



# Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Pathways After High School

Presented by:  
The US Ski and Snowboard's  
Collegiate Task Force



# Collegiate Snowsports Taskforce

- Created two years ago to bridge the gap between different snowsport organizations and disciplines
- Goal of raising awareness about the different pathways to continue competing in college - and beyond
- No single pathway is better than the others - focus on helping prospective athletes know about the different options so that they can make an informed decision



# Agenda

- Overview of the different pathways by discipline
- Where to find more information
- Breakout Rooms:

Alpine Ski - Stay in this room

Snowboard/Freeski - Join via new Zoom Link

Nordic - Join via new Zoom Link



# Breakout Room Panelists

## Alpine Ski

Bo Bigelow

Chip Knight

Andy Locke

Aaron Flynn

Joonas Rasanen

Ron Bonneau

Katie Brust

Skylar Ransom

Eric Mole

## Nordic

Charlie Naples

Adam St. Pierre

John Thompson

Justine Arndt

Krisanna Andrews

## Snowboard/Freeski

Sarah Geiger

Mike Mallon

Doug Grayson

Freddy McCarthy

Halsey Lucas

Sarah Streett



# What are the pathways?



## National Ski and Snowboard Teams

International competitive level.

Must qualify to meet team criteria and must produce to stay on team or be selected for key competitions (i.e. Europa Cup, World Juniors, US Nationals).

All events in all disciplines offered



## NCAA Varsity

FIS racing against NCAA ski teams (Div I, II, III all compete in same race series; 3 divisions: East, Central, and West).

Some team members are former USST or foreign national racers; recruit limited new racers per gender per year to compliment their varsity rosters.

Alpine (Slalom and GS) and Nordic (Classic and Skate, Individual Start and Mass Start) events are contested at the NCAA Championships.



## Club and Varsity

FIS, USSS and non-USSS racing to include Varsity and Club teams. Competitions in 11 conferences with some crossover with USASA events.

Fosters an inclusive competitive environment with rosters varying from 1 competitor to 70+ to compliment institutional goals.

Alpine (Slalom and GS), Nordic, Snowboard, and Freeski events offered at the USCSA National Championships,



# Nordic Pathways



## National Ski and Snowboard Teams

Typical FIS/USSA (Nordic) Points:  
Generally 20 or below FIS points in multiple events but eligibility is based on USST criteria involving rankings, performance at National races.

Funding varies based on team selection, from full to partial funding

World Cup, SuperTour, US Nationals, Olympics, etc.

Paid coaching staff

Year round training and competition



## NCAA Varsity

Typical FIS/USSA (Nordic) Points:  
75-150 FIS points

School funded, some athletic scholarships available (D-I, D-II)

RMISA, CCSA & EISA

NCAA Nationals, SuperTours, US Nationals

Paid coaching staff

Fall dryland, Late Nov-Apr race season; optional summer training



## Club and Varsity

Typical FIS/USSA (Nordic) Points:  
Varsity - 100-250+ points  
Club - Open to athletes of all levels.  
Contact clubs and USCSA for more specific info

Varsity teams cover competition expenses with some scholarships available. Club level funding varies by school.

USCSA Nationals and US Nationals

Coaching varies by team: volunteer or paid coach, student coach(s) or self-coached.

Fall dryland, Late Nov-Apr race season; optional summer training



# Alpine Pathways



## National Ski and Snowboard Teams

Typical FIS/USSA (Alpine) Points:  
Generally 20 or below FIS points in multiple events but eligibility is based on USST criteria involving rankings, performance at National races.

Funding varies based on team selection, from full to partial funded

World Cup, NorAm, US Nationals, Olympics

Paid coaching staff

Year round training and competition



## NCAA Varsity

Typical FIS/USSA (Alpine) Points:  
25-100 FIS points in 1 event;  
comparable points in other event

School funded, some athletic scholarships available (D-I, D-II)

RMISA & EISA

NCAA Nationals, US Nationals, NorAm, Regional FIS

Paid coaching staff

Fall dryland, Late Nov-Apr race season; optional summer training



## Club and Varsity

Typical FIS/USSA (Alpine) Points:  
Varsity: < 150 points in both events  
Club: Varies from elite to entry level experience. Contact clubs and USCSA for more specific info

Varsity teams cover competition expenses with some scholarships available. Club level funding varies by school.

USCSA Nationals

Coaching varies by team: volunteer or paid coach, student coach(s) or self-coached.

Fall dryland, Jan-March race season; optional summer training



# Snowboard/Freeski Pathways



## National Ski and Snowboard Teams

Eligibility is based on US criteria involving rankings, performance at National level races.

Funding varies based on team selection, from full to partial funded

World Cup, NorAm, US Nationals, USASA Nationals, Dew and Rev Tours, Olympics

Paid coaching staff

Year round training and competition



Age group competitions available to all levels across all Olympic disciplines and Rail Jam. USCSA group competes against each other. USCSA athletes memberships available. (\$50)

Self funded, scholarships available for National Championships.

31 regional series work with clubs, conference coordinators and resorts to host events. 500 regional events +USASA Nationals. Future's Tour and Open Events at Nationals are FIS.

Coaches education in collaboration with US Ski & Snowboard.



## Club and Varsity

Varies from elite to entry level experience. Contact clubs and USCSA for more specific info

Varsity teams cover competition expenses with some scholarships available. Club level funding varies by school.

USCSA Nationals. USASA Nationals

Coaching varies by team: volunteer or paid coach, student coach(s) or self-coached.

Fall dryland, Jan-March race season; optional summer training

# USCSA & NCAA

## USCSA

- Alpine, Nordic, Snowboard & Freeski Competition
- Scholarships available at some institutions
- Mix of Club & Varsity Level
- Student Led & Coach Led
- FIS & USSS Scored Competition available
- USASA/FIS snowboard & freeski
- Qualify for Nationals as a team



## NCAA

- Alpine and Nordic Competition
- Scholarships available at some institutions
- Varsity Level
- Coach Led
- Primarily FIS & USSS Scored Competition
- Qualify for Nationals individually



# Student Experience and Leadership Opportunities

- Pathway to become a coach/official during or after college
- Leadership opportunities at the team and National level
- Resources for team management
- Small business experience -> budgets, travel, rosters etc.
- Pathway to starting a new USCSA team if not already available at your institution





# Nationals Broadcast and USCSA Highlight Reels

[2022 The USCSA: Moving Forward with Purpose](#)

[2023 USCSA Nationals Highlights](#)

[USCSA Championships Broadcast Archive](#)

[2023 NCAA GS Broadcast](#)

[2023 NCAA SL Broadcast](#)

[2023 NCAA Classic Broadcast](#)

[2023 NCAA Freestyle Broadcast](#)

[2023 USASA National Championships Recap](#)





## Where to find more information:

<https://www.ncaa.com/sports/skiing>

<https://usskiandsnowboard.org/other/collegiate>

<https://www.uscsa.org>

<https://www.uscsa.org/prospective-athletes.html>

<https://www.uscsa.org/conferences.html>

<https://www.uscsa.org/member-institutions.html>

<https://www.usasa.org>

# Breakout Rooms

Alpine - Stay in this room

Nordic -

<https://usskiandsnowboard-org.zoom.us/j/86788943124?from=addon>

Snowboard/Freeski -

<https://usskiandsnowboard-org.zoom.us/j/82942052539>