



ALBERTA ALPINE

Alberta Alpine Ski Association Commitment to the membership

Covid-19 has certainly thrown us many curveballs and has left us all at times feeling a sense of loss and confusion. As we navigate these current times we must remain patient but recognize that as an outdoor sport we are in a good position to develop athletes, provide competition and grow our sport.

As the old saying goes “never let a crisis go to waste” and that is what we intend to do. Our mandate to lower the cost of ski racing is needed now more than ever and the community believes that we can not only do this out of necessity but believe this is the opportunity for us to shift the way we look at ski racing in Alberta and deliver better long term athletes.

Through many conversations with the leaders in our community we have all agreed on the following statement to share with our valued members as ski season approaches.

Opportunity for growth

Ski racing is an outdoor sport and with outdoor activities being encouraged as safer options we are confident that we are in a strong position to promote and grow our sport in the same way as many summer sports have done this year. Anyone that has been out for a mountain bike ride, a hike or any other summer activity in the mountains knows how steep the increase in visitors has been and the ski industry is anticipating the same with local skier visits.

Competition

This competition season may not resemble a traditional calendar that we have grown accustomed to but as a collective, we promise to deliver each athlete with the programming they deserve and one that is based around long term athlete development.

At this time, we are not prepared to share a calendar but are going to share our collective thoughts on what we believe we can deliver, better athletes at a better price.

-A shift in the competition season from mid-late January to late April eliminating the need for pre-season training outside of Canada maximizing our Alberta winter.

-Stronger long term athlete development with more time to focus on training both on and off snow

-Appropriate number of race starts per age category in competitive environments that delivers the appropriate level of intensity.

-Club cohort racing to begin no sooner than January 18 (exact date TBD)



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-PD and coach run (limited number of volunteers) events with wireless or hard wired timing should your club be set up to deliver hardwired timing. These events will have smaller fields which will lead to multiple starts per day per athlete which will provide the athletes with more volume on competition days and should result in a lower cost per event start

-Cooperative calendaring within club cohorts that will alleviate added stress on each resorts infrastructure.

-Multiple 1 day events with varied formats that are close to your home eliminating the need for hotel stays.

-Should things on the Covid front improve which we are all hopeful for and large gathering tolerances increase we will look to expand our club cohorts and/or host provincial events as we move into March and April. Longer days and warmer temperatures will allow all athletes and volunteers to stay outside which should mitigate our risk of over loading day lodges. We will keep tabs on government guidelines and the ski industry protocols and re-visit this option as we move forward.

-For the time being we will look to host our traditional spring events (EX: provincial finals and NG classics)

FIS Competition

FIS level racing is being explored on a regular basis with ACA and the other PSOs with all parties optimistic that we can put together a great domestic season of racing for our athletes in Canada. We must remain patient but optimistic about plan A which sees the start of FIS racing commencing in mid-December. As any information comes our way regarding the calendar all FIS clubs will be notified.

Cohort assignments

Clubs will be placed in logical cohorts in the fall once numbers are confirmed and ski area protocols/regulations are in place. The PDs and coaches will work together to organize competition scenarios for athletes in their respective age groups. Having the clubs coordinate competitions should see athletes racing at different host clubs on the same days alleviating the stress on the resorts.

Covid updates

We will stay on top of new information as it comes our way and will keep the lines of communication open as different opportunities present themselves.



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Cheers,

Gavin Preziosi
Provincial Program Director
Alberta Alpine Ski Association