

Proposal To The Northern Division ACC

To run a test event in the 2017/2018 competition season with U14's And U16's together

Justification:

Currently, we do our U14 and U16 athletes an enormous disservice by running the U14's with the YSL group and U16's with what is essentially our F.I.S. group, the U19, U21, and college athletes. Our U14 athletes are not nearly challenged to the extent they need to be racing against U8, U10, and U12 athletes. This is blaringly evident when they compete out of division at such events as Western Region Championships. Our U16 athletes are not challenged appropriately racing against the F.I.S. group, and that group is, in my opinion, held back by course setting restrictions the U16 group places upon them. Further, when U14 athletes are in the event ("ski up opportunity"), courses are further restricted that make a good race for U19, U21, and college athletes not possible.

YSL races would run much smoother with smaller field sizes, especially when hosted by smaller clubs with limited resources.

It is my strong belief that the current structure is not good for any age athletes, and needs to change. U14 and U16 athletes are much closer biologically than U14 and U10, or U16 and U21 athletes. It is, in my opinion much more appropriate to run U14 and U16 athletes together. In an ideal world, both U14 and U16 athletes would compete in their own division, but we clearly don't have the athlete population base for such competitions.

We need to put the needs of our athletes first and foremost. The current structure benefits the clubs by having larger field sizes, resulting in more profitable ski races monetarily. However, if the only reason we run races is to produce income for our clubs, then we missed the point.

Proposal:

I propose that Northern Division hold one test event this season (2017/2018 competition season) with only U14 and U16 athletes. This event would be a divisional qualifier for both U14 and U16 athletes for Western Region Championships.

I propose this event be scored for U16's, and not scored for U14's.

The number qualifying starts for U14 and U16 athletes should not be greater than in the previous season.

It is the intention of this proposal that should this event go well, we develop a series specifically for these athletes the following season, 2018/2019 competition season.