity and that they have reached a level of physical maturity that would allow them to adapt to the increased volume and intensity of training and competition in the U16 environment.
  3. Written reference from the athlete's teacher or education provider outlining the cognitive maturity of the athlete. The athlete should display an above average ability in school and the maturity level to interact with an older age group.

### Scope

All participating Athletes attending Alberta Alpine Sanctioned Competitions.

### Related Policies