



Western Region Alpine Competition Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Time: 10:00 Mountain Time

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87837699655?pwd=XuCaTGUTDXJE8AUZxL6dIBhfRdyUBF.1>

Meeting ID: 878 3769 9655

Passcode: 912119

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AGENDA

1. Welcome and call to order – Devin Gill, Chair
2. Roll call and review of committee membership – Lucy Conklin, Secretary
3. Review and approval of agenda and/or additions
4. Review and approval of minutes from September 9, 2026
5. U.S. Ski and Snowboard Staff Updates –
 - a. Alpine Development Director - Chip Knight
 - i. Ski Reg Requirement
6. Western Region Committee Reports and Proposals
 - a. Executive Committee Report – Devin Gill
 - b. Treasurer Report – Troy Price
 - c. Site Selection Committee – Will Brandenburg
 - i. [WR Calendar](#)
 - d. Development Committee – Bridger Call
7. Western Region Program Updates
 - a. Western Region Director – Will Brandenburg
 - i. Chile Project
 - b. Western Region Youth Development Coach – Jeff Pickering
 - c. Western Region Manager – Ali Holum
8. National Committee Reports – if any new items
 - a. Collegiate Report – Sparky Anderson
 - b. U16 and Older Working Group – Jess Kelley
 - c. U14 and Younger Working Group – Lindsay Dowd, Bo Majecko- Chair
 - d. Coaches Education Working Group – Ben Roberts, Forest King Shaw
 - e. Regional Subcommittee – Bill Brooks
 - f. Officials Update – Roger Root
 - g. TDAG – Rob Cravens, Troy Price
 - h. Health of Sport – Kristen Cooksey



9. Old business – none
 - a. WR FIS Structure Quotas
 - b. U16 Project Gold/Europe selection
10. New business –
 - a. ASC meeting – October 8, 2026; 10am MST
zoom link and agenda to be provided at WR ACC meeting, currently unavailable
11. Motion to adjourn
12. Next meeting: TBD

Western Region Race Series

2026–27 FIS Structure and Quotas

ACC REVIEW DRAFT | September 29, 2026

Submitted by: Will Brandenburg, Western Region Alpine Director

Proposed change

Replace the WRangler Cup-to-Elite qualifying process with **divisional selection for Open FIS events and regional technical-points selection for Elite FIS Tech events**. Coaches can build individual competition plans without requiring athletes to attend designated Open races to qualify for Elite entry.

The calendar will retain three categories: **Regional Open FIS, Divisional Open FIS, and Elite FIS Tech**. The two Open categories use the same quota and selection procedures. Elite uses a separate regional selection board.

ACC action requested: Review the consolidated structure and entry procedures below and provide direction on the three confirmations in Section 11 before final adoption. This is proposed language for review, not an adopted policy.

At a glance

All numbers apply separately to men and women. WR means Western Region.

Provision	Regional and Divisional Open FIS	Elite FIS Tech
Who selects athletes?	Each division, through its own selection procedures	Western Region, through a single SL/GS NAT-points board
Proposed starting WR allocation	70, distributed among five divisions	70, selected regionally
Minimum divisional allocation	Six per division	None
WR Division I college athletes	Automatic qualification outside the starting WR allocation; field limits still apply	Selected on the same board and counted within the 70
Director’s Quota	Up to 15 additional athletes	Up to 15 additional athletes
Further WR field expansion	Through approved divisional quota expansion when space remains	No automatic expansion for unused field space

National-quota clarification: The proposed 70-place WR allocation is not a separate USA quota. Its implementation is subject to the national quota and permitted host-nation expansion provisions, as explained in Section 2.

1. Purpose and competition planning

Western Region is responsible for scheduling FIS competitions in its five divisions, managing field sizes, distributing divisional quotas, and coordinating outside-region and foreign entries.

The revised structure supports appropriate competition, access, athlete retention, and clearer individual competition planning. Athletes are not expected to attend every race. Entry remains subject to selection, quotas, eligibility, confirmation, and entry requirements.

Competition plans should use three levels:

Home Series: Athletes develop and work toward the top of the results. **Reach Series:** Athletes experience stronger competition and work toward becoming competitive at that level. **Podium Series:** Athletes can start early and compete consistently for wins.

These levels guide athlete planning rather than create a required qualifying sequence. The same race may be a Home competition for one athlete and a Reach competition for another.

2. Relationship between WR allocations and national quotas

The proposed starting allocation is **70 WR men and 70 WR women** for both Open FIS and Elite FIS Tech events. This is a regional allocation, not a separate national entitlement.

The USA quota is 70, and Eastern Region and Rocky/Central Region each have rights to 10 places per gender. Keeping a starting WR allocation of 70 therefore depends on permitted host-nation expansion when combined U.S. participation exceeds the national quota.

Western Region will administer its allocations within the applicable national quota and host-nation expansion provisions while honoring other regions' allocations. College automatics, Director's Quota selections, U.S. Ski Team entries, and host selections are additional to the standard WR allocation where specified; that does not make them additional national-quota entitlements.

All entries count toward the approved total field-size limit. **The proposal retains 70 WR places for ACC review**, subject to confirmation of the national-quota framework before adoption.

3. Regional Rank Quota Method

For Regional Open FIS and Divisional Open FIS events, the starting 70 places per gender will be allocated among the five western divisions using their shares of qualifying ranking appearances on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard age-ranking lists valid on **May 1 of the prior year**.

For each year of birth of the upcoming season's FIS-age juniors, count each division's athletes ranked in the top 100 in SL, GS, and SG. An athlete appearing in two or three disciplines is counted in each discipline. Add the divisional totals to establish the WR total, then apply each division's share to the 70 available places per gender.

This method determines **how many places each division receives—not which individual athletes are selected**. Each division fills its allocation through its own published selection procedures.

The method applies to both technical and speed Open FIS events. It replaces the previous separate starting speed-series quota of 115 men and 115 women. The minimum Open allocation remains **six men and six women per division**. The annual implementation appendix will show divisional allocations, minimum-quota adjustments, and rounding.

4. Open FIS events

Regional Open FIS

Regional Open FIS events provide opportunities for athletes beginning FIS racing, athletes developing toward stronger competition, and experienced athletes whose individual competition plans make participation appropriate.

Divisional Open FIS

Divisional Open FIS events provide additional opportunities within the regional calendar. **“Divisional Open” does not limit participation to the host division.** Athletes from all five western divisions may participate through their division’s selection and entry process.

Shared entry procedures

Both Open categories use the 70-place starting WR allocation, distributed through the Regional Rank Quota Method. The Director may approve up to 15 additional athletes per gender through the Director’s Quota, and further places may be made available through the Open expansion process below.

Neither category serves as a required head-to-head qualifier for Elite FIS entry. Available field space does not independently authorize an athlete to enter.

Division I college automatics

WR Division I college athletes automatically qualify for Regional Open FIS and Divisional Open FIS events. They are excluded from divisional selection-board quota counting, do not use a divisional place or one of the starting 70 WR places, and do not require a Director’s Quota selection.

College automatic entries count toward total field size and remain subject to eligibility, confirmation, and entry deadlines. Automatic qualification is not an exemption from field limits. Their priority in an oversubscribed Open field requires the confirmation identified in Section 11.

This automatic qualification does **not** apply to Elite FIS Tech events.

Quota expansion and unused divisional places

Once the Western Region Director and race organizer understand anticipated international, Eastern, and Rocky/Central participation, all remaining available Open places will be made available to additional eligible WR athletes through the approved divisional entry process.

Available space is determined after accounting for divisional selections, college automatics, Director’s Quota selections, U.S. Ski Team entries, host selections, outside-region entries, and foreign entries. The proposed total field limit is **140 men and 140 women**, or a lower organizer-established limit based on event capacity, subject to applicable governing requirements.

Divisional managers will report anticipated participation, unused places, and requests for additional places to the WR office. As an explicit clarification of the expansion process, the Director may reallocate unused divisional places and approve additional divisional allocations when space permits. The WR office will communicate those allocations; divisions will select and confirm athletes through their published procedures.

Expansion places are separate from the Director’s Quota. An athlete does not need a Director’s Quota selection solely because the athlete was outside the division’s initial allocation. The starting 70 places plus up to 15 Director’s Quota places therefore do **not** create an 85-athlete WR ceiling at Open events.

The Director and race organizer will confirm available space. All athletes must follow the applicable selection, confirmation, and entry procedures. **This expansion process does not apply to Elite FIS Tech events.**

5. WR Elite FIS Tech

The two designated Elite FIS Tech series use regional technical-points selection rather than divisional quota allocations. Athletes need not attend a designated Open FIS series to be considered.

Standard allocation and college athletes

The standard WR allocation is 70 men and 70 women. WR Division I college athletes remain on the same selection board as other eligible WR athletes and count toward those places when selected. Collegiate status does not provide automatic entry or an extra place outside the standard allocation.

The Director may approve up to 15 additional athletes per gender. U.S. Ski Team, host-club, outside-region, and foreign entries follow their separate provisions. All entries count toward total field size.

Selection basis

The proposed Elite selection source is **U.S. Ski & Snowboard National (NAT) points in SL and GS, using a single regional technical-points selection board**. The initial board will use the first NAT Points List valid in November.

There will be no divisional allocations or minimum divisional guarantees within the standard Elite quota. The Director's Quota may address individual development needs, including uneven divisional representation where appropriate, without creating a divisional entitlement.

Elite entry will not use a separate head-to-head qualifying-results board. The former 30-athlete Elite Automatics group and results-based routes to automatic status are not carried forward into this structure.

Before adoption, the implementation appendix must specify the board-construction method, tie-breaking procedure, points-list dates for each series, whether the board is updated between series, and selection and confirmation deadlines. **These mechanics require the ACC confirmation identified in Section 11.**

No automatic field expansion

Athletes qualify through the regional points selection or an approved additional quota. Unused field space does not automatically expand the standard WR Elite allocation or create an Open-style entry pathway.

6. Regional Director's Quota

The Director may approve **up to 15 additional men and 15 additional women** at Regional Open FIS, Divisional Open FIS, and Elite FIS Tech events. The quota supports individual development needs outside the relevant standard allocation; it need not be fully used.

The athlete's coach must submit a written development request to the Western Region Director **at least 14 days before the start of the event**. It must identify the athlete, club, event, and requested disciplines, and explain the development need, competition readiness, and connection to the athlete's development plan.

A divisional recommendation may support, but does not replace, the coach's written request. Submission does not guarantee selection. The Director, in consultation with WR coaches and/or the Manager, has final naming authority.

The quota will not be used when the Director and organizer determine the field would be too large or when the development purpose is being abused. It is not a routine field-expansion mechanism.

Regional Junior Championships: The existing Director's Quota of up to 15 men and 15 women remains available for development and/or field enhancement under the separate championship provisions. Divisional offices, with their ACC chair or designated representatives, may nominate athletes. Extraordinary championship expansion requires the agreement of the Director, WR ACC chair, and organizer.

7. Additional entry categories

U.S. Ski Team

The U.S. Ski Team quota will include members of the A, B, C, and D teams. These entries are additional to the standard WR allocation and count toward total field size.

Outside-region and foreign entries

The following allocations apply to standard FIS events, subject to the applicable governing quota provisions:

Entry category	Men	Women
Eastern Region	10	10
Rocky/Central Region	10	10
Canada	15, expandable to 30	15, expandable to 30
Other countries	Per applicable FIS quota	Per applicable FIS quota

Canadian expansion will be coordinated on a per-series basis through the applicable regional or provincial offices in consultation with the organizer. Foreign quotas vary by country and event classification; a uniform allocation of 10 per foreign country will not be used. **NJR events follow the applicable reduced foreign-quota provisions, not the standard FIS table unchanged.**

All Canadian and other foreign entries must be made through U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Only the Canadian national office may enter Canadian athletes. The Director or U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff will forward foreign entries to organizers.

Outside-region U.S. entries must come through the respective regional offices and be confirmed by the WR office. Regions must confirm participation **16 days before the first team captains' meeting** for each series.

Host-club quota

Each host club has one men's and one women's place in each race of a FIS series, excluding regional championship events. Athletes must be age-eligible, properly registered members of the host club. A place may be shared among different athletes across the series.

Host entries are additional to the standard WR allocation and count toward total field size.

8. Field-size limitations

The maximum total field under this proposal is **140 men and 140 women**, or a lower limit set by the organizer based on event capacity and applicable governing requirements. Every entry category counts. An exemption from the WR allocation is not an exemption from the total field limit.

If a race is oversubscribed, WR athletes will be withdrawn beginning with the highest points within this retained order:

1. Athletes entered through quota expansions beyond normal quotas.
2. Subjective selections, including Director's Quota selections made for development.
3. Standard quota selections: divisional selections at Open events and regional technical-points selections at Elite events.

The existing rotation provision is retained: no WR athlete will be withdrawn from a second race in a series until all WR athletes have been withdrawn from one race in the event.

ACC confirmation is required on where Open college automatics sit in this withdrawal order and which points source, list date, and discipline are used for “highest points.” These details must be resolved before implementation.

9. Divisional selection, age categories, and awards

Each division establishes procedures for filling its allocations to Regional Open FIS, Divisional Open FIS, and Regional Junior Championships. A division may fill **20% of its quota, with a minimum of one man and one woman**, on a discretionary basis and may restrict all or part of its quota to juniors.

When an Open event qualifies athletes for a National Championship, divisions are encouraged to allocate and offer 50% of their quota to the qualifying age group. This does not create an Open-to-Elite qualification requirement.

The Director may restrict divisional expansions by age category. The Director’s Quota is not otherwise restricted by age category, but all athletes must meet event-specific eligibility requirements.

The six-athlete divisional minimum and divisional discretionary provisions apply to Open allocations, not the standard Elite selection. Regional Junior Championships retain their applicable divisional quota provisions.

Awards at Regional Open FIS, Divisional Open FIS, and Elite FIS races, including speed events, remain **top three U18 and top three Overall places per gender**.

10. Entry coordination and implementation

Entry timeline

Timing	Required action
28 days in advance	Divisional managers begin coordinating anticipated entries, unused places, and additional quota needs with the WR office.
16 days before the first team captains’ meeting	Other U.S. regions confirm participation through their regional offices.
14 days before the event starts	Coaches submit written Director’s Quota development requests.
Seven days before the first event	Official USA entry forms and full entry fees are due to the organizer; copies of entry forms go to the WR office at the same time.

Foreign entries follow the applicable FIS entry requirements. Regional Junior Championships retain their age- and region-specific restrictions. Earlier divisional or published selection and confirmation deadlines remain applicable.

Annual implementation appendix

Before implementation, Western Region will publish the approved calendar and event categories, identify the two Elite Tech series, provide calculated divisional allocations and minimum-quota/rounding procedures, and publish the completed Elite selection mechanics and deadlines. Applicable series-scoring and championship-selection provisions will also be identified there.

The annual calendar, calculated divisional allocations, and completed selection-board procedures will accompany the adopted handbook; they are not attached to this review draft.

Handbook provisions outside this proposal

Historical background and provisions governing entry-fee amounts, head tax, refunds, TD expense reimbursement, coaches' passes, course setters, and snow control are not amended by this proposal. Separate Regional Junior Championship procedures remain in effect except where expressly addressed above.

11. ACC confirmations before final adoption

1. Starting WR allocation and national-quota administration. Confirm that the proposed 70 WR places can be administered within the USA quota, other regions' rights, and permitted host-nation expansion, or direct an adjustment to the starting WR allocation.

2. Elite selection mechanics. Confirm the proposed NAT-points source and single SL/GS board, then approve the exact construction, tie-breaks, applicable list dates, update schedule, and selection/confirmation deadlines for publication in the implementation appendix.

3. Oversubscribed-field procedures. Confirm the position of Open college automatics in the withdrawal order and define the points source, list date, and discipline used for withdrawals.

These confirmations complete the unresolved operating details without restoring the WRangler-to-Elite qualifying sequence or changing the proposed distinction between Open and Elite entry.

Source basis: The supplied Western Region Race Series working proposal, the supplied prior handbook excerpt, and Chip Knight's written comments. Consolidated for ACC review on September 29, 2026.

Western Region U16 Project Gold and Alpe Cimbra Selection

Proposed Selection Criteria for the 2026–27 Season

PURPOSE

Establish an objective selection process for Western Region athletes attending U16 Project Gold and Alpe Cimbra.

The selection process will combine previous-season Western Region Championship results with current-season performance at the Sean Nurse IMC/Open race series. Previous-season regional results will carry a 25% weight, and current-season Sean Nurse results will carry a 75% weight.

This approach recognizes previous performance while placing greater emphasis on athletes' current development through direct, head-to-head competition.

ELIGIBILITY

Athletes must be U.S. Ski & Snowboard members in good standing, affiliated with the Western Region, and eligible for U16 competition during the 2026–27 season.

Eligible birth years are 2011 and 2012. Athletes must also meet the applicable national eligibility requirements for the project or competition to which they are selected.

SELECTION BOARD

Separate women's and men's selection boards will be created using two components:

1. Previous-season Western Region Championship results — 25%.
2. Current-season Sean Nurse qualifying-series results — 75%.

Each component will be normalized against its maximum available points before the two components are combined.

1. Previous-Season Western Region Championship Results

The regional component will use GS and SL results from the previous season's Western Region Championships, with the following rules applied separately for women and men.

YOB 2011 — Previous-Season U16 Championships

Results will be reranked considering only YOB 2011 athletes before World Cup points are awarded. Older athletes who are no longer eligible for U16 selection will be removed from these rankings.

YOB 2012 — Previous-Season U14 Championships

First-year U14 athletes from that championship season—YOB 2013—will not be removed from the rankings before World Cup points are awarded.

YOB 2012 athletes will retain their placements relative to both U14 birth years. Their scores will therefore continue to reflect results against younger competitors, even though those younger athletes are not eligible for selection under this proposal.

Regional Points Total

An athlete's regional points will equal the total World Cup points awarded for their counting GS and SL results at the applicable championship.

The regional counting rules and corresponding maximum available points for each birth-year group will be specified in the published selection procedures.

2. Current-Season Sean Nurse Qualifying Series

Event: Sean Nurse IMC/Open race series

Location: Snow King, Wyoming

Dates: December 20–23, 2026

The Sean Nurse IMC/Open race series will serve as the current-season component of the selection process. The series is intended to provide athletes from across the Western Region an opportunity to demonstrate their current performance through head-to-head competition.

The qualifying series is scheduled to provide four scored SL runs and four scored GS runs, for eight total individual scored runs. Each contested run will be treated as an independent selection-board result.

Individual Run Scoring

For selection-board purposes, each individual run will be ranked considering only Western Region athletes eligible for selection under this proposal—YOB 2011 and 2012.

Separate women's and men's rankings will be created, with both eligible U16 birth years ranked together within each gender.

Athletes who are not eligible for this selection process, including U14 and older athletes, will be removed before the selection-board rankings and weighted World Cup points are calculated. This adjustment applies only to selection-board scoring and does not change event-entry eligibility or official race results.

Each individual run will be scored using the published weighted World Cup points scale.

Counting Results and Reduced-Run Contingency

When all four runs in each discipline are contested, athletes will count their best two SL run results and their best two GS run results, for four counting results total.

If weather, venue conditions, or other circumstances result in fewer contested runs, the following counting rules will apply separately to each discipline:

Runs contested in a discipline	Results counted
1 run	Count 1 of 1
2 runs	Count the best 1 of 2
3 runs	Count the best 2 of 3
4 runs	Count the best 2 of 4

These rules will be applied separately to the women's and men's fields, based on the number of runs contested in each discipline for that field. They are based on the runs available to the field—not the number of runs successfully completed by an individual athlete.

For example, if two SL runs and four GS runs are contested, each athlete will count their best one SL result and best two GS results, for three counting results total.

All remaining results will be dropped. The maximum available Sean Nurse points will be adjusted to reflect the number of results permitted to count under these rules.

This structure provides multiple opportunities within each discipline while establishing the counting procedure in advance of any reduction in contested runs.

SCORING AND WEIGHTING

The regional and Sean Nurse components will be normalized separately before being combined. The final selection score will be out of 100 possible points, with up to 25 points from the regional component and up to 75 points from the Sean Nurse component.

For both components, “maximum available points” means the maximum score possible from the results permitted to count under the selection rules—not the highest score actually achieved by an athlete.

Regional Component Score

Regional Component Score = (Athlete’s Regional Points ÷ Maximum Available Regional Points) × 25

The maximum available regional points will be calculated using the counting rules and World Cup points scale applicable to the athlete’s birth-year group and championship results.

Sean Nurse Component Score

Sean Nurse Component Score = (Athlete’s Sean Nurse Points ÷ Maximum Available Sean Nurse Points) × 75

An athlete’s Sean Nurse points will equal the sum of their counting SL and GS run scores, as determined by the contested-run counting rules.

The maximum available Sean Nurse points will be the total points an athlete could earn by placing first in every permitted counting run. The same weighted World Cup points scale must be used to calculate both the athlete’s points and the maximum available points.

When all four SL and four GS runs are contested, the maximum will be based on four counting runs—two SL and two GS—not all eight available runs.

When the reduced-run contingency is applied, the maximum will instead reflect the number of counting SL and GS results permitted under that contingency. The same component maximum will apply to every athlete on the corresponding women’s or men’s selection board.

Final Selection Score

Final Selection Score = Regional Component Score + Sean Nurse Component Score

Normalizing each component preserves the intended 25% regional and 75% current-season weighting, including when the reduced-run counting rules are applied. The weighting is established by this formula rather than by a points multiplier alone.

COMBINED RANKING AND TIEBREAKING

The final selection scores will produce one women's ranking and one men's ranking. Athletes will be ranked from highest to lowest final selection score.

Ties in the unrounded final selection score will be resolved by comparing the World Cup points earned in each tied athlete's counting Sean Nurse run results.

Each tied athlete's counting results will be ordered from highest to lowest World Cup point score, regardless of discipline. The athlete with the higher best single counting result will receive the higher ranking.

If the best single counting results are equal, the second-highest counting results will be compared, followed by the third-highest and fourth-highest, as applicable. The comparison will continue through the available counting results, in order, for as long as a tie remains.

Only results counted under the applicable contested-run rules will be used for this tiebreaker. Race points and dropped run results will not be used.

The tiebreaker will determine ranking order only. It will not change an athlete's final selection score or the 25% regional and 75% Sean Nurse weighting.

The complete scoring procedures, including regional counting rules, the Sean Nurse World Cup points scale, component maximums, reduced-run counting rules, and tiebreaking procedures, will be published before the qualifying series.

ALPE CIMBRA SELECTION

The highest-ranked eligible woman and highest-ranked eligible man on the combined selection boards will be nominated for Alpe Cimbra, subject to applicable national eligibility and entry requirements.

All athletes seeking a Western Region Alpe Cimbra nomination must qualify through the selection process described in this proposal. National automatic qualification for Project Gold does not provide automatic qualification for Alpe Cimbra.

Athletes who have qualified automatically for Project Gold through national criteria remain eligible for Alpe Cimbra consideration, but they must earn their Alpe Cimbra nomination through the combined selection board.

PROJECT GOLD SELECTION

Following the Alpe Cimbra selections, the next seven eligible women and next seven eligible men on the combined selection boards will be nominated through the Western Region's Project Gold quota.

Athletes who have already qualified for Project Gold automatically through national criteria will be skipped when filling the Western Region's Project Gold quota and will not use a regional quota place.

Nominations will continue down each combined selection board in ranking order until seven eligible women and seven eligible men who have not already qualified through national automatic criteria have been nominated.

Skipping national automatic qualifiers applies only to the allocation of Western Region Project Gold quota places. It does not change selection-board scores or remove those athletes from consideration for Alpe Cimbra.

ACCEPTANCE AND REPLACEMENT SELECTIONS

Athletes must accept their nomination by the published acceptance deadline.

If an athlete declines a nomination, is unable to participate because of injury or another reason, does not meet the applicable eligibility requirements, or does not accept by the deadline, the place will be offered to the next-highest-ranked eligible and available athlete of the same gender on the finalized combined selection board.

This process applies to both Alpe Cimbra and Western Region Project Gold nominations. National Project Gold automatic qualifiers will continue to be skipped when filling regional Project Gold quota places.

If an athlete holding a Western Region Project Gold nomination accepts a replacement nomination for Alpe Cimbra, the resulting regional Project Gold vacancy will be offered to the next eligible athlete in ranking order.

Replacement selections will use the original finalized rankings. Scores will not be recalculated when an athlete declines or becomes unavailable. Replacements will continue until the available places are filled or the applicable nomination or entry deadline prevents further replacements.

DISCRETIONARY AND DEVELOPMENT REQUESTS

No Western Region Project Gold quota places will be reserved for discretionary selection. All regional places will be filled through the objective selection boards.

If regional staff identify an exceptional athlete who is not selected through the regional process, they may submit a request through the national development-quota process for consideration by the Alpine Development Director.

A national development request does not replace an athlete selected through the Western Region's objective quota.

COMMUNICATION AND ACCESS

Western Region staff will coordinate with divisional leadership and the event organizer to communicate:

- The Sean Nurse qualifying-series schedule and entry process.
- Divisional access and applicable entry quotas.
- The complete scoring, counting, reduced-run contingency, tiebreaking, and selection procedures.
- Nomination announcements, acceptance deadlines, and replacement procedures.

The selection process and qualifying opportunities will be communicated across all five Western Region divisions before the qualifying series.

RATIONALE

The proposal uses a regional championship foundation available to both eligible U16 birth-year groups while placing greater emphasis on current-season performance. Normalizing the two components provides a clear and consistent 25% regional and 75% current-season weighting.

For returning U16 athletes, regional results are reranked to remove older athletes who are no longer eligible. For athletes moving up from U14, younger competitors remain in the previous-season rankings so that scores continue to reflect performance against the full U14 age group.

Scoring individual Sean Nurse runs provides multiple opportunities for athletes to demonstrate their skiing. Counting results from both SL and GS recognizes performance in both technical disciplines. Considering only eligible Western Region U16 athletes at Sean Nurse creates a direct comparison among athletes competing for these nominations.

Establishing counting rules for reduced numbers of contested runs provides a predetermined response when weather, venue conditions, or other circumstances prevent completion of the full schedule. Adjusting the maximum available points to match the permitted counting results preserves the overall component weighting.

Using World Cup points for both selection scoring and tiebreaking keeps the process within one consistent scoring system. Comparing the strongest counting results first gives priority to athletes who demonstrate the strongest individual head-to-head results among tied athletes.

Using regional results for the previous-season component avoids adding a second layer of points from Nationals or Whistler for athletes who already earned those opportunities through strong regional performances.

Skipping national Project Gold automatic qualifiers preserves regional quota places for additional athletes, while requiring all Alpe Cimbra nominees to qualify through the same regional selection process.

Filling the regional quota objectively and moving down the finalized rankings for replacement selections provides a clear process for athletes, families, and coaches. The national development quota remains available for exceptional cases.