

2018 NENSA U16 Championships

Maine Team Selection Info

Hello Skiers,

The Maine U16/Eastern High School qualifier is fast approaching (Saturday, March 3rd 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 2002 or 2003 (it doesn't matter if you turn 16 prior to the event, which is confusing). This year New England U16 Championships will be March 9th-11th at Gore Mountain in North Creek, New York. 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, Gore Mountain is a fantastic 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 1.25k Nordic-cross Sprint in the afternoon on Saturday, and a 4 x 3.5k mixed relay (girl classic, boy classic, girl skate, boy skate) on Sunday. The Nordic-cross is an entirely new event that is similar to the sprint but features various obstacles that skiers have to negotiate so it should be exciting! 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 the U16/Eastern High School qualifier will be selected to the Maine U16 team. If any of the top 24 skiers decline to attend U16 Championships we will then take the 25th finisher and so-on until we have a full roster of 24 boys and 24 girls.

Anyone who plans on attending New England U16 Championships if they make the team should come to the qualifier prepared to pay the trip fee that day. Trip registration will be in the 1st floor of the wax building at Black Mountain directly following the selection ceremony. The cost for the trip this year will be \$350/skier and includes all entry fees, food, lodging, wax, coaching, and transportation to Gore Mountain via chartered coach bus. Checks should be made out to "Maine Nordic Team". Transportation to the event and all transportation at the event will be provided by our coach bus. Skiers are required to travel on the bus with the team. 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". If a skier wants a jacket they will have to purchase it at the conclusion of the selection ceremony at the qualification race. We might have some jackets left over

after the initial sale at the qualifier but there are no guarantees so if you want one come prepared to purchase one at the qualifier.

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 a 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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