

Jon Sassi Memorial Race Wax Recommendation



FROM Roger Knight of BNS:

Below please find my recommendation for the Jon Sassi Memorial Race. Let me know if you have any questions or I can help you or your team in any way. I also wanted to send a reminder about Jon and who he was. Thank you all for coaching and spreading the love of Nordic. It makes a difference every single day and many of us owe you a debt of gratitude for all you do.

Jon Sassi was a rival of mine in high school, way back in the day. He went to Rumford HS and later Mountain Valley HS, and was a good ski racer and a great kid from an incredible family. He was an integral part of the Rumford HS state championship team in 1989. That team beat our Mt. Blue Team, with at least four future Division 1 skiers, and the Fryeburg Academy Team that included Marcus Nash, a multiple time Olympian, by just a few points. My Dad is from Rumford, so I can say this, they were strong Rumford Mill town boys, tough as nails and competitive as all get out. At Mt. Blue we hated them but respected the heck out of them because they were coming to battle every single week. Jon was a year older than I, and he and I locked horns many times. He was not as brash as his teammates and myself were, but you knew you put on the bib with him when you were done racing. We would even shake hands every now and then, not something many of the Mt. Blue and Rumford crew did back then. Jon was in a car accident in the Spring of 1990 and was critically injured and ended up in a coma. Several months later he succumbed to his injuries on a hot day in early July.

My favorite Jon Sassi story is from the Telstar relays a few months before his accident. As usual, Mt. Blue and Rumford were in a battle and Jon and I were coming up the final hill with him holding a slight lead. I had tracked him down from behind, but he knew I was there. As I made my move to get by near the finish, Jon dove head first for the line. I'll never forget seeing it out of the corner of my eye and hearing the sound of equipment and body crashing as we crossed the line. Back then we didn't have the boot toe across rule, or maybe Western Maine kids just didn't know it, and Jon wanted it more than I did. **HE DOVE FACE FIRST!** Across the freaking finish line. I had never seen that before. I just looked at him and shook my head. The Seniors let me have it good when I got back

to the bus. That was the last time someone beat me at the line with a head first dive, that I can tell you with certainty.

So, that is the story of Jon Sassi as I know it, This race is a Memorial race for him and his father Joe who died in 2009 I believe. Originally though, it was a Memorial race for Jon. He was just like a lot of your kids on your teams nowadays, living his best life, a heck of a smile and a heck of a kid. I sure would appreciate it if you shared just a nugget of who Jon Sassi was with your teams. His legacy lives on in the race name, and I look forward to seeing who claims the crowns this year!!!!

Jon Sassi Race Wax Recommendation 2026

Weather from [noaa.gov](https://www.noaa.gov):

Partly cloudy, with a low around 0.

Friday Night

Sunny, with a high near 24.

Saturday

Discussion: This is looking like a hard wax day! It feels like it has been a bit since we had a hardwax Sassi. Should be a relatively easy kick day. Glide is looking like a colder wax to deal with the temperature, dryness of the snow and sharpness of the crystals. Everyone take a deep breath, this should be a fun day to wax and everyone should have great skis!

Glide:

For the Girl's race it is expected to be about 18-19F. Have some facetape on hand just in case that Rumford wind kicks up! A layer of Rode Graphite scraped and brushed well in this newer colder snow makes a huge difference. Next I would recommend Rode Blue R20 glide with Rode Violet R30 mixed in from the binding back. This temperature range is right in between a lot of waxes, and the Blue will deal well with the colder harsher crystals while the Violet from the binding back will help with acceleration as the snow melts travelling down the ski. Other options to think about: Swix PS6, Toko Base Performance Blue, Rex Blue. I do not think you will need a liquid on top, but it is worth testing Rode RL Cold and Swix PS6 day of race.

For the Boy's race it is expected to be around 22F. I would start with Rode Graphite scraped and brushed well. Then go to Rode R30 Violet. This is by far the best Violet

wax in the world and it isn't close. Should be mint at that temperature. I do not think you will need a liquid on top, but it is worth testing Rode RL Cold and Swix PS6 day of race.

For the Pursuit race it is expected to be around 23F. I would start with Rode Graphite scraped and brushed well. Then go to Rode R30 Violet. This is by far the best Violet wax in the world and it isn't close. Should be mint at that temperature. A liquid could make a difference by the afternoon, I would try the Rode RL Med. Swix PS7 or Rex G21G could also be in play.

Structure:

If you have the Holmenkol Cross Structure Tool(the Mouse) I would be using one roller and lightly rolling from the back of the binding to the tail 1-2 times. Otherwise no structure is needed in this weather.

Kick:

Ok folks so we have fresh new snow with sharp snow crystals here and what should be a fantastic classic track in most places. Most people will start by ironing in the night before a thin hardwax binder like Rode Base, Toko Green, or Swix VG30. Honestly if it was me I would skip the binder and iron in a layer of Rode Multigrade Blue, as that might be the race wax! Either way it is super easy to cover. Make sure no matter what you iron in the night before that when you get to the race you lightly cork it to give the wax structure so the next layer can bond to it easily. At the venue this would be my progression: Try Rode Multigrade Blue, try Rode Super Extra Blue, try Rode B310. Also Swix Extra Blue straight up could be the money call. For a cover I would guess right now Rode B310 or BV15 for the Boy's. Swix VP40 or 45 could be in play. Guru Violet or Extreme Hallgeir might be in the mix. Now, let's say none of these are quite enough grip for your team or the track gets a little of that glaze going....Rode Vario is the answer! Vario Green or Vario Blue might just straight up win the day. A LOT of college teams raced on that last weekend at Quarry Road. Easy to cover with B310 if necessary.