

Survival Guide for Parents & Racers

Nashoba Valley Ski Club

2007/2008 Season

Philosophy of the club:

The Nashoba Valley Ski Club's (NVSC) goal is to improve the ski racing skills of our members. While competition is encouraged, the main emphasis is on fun. NVSC is a volunteer run ski club. With that in mind, all parents/guardians will be required to work at two or more races that their racer participates in. No experience is necessary and it's a great way to see how the races are run.

Practices:

Practices begin at 6:30 pm on Thursdays. By that time, racers should have tickets purchased, equipment on and be ready to ski. Practices end at 8:30 pm except for 8 & under, which end at 8:00 pm. There must be a responsible adult at the ski area for each 8 & under racer whenever there is participation in a NVSC event. **All racers must be able to ride the ski lifts unassisted.**

Races:

Race registration begins at 8:00 am on Sunday race days. Check the schedule posted to the NVSC website carefully for confirmation of race dates and locations.

Race day course inspection will begin at 8:30 am – racers should meet their coaches in the finish area at 8:20 am. Racing will begin at 9:00 am. **No racer in the 9 and older groups is allowed to ski through the racecourse before the race. If this occurs, the result will be disqualification for that race.** 8 & under racers should also gather at the finish area to be escorted to the start of the 8 & under course. They are allowed to practice before racing begins.

An awards ceremony will be held at the end of the race after final results are compiled. Listen for an announcement over the PA system. Place ribbons are given to the top ten finishers in each group. All 8 & under racers receive either a place or participant ribbon at each race.

Helmets:

Due to increasing concern for the safety of young skiers and league rules, helmets are required for all racers.

Helmets are also required for participation in the Piche Trophy Race and Qualifier.

Equipment:

Foot skis or snowblades will not be allowed in any of the races. All skis must have releasable bindings with ski brakes.

Weather cancellations:

In general, if the hill is open the race is on. In the rare event a race is cancelled by the race chairman due to dangerous conditions, the decision will be made by 7:00am on race day. If a race is cancelled, a message will be posted on the homepage of the club's website:

www.nvscracing.com

Membership Refund Policy:

NO MEMBERSHIP REFUNDS WILL BE MADE AFTER THE FIRST PRACTICE NIGHT.

NVSC Website:

We have our own website! Check it out at www.nvscracing.com for club bulletins, race results, standings, and to get some deals on equipment swaps.

Discounted Ticket Prices:

A discount for club members is available on practice nights and race days. To receive the discount for practice nights, tickets may be purchased in the in the special ticket booth location (TBD) from 6 pm – 6:30 pm on the Thursday night of the practice. Discounted Race Day tickets must be purchased in advance. Please visit the web site for the timing of when the Sunday Discount Ticket sales will occur. Cash and checks are accepted. At all other times, and for credit card sales, tickets can be purchased at the ski area's ticket window at the non-discounted price.

The discounted ticket prices for Nashoba Valley Ski Area are as follows:

Practice Night:	12 & under -\$21	Race Day:	12 & under - \$30
	13 & over - \$23		13 & over - \$32

Contacts:

For club info during the season, visit www.nvscracing.com or:

For general club business contact:

President

Mike Guttadauro

e-mail: president@nvscracing.com

For race rules and procedures contact:

Race Chair

Peter Malley

e-mail: racechair@nvscracing.com

8 & Under Race Chair

Hope Jordan and Sue Clancy

e-mail: j6coordinator@nvscracing.com

For volunteer info, contact:

Volunteer Coordinators

Susan Wilson & Anne Antes

e-mail: volunteercoordinator@nvscracing.com

2007-2008 Race Schedule:

Please visit our website for the latest information at www.nvscracing.com

Other Races:

Piche Qualifier Race:

The Francis Piche Trophy Qualifier is a race that offers an opportunity for our strongest racers to compete against skiers from Tri-state and other youth racing teams from eight area states on a higher level of competition. The three age groups that are included in this race are 9 & 10 (JV), 11 & 12 (JIV), and 13 & 14 (JIII). Typically each team in the EMBWL is invited to send twelve racers to the Qualifier. The Qualifier is held early in February, at Bradford Ski Area, with the top six finishers in each age group (both boys and girls) advancing to the Francis Piche Invitational Race at Gunstock Mountain in Guilford, New Hampshire. This is a two-day event, Friday and Saturday, during the first or second weekend in March. Piche racers must be members of the United States Ski Association (USSA) at a cost of \$25-\$85 per racer, depending upon age. Helmets and goggles are required. The racers and their families are responsible for all expenses incurred in conjunction with these two races. The Nashoba Valley Ski Club President along with assistance from other board members and coaches will select the final candidates for the Piche Qualifier Race from qualifying racers. The following guidelines are used to assist in the decision:

- 1) Placement in races prior to entry deadline.
- 2) Comparison of race times to top racers from other EMBWL teams in the same age groups in the same race.
- 3) Coaches evaluation of the racer's performance and attitude.

You will be notified in advance if you are invited, but racers who think they may be invited should join the United States Ski Association. The Piche Invitational is a USSA event and only members may be invited to participate. There is an annual membership fee. To get a USSA number use the USSA web site, www.uskiteam.com, email at membership@ussa.org, or phone 1-435-647-2666. Please join as soon as possible as it can take at least two weeks to process the application.

EMBWL Kathy Bartolini Trophy Race:

The Kathy Bartolini Trophy Race (Fun Race) will be held this year in February. All EMBWL racers are invited to participate. There will be medals given to the winners and a chance at raffle prizes for all participants. Look for more information in the weeks prior to the race.

League Championship:

Always a high point of the season, this is the one day that all the clubs come together at one time to race for league bragging rights, (and the coveted EMBWL Champions' Trophy). This year, the Championship Race will be held in March. We hope for sunny weather for this daylong event not only for the racers, but to add to the enjoyment of the barbecue picnic we'll set up at the base of the hill. More info will follow.

End-of-the-Year Banquet:

The banquet will be held on shortly after the end of the racing season. It will be our last get together before we all go off in different directions until the snow begins to fall once again. Every racer receives an award at the banquet.

Directions to away hills:

Directions to the locations of the various races are available at the NVSC website. The locations of the majority of races are presently planned for Westford (Nashoba Valley), Haverhill (Ski Bradford), Shrewsbury (Ski Ward) and Princeton (Wachusets Mountain).

Race Rules (Please review with your child):

1. Bibs must be clearly visible during course inspections and during the race.
2. Racers can inspect the course from the top down, (after it has been approved), either by snowplowing or side slipping along the side, **BUT NOT ON THE COURSE.**
3. **AT NO TIME CAN A RACER OR A COACH SKI THROUGH ANY GATES OR COMBINATION OF GATES BEFORE OR DURING INSPECTION**, unless he is instructed to do so by a member of the jury. A coach may ski through a gate, but may not link turns. **AN INFRACTION SHALL LEAD TO A DSQ FOR THE DAY'S RACE!**
4. Each race will consist of two runs. If weather conditions prevent this from happening, the race should be scored on the basis of a single run race.
5. A racer who has received a DNF or DSQ in the first run will be allowed his or her second run.
6. **Any racer who loses a ski, except in the last three gates, is out of the run and should immediately leave the course so they do not interfere with other racers.**

A racer who loses a ski in the last three gates (the finish line counts as a gate) can continue on one ski through the finish, and the race will be timed and scored as a legal run.

7. **A RACER WHO HAS BEEN INTERFERED WITH ON THE COURSE MUST SKI OFF THE COURSE AT THE POINT OF INTERFERENCE. He or she must ski along the outside of the course and immediately request a provisional run from the Finish Line Referee. IF THE RACER FAILS TO LEAVE THE COURSE OR IF THE RACER DOES NOT GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE FINISH LINE REFEREE, NO PROVISIONAL RUN WILL BE GRANTED.**
8. Racers who report late at the start and are no longer in seed order will be seeded by the Start Referee at the end of their seed.
9. A racer who commits to a higher level ski league (which does not include any high school team league) shall not ski in any League races. However, if a racer wishes to have the opportunity to evaluate "Tri-State" and/or any upper level ski league, he/she **MUST**

FIRST submit a formal written request to the President of the League by mid-December. A racer may have no more than 2 starts in a higher order ski league in any season before he/she has disqualified him/herself in this League for the given race year.

10. To race in the Championship, a racer must have raced in at least half of the regular season races, (3 this year).

Rules variations for 8 & under

1. A practice run is allowed before racing begins. At the discretion of the race chairmen and coaches, a couple of practice runs may be allowed.
2. There are no disqualifications in 8 & under racing. Parents are allowed and encouraged to help the younger ones through the course. Youngsters who skip gates will have 60 seconds (one minute) added to their time to prevent winning, but will not be disqualified.
3. All 8 & under racers qualify to race at the Championship, whether or not they meet the requirement of participating in half the regular season races.

Points

1. Points are awarded to the first ten places, with 10 points to first place, nine to second, etc.
2. Places are determined by the combined time of two successful runs.
3. If two racers have the same combined time, the racer with the fastest single run receives the highest place standing. If both racers have identical times on both runs, the racer with the higher bib number (or seeding) receives the higher place standing.
4. If in any age group there are not 10 racers who have had two successful runs, then the racers who have completed one successful run will be awarded the remaining places based on time. To qualify, the racer MUST have started in both runs.

Additional Points

1. For the purpose only of determining club seeding and standings, all racers who do not finish in the top ten but who start both runs will be awarded .10 (one-tenth) points.

Awards

At the annual banquet, trophies will be awarded to the three racers in each division (both girls and boys) who have earned the highest points during the season. All other racers will receive an award for participating.

Standings will be posted weekly on the team board in the race shack.

General Information:

The Nashoba Valley Ski Club (NVSC) is a member of the Eastern Massachusetts Buddy Werner League (EMBWL) and operates under its rules and bylaws. The 2007/2008 membership of EMBWL also includes Bradford (Andover), Bogastow (formerly Dover-Sherborn), Prospect Hill (Waltham), and Ski Ward.