



Pacific Northwest Ski Association A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

2026 PNW Presidents Report
Submitted By: Karl Wardrop

The PNW Division had a very challenging year with snow conditions. While our schedule changed almost weekly with events canceled or moved, our member clubs hosted many successful events throughout the season. Thank you to the race organizing committees from both Nordic and Alpine that were very flexible and held quality events. Some of these events were used to select athletes to represent PNW Division at regional, national and even international events.

Our U12 division championship, Buddy's was held at Mt Bachelor. OR. Our popular U14 SG training camp was moved to Steven Pass with good reports. We also want to thank the many Ski Resorts that help so much in providing space, grooming, set-up and tickets for our events. We receive support from our PNW Ski Area Association with the Elite Pass sales for those alpine athletes that qualify. Ski area visits were up again this year. Ski area concern over weekend events in January and February continue from the resort side. Claudia and I attended the Ski Area Managers meeting in the Spring and continue to work with the ski area teams to keep ski racing front and forward in their minds. This was a better year for this message, as many days race teams were the dominant customers at resorts.

Our Nordic folks were very creative and hosted a race in BC, Canada where there was snow with the blessings from USSS. This was a huge win. Our PNW Division team traveled to the mid-west for Jr. Nationals with some strong performances across many events.

I want to offer thanks to folks stepping off the board this year. Jeff Cray has been on the board for many years offering good input and development ideas. Karen Lungren was a good sounding board with strong commitment to seeing athletes succeed not only on the slopes but in life as well. She may still get some calls. Courtney Altringer was active both with the nominating committee and with PNWSEF. Lily Ericksen was active with us, CMAC and the PNWSEF. Ron Bonneau has given years of his life to ski racing at the College level and is a TD. On Sunday we welcome the new members nominated to our board.

Financially we continue to be strong and in a good place. I owe a debt to the folks whom set our organization on solid footing many years ago. Having those funds allows us to make good decisions throughout even lean years. More on that in the treasures report. We continue to use funds to update and build our B-net inventory. This is designed to add safety to our events around the Northwest and is supported by a grant from our partner PNWSEF.

A contingent from PNW attended the USSS congress meeting in Park City a couple of weeks ago where PNW Division was represented by several working group members and the leaders of two committees.

I was able to travel to some of the competitions held this year. Again, a huge thanks to the ROC's, and many folks that volunteered to help make the competition happen. It was also fun to meet and talk with athletes, parents and other volunteers at those events. Your feedback and advice are critical to the success of the PNW Division



Pacific Northwest Ski Association A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

PNW Division Executive Director 2026 Annual Report

Submitted by: Claudia Yamamoto

That was a season! Lots of changes, updates, and cancellations to the race schedule on both the alpine and Nordic sides. Innovation and flexibility were critical throughout the season as everyone worked hard to make something happen for the PNW Division athletes. Our patience was tested, but we remained vigilant and continuously looked for opportunities. I am so proud of everyone in the PNW Division and the work they did this season to make things happen.

Thankful for the Nordic crew, who teamed with the Canadian Ski Alliance to host a race for PNW and BC Canada x-country skiers that was a points race for all. Mike Burns was the brainstorm behind the idea. He got the rest of the Nordic community excited, they all jumped on board, and a great race was pulled off for all. It's amazing what can happen in two weeks when a group is excited and focused on a goal.

Thankful to the PNW ACC Executive Committee who met weekly to make sure we could get races off for the alpine athletes. Jamie Landwehr pushed us all to think outside the box and to make something happen. Jamie's leadership inspired all of us to think about what we could do. Thanks to Uros for getting CMAC and Crystal Mtn. back into the race hosting cycle. CMAC hosted 7 great days of sanctioned racing and numerous YSL events throughout the season.

Extremely thankful for the PNW BOD Executive committee. The amount of work that Karl Wardrop, Malcolm Ash, Tim Durkin, & Molly Dennehy do behind the scenes is critical to the health of our organization. And they do this because they are passionate about our sport. Their kids are grown and no longer involved, yet they stay in the fold and lead with gusto. We owe them a dept of gratitude for what they do.

And then there is Roger Root. There are just not enough words to describe all he does for PNW and Western Region. Not sure if most realize this, but Roger is the Officials Chairman on the Western Region ACC as well as the PNW ACC. He dots every I and crosses every T when it comes to officials and certification. You are truly the best!

Thank you to all the coaches across the division. Your commitment to your programs and your athletes is inspiring. The care and concern you exhibit to help your athletes be their best is so fun to watch and be part of.

The volunteers in the PNW Division are the best. Think of all the roles our volunteers fill: fundraising, official certification, race hosting, club parties, transportation, lodging, snacks, and on and on. We are so fortunate to have volunteers who believe in what we are doing and are willing to help carry the load.

And finally, thankful for the ski areas and their staff's for supporting ski racing in the Pacific Northwest. I can't say enough about all they do to keep alpine and Nordic ski racing alive and well for the PNW Division.

Gratitude – that was the biggest takeaway from the season for me. Looking for the positives and being grateful for all we did accomplish. A huge thanks to all for keeping the wheels on the bus and working together for the good of the division.



Pacific Northwest Ski Association A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

Finance Report FY 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

While 2026 was a bit challenging from many perspectives, financially it was not all that bad for the division. Partly this was due to the PNSEF grants that they kept at budget because of their strong financial strength. We are blessed to have that great resource to back up our division. Second, we exceeded budget in 2025 on purpose for B-net purchases, to avoid possible increase in Canadian tariffs. To compensate less was budgeted 2026. This was a great decision as it kept our expenses more in line with our income for the year. (And still ended 2025 at about break-even after all the post year entries).

The largest difference in our finances from budget was the reduced head tax collected from sanctioned races. Knowing that all our member clubs suffered as well and to a larger extent, we did “ok” as we got most of the scored critical qualifying races off with strong participation. Head tax was budgeted at 67,400, and actuals were 37,232. And this closely matched the planned change in B-net purchases of about \$30,000 from the 2025 budget.

Our 2026 budget was based on an optimistic view with conservative spending and showed a planned Net Income of 35,550. We expected this to be a surplus we could put back after 2025s extra investments, or to use for additional expenditures going forward. Of course, that budget was cut short by the above explanation of our head tax income. The result is another year of being very near break-even for the fiscal year. With interest income continuing at about 13,000 we will again end the year around +10,000, even with all the challenges the year brought.

For next year we are continuing to budget conservatively and reduce planned investments in B-net, primarily focusing on improved storage and maintenance as needed. While we are hopeful the race calendar proves more resilient to the weather, we expect possible reductions in participation and memberships as a rebound from this year’s low snow.



Pacific Northwest Ski Association

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PNW NCC Annual Report 2025-26

Fall NCC Meeting

Following a productive in-person Fall NCC Meeting and club gathering graciously hosted by the Kongsberger Ski Club at Cabin Creek in 2024-25, the NCC again met in person at Cabin Creek for a two-day gathering. Starting with an L100 coaches clinic on Saturday morning, clubs then gathered on Saturday evening to discuss the past season, share best practices, and prepare for the coming season. Normal NCC business was conducted on Sunday morning, followed by completion of the L100 coaching assessment on Sunday afternoon. Thanks to the host club, Kongsberger Ski Club, the weekend provided opportunities for completing coaching education, sharing club development knowledge, conducting NCC business, and preparing for another full race season of PNW Cup, JNQ and Junior National racing.

PNW Cup and Junior National Qualifier Races

After reviewing goals and priorities for the PNW Cup, the NCC opted to make the PNW Cup a separate event series from the Junior National Qualifier races for this season. This allows the series to focus on the primary purpose: to provide a gateway from youth programs into the experience traveling and racing against other teams, in a fun and low-pressure environment. PNW Cup race weekends happened successfully at Teacup Nordic on Mt. Hood in January, combined with an OISRAN (high school) race, and at Kongsberger Ski Club in March.

With challenging snow conditions, the NCC and regional clubs worked together to provide consistent JNQ racing and qualifying opportunities. The December kick-off race was canceled due to low snow, but teams partnered to host a National Ranking List/NRL (non-JNQ) race at Apex Ski Resort in BC. The race received approval from both Nordiq Canada and USSS to provide an NRL race, indicating future possibilities for similar arrangements. At the end of January, regional JNQ racing returned with a freestyle sprint and freestyle mass start in the Methow Valley before moving to Mt. Bachelor (replacing Mt. Spokane due to low snow) for two distance classic races in February with a weekend of great snow and racing. Morale remained high despite challenging logistics due to a successful event at Mt. Bachelor, and the JNQ series ended on a high note.

Junior National Team

Naming of the 2026 Junior National Team was based on the now-traditional Super Qualifier event at Soldier Hollow, Utah and subsequent race weekends in the Methow Valley and at Mt. Bachelor. The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation successfully hosted this year's Junior Nationals in Cable, Wisconsin. The PNW team performed well, earning the Small Division Award at the final Awards Ceremony. The following athletes achieving All-American results (top 10 individual, top 5 relay):

Aidan Sands (Methow) – 7.5k FR, 8th CL Sprint, Relay

Jed Stay (Plain) – 9th 5k FR, 5th CL Sprint

Sophia Cappelletti (MBSEF) – 10th CL Sprint, 7th 14.5 km CL Mass, Relay

Quinten Koch (Plain) – 1st CL Sprint, 5th 14.5 km CL Mass, Relay

Johanna Dake (MBSEF) - Relay
Annika Burns (Spokane) – 9th 7.9km CL Mass, 10th CL Sprint
Addie Loewen (Plain) - Relay
Sisu Clark (Methow) – 6th CL Sprint
Reed Scott - Relay
Peter Norby (Plain) - Relay
Aven Harris (MBSEF) – 7th CL Sprint, Relay

The team was supported by four age group coaches, Team Leader Christie Wilder supported by Pete Leonard and Reitler Hodgert, and six members of the wax staff, with help from PNW parents assisting with daily duties. The team reported a great experience and technical success in a wide-ranging weather situation. A strong wax team successfully managed the technical challenges of waxing in highly variable conditions throughout the week.

Other PNW Performances

Other notable results among PNW Nordic alumni include:

NCAAs:

Dashe McCabe (UAA/Methow Valley) - 32nd 20km FR, 34th 7.5 km CL
Jordan Grialou (Bowdoin/Methow Valley) – 40th 20 km FR, 30th 7.5 km CL
Greta Leitheiser (NMU/Bend) - 31st 20km FR, 38th 7.5 km CL
Bridget Burns (Michigan Tech/Spokane) 38th 20km FR, 22nd 7.5 km CL
Zach Jayne (Utah/Bend) 6th 7.5km CL, 9th 20km FR

World Juniors:

Neve Gerard (Utah/Bend) – 9th 20km FR, 11th 10 km CL, 25th Sprint Final (Also 8th in US National Championship 20km FR Mass Start)

World Cup: (Complete 2026)

Novie McCabe (APUNSC/Methow Valley) – 22nd Goms 20km Classic Mass Start, 35th Oberhof 10km Classic, 42nd Falun 20km Skiathlon, 43rd Lahti 10km CL, 28th, Lake Placid 10km CL, 35th Lake Placid 20km FR Mass Start

Olympics: (Complete 2026)

Novie McCabe (APUNSC/Methow Valley) – 5th 4x7.5km Relay, 26th 20km Skiathlon, 31st 10km FR (Also 1st Place at US National Championships – 40KM FR)



Pacific Northwest Ski Association

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Director of Alpine Annual Report May 2026

2025-2026 Season Review:

Looking back at last year's report, I am reminded that we have now experienced two terrible snow seasons out of the last three. 23/24 was difficult with a lower than average snowfall and challenges with scheduling events as a result. The 25/26 season was historically bad, delivering the Western US with the lowest snowfall in roughly 50 years. Needless to say we had to pivot on a near weekly basis. As climate trends shift our winters, we may continue to have more seasons like 23/24 and 25/26 in our future, leading to shorter/condensed windows in which to operate. Strain on mountain resort partners will increase as training space and competition venue access decreases. We must take this into account when planning our qualifying series, and look for creative ways to ski race in the future. This could mean modified racing formats, condensing race series into fewer days, or altering the number of starts needed for qualifying, etc.

As the season sputtered to start, it became clear pretty quickly that we were going to be required to pivot from our original calendar plans. Instead of stating all of the events that were either cancelled, postponed/rescheduled, or altered in some way (disciplines, starts, dates), it's simpler to state the first race that went off as planned: Buddy Werner Championships at Mt. Bachelor at the end of March. The Executive Committee was required to meet on an almost weekly basis as the season wore on. Everyone went above and beyond, but a special thank you to Jamie Landwehr for his tireless work behind the scenes to help us all look ahead and stay ahead of the chaos. Jamie was on the phone with PD's constantly, investigating ideas and snowpack around our Division. Thanks to Jamie, the EC, Karl, Claudia and Danasue for putting in overtime this season. I hope we don't have to do anything next season!

Thanks to all our fantastic PNW Clubs and Resorts for stepping up and taking rescheduled events and making ski racing happen in a historically bad year.

National:

US Ski and Snowboard Congress took place May 11-15 in Park City. The Western Region ACC met early in the week and some items that went on to the Alpine Sport Committee passed. We also learned who will be replacing Bill Gunesch as Western Region Director. 2026 will be the last season with Bill as our WR Director,

a role he has served in for 11 years. I want to thank Bill for his tireless devotion to Western ski racing, and his many years serving PNW before his most recent role. Succeeding Bill is PNW Alumn and former US Ski Team athlete Will Brandenburg. Will has served most recently as Sun Valley Ski Ed. Foundation Program Director. I'm happy to see Will moving into this role and I believe he will bring a lot of passion, energy and innovation to supporting our Western Region athletes and clubs.

The rest of the week was full of meetings within the National governance structure, with Working Groups and Subcommittee meetings, culminating in the final Alpine Sport Committee meeting on Friday. You can view the 2026 Congress Update with details on motions that passed here: [2026 Congress Update.pdf](#)

WR FIS Racing:

Like our PNW events/race series, Western Region races were impacted by the lack of snow this season. Of 52 FIS race starts calendared, 14 were cancelled. Relative to the total number of opportunities, Speed events were impacted the most. Only 2 DH's and 4 SG's were run all season. Additionally, 5 GS starts and 3 SL starts were cancelled.

Active FIS memberships are down slightly from 2025 to 2026, with slightly more U18/U21's racing USSS only. Interestingly, active FIS participation (licensed and actually racing) has generally increased since 2014 for women, while it has generally decreased for men in that same time period. That same trend exists at the U16 age group, while the U14 age group since scoring of events for U14's began in 2017 is generally increasing for both men and women. U12 memberships have also increased for both genders since Covid. Please reference Bill Gunesch's report and Jamie's report for an in-depth view on memberships, participation and race start data.

Championship Events and Projects:

- **Western Region U14, U16 and U18/U21 Championships:**

U14 Champs was moved from Bachelor to Sugar Bowl. U16 Champs was held at Palisades, and WRJC was held at Targhee. Reference the U14, U16, and U18/U21 Subcommittee reports for details.

- **PNW/FW U14 Spring Select Project:**

This event was cancelled for 2026. The difficulty of rescheduling events around the unpredictable snowpack created a situation where it was not possible to site this event.

PNW Events:

- **The NWC Series:**

- NWC #1 – MRT – Jan. 3-5 CANCELLED
- NWC #2 – CMAC – Jan. 24-27 CHANGED (added GS start)
- NWC #3 – ~~MBSEF~~ SPAC – Feb. 9-11 MOVED/CHANGED (moved dates, location, altered programme)
- NWC #4 - SARS - Feb. 21-23 CHANGED (altered programme)

The focus this season turned to getting a full series off for the athletes so they could qualify to their respective championship events. Every NWC event was altered in some way. Big thanks to SPAC for picking up the only two SG's that we were able to hold this season. As we look forward, consideration of a three or four event NWC series and how that impacts the schedule versus racing opportunities needs to occur. The goal of the fourth event when we calendared it for 2026 was to provide a Championship prep event with a SG, GS and SL. That wasn't possible due to snow this season. Overall, the NWC series is fantastic for the athletes who attend it, both from a scoring standpoint and a development standpoint. The U16 and U18/U21 Subcommittees need to be proactive and continue to ideate on how we can attract and retain our own athletes to compete closer to home. Congratulations to the overall winners this season. Please see Uros and Jamie's reports for more details on the NWC series.

- **PNW U14 Series:**

- #1 Jan 24-25 SARS (GS/SL) - AS PLANNED
- #2 Feb 20-21 ~~MBSEF~~ MRST (GS/SL) - MOVED, DATE CHANGE
- #3 March 6-8 ~~MRST~~ MBSEF (SG) - MOVED, DATE CHANGE

U14 participation seems to be steady, slightly down since 2023, with numbers around 90-100 per gender at each of the Qualifiers. PNW U14 athletes are performing well, and qualifying to Whistler Cup. Congratulations to Kaile Bertell on 2nd Place in SL and 3rd Overall. Like the NWC Series, we had to pivot and change two of the three events in some way. A huge thank you to SARS, MBSEF and MRST for their efforts, and the flexibility required to work with the snow, your resorts, and get these events off for the athletes. All of the events were a big success with some great skiing by the athletes.

- **PNW U14 Speed Camp:**

This season the camp was slated for Mission Ridge, but had to be moved due to the low snowpack. SPAC picked up the event, and in spite of some very challenging snow/weather conditions, put on a great camp with a nice progression. Athletes got a lot of practice moving at speed, and it benefited those who attended, especially those first year U14's who have never run speed before, preparing them for the relocated U14 SG's at Mt. Bachelor.

Thanks again to PNWSEF for funding this project. This continues to be an outstanding Divisional project for the development of our athletes in the U14 class. At last year's Convention there was discussion about how quickly this camp fills up and the first come first served method. This did not turn out to be an issue with the relocated camp to Stevens Pass. SPAC was able to accommodate all athletes who wanted to attend. The selection method does merit further discussion, especially if future Hosts have concerns about managing the numbers who may be interested in attending.

- **Buddy Werner Champs:**

BWC rotated to the South, with MBSEF playing host. The event went off as planned. In fact, this was the first PNW event that was executed on the same dates and as it was scheduled in the fall. Many thanks to MBSEF for their efforts to host a great event for our U12 athletes. A U12/YSL Coaches Meeting was held on the Friday evening of the event which generated some great discussion. Please reference the notes from U12 Subcommittee member Garrett Lodge here: [2026 U12 Coaches Meeting Agenda.docx](#)

PNW Calendar 2026-2027:

The new competition calendar is shaping up well, with a working draft here: [2027 PNW Working Calendar DRAFT](#). At the convention in Everett, the 26/27 Calendar Blocks will be approved by the ACC and bidding will be opened, with a due date of 7 days after the WR Calendar goes final. As this occurs, I will inform all club's that they have 7 days to get their bids in. ROC's should use the [PNW Race Bid Form](#). The Calendaring Committee will review all bids thoroughly and as quickly as possible and present the sited calendar to the ACC for approval. Once approved, the calendar will be put onto the PNW website. The Fall Meeting will allow for any final changes to the calendar if necessary. Tentative date for Fall Meeting is October 22nd at 10am on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Rackley
PNW Director of Alpine/ACC Chair



Pacific Northwest Ski Association A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

Officials Committee Report for Season 2026

Committee Members: Roger Root, Bill Brooks, Gillian Esson.

TD Working Group Members: Malcolm Ash, Robert Cravens, Steven Maynard.

Duties: The education and training of officials; maintaining and updating the records of PNW Officials; assigning of Technical Delegates; providing support and assistance to race organizers; helping coordinate the PNW Concussion testing program; reviewing document packets and TTDRs for alpine races held in PNW.

This season marked an addition to the PNW AO Committee structure, the TD Working Group. This group was tasked with coordinating the development, continuing education and assignment of Technical Delegates. The working group is composed of three experienced TDs. Their first season was both challenging and rewarding. The low snow year provided a constantly changing calendar. Races were cancelled, moved and combined. Despite all these challenges two TD candidates completed their training and passed their final exams. The TD working group revived the monthly TD meetings. All PNW TDs and candidates were invited to attend. These monthly meetings have helped build community and given the TDs a valuable forum to report on races and discuss issues.

Clinics this season:

Update clinics: The majority of update clinics were virtual. The virtual updates used Zoom as the communication platform. Each session started with a presentation that covered the mandated material. The larger updates included breakout rooms for focused discussions. The feedback from the participants was positive. PNW also hosted an online update for USCSA officials. This update met the requirements for US Ski and Snowboard officials (except Technical Delegates and Race Administrators) along with a review and discussion of USCSA rules and issues. (Note: Most USCSA events are not US Ski and Snowboard sanctioned events.)

New Certification Clinics: The division hosted three zonal clinics for new officials. These, in person clinics, were held in Snohomish WA (Seattle area), Portland, OR and Coeur d'Alene, ID (Spokane WA area). Each of these zonal clinics included Race Administration, Chief of Race, Timing and Calculation and Referee and Jury Advisor classes. This season the Referee and Jury Advisors

classes were separated. Each class had its own leader. The result was a more focused presentation tailored to each group's needs. The Seattle area clinic was at the Snohomish County PUD, Portland by the Multnomah Athletic Club and the Coeur d'Alene clinic by the University of Idaho. These sites provide high quality meeting rooms which have multimedia capability, white boards and conference table style seating. These amenities allow us to take full advantage of the available educational materials.

Statistics:

| Season | Alpine Officials (Excluding coaches) | Coaches Only |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2026 | 164 (***25 TDs) | 414** |
| 2025 | 156* (23 TDs) | 430** |
| 2024 | 144 (24 TDs) | 420 |
| 2023 | 181 (26 TDs) (42 Women) | 396 (120 Women/276 Men) |
| 2022 | 182 (28 TDs) (37 Women) | 354 (103 Women/251 Men) |
| 2021 | 172 (25 TDs) (45 Women) | 352 (104 Women/248 Men) |
| 2020 | 173 (30 TDs) (44 Women) | 351 (103 Women/247 Men) |
| 2019 | 175 (29 TDs) | 338 |
| 2018 | 181 (29 TDs) | 285 |
| 2017 | 169 (25 TDs) | 266 |
| 2016 | 163 (35 TDs) | 234 |
| 2015 | 166 (27 TDs) | 240 |

* Includes 4 X (Foreign) members; ** Includes 7 X members *** includes 5 retired TDs.

B-Net: The division purchased additional B-Nets last spring which were added to the inventory.

Observations:

- The challenging snow conditions forced the cancellation of several races and venue changes for other races. The divisional U14 and U16 championship events were consolidated into one event due to snow conditions. US Ski and Snowboard's Competition Services provided excellent service. They moved events from one host to another which helped offset the expenses and lessened the workload for the new host.
- AdminSkiRacing staff also helped by moving existing registrations from one host to another.

- Even with the problems which the low snow year presented, the division was able to provide numerous opportunities for referee shadow assignments.
- The use of electronic communication platforms, like WhatsApp, has become almost universal and functioned very well. Posting start orders, programs and other information on these platforms is working well.
- The requirement to not publish real time results for U14 and younger competitions seemed to work and didn't generate many complaints.
- PNW offered significantly more update clinics this season to meet the new seasonal (annual) update requirement. This worked well and will be continued next season.

PNW Plan for Season 2027

- Offer update clinics virtually with continued emphasis on focused agendas for specific certifications. The early season updates will be targeted on traveling coaches who attend the early season events.
- Offer at least one update specifically targeted for timing crews.
- Add additional update and certification opportunities in the Spring.
- Offer more frequent Zoom meetings for other AO groups such as Race Administrators and Chiefs of Timing and Calculation pre-season and during the season and in the off season.
- Offer several Zoom meetings during the off season for specific groups to share knowledge and build community.
- Create a questionnaire for new officials to complete after their first year working events.
- Establish a more formal process to monitor and arrange Referee Shadow opportunities.

Season 2027 Clinic Dates

- The tentative dates for certification clinics are: Seattle October 25 or November 1, 2026 (depending on the release of the 2027 material), November 8, 2026, Coeur d'Alene and November 15, 2026 in Portland.

Respectively submitted:

Roger Root
PNW AO Chairperson



Pacific Northwest Ski Association A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

May 30, 2026

PNW Technical Delegate Working Group Annual report

By: Malcolm Ash, TDWG Chairperson

In 2025 PNW Alpine Officials Committee created a sub-committee to supervise scheduling, training, and updating of the PNW TDs. The initial three members of this group are Rob Cravens, TD-3, Steve Maynard, TD-3, and Malcolm Ash, TD-3. After meeting for most of the summer to create mission statements and other operating documents, the AO Chair approved the formation and empowered the team to continue, appointing Malcolm Ash as chairperson to lead the group. The TDWG primary mission is to manage the PNW TDs & TD resources to include scheduling, training/updates, regular communications, certification of new TDs, and advancement of existing TDs.

This year has been challenging for all, to say the least, with the PNW low snowpack and constant shifting of dates, venues, and 17 race days canceled all together. The team all pitched in as needed and worked the problems on a real time basis ensuring the right TD was at each event that did occur. Along this path and with considerable scheduling challenges we completed certification of two new TDs in the division. Welcome to the team Jesse Scroggins and Catherine (Cat) Harnden. Numerous Referee shadows also were facilitated by the TDWG to match candidate referees with Referee 3s, or TDs to complete training and certification.

A dedicated TD resource page on the PNW website was vastly improved, led by Steve Maynard. This page now has direct links to much of the most common items needed by TDs. Along with links to training material, annual updates, and (new) equipment information and notes. This page will be an ongoing project with annual updates to keep it current and useful.

The TDWG held one New TD certification class in the fall, followed by proctored tests for 4 candidates. Two virtual TD updates for division TDs (with 4 out of division TDs also attending our virtual sessions). We also held 6 monthly TD Roundtable virtual meetings through the ski season, where race reports were given by TDs and educational topics were presented. Division TDs also used this time to review real-time challenges or decisions that were made at events. An excellent way to spread the experience of one TD at an event to the whole team.

2027 Plans

For the coming season we plan to continue the format of meeting as a TDWG several times during the run up to the season for planning and scheduling. Sending as many as possible to the FIS TD Update in Kimberly BC. Then working with the AO committee to schedule TD Update meetings and present at those to get all TDs in the PNW ready for the 2027 competition season. This format worked well and will be continued.

The composition of the team of 3 level 3 TDs is desired to be diversified and over the coming year to cycle other TDs into the group to keep ideas fresh and inclusive of all our TDs. The group is not restricted to 3, and for the coming year we will add a 4th TD with the expectation that one of the original 3 will cycle off the group at the end of 2027. Then at the end of 2028 another member to cycle off and be replaced. The newest member, to be added in 2027 will serve through 2029 and be replaced before start of the 2030 season, continuing on a 3-year term rotating basis. Starting in 2028 we would like to consider a TD newer to the group as a member to keep a fresh perspective.

One exception to this is the AO Chair requested the TDWG Chair, Malcolm Ash, (And likely all future chairs) be on a 5-year term to create continuity and reduce overhead of the administrative process ramp up for future team leads. The replacement team lead would likely be selected from a current or past member of TDWG – without prejudice to prior member term or term limits.

For 2027 and future seasons the TDWG will work more efficiently by coordinating activities through the chairperson and have this be the single point of contact for the Division office, ACC, and AO Chair. In this chaotic and inaugural year there were times of parallel communication and overlap; and at times this was necessary. At times this was because one of us was also assigned as TD of a race being rescheduled, involved in some way, or the chair was “out of pocket” for some reason. In the future when not available the TDWG chair will appoint one of the other members to be the primary point of contact.

Respectfully submitted,
Malcolm Ash TDWG Chairperson



Pacific Northwest Ski Association A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

2026 PNW MASTERS REPORT to PNW ACC

Membership is stable nationwide and in the PNW. 2025/2026 was a challenging year with no Masters sanctioned events being delivered to PNW. Sanctioned Masters events are our revenue stream to PNW Masters and PNW Division.

WPT, SARS and MBSEF delivered masters training events (timed training runs) this season. PNW Masters were grateful for these opportunities, and feedback was very positive. The WPT event was in honor of Kyle Watson, who was lost in an avalanche last season in Japan. Thank you for your efforts to deliver what we could in a trying season.

2025/2026 National Masters Championships (DH,SG,GS,SL) were delivered by Mammoth Mountain and Mammoth Mountain Race Department. Technical Delegate for the event was Ken Gay from Rocky.

2026/2027 National Masters Championships have been calendared at Alyeska, Alaska. We are working to get an out of division assignment for one of our PNW TDs at these events.

National Masters committee meetings attended throughout the year via zoom calls. The committee approved a new National Masters ACC (Alpine Comp Committee) operational document. Final approval is expected with the USSS Alpine Sports Committee.

Heather Black (IMD), is the newly elected National Masters Chair. Heather is providing great leadership in this position. Ryan Fuller (Rocky/Central) is the immediate past chair. Rob Cravens (PNW) was elected as the National Masters Vice Chair. Lauren Bekos continues as the USSS Masters Manager. Lauren is our liaison to USSS. Lauren works for USSS Comp Services Director Jeff Weiman.

PNW Masters financial accounts (checking and savings) are reported/accounted for monthly to PNW office. With zero revenue this seasons our balances are quite low.

2026 Wy'East Cup (formerly Summer Fun Nationals) has been canceled at Timberline. This is another 2026 financial loss for PNWSEF, PNW and PNW Masters.

PNW Masters are stepping up and supporting PNWSEF. PNW Masters 2026/2027 Junior development funding will be \$2,000 again. These funds are requested to be allocated for PNW Speed Camps.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Cravens - PNW Masters Chair



Pacific Northwest Ski Association A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

2025/2026 - U18 &U21 Working Group:

- Chair - Jamie Landwehr - East
- Kent Towler - South
- Dave Lyon - West

Season Summary:

First, I'd like our committee to thank and recognize Bill Gunesch for his eleven years as the Regional Director. His knowledge, experience, leadership and passion for the sport will be missed and hard to replace. Thank you Bill. I hope he'll have more time to spend with us in the PNW in the years to come.

It's also worth noting that going forward we're in good hands with newly appointed Will Brandenburg moving into the Regional Director job. Will is a PNW alumni athlete, former Olympian, and Western Region loyalist. He'll bring a tremendous amount of energy and passion to his new role and is already off and running!

Summary:

Rough year for the FIS aged kids in the PNW. Like every other age group, the calendar was full of changes and modifications throughout the season. The first race on the calendar scheduled for Mammoth was cancelled and eventually moved to Big Sky. The last race on the calendar scheduled for Bachelor was moved to Mammoth and then cancelled due to a massive storm, and pretty much everything in-between was moved or modified. This was rough on the calendar committee, ROC's and most importantly the athletes.

In recent years, PNW has held a number of FIS events. This year's weather forced each of our FIS series to be relocated to other divisions, which was very difficult for us in terms of trip planning, preparing, and race proximity to home. We traveled farther, raced less, and spent more money doing so.

The regional calendar also consisted of Devo events (used for qualifying into Elite races) stacked right in front of the Elite Races. This made it very difficult for building out a race scheduled that included sufficient training blocks at home and the ability for kids to go to school. On the bright side, the 26/27 regional blocks look like they are more evenly distributed and the only Elite Series taking place mid-winter is a six-day tech block in February which will reduce the urgency to attend every devo and open series prior too.

PNW clubs that are fielding FIS teams did an excellent job of working together. We have some great continuity out on the road. This is one area where PNW continues to thrive

and we need to continue to embrace this if we want our athletes to compete at the elite level. It's also super important that our capable ROC's host FIS races when possible. Our kids do well on home snow.

We're all looking forward to next season and hopefully a more cooperative weather cycle and event calendar.

Stats and Trends from 2022 – 2026.

Starts in PNW and WR

- Considering how many events were moved around and or cancelled their were still a lot of starts in the 2026 season

| | <u>WR Tech</u> | <u>WR Speed</u> | <u>NWC tech</u> | <u>NWC Speed</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 22/23 | 38 | 10 | 8 | 5 |
| 23/24 | 28 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 24/25 | 28 | 6 | 9 | 5 |
| 25/26 | 30 | 6 | 9 | 3 (SG only at Stevens) |

Licenses and Races Started for PNW U18 and Older athletes

- Trends show that boys numbers have been pretty consistent up to this season and the girl's numbers have been going up prior to this season
- Obviously, our numbers dipped this year, I suspect due to the issues outlined above in the report, and we lost a substantial FIS program in the division too (MHA).

| <u>Ladies</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>2026</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| USSS Licenses | 56 | 50 | 55 | 60 | 51 |
| FIS Licenses | 38 | 39 | 46 | 45 | 38 |
| Started a FIS | 26 | 36 | 38 | 45 | 25 |
| Started a NWC | ? | 44 | 42 | 52 | 36 |

| <u>Guys</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>2026</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| USSS Licenses | 58 | 63 | 55 | 61 | 55 |
| FIS Licenses | 39 | 46 | 51 | 51 | 47 |
| Started a FIS | 27 | 42 | 39 | 44 | 34 |
| Started a NWC | ? | 54 | 34 | 50 | 42 |



Pacific Northwest Ski Association A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

2025 U16 Working Group:

- Chair – Uros Pavlovic – West
- Nils Eriksson – South
- Cat Harnden – East

PNW Division USSS Licensed U16s:

2026 – 123 (61 girls, 62 boys)

Prior years:

- 2025 - 160 (82 girls, 78 boys)
- 2024 - 172 (86 girls, 86 boys)
- 2023 - 153 (72 girls, 81 boys)
- 2022 - 169 (98 girls, 71 boys)
- 2021 - 151 (85 girls, 66 boys)

Early Season:

The popular early-season U16 race at Mt. Bachelor (Russ Read) was canceled due to a low-snow year. At the same time, the format of the IMD race at Jackson Hole changed, and it became a qualifier for the NPS at Burke. We received 10 quota spots per gender, and our fastest athletes competed against top WR athletes in December. PNW athletes competed successfully and achieved four podium finishes during the series.

U16 Qualifiers (NWC):

NWC #1 at Mt. Hood Meadows was canceled due to lack of snow.

NWC #2 at Crystal Mountain: Again, due to the lack of snow, Crystal had to obtain a new last-minute homologation report for QuickSilver and move the series from Lower Ferk to the QuickSilver run. Snowmaking on the run and the easier slope ensured good and fair conditions for everyone, and it was a good first qualifier, especially since many teams lacked training at the time. Since NWC #1 was canceled, CMAC added an extra GS, which made the qualifier a four-day race series event.

NWC #3 (Sun Cup): The event was moved from Mt. Bachelor to Stevens Pass, renamed the 2026 Sun Cup North, and became an SG-only event. During the three-day race series, we had two great days of SG racing, along with one day of less favorable conditions due to the morning grooming.

NWC #4 (Schweitzer): The scheduled SL/GS/SG series became a GS/SL/SL series. Schweitzer actually received a decent snowstorm prior to the event, and the surface was slightly softer than ideal, but everyone was happy to be racing. Their Loophole run might be a bit short for U16 athletes in GS. Overall, it was a great race series.

Regional & National Events:

Western Region Championships at Palisades, CA: PNW had strong representation at this event, with 22 women and 20 men attending. As project leader, I would like to thank the coaching staff for their hard work: Katy Loewy (MRT), Carson Ruud (MRST), Nils Eriksson (MBSEF), Dave Lyon (SPAC), and Ted McNamara (SARS).

Performance highlights:

- Canyon Osborne – 3rd in SL, 3rd in GS, 3rd in SG
- 9 PNW top-10 finishes

U16 Nationals at Grand Targhee, WY: This year, PNW had five athletes at the event (2 boys and 3 girls). The highlight was Canyon Osborne's 2nd-place finish in giant slalom. PNW coaches at the event were Ted McNamara and Uros Pavlovic.

End of the Season Events:

PNW Divisional Finals: Due to the lack of snow in the PNW, Crystal Mountain picked up an additional race series at the end of the season, replacing the NWC and Evergreen Cup Finals. The series was named the PNW Divisional Finals. We had a good racing surface and great weather. The two GS days were quite long, partially due to large field sizes and some timing delays. Overall, it was a great race series to finish a challenging winter in the PNW.

Golden Rose: Unfortunately, this year the very popular and fun end-of-season PNW race series was canceled. It is one of the best events where our athletes can race against top athletes in the region and even U.S. Ski Team members. It is an important event for the U16 group because it provides a great opportunity to improve slalom points.

Season Summary:

In many ways, it was a very challenging season, with limited training opportunities for many teams, constant race schedule and venue changes, and event cancellations. With the exception of Stevens Pass, all of our in-region speed events and projects were canceled, which affected results in speed events both regionally and nationally. However, on the positive side, our most committed and talented athletes were still able to compete successfully against the best in the country.

Challenges:

- Ski areas in the PNW either do not have snowmaking or have limited snowmaking capabilities. A poor snow year affects us more than many other regions in the country.
- There is a perception among families and athletes that you have to leave the PNW to reach your full potential in ski racing. Some athletes leave because of school, as it is very challenging to attend a regular high school while racing at all WR FIS events. Others leave because they believe the opportunities are better elsewhere. The PNW has great coaches, and I believe we can compete with the rest of the country as long as we provide quality offseason on-snow and dryland training.

Prepared by:

Uros Pavlovic, PNW U16 Chair



Pacific Northwest Ski Association

A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

2026 U14 Annual Report

Katy Loewy, MRT
2025-26 Season

This past season there were 245 licensed U14's compared to 239 in 24/25 and 264 in the 23/24 season. A slight increase from the previous year. **this does not include Alpine General/Non-scored license types*

The athletes broke down as follows:

- 61 Females YOB 2012
- 64 Females YOB 2013
- 52 Males YOB 2012
- 68 Males YOB 2013

U14 Qualifiers:

- #1 Jan 24-25 @ Schweitzer (GS/SL)
 - Venue change
 - 98 W / 85 M
- #2 Feb 20-21 @ Mission Ridge (GS/SL)
 - Venue and date change
 - 87 W / 86 M
- #3 March 6-9 @ Bachelor (SG)
 - Venue change
 - 85 W / 82 M

U14 Camps/Projects:

- PNW Speed Camp Feb 4-6 @ Stevens Pass
 - Stevens Pass was able to pick up this camp last minute as Mission was unable to host. Still had some difficult conditions but SPAC did their best to accommodate - thank you!
- PNW/FW Project cancelled
- U14 Flight School Cancelled

Evergreen Cup Races

- Several cancelled races (Russ Read, Webb Moffit, SPAC SL, Golden Rose)
- Added PNW Divisional Finals April 3-5
- This race was added in place of both Evergreen Cup and NWC Finals as the final divisional race of the season. Open to U14 and older.
- This was a good solution to end our season on a high note - thank you CMAC for stepping up to host this

U14 Champs:

- March 19-22 @ Sugar Bowl (Venue change from Bachelor)

- PNW had 12 M & 14 W qualify and attend the series. Decision made to not offer discretionary slots and just go down the list of alternates as needed. This is a rule in the Comp Guide so should be followed next season.
- Difficult conditions but Sugar Bowl did a great job pulling off all events. Venue change - all events hosted on Hannes Schroll which was a bit more difficult for the tech events. SG venue was shortened due to lack of snow.
- PNW top 10 results
 - SG - Kaeli Bertell 6th, Nico Bonura 10th
 - GS - Kaeli Bertell 3rd, Lillian Curtis 8th, Kamila Kuzel 9th, Hudson Grabos 9th
 - SL - Kaeli Bertell 1st, Hudson Grabos 4th
- The coaching staff worked well together. A bit overstaffed due to club coaches wanting to attend.
- Lodging and meals were great, Truckee hotel had large rooms, a large ski room for storage and tuning, etc. I would recommend staying here again.

Whistler Cup:

- April 8-13 @ Whistler Mountain
- Kaeli Bertell (TARP) & Hudson Grabos (CSAT) qualified via WR U14 Champs
- Kaeli finished 3rd overall! This is 3 years in a row having PNW athletes podium at this event - huge accomplishment

MISC & Open Items:

Active Competitors

With 245 active licenses, fewer than 200 athletes competed in the qualifiers. This may have been impacted by the high number of race reschedules and cancellations. It would also be worth discussing whether mid-week races are affecting participation.

Live Timing

The new Live Timing rule appeared to work well this season. It remains important to post first-run results as quickly as possible and final results immediately following the conclusion of the race.

U14 SL Gates

The Competition Manual was updated to ensure that U14 athletes use the same gate sizes in qualifiers as they will at WR Championships. Hosting clubs should also ensure consistency in implementation.

2026/27 Elite Passes

The points cutoff should be reviewed. With numerous cancellations and the absence of the Golden Rose race, many strong athletes may not have had sufficient opportunities to lower their points. One option would be to raise the cutoff slightly (perhaps around 300 points) and/or provide automatic qualification for athletes who qualified for WR Championships.

WR Championships Staffing

1329 Section Avenue –Quincy– WA 98848 Phone: 509-445-4454
 Website: www.pnwddivision.org email: pnw@pnwddivision.org

The Competition Manual should more clearly outline how coach selections are determined for WR Championships staffing. Overstaffing can create additional management challenges and may increase costs that ultimately fall back on athletes and families.

Coach selection priorities could consider factors such as the number of qualified athletes represented and/or athlete seeding. Additional interested coaches could potentially be offered lift tickets without being included as official staff.

Retention in Our Division

While the U14 group saw modest growth this season, participation numbers continue to decline in the U16 and FIS age groups.

What steps can we take as a division to improve athlete retention and keep more athletes engaged as they age up?



Pacific Northwest Ski Association

A Division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard

2026 U12 Working Group
Garrett Lodge, Chair – South
Lizzy Henning – West
Jonathan Puskas – South

Athlete Numbers: [U12 Membership Comparison to U14 WR Quota.xlsx](#)

Total PNW U12 Licenses:

2024: 690 WR Quota: 15W/16M

2025: 576 WR Quota: 15W/15M

2026: 449 WR Quota: 14W/12M

2026 Buddy Werner Champs were at Mt Bachelor this year. There was positive feedback about the event including social events during the weekend. 90 men and 110 women registered for the three-day event. The event schedule was:

- Friday: Men's GS, Women's Skills Quest
- Saturday: Women's GS, Men's Skills Quest
- Sunday: SL for both genders

On March 27, we held an in-person U12 coaches meeting post BWC coaches meeting. Topics discussed included:

- Using stubbies during SL races for U10 and younger age group – there was continued positive feedback for this idea across the division.
- Buddy Werner Champs went well and there was a good response to the social events MBSEF offered. The timing of race on the calendar was discussed as it can conflict with spring break, but ultimately the group felt the timing was ideal as it coincides with the end of the training season for most clubs. There was feedback to add an additional event to the Skills Quest day.
- There were some team scoring calculation challenges at previous BW Champs that resulted in a desire to look closely at the wording in the PNW Competition Guide that was addressed for this year. Coaches were invited to read through the guide and submit any concerns they might have prior to the 2026 convention date.

1329 Section Avenue –Quincy– WA 98848 Phone: 509-445-4454

Website: www.pnwdivision.org email: pnw@pnwdivision.org

Overall, the season ended on a success – races were moved due to lack of snow, but the athlete's showed determination and their competitive spirit.

Respectfully submitted,

PNW U12 Working Group

Lizzy Henning
Jonathan Puskas
Garrett Lodge



TO: Pacific Northwest Alpine Competition Committee (PNW ACC)

FROM: PNW Coaches Education Committee

DATE: May 19, 2026

RE: 2025/26 Annual Coaches Education Report

Committee & Faculty Roster

Coaches Education Committee Members:

- **John Rust (Chair):** South Zone, Meadows Race Team (MRT) | director@meadowsraceteam.org
- **Carson Ruud:** West Zone, Mission Ridge Ski Team (MRST) | carson@mrst.us
- **Max Mallinen:** East Zone, Schweitzer Alpine Racing School (SARS) | maxmallinen@gmail.com

PNW National Faculty (NF):

- John Rust (MRT)
- Dana Kausabe (MRST)
- Pete Korfiatis (Bluewood)

Executive Overview: Divisional Certification Metrics

1. Current Certified PNW Coaches

- **Level 100:** 148
- **Level 200:** 61
- **Level 300:** 23
- **Level 400:** 9
- **Level 500:** 8

2. Non-Certified & In-Progress Pipeline

- **Level 100 (Required):** 195 coaches currently require certification.
- **Level 100 (In Progress):** 43 coaches have initiated the process and must complete certification within the upcoming year.

- **Level 200 (In Progress):** Approximately 20 coaches have commenced their Level 200 coursework.

3. High-Priority Club Demographics

The need for certification spans every zone in the region. The clubs with the most significant demand include:

- **West Zone:** Crystal Mountain Alpine Club (CMAC) / Team Alpine Skiing (TAS)
- **South Zone:** MBSEF and Mt. Hood
- **East Zone:** Inland Empire (critical for sanctioning youth races)

Note: If your club has outstanding certification needs and is not represented above, please contact the committee.

2025/26 Clinic Review & Operational Challenges

The past season faced significant scheduling disruptions due to adverse weather and snow conditions.

| Clinic Location & Level | Status | Notes / Outcomes |
|-------------------------|----------|--|
| Mt. Bachelor (L100) | Canceled | Low snow conditions |
| Mission Ridge (L100) | Canceled | Rain event stripped course coverage |
| Mt. Hood Meadows (L100) | Held | 7 participants successfully completed |
| Spokane (L200) | Canceled | Inclement weather and low registration |
| Spokane (L100) | Held | 7 participants successfully completed |
| Mission Ridge (L100) | Held | Unscheduled make-up clinic; 4 participants |
| Seattle Area (L100) | Held | Facilitated by Dana Kausabe |
| Timberline (L100) | Canceled | 8 registered participants affected |
| Timberline (L200) | Canceled | 12 registered participants affected |

Strategic Directives Moving Forward:

- **Spring 2026 Shift:** We are actively seeking a spring locations—ideally on Mt. Hood, as 80% of the affected Level 100/200 candidates are local to this area—to recoup canceled winter clinics at an optimal time for coaches. Crystal? East?
- **2026/27 Calendar Integration:** To prevent future bottlenecks, we request that the standard clinic schedule be integrated directly into the primary PNW calendar.
 - *Target 26/27 Offerings:* 4–5 Level 100 Clinics | 2 Level 200 Clinics (Jan and Spring?)

Points of Emphasis & Divisional/Regional/National Strategic Initiatives

1. PNW Educational Programming

To increase accessibility and continuing education (CE) credit compliance, the committee will launch monthly online seminars organized by Carson & Max spanning September, October, November, and December.

Proposed Curriculum Focus:

- Fundamentals of Alpine Skiing
- Coaching Feedback Methodologies
- Movement Analysis (MA)

New Initiative Proposal: The committee proposes establishing *Pre-Assessment Learning Clinics*, to be held the day prior to formal assessments.

- *Action Item:* Would the PNWSEF be willing to financially or logistically support this development initiative?

2. Key Takeaways from US Ski & Snowboard Congress

Discussions within the U14 Working Group highlighted a growing gap between domestic and international course-setting specifications. The US is currently falling behind global standards, signaling an immediate need for systemic adjustment.

- **Rule Changes vs. Education:** Because of mixed-age field constraints (U14 and U16 racing together), implementing immediate mandatory rule changes is challenging. Consequently, US Ski & Snowboard and regional development leaders aim to drive this evolution through targeted coach education and setting emphasis.
- **Course Setting Benchmarks (Global Averages):**
 - *FIS World Cup (GS):* A strict global average of **25.8 meters** per gate (monitored and measured at every World Cup event).
 - *U16 International (CIMBA/Opa Cup):* Averages **21–23 meters**.
 - *U14 International Youth Races:* Averages **18–21 meters** (notably shorter than typical US sets).
- **FIS & World Rank Slalom (SL) Trends:**
 - Increased frequency of short combinations (e.g., 4-meter delays).

- Heavy utilization of diverse course variations and frequent tempo changes (variable distances and offsets).
- A mandate for broader variability in turn shape, length, and rhythm across all course designs.