



TECHNICAL PACKAGE FOR

PROVINCIAL CROSS-COUNTRY SKI EVENTS

ALBERTA CUP SERIES (TIER 2)

ALBERTA YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (TIER 3)

ALBERTA UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE SERIES (TIER 2)

PARA-NORDIC EVENTS (TIER 2 & 3)

POPULAR CROSS-COUNTRY EVENTS (LOPPETS) (TIER 3)

REGIONAL EVENTS

ALBERTA ROLLER SKI SERIES

2025-2026

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Introduction

This Technical Package document outlines the areas of responsibility for Nordiq Alberta (NA) member clubs bidding for and hosting provincial level cross country ski events, and the levels of service Nordiq Alberta will provide. The organization of such provincial events follows:

1. Nordiq Canada (NC) Rules and Regulations and annual revisions and updates (see NC website at <https://nordiqcanada.ca/document-centre/>). This includes:
 - a. [Nordiq Canada Race License Policy](#)
 - b. [Competition Sanctioning Policy](#)
2. [NC Officials Manual](#).
3. Where appropriate, Alberta provincial rule adaptations, which will be duly noted in this document and on the NA website, at <https://nordiqalberta.ca/officials/officials-resources/>.
4. This Technical Package outlines the requirements and responsibilities for Tier 2, Tier 3, and Club Event or Club Competitions. For complete understanding, the definitions of all Tier Events are below:
 - a. **Tier 1 Event:** An event that is multi-Divisional or national and primarily for the U20 and Open categories in the Learning to Compete-1 (L2C) to Train to Win (T2W) development stages. Designated racers earn FIS and CPL points. A Tier 1 event is sanctioned by FIS (Federation international de ski) and Nordiq Canada.
 - b. **Tier 2 Event:** An event that is Divisional and primarily for the Train to Train (T2T) to Learn to Compete 2 (L2C-2) development stages. Designated racers earn Canada Points List points. A Tier 2 event is sanctioned by Nordiq Canada and the Division.
 - i. Competition Committees follow the following minimum structure:
 - I. Technical Delegate – Level 2 Nordiq Canada Official appointed by the Division
 - II. Chief of Competition – Level 2 Nordiq Canada Official appointed by the OC
 - III. Third Jury member – Level 2 Nordiq Canada Official appointed by the Division
 - IV. Race Director – Optional appointed by the Division (when implemented it is usually filled by a divisional events/official staff member)
 - c. **Tier 3 Event:** A competition or event that is neither Tier 1 or Tier 2, is open to racers or participants who are not members of the host club, and for which more than \$5 per participant is collected. Tier 3 events may be primarily for the Fundamentals to T2T/L2C1 development stages, inter-club events, or participation-focused community or popular events. A Tier 3 event is sanctioned by the Division.

- To attempt to avoid conflict of dates for provincial events with other similar competitive events (including Biathlon events) in the Province and elsewhere.
- To plan for an event cancellation contingency, in case of adverse snow and weather conditions for other date(s) and location(s) for provincial events.
- To encourage provincial events be held by any NA member club. If required, NA will provide additional resources and assistance.
- To validate that a variety of trails across Alberta are suitable for Alberta Cup races.
- To plan Officials' Certification Courses in places where member clubs are hosting provincial events.

Provincial Events

Nordiq Alberta sanctions the following types of provincial cross-country ski events that provide opportunities for able-bodied and para-nordic skiers in all age group categories to compete at a provincial level year-round: the Alberta Cup Series, the Alberta Youth Championships, the Alberta University/College Series, Popular Cross Country Events (Loppets), and the Alberta Roller Ski Series. These are discussed in the following chapters.

Chapter One – Alberta Cup Series (Tier 2)

The Alberta Cup Series is the premiere tier 2 race series in Alberta. The annual series consists of six to ten races held over three to five weekends throughout Alberta. This series is aimed at skiers from U8 through to Masters (age 31 and older). The Alberta Cup Series is held in a spirit of friendly competition, but with sufficient formality and organization that a well-run, fair-for-all attitude is maintained.

Alberta Cup Races are open to all active members of NA clubs as well as skiers from other provinces holding NC Racing Licenses. Skiers from other countries holding equivalent international competitors' licenses and non-NA club members who purchase a day license (tier 2 license) are welcome to compete in Alberta Cups.

The overall winners of the Alberta Cup Series will be selected according to the rules outlined in this document and will receive recognition for their accomplishments. All Alberta Cup races are nationally sanctioned events, and thus results are forwarded to the National NC Office for entry into the Canada Points List (CPL). Only those racers who hold a NC Racing License will be given Canada Points. The NA Technical Committee will determine which Alberta Cups will be used for the selection of members to the Alberta Ski Team (AST) and Alberta Development Ski Team (ADST).

A. Provincial Regions and Zones

Provincial cross-country ski events are intended to be hosted in all regions of the Province. The expected snow conditions for the time of year that the races are scheduled will be considered. Generally, the province will be divided into three basic regions with reference to the Zones that are used for the Alberta Winter Games:

South (Zones 1, 2, 3): Calgary and Lethbridge, southeast to Medicine Hat and west to the Bow Valley (Canmore and Banff).

Central (Zones 4, 5, 6): Edmonton Capital Region north to Athabasca (but not including Athabasca), westwards to Edson, Hinton, and Jasper; and south to Red Deer.

North (Zones 7, 8): from Calling Lake north of and including Athabasca, including Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray, and eastwards to Vermilion and Lloydminster.

B. Age Categories

The age categories for all provincial events are outlined in the following table:

Alberta Cup Categories 2025/2026 Season

Category	Age/Year of Birth	Code
U8 (B/G)	Age 7 and younger (2018 or younger)	U8
U10 (B/G)	Age 8 or 9 (2017, 2016)	U10
U12 (B/G)	Age 10 or 11 (2015, 2014)	U12
U14 (B/G)	Age 12 or 13 (2013, 2012)	U14
U16 (B/G)	Age 14 or 15 (2011, 2010)	U16
U18 (B/G)	Age 16 or 17 (2009, 2008)	U18
U20(M/W)	Age 18 or 19 (2007, 2006)	U20
Senior (M/W)*	Age 20+ (2005 and older)	Senior
Masters I & II (M/W)	Age 30 to 39 (1986 to 1995)	M1,2/W1,2
Masters III & IV (M/W)	Age 40 to 49 (1976 to 1985)	M3,4/W3,4
Masters V & VI (M/W)	Age 50 to 59 (1966 to 1975)	M5,6/W5,6
Masters VII & VIII (M/W)	Age 60 to 69 (1956 to 1965)	M7,8/W7,8

Masters IX + (M/W)	Age 70+ (1955 and older)	M9+/W9+
Para Nordic Sit Ski	No age restrictions	
Para Nordic Standing	No age restrictions	
Recreational Category	No age restrictions	RM/RW/RNB*
University Series	No age restrictions	

* U23 (M/W) is a subcategory of Senior

*(M/W) Additional notes: Open Categories are created by combining U20 M/W with Senior (M/W) to increase the competitive field. Categories start and race together, but the results are split into original categories.

*RNB is a category for Non-Binary individuals to participate. This additional category has been introduced to allow gender diverse individuals to participate making cross country skiing a more inclusive sport.

C. Bid Submission and Selection

1. Any registered NA member club that is interested in hosting a NA sanctioned provincial event is eligible to submit a bid for the desired event.
2. The schedule of provincial events is developed by the NA Technical Committee in consultation with its member clubs, and includes dates, race technique, and relative distances (short, medium, long). It is within this schedule framework that bids will be requested by NA from its member clubs to host provincial events.
3. All bids presented to the NA Technical Committee to host a provincial event will be considered when all of the following items have been completed and included in the bid package.
 - a. Alberta Provincial Event Bid Form (See Appendix A)
 - b. Club Minutes, with an approved motion to place a bid and host a Provincial event. This motion must confirm that the club accepts the financial responsibility for the event including if canceled and accepts responsibility for operating the event in accordance with the NA Technical Package.
 - c. The event bid fee of \$25 per competition, an AB Cup weekend is typically two competitions with the exception of Alberta Youth Championships, which is three competitions.
 - d. A list of the members of the Organizing Committee with their position and contact information including email addresses.

- e. [Event Sanction Form](#) and corresponding fees will be paid to NC at the time of online registration.
4. Bids will be reviewed and determined by the NA Technical Committee and will be reported to the NA Board.
5. Any new site being proposed for a NA provincial event must meet the approval of the NA Technical Committee. New site sanctioning will be carried out by a Technical Delegate assigned by NA prior to the approval of the bid.
6. The Events and Organizing Committee will use a Bid Assessment Grid to evaluate bids (<https://nordiqalberta.ca/races/hosting-an-event/>). Please see Appendix A for the Bid Assessment Grid which includes a full explanation of the criteria used to review the bids. Please see Appendix A for the Alberta Provincial Event Bid Form.

D. NA Responsibilities & Services

1. Invitation and Scheduling
 - a. NA will draft a framework for the Events Schedule for the following season.
 - b. It is intended that the tentative first draft of the provincial racing schedule will be available in late spring, upon release of Nordiq Canada's (NC) national schedule for discussion among NA member clubs and ratified by the end of June.
 - c. By late spring, clubs can begin to submit bids for provincial (and national) events, and suggest a few dates for regional events to NA.
 - d. Starting in the month of June, NA will review the bids, and will select hosts for the provincial events. The most current Events Schedule will be presented at the NA Annual General Meeting with a finalized schedule (subject to organizing committee changes) being released no later than August 1.
 - e. NA reserves the right to change the dates of scheduled events up to the end of August, as some national and international events may require adjustments in the provincial schedule.
 - f. The schedule will be made available to the entire membership on the NA website once approved by NA.

2. Updates will be regularly posted on the NA website as new event information is available.
3. Assignment of Technical Delegates
 - a. NA will determine the assignments of the Technical Delegates for provincial events.
 - b. Technical Delegates will have current Level 3, 4, or 5 Official Certification.
 - c. For larger provincial events, an Assistant Technical Delegate who is a current Level 2 or higher official may be assigned.
 - d. For national events where provincial events may be included, NC will determine the assignment of the Technical Delegate team.
4. National Race Sanctioning: NA will liaise with NC to obtain appropriate sanctions for provincial (and national) events. The OC will pay the National Race Sanction Fees.
5. Technical Package:
 - a. The current tech package is posted on the NA website:
<https://nordiqalberta.ca/races/hosting-an-event/>
6. NA will take leadership in securing sponsorships for provincial event series (where possible).
7. Race Notice:
 - a. NA will assist in the preparation of the Race Notice with the host club. This may require a site visit by an NA representative or the assigned NA Technical Delegate (refer to Section F-4 for the components of the Race Notice).
 - b. Distribution of the Race Notice: Host club will submit a draft Race Notice for provincial races to NA 8 weeks in advance of the event for the purpose of providing opportunities to give event host feedback.
 - c. **The complete Race Notice should not be posted until it is approved by NA.** NA will review and provide feedback to the Host club within 6 weeks of the first scheduled event. The race notice will be posted in the *Nordic News*, on NA Social Media, and on the host club website.
8. Arrangements for Officials Certification Courses:
 - a. NA will support the host club to host a NA Level 2 Officials Certification Course. The host club has the lead role for course organization. Level 1

courses are offered online and up to the host club to ensure that volunteers have taken this course prior to the Level 2 certification course.

- b. The NA Race Director will arrange for a Course Conductor.
 - c. NA will reimburse the Course Conductor from outside the host community for travel expenses to and from the venue and will provide an honorarium. Accommodation, meals and travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the host club.
 - d. The Host Club will be responsible for the costs of the venue incidental expenses. NA will be responsible for creating and managing the registration for this course.
 - e. Communications: NA will assist the club with officials course promotion through referrals and the NA electronic newsletter *Nordic News*.
9. Coverage of expenses for the Technical Delegate:
- a. NA will reimburse the Technical Delegate for travel expenses to and from the venue from outside the community upon receipt of Technical Delegate report. Travel Expenses as per Nordiq Alberta's policy can be found on Page 11 of the [Finance Policy and Procedure](#).
 - b. The Host Club will reimburse the Technical Delegate for expenses accrued for transportation within the community to the venue, accommodations, and a stipend of \$65 per day for meals.
 - c. These provisions also apply to an Assistant Technical Delegate if appointed to the event.
 - d. In the event that an Alberta Cup is also part of a tier 1 race event, the NC Technical Package will be utilized ([Nordiq Canada Document Centre](#)).
10. Calculation of points (refer to Section J):
- a. Alberta Cup Points (individual and club).
 - b. Aggregate Points for University/College Championships.
 - c. NA will be responsible for posting updated cumulative results onto the NA website within 2 days of each competitive weekend.
11. Providing the NC office with race results.
12. Distribution of season-end results.

13. Distribution of the Final Report of the provincial event by the Technical Delegate to the host event Chief and NC.
14. Purchasing and Presentation of Awards:
 - a. NA will keep an inventory of individual provincial medals for the top three places of each category. The host club will purchase the medals from NA.
 - b. For the University and College Series, NA will provide an overall aggregate award to the top three places at the end of the season.
 - c. NA will purchase and present aggregate awards for the overall winners and will present these awards, annual trophies, and recognition awards at a NA season end event.
15. Optional Services: Should a host club require additional resources from outside their club to run the provincial event, NA may assist in the following areas:
 - a. Approach officials and volunteers of other member clubs to assist in areas that need additional resources.
 - b. Request assistance from competitors' families who may be attending the events.
 - c. Assign NA Staff to assist in such areas as Registration, Race Site Administration, and Results.
 - d. On an event specific basis, the host club and NA will identify and confirm in writing how revenue and costs will be allocated. This agreement will be completed in writing during the bid acceptance process.
16. NA will also assist with any other assistance required to the organizing committee as needed. See section F.

E. Host Club Responsibilities

The host club of a provincial event is expected to be responsible for the following:

1. Submit bids with supporting material (forms, meeting minutes and fees) by the specified dates.
2. Establish a Race Committee to plan and organize the event. Clubs are encouraged to start the planning process early and to find the primary people (chiefs) early. The Race Committee must include a minimum of Chief of Competition, Race Secretary, Chief of Course, and Chief of Timing. The Race Committee should also be able to provide enough volunteers.

3. Arrange for local sponsorships for financial support and value-in-kind services.
4. Prepare draft Race Notice and submit to the NA Office for approval **8 weeks prior to the event. All notices must receive the approval of NA prior to being released publicly 6 weeks prior to the event.**
5. Host NA Level 2 Officials Certification Course(s) as deemed necessary: reserve the venue for the Course, contact and encourage Club members to take the Course, and pay the following expenses for the Course Conductor (in-town transportation, meals, and accommodation). Ideally, the Club should consider providing some funding within their budget to support the certification and development of officials within their club. In addition to the cost of the course materials, the host club may charge each registrant official a fee to cover the costs of the venue, refreshments and any other incidental expenses.
6. It is suggested that the host club creates their own event information and send to NA to post on social media.
7. After confirmation of participant eligibility from *Zone4 Timing System* and input from NA, generate start lists.
8. Prepare appropriate course maps for distribution to competitors and coaches.
9. Arrange for the transport and use of the NA race management equipment trailer, if required, and return of equipment to the appropriate NA depot.
10. Ensure that all race materials (e.g. bibs, timing equipment) are available either through the Club or from other NA member clubs.
11. Ensure that the layout for the stadium provides for the recognition of NA and NC sponsors (tier 1 events only) and appropriate displays of local event sponsor banners.
12. Prepare a post-race summary and distribute such material to major news outlets, social media, websites and NA.
13. Provide and be responsible for the costs of accommodation, meals, and in-town transportation for the NA Technical Delegate and Assistant Technical Delegate assigned to the event.
14. Should the host club require additional resources from outside their club to run the provincial event, with the assistance of NA and its member clubs, the host club should set up a regional planning and operations committee to organize the event.

15. Awards (see Section H): The host club will purchase AB Cup medals from NA to ensure the consistency of the award product. NA will recognize the host club on the medal.

F. Event Organization

The following sections are included in this package to assist the host club in the planning, organization, and operation of a provincial event. Additional information is available in the Official Certification Course documentation.

1. Volunteer Requirements: The host club will recruit volunteers for the positions outlined in the NC Rules and Regulations and NC Officials Certification documentation.
2. Technical Delegate:
 - a. The Technical Delegate (TD) for each provincial event is a delegate of Nordiq Alberta to the host organizing committee and is the guarantor that the competition will be run according to NC Rules and Regulations and the Technical Package.
 - b. The TD will monitor and advise the event host committee on preparation and organization of the competition. The TD should preview the course and survey the stadium layout together with the Chief of Competition, Chief of Course, and Chief of Stadium on the day preceding the race and can make recommendations for changes needed. The TD must attend the Team Leaders / Coaches meeting and is the Chairperson of the Jury.
 - c. The TD must submit the NA Technical Delegate's Report on the particular provincial event to the host club with a copy sent to the NA Office within two weeks of completion of the event. The TD will report on their findings on activities and areas that need improvement to the respective technical committee(s).
 - d. Upon submission of the TD report, any expenses incurred by the TD will be reimbursed by NA and the host club as outlined above in Section D-11 respectfully.

3. Race Director:

- a. NA will appoint a Race Director who will be part of the jury.

4. Race Notice:

- a. In general, the following items should be included in the Race Notice:
 - i. Date(s) and location of the event
 - ii. Directions to the venue
 - iii. Early cancellation dates
 - iv. (if possible) Alternate date(s) and site(s) in the event of cancellation
 - v. Itinerary of significant dates/events
 - vi. Planned order in which categories will be racing for each day's races (subject to change per Section F-7)
 - vii. Time and location of Team Leaders / Coaches meeting
 - viii. Registration dates and fees
 - ix. Cancellation Policy and Procedures on fees and informing registrants
 - x. Food and beverage services
 - xi. Accommodation (Host Hotel(s) with telephone numbers)
 - xii. Waxing Services
 - xiii. Events by technique and distances for each age category
 - xiv. Awards
 - xv. Registration and Waiver Form
- b. The following waxing protocol must also be included on all race notices for provincial events (see Appendix B).
- c. The draft Race Notice should be submitted to the NA Office for approval **8 weeks prior to the event. All notices must receive the approval of the NA prior to being released publicly 6 weeks prior to the event.**

5. Race Registration & Fees

- a. Eligibility: Racers in the U14 and older race categories need one of the following race licenses:
 - i. U16+: A Nordiq Canada Licence
 - ii. U14: A Nordiq Canada Development Race Licence
 - iii. Tier 2 Event License purchased at the time of race registration
- b. Registration:
 - i. The Host Club and NA will determine how registrations and fees will be navigated. Generally, registrations and fees will be handled through the Host Club; if the club requires assistance in this area, then NA may assume the responsibility of handling registrations and fees.

- ii. It is required that the Host Club use the current electronic *Zone4 Timing System* for the facilitation of receiving registrations, fees and results. Registration must be made available online no later than three weeks prior to race weekend.
 - iii. The Host Club must receive completed race entry forms by the designated deadline on the Race Notice. Registration is recommended to be closed the Sunday prior to the event starting and cannot be earlier than 6 days prior to the official training day.
 - iv. Under no circumstances are bibs to be issued to racers who have not registered or paid by the noted deadlines.
- c. Fees:
- i. Entry fees for each age category will be determined by the Host Club and will include the NA Levy Fee (see c. ix below); however, fees prior to the registration deadline for Recreational, U8, U10, and U12 categories will not exceed \$25.00 per race. Fees for U14 and U16 categories will not exceed \$40 per race. Fees for U18, U20, Senior, Masters and Para-Nordic categories will not exceed \$45 per race.
 - ii. Applicable NC race license fees per tier will be applied by NC, through *Zone4 Timing System*.
 - iii. The Snow Enhancement Fee contributes to the snow making/storage program run by NA in partnership with NC and other contributing funders at the Canmore Nordic Centre. It allows access to all members of NA and ensures guaranteed training and events can occur including the AB Cup Race Series. Snow Enhancement Fees of \$5 per race for U14 athletes and older and \$2.50 per race, per U12 athlete and younger, will be collected by the Host Club, for events hosted at the Canmore Nordic Centre in November and December. It is the responsibility of the Host Club to charge this fee on their registration and the Host Club will then be invoiced by NA.
 - iv. Any other optional Snow Enhancement Fees, after this time may have a charge of \$5 per event weekend per athlete for U14 and older and \$2.50 for U12 and younger to help offset snowmaking costs only, for the host club.
 - v. The Host Club must receive the race entry fees by the designated deadline on the Race Notice prior to the weekend of competition. Entries after the registration deadline are recommended to be handled by the OC as they see fit.
 - vi. The Host Club may add other fees for a banquet or other ancillary activities.
 - vii. All competitors (parent or legal guardian) must individually sign an event waiver form for each race.
 - viii. Entry Fee Refund - Race Cancellation under Section 6.
 - ix. The NA Levy Fee goes toward the costs associated with coordinating the entire provincial event series. Levy fees will be calculated based on the

Official Results received by the NA representative after the event, which includes all finishers and competitors that ‘Did Not Finish’ (DNF). The Levy will not be charged for competitors that ‘Did Not Start’ (DNS). Levy fees will be collected by NA through the Host Club as follows:

NA Provincial Event Levy Fee	
Categories	AB Cup/University/College Series
U8	\$0.00
U10	\$0.00
U12	\$0.00
U14	\$5.00
U16	\$5.00
U18	\$5.00
U20	\$5.00
Senior / U23	\$5.00
All Master Groups (31 and older)	\$5.00
Para Nordic Categories	\$5.00
Recreational	\$0.00

6. Race Cancellation & Reallocation of Venue and Date(s)

The cancellation of provincial events will be according to the following conditions and procedures:

- a. Lack of snow or unsafe conditions:
 - i. Cancellation of an event due to lack of snow or unsafe conditions may be made as early as eight days before the event by the Chief of Competition, Chief of Course, and the Technical Delegate. NA must be informed of the decision.
 - ii. The moving of the site because of the aforementioned conditions is determined by the Chief of Competition in consultation with the Technical Delegate and NA no later than the Sunday prior to the scheduled event.
- b. Weather conditions, in accordance with NC Rules and Regulations:

- i. Cancellation of an event in the case of forecasted cold may be made as early as three days before the start of the event (the start of the event being the day of Official Training) by the Chief of Competition and Technical Delegate, and NA must be informed of the decision.
 - ii. If there are unforeseen weather conditions and cold weather is forecasted the day before or during the event, the Jury may delay the start time or shorten the race distances.
- c. If an event is canceled, either in whole or in part, the Host Club will refund all fees paid by participants at 100% less the percentage which reflects incurred costs plus 20%. Incurred costs, received revenue, and determined refund percentage will be submitted to NA within 3 days of cancellation. NA will confirm the refund percentage to be paid participants.
- d. In the case of a cancellation, options the Host Club can consider include:
- i. Try to find an alternate site and / or Host Club for the rescheduled date; or
 - ii. The same venue for another date; or
 - iii. Another venue for another date.

7. Cold Temperature

- a. -15.0°C cut off for U8, U10, U12, U14 and Recreational categories.
- b. -20.0°C for all other categories as per NC rule 315.9. With air temperature below - 20.0°C, (temperature measured at the coldest point of the course and without wind factor), and competition distances less than or equal to 15 km, the Jury must postpone or cancel the competition. With any difficult weather conditions (e.g. strong winds, high air humidity, heavy snow, icy track conditions) at any air temperature, the Jury may, in consultation with the Team Leaders of the participating teams, be responsible for the competition, postpone, cancel or shorten the competition.
- c. Events for younger age groups to be held during the warmest part of the day.
- d. If a race is canceled due to cold (day of race cancellation), race organizers should make best efforts to provide an alternate ski activity for various age groups, e.g. Easy ski together.

8. Team Leaders / Coaches Meeting(s)

- a. The first Team Leaders / Coaches meeting is to be held the evening prior to the competition event at a location or online which is specified in the Race Notice. The meeting is chaired by the Chief of Competition, and attended by the Chief of

Course, Chief of Stadium, Competition Secretary, Technical Delegate, Race Director and Team Leaders and Coaches.

- b. Among the items to be presented and discussed are:
 - i. weather report
 - ii. course description and map(s)
 - iii. stadium lay-out
 - iv. changes in distances and courses from the Race Notice, due to weather and snow conditions
 - v. selection of the Jury as per the NC Rules and Regulations
 - vi. starting procedures and finalized starting order
 - vii. protest procedure
 - viii. award presentations
 - ix. banquet and special event plans
 - x. subsequent meeting(s)
 - xi. The draw, bib pick-up, and start lists

- c. The draw may, with the approval of the Technical Delegate, be made by the computer at any time between the deadline for registration and the Team Leaders / Coaches meeting. If a manual draw is being made, this must be done at the Team Leaders / Coaches meeting. After the meeting, any changes to the race format (distances, start times, cancellation) can be made only with the approval of the Jury.

9. Race Techniques and Formats

- a. NA will determine in consultation with the host club the race techniques, formats, and distances for the race event and include them in the NA Events Schedule.

- b. The race techniques can be Classic Technique or Free Technique. Race formats may include the following: sprints, pursuits, sprint relays, mass starts, individual starts, and/or team relays.

- c. If safety conditions warrant, a last-minute race technique, format, or distance change is acceptable with the approval of the Jury.

10. Distances

The following table is a guideline for the Host Club to determine the appropriate distance for each age category and race technique.

NA Distance Table for Provincial Events		
Category	Classic/Free - km	Sprint - m
U8 (B/G)	0.5 to 1.0	100-200 (Skills)*
U10 (B/G)	1.0 to 1.5	100-200 (Skills)*
U12 (B/G)	1.5 to 3.0	200-300 (Skills)*
U14 (B/G)	3.0 to 5.0	300-400
U16 (B/G)	5.0 to 10	600 - 1000
U18 (B/G)	5.0 to 15	600 - 1000
U20 (M/W)	5.0 to 15	600 -1000
U23 (M/W)	5.0 to 15	600 - 1200
Senior M/W 23 and older	5.0 to 20	600 - 1200
Masters M/W	5.0 to 20	600 - 1200
Recreational	1.0 to 5.0	N/A
Para Nordic Sit Ski	1.0 to 10	500-1000
Para Nordic Standing	5.0 to 20	600-1200
Para Nordic Visually Impaired	5.0 to 20	600-1200

* Ladder Format non-elimination or obstacle skills course (see Appendix C)

- a. The information for this guideline is based on suggestions received from coaches, team leaders, and associations at the division, national and international level.
- b. The NA Technical Committee will provide the framework for the relative distances for provincial events during the season.
- c. The NA representative and the Technical Delegate will review the distances submitted by the Host Club, and with the input from the NA will decide with the Host Club the final distances to be included in the Race Notice.
- d. Distances generally start shorter and increase over the season.

11. Starting & Seeding Procedures

- a. Starting
 - i. The Host Club will establish and produce the Start Lists when all race entries are received, with fees.
 - ii. Under no circumstances are bibs to be issued without fees being paid and signed race entry forms received.
 - iii. U8, U10 and U12 categories will start in the middle of the day when the temperatures are the warmest.
 - iv. The types of starts by category shall be: individual starts; mass starts or pursuit starts.
 - v. For group / mass starts, categories may be combined if the number of entries in certain categories is low. For Classic and Free Technique races, either individual starts or mass starts may be used in accordance with NC Rules and Regulations. Where both Classic and Free Techniques are used over a two- or three-day race schedule, one race is encouraged to be a mass start and one race an individual start.
 - vi. Starts for Pursuit type races and Sprint Heats must be in accordance with NC Rules and Regulations.

- b. Seeding
 - i. Seeding for provincial events will be done using the following criteria:

Category	1st Priority	2nd Priority
U16 and Older	CPL Points	Random draw (if no CPL pts)
U14's	AB Cup Points	Random draw (if no AB Cup pts)
U12 and younger	Always random draw	

12. Timing

- a. The Host Club is expected to use *Zone4 Timing System* electronic timing at their expense.
- b. U8, U10, Recreational, and at times U12 categories may not require timing depending on the race format.

13. Ladder Race Format

- a. A timed sprint qualifier at 15 second starts will be used to determine the four to six person heats, fastest to slowest.

- b. Top 2 from each heat go into the faster group for the next heat (top 1 for four-person heats). Middle 2 from each heat are grouped together and the slowest 2 (slowest one for four-person heats) from each heat together.
- c. Genders can be combined to maximize fields when registered athlete numbers are low.

G. Results

1. Alberta Cup Individual Points Calculations

Alberta Cup points will be awarded to all Alberta registered skiers in only the U14 and older categories for overall aggregate awards based on the following point system:

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Points	100	95	90	85	80	75	72	69	66	63
Place	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Points	60	58	56	54	52	50	48	46	44	42
Place	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Points	40	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22
Place	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Points	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
Place	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Points	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

- a. Point calculations for sprint races will use the qualifier result.
- b. Point calculations will be updated and posted on the NA website within two days of each Alberta Cup event.
- c. A relay can be part of the Alberta Cup Series, but points will not be awarded in Individual Points Calculations; however, relay points will be calculated for club Team Points (see G2a below).
- d. Skiers will be given race points for each category in which they compete with all points going towards the aggregate total in the skiers Year Of Birth (YOB) category. In the event an AB Cup is a selection race where an athlete is required to race up a category to be considered for selection their points will be added to their aggregate in their YOB category.

2. Alberta Cup Club Team Points Calculations

- a. Alberta Cup Club Team points will be awarded per category, and then all Alberta Cup categories will be added for overall Club Team points.
- b. All points for the categories, including relay points, will be added together to determine the total for each club.
- c. 1st place is based on the highest combined score of a team.
- d. Overall club points do not negate placing or Alberta Cup points for the individual skier.

3. Aggregate Points Calculations

- a. Aggregate points are calculated according to 6-4 rule for 9 or 10 races; the 5-3 rule for 7 or 8 races; or the 4-3 rule for 5 or 6 races, where the first number of the rule refers to the maximum number of race results to be used and the second number refers to the minimum number of races that a skier must complete to be eligible to receive an aggregate award. If only 4, 3, 2 or 1 race (s) are / is held, then the rule becomes a 3-2, 2-2, 2-1 or 1-1 rule respectively.

4. Posting - available on *Zone4 Timing System*

- a. Official results are to be posted with year of birth included.
- b. For the Alberta Cup categories, the results **MUST** include the Category, Bib #, NC License number (if applicable), club name, first name, last name and all appropriate records of performance.
- c. The official results (i.e., signed by the assigned Technical Delegate) will be given to the NA representative prior to leaving the competition site on the last day of each competitive weekend.
- d. NA will be responsible for posting results onto the NA web site within two days after each competitive weekend.

H. Awards

The intent is to provide a wider and more inclusive recognition of participation and performance particularly for younger age groups.

1. Individual Awards

- a. U8/U10/U12 - Participation award for all racers.
 - b. U12/U14/U16 - Year of Birth medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
 - c. U18 and older – category medals for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
 - d. The medals are to be awarded to the respective winners, regardless of their division or country of origin. In addition, tangible prizes may be awarded.
 - e. Medals and tangible prizes for each Alberta Cup are at the expense of the Host Club. NA will provide the medals for the clubs. Individual club recognition will be provided on the medals.
 - f. Additional prizes and/or special awards are left to the discretion of the Host Club.
 - g. Event organizers are encouraged to present awards or prizes not tied to performance, e.g. best effort, technique, sportsmanship, youngest and oldest competitors.
 - h. In cases of ties, both participants will be awarded equally for that position, with the remaining positions receiving a medal. (Example: should there be a tie for 2nd, the awards would be 1, 2, 2, etc.).
2. Club Awards
- a. Club Team Awards: Club awards will be presented at the end of each season.
 - b. The Alberta Cup Club Awards will be presented to the clubs which accumulated the most aggregate points.
3. Overall Alberta Cup Series
- a. Individual awards for the overall 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place skiers in each Alberta Cup category will be awarded and presented by NA based on overall Alberta Cup points, as calculated according to the stated rules.
 - b. Champions in each Alberta Cup category, for which there is a NA trophy, will be presented at the AGM.
 - c. Other recognition will be provided through various publications, the NA electronic *Nordic News*, and the NA website (www.nordiqalberta.ca/)

Chapter Two – Alberta Youth Cross Country Ski Championships (Tier 3)

The Alberta Youth Championships (AYC) are held annually on one weekend (2-3 races) for skiers in the U12 and U14 categories. The Alberta Youth Championships aims to be the focal point of the competitive season for U12 and U14 age athletes. The focus of AYC is to be one of the first ‘team’ trips for younger athletes. The Alberta Youth Championships should be on a separate weekend and should not be integrated into the same weekend as an Alberta Cup. Preference will be given to host clubs who can offer a camp style event where food services and accommodations are included.

Club banners are a focal point for the event. Points are awarded for each finisher from each club. Host clubs can choose to recognize individual overall champions as well. If this is done, it will be done by year of birth and are the skiers with the highest aggregate total of all such races. Alberta Youth Champions will then be designated for all categories. Individual medals for each race shall be awarded for the top ten places in each and every participating category.

Alberta Youth Championships race distances will align with the race distances as stated in NA Distance Table for Provincial events in Section 9 Distances.

A. Sanctioning

The Alberta Youth Championships is an official Nordiq Alberta sanctioned tier 3 event.

B. Eligibility

1. The age categories are U14 boys, U14 girls, U12 boys, and U12 girls.
2. A participant in this event must ski for one team only.
3. The Championships are open to individuals that are not affiliated with a club.
4. Skiers may only enter in one age category for the duration of the event. When a skier registers initially, they can move up an age category, but not down.

C. Banquet

1. A banquet or social event is encouraged.

D. Draw

1. There is no seeding for this event - a random draw will be used; however, if a Mass Start or Wave Start is held on Day 2, start order will be based on finish results from Day 1. A random draw will be used for the relay.

E. Team Leaders / Coaches Meeting

1. It is the responsibility of the organizers to ensure the event notice carries most of the necessary information coaches will need, and that start lists for the first day are available on *Zone4 Timing System* and at the race site the day before.
2. It is the responsibility of the race organizer to provide all the information that is necessary for the team leaders / coaches, including the start maps, course maps and race bibs.

F. Course Inspection

1. The competition courses must be properly groomed and marked for inspection by the skiers/coaches the afternoon prior to the first event. The course marking for the first day of competition should be clearly marked out. It is very important that the courses are marked correctly. A course map displayed in the stadium area is not sufficient.
2. It is imperative the site be prepared in advance.

G. Start and Results List

1. Electronic *Zone4 Timing System* must be used.
2. Both start and results list must include the name of each athlete's home club.
3. The start list should be posted on *Zone4 Timing System* no later than noon on Friday before the event. It should also be available at the race site no later than Friday afternoon.
4. In addition to full results postings on *Zone4 Timing System*, the technique awards and the aggregate team points should be posted on the host club or event website as soon as possible following the event.

H. Timekeeping

1. A recognized electronic timing system must be used.

I. Awards for Interval Start, Sprint and Relay Events

1. Awards will be given to the top 10 finishers in each category for the individual races. The top three teams will be awarded medals in the team category.
2. The host club purchases the medals from Nordiq Alberta.

J. Team/Club Aggregate Banner

1. Alberta Youth Championships Individual Points Calculations

Points to the overall winners of the Alberta Youth Championships will be awarded to all Alberta registered skiers in each class (U12 and U14) for each race based on the following point system:

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Points	100	95	90	85	80	75	72	69	66	63
Place	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Points	60	58	56	54	52	50	48	46	44	42
Place	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Points	40	38	36	34	32	30	28	26	24	22
Place	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Points	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
Place	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Points	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

2. Two Club aggregate banners will be awarded to the teams with the most points based on the above table. Points will be calculated only for individual and official relay events. One banner for clubs with more than 20 participants, and the other for clubs up to 20 participants.
3. NA will provide the banners for this event.

K. Ski Licenses

1. Alberta Youth Championships are a Tier 3 event, therefore, all participants are required to hold a Tier 3 Event License.
2. This license is issued by the organizing committee under Nordiq Canada's authority. The license is only valid for the competition day for which it is issued. The license holder must sign the Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement.
3. This license is required of all participants in a Tier 3 event, regardless of whether they hold a Nordiq Canada Race License, Development License, or Associate Race License.

L. Race Format and Technique

1. NA encourages classic technique and skate techniques. One of the races must be an interval start, others may be wave or mass start. There is also a four to six person relay. The length of the relay is dependent on the trail layout of the host club venue. Ideally, the race length should be approximately 1km.

M. Registration Fees

1. Event organizers are encouraged to keep their entry fees as low as possible to encourage participation. NA will charge a levy fee of \$3.00 per participant to offset their costs of the event.

N. Technical Advisor

1. A Technical Adviser will be appointed by NA. NA staff will be available to help consult if needed.

Chapter Three – Alberta University/College Series (Tier 2)

The Alberta University/College Series will be integrated into the Alberta Cup Series and Loppet series when available resources and criteria are met. Awards will be handed out to the

overall aggregate winners for the top three male and female skiers attending Alberta Universities and Colleges. The series champions will be awarded at a year-end event.

A. Preface

Nordic skiing is defined in sport science as a late peak performance (Smith, 2003) which infers prolonged progressive overload of no more than 5 % annually. The mean age of maturation for a nordic skier to reach their individual biological development capacity is upwards of 20 years of sport specific training (Solli, 2017). The University years are often cited as important in the development of athlete characteristics where a complimentary balance of training overload can be combined with scholastic activities. This balance holds true for Nordic skiing and should be supported as a primary tenet of skier development within the development pathway. With this aim the Alberta Colleges and University Cup Series is an integral part of skier development in Alberta.

B. Purpose

Provide a dedicated points series for University and College students attending a recognized post-secondary institution in the province of Alberta. The series recognizes:

1. the demands of full time postsecondary studies by providing a series that does not conflict with periods of high student stress.
2. the financial obligations of pursuing post-secondary studies and thus aims to provide a series that is a combination of reasonable travel, minimal accommodation, and lower cost race registration fees.
3. the importance of social inclusion and sharing of the student experience thus the series aims to also provide opportunities to socialize and race in student only team events.

C. Eligibility

Student athletes who are registered at an Alberta post-secondary institution taking a minimum of three 3 credit courses per term (term 1 Sept 1 - Dec 31 and term 2 Jan 1 - April 30). All student athletes must complete the student registry form to be eligible for individual as well as team points.

All racers need one of the following race license:

1. U16+: A Nordiq Canada Licence

2. Tier 2 Event License purchased at the time of race registration.

D. Points

Individual Aggregate:

1. The Points System will follow the Alberta Cup points system.
2. The overall individual aggregate winner for both male and female will be the athlete with the most Alberta Cup points.
3. University athletes need to be entered in either U20 Men/Women or Senior Men/Women.
4. Awards will be presented to the top 3 individuals and top schools at the end of the season.
5. An overall School ranking will take the top 3 males and top 3 females from each school from the aggregate Alberta Cup total points.

Chapter Four – Para-Nordic Race Guidelines

* Taken directly from Nordiq Canada's Para-Nordic Race Event Guidelines.

Consideration for accessibility to the race course is essential and needs to be thought out in advance. Contacting NA staff for direction is suggested. Race courses should also be reviewed well in advance with the NA race director and the TD/TA to discuss appropriate homologation/terrain to accommodate athletes in the following categories.

A. Visual Impairment/Blind (B1-B3)

Guides: The role of the guide is to be responsible for the safety of the visually impaired competitor. They may lead or follow the visually impaired competitor in the same track or ski alongside the parallel track.

The guide has to be treated as a competitor with respect to all rules governing.

1. For B1 athletes, a guide is obligatory. For B2 and B3 athletes, a guide is also allowed. A competitor may change guides if the guide has an accident or cannot keep up.
2. The guides wear a yellow/orange bib printed with a "G" meaning the word "Guide" or other forms of identification.

3. Guiding must be by voice only. Radio communication between guide and competitor is accepted. The guide can also use an amplifier. No other means of communication is allowed. The amplifier must not disturb other competitors.
4. Excessive music or noise at the start line can create confusion.

Start Line

1. Most athletes will not see the starting clock. It is always good practice for the starter to inform the athlete of the time frame before the gun. Usually placing a hand on the athlete's shoulder and lifting the hand when "0". This is only used when there is no start wand, otherwise there is no contact.
2. The competitor must have his feet behind the start line and remain stationary before the starter gives his starting commands. The poles remain stationary and should be placed over the starting line and/or starting gate.
3. The athlete must be behind the start wand but the guide can be in front, beside or following the athlete.
4. There are no set distance requirements for the guide in front of the start wand and their athlete.

Finish Line

1. For all B classes the clock will be started and stopped as the competitor and not the guide crosses the line. The time of the guide must not be recorded. The guide does not need to cross the finish line in front of the athlete.
2. Guides are allowed to cross the finish line in front of the athlete. They are the ones that will advise the athlete when to stop and how to avoid potential hazards at the finish line such as other athletes lying on the ground.
3. It is important for the finish line area to be clear of coaches or volunteers. Leave sufficient stopping space at the finish line.

Holding Zones (ONLY athletes with visual impairments are allowed holding zones)

1. Holding zones for B competitors shall be determined by the Jury and be marked clearly with visible signs/flags in contrasting colours for the beginning (green) and ending (red) zones.
2. Holding zones are created for safety reasons, the guide is allowed to hold a Class B athlete (one arm or one pole) on certain sections of the track, which shall be clearly marked.

3. No physical contact between guides and athletes with a visual impairment is allowed during the race except holding zones. It is forbidden to hold on, to hold up or pull the competitor even on the downhill sections. After a fall a guide or a marshal may hand him his skis and/or poles.

Track

1. When athletes are integrated it is important that the able-bodied skiers are informed not to pass in-between the guide and the athlete.
2. Should a visually impaired competitor wish to change his wax during a race due to changing snow conditions, the guide may apply the wax.
3. Once the competitors enter a zone where corridors are marked the athlete and the guide must ski in the same corridor.

B. Standing (LW2-9)

Standing category skiers must abide by the same rules as the able-bodied race events with some minor exceptions.

1. Waxing, scraping or cleaning of the competitor's skis during the competition is forbidden. Exception: in classical technique competitions competitors may scrape their skis to remove snow and ice and add wax if necessary. The competitor must do this outside the track without help from any other people. It is not allowed to place branches, tools or materials on or adjacent to the groomed course.
2. Should an LW5/7 (impairment in both upper arms, does not use poles) athlete wish to change his wax during a race due to changing snow conditions, they can be supported by a team official that may apply the wax.
3. In the case of any ski exchange, the competitor must do it outside the track. The athlete can be supported by a team official.

Start Line

1. The competitor must have his feet behind the start line and remain stationary before the starter gives his starting commands. The poles remain stationary and should be placed over the starting line and/or starting gate.

C. Sit Ski (LW10-12)

Start Line

1. Sit skiers may not know when they are cold. It is important to ensure they have an area to stay warm prior to a race. Blankets are also a good idea to have on hand or those that are in line waiting to race.
2. The competitor must have his feet/chest behind the start line and remain stationary before the starter gives his starting commands. The poles remain stationary and should be placed over the starting line and/or starting gate.

Track

1. Fallen competitors in the LW 10-12 classes may be brought back to the track by official help. They have to re-enter the race at the same place.
2. If a sit skier has fallen on course, they need to ask for assistance before an official can assist them back up.
3. If a sit skier is going uphill, stops and starts moving backwards, the official (official, staff, team support) CAN stop the sit skier by placing a leg or hand behind the sit skier. The sit skier MUST continue on their own steam/propulsion. The official is NOT allowed to push the sit skier once they are back in position.
4. LW10-12 athletes are not allowed to use one or both of their legs to steer or brake the sledge during competition.
5. In the case of any ski exchange, the competitor must do it outside the track. The athlete can be supported by a team official.

Other

1. Para-Nordic skiers can be integrated into the able bodied race events. It is important that they race the correct distance for their category, not the age range.
2. There is the possibility of an athlete having a hearing impairment with or without having another disability. Other means of communication may be needed such as an interpreter or simply that the starter may need to place a hand on the athlete's shoulder.
3. Athletes with a hearing impairment are not classified under Para-Nordic skiers. Meaning that they can race with able-bodied skiers.
4. Wax testing and warming up on the ski competition course must always be done in the competition course direction. Anyone testing skis on the competition course must consider the safety of others on the course and the course preparation. Electronic timing devices used for testing skis will not be allowed on the course during the competition.

Examples that can lead to disqualifications

1. An athlete participates in the competition under false pretenses (e.g. wrong bib number)
2. The athlete either jeopardizes the security of persons or property or actually causes injury or damage
3. The athlete does not ski the entire marked course
4. The athlete violates the use of correct technique (unless specified by their classification that they can only classic ski in a free technique race)
5. The athlete intentionally causes obstruction

Nordiq Canada and Nordiq Alberta abide by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) rules and regulations.

For more information visit the IPC Nordic Skiing website:
www.paralympic.org/NordicSkiing/RulesandRegulations/Rules

Chapter Five – Popular Cross-Country (Loppet) Events (Tier 3)

A. Purpose:

A Tier 3 Event is one that is neither Tier 1 nor Tier 2, open to racers or participants who are not members of the host club, and for which more than \$5 per participant is collected.

Popular cross-country competitions are organized for the enjoyment of all participating competitors. Because these competitions involve competitors with a wide range of experience and ability, good sportsmanship and courtesy toward other competitors is essential.

B. NA Role in Loppet Events

Loppet events are organized by local clubs in each region. A Tier 3 event is sanctioned by Nordiq Alberta.

C. Categories

Each region develops their own race formats that best meet the needs of their event and the participants. As the goal of Loppet events is to encourage mass participation in cross country skiing and provide skiers with a competition format focused on participants having a positive ski experience categories can be defined by the organizing committee.

D. Technical Adviser

A Technical Adviser will be appointed by NA. NA staff will be available to help consult if needed.

E. Race Cancellation

The cancellation of Loppet events will be at the discretion of the Technical Adviser, Jury and the Organizing Committee:

F. Cold Temperature

Weather conditions, in accordance with NC Rules and Regulations:

Between -15 and -25C,

If the temperature level is forecast to be between minus 15° and minus 25° C at any point on the course, recommendations regarding cold weather protection should be made available to the participants. Under such conditions it is the responsibility of the participants to seek the information and to follow the recommendations given by the organizer.

Minus 25° C and below

If the temperature in a major portion of the course is -25C or below, the competition shall be delayed or canceled.

Excerpts from NC Rules & Regulations

G. Ski Licenses

As this is a NC Tier 3 event, NC will require a tier 3 license. This license is issued by the organizing committee under Nordiq Canada's authority. The license is only valid for the competition day for which it is issued.

The license holder must sign the Informed Consent and Assumption of Risk Agreement. This license is required of all participants in a Tier 3 event, regardless of whether they hold a Nordiq Canada Race License, Development License, or Associate Race License.

Chapter Six - Regional Events

A. Purpose:

Regional events are important development events for young skiers to transition from club events to Alberta Cup and Alberta Youth Championships events.

B. Categories

Regional events will develop their own race formats that best meet the developmental needs of young athletes. As the goal of regional events is to provide developmentally positive introductions to racing events, the categories are recommended as follows:

- Single year categories
- Novice and experienced skier categories for each single year category

Chapter Seven – Roller Ski Series

The Roller Skiing Series is new to Alberta. Taking Roller Skiing beyond summer training and bringing it into a competitive arena. Reach out to Nordiq Alberta at info@nordiqalberta.ca to host a Rollerski Event.

APPENDIX A

NA Provincial Event Bid Form

See form available from NA website (**NA - Host Bid Form link here**)

<https://nordiqalberta.ca/races/hosting-an-event/>

APPENDIX B

Alberta Cup Wax Protocol

Nordic Alberta respectfully requests all coaches, athletes, wax technicians, and parents to abide by a self-governed protocol while waxing skis for identified races taking place in Alberta. This also applies to coaches, athletes, wax technicians, and parents traveling to Alberta from out-of-province or out-of-country.

Waxing protocol:

- Structure tools ARE permitted.
- Non-fluoro (NF) waxes ARE permitted.
- Fluorinated waxes or tuning products containing fluorine liquid are **NOT** permitted at Alberta Cups for **ALL** age categories. This includes all types of fluorinated glide wax (e.g., LF, HF, block, powder, liquid, or kick wax).

Occasionally an Alberta Cup may be run in conjunction with a FIS Cup, NorAm, or other FIS sanctioned event. For more information on the Nordiq Canada Fluoro Policy, click here:

<https://nordiqcanada.ca/coaches-and-wax-techs/wax-techs/wax-tech-resources/>

A pilot universal glide wax protocol will be trialed in the 2025/2026 season at a pre-designated AB Cup race weekend. The NA Technical Committee will provide guidelines for these changes in the chosen event race notice.

APPENDIX C

Alternate event formats for U8/U10 categories

In accordance with the Nordiq Canada LTAD competition guidelines we strongly recommend a more relaxed competition format for the U8 and U10 categories to promote greater inclusion and confidence in young skiers with little to no emphasis on end results and extrinsic motivators such as medals and ribbons. Host clubs may get creative with the courses and formats to make use of available terrain and features. Since timing and results are not required (or recommended) for these categories, organizers should focus on designing an event focused on fun challenges that develop skier young skiers' balance, skill and agility. Conventional awards are also unnecessary. Instead, participation awards and other creative awards should be considered.

Course Recommendations

Clubs can create courses including rollers, bicycle bumps, small drops or other terrain park type snow features. If such preparation is not possible, it is entirely acceptable to add temporary obstacles such as slalom gates, duck-through gates, or creatively use v-boards to ensure kids need to do a lot of zig-zagging and balancing activities. Zones of the course can even be designated as “backwards ski zones” or “1 leg only zones”. These should be simple to add to existing courses so the kid’s events can be held between other races in the warmest part of the day.

Racing Formats

Racing formats that allow for a fun team atmosphere are encouraged. Organizers should consider which formats are feasible in the available course. These may include:

- Mass start
- Mixed relay
- Ladder Format Sprints
- Legs only races
- Freestyle only for U8s

Mixed relays are a highly recommended format. Relay teams should be created by the organizers with the goal of intermixing participants of different clubs to promote new connections and friends. Although difficult, some effort should be made to ensure that there is no “super-star” or highly disadvantaged team.