

NENSA U16 Championships

Maine Team Selection Info

Hello Skiers,

The Maine U16 Team Qualifier is fast approaching (Saturday, February 28th at Black Mountain). The qualifier is where the team to represent Maine at the New England U16 Championships will be selected. As a refresher, this season the U16 age category includes all skiers born in 1999 or 2000 (it doesn't matter if you turn 16 prior to the event, which is confusing). The 2015 New England U16 Championships will be March 13th-15th at the Fort Kent Outdoor Center so we'll be competing on home turf. This is a premier championship event hosted by the New England Nordic Ski Association and will feature the best U16 skiers from all over New England. In addition, The Fort Kent Outdoor Center is a world class competition facility so it should be a great experience for all those who attend. The events this year will include a 5k wave start freestyle on Friday, a 5k wave start classic in the morning and 1.2k wave start freestyle sprint in the afternoon on Saturday, and a 4 x 2.5k mixed relay (girl classic, boy classic, girl skate, boy skate) on Sunday. There will be individual awards for each event as well as overall individual awards for the skiers who collect the most points over the course of the weekend. The big prize, as always, is the team award. The state that collects the most points over the course of the weekend will take home the New England U16 title. I'm confident that we can take the title back from Vermont this year!

The Maine U16 team selection process will be as follows: the top 21 U16 girl finishers and top 21 U16 boy finishers at the Maine Team Qualifier will be selected to the Maine U16 team. If any of the top 21 skiers decline to attend U16 Championships we will then take the 22nd finisher and so-on until we have a full roster of 21 boys and 21 girls.

Anyone who thinks they might have a shot at making the team and who plans on attending New England U16 Championships if given the opportunity should come to the qualifier prepared to pay the non-refundable trip fee that day (bring a check!). Trip registration will be in the main lodge at Black Mountain directly following the team selection ceremony. The cost for the trip this year will be \$275/skier and includes all entry fees, food, lodging, wax, coaching, and transportation during the 3 days that we'll be up there. Checks should be made out to "Maine Nordic Team". Skiers will be responsible for transporting themselves to and from Fort Kent but we will have a bus to transport skiers around Fort Kent while we're there. NENSA membership is also required for all skiers attending U16 Championships and that fee is separate from the trip fee. You can register to become a NENSA member at www.nensa.net.

Maine Team Jackets:

All U16s who qualify for the Maine Team will have the opportunity to purchase a Maine Team Jacket if they so choose. It's not mandatory and the cost is not included in the U16 Championship trip cost. The jackets are \$100 and the check for those should be made out to "Maine Nordic Team". Any skiers who would like to purchase a jacket must do so at the time of the qualifier. Skiers will not have an opportunity to purchase jackets later in the season

because we're only making one order so please remember to bring an additional check to the qualifier if you think you might make the team and would be interested in ordering a jacket.

There will be more information to come following team selection. I hope everyone is getting excited for the big race. Stay focused on your training and we'll see you in one week at Rumford. Let's bring the U16 title back to Maine!

Please don't hesitate to shoot me an email if you have any questions.

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