

Maine U16 Team Selection

Hello Skiers,

Sassi Memorial Classic is fast approaching (January 31st at Black Mountain) and with it the selection of the team to represent Maine at New England U16 Championships. 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). This year 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 24 U16 girl finishers and top 24 U16 boy finishers at Sassi Memorial Classic will be selected to the Maine U16 team. If any of the top 24 skiers decline to attend the U16 Championships we will take the 25th finisher and so-on until we have a full roster of 24 boys and 24 girls.

Anyone who thinks they might have a shot at making the team and who plans on attending New England U16 Championships in that event should come to Sassi prepared to pay the trip fee that day. Trip registration will be in the main lodge at Black Mountain directly following the Sassi award 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.

There will be much 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 two weeks 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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