

# USSA/FAR WEST COMPETITIONS

## Far West Race Programs

FWS race programs and race series allow skiers of all ages an opportunity to compete. The ladder of ski racing is designed so that beginning, novice racers can easily get involved with the sport, and the experienced, elite racers can advance on to national and international competitions. For a complete list of races and race dates, see the FWS Alpine Race Schedule in the *Appendix*, or Internet site [www.fwsking.us](http://www.fwsking.us).

## J4/5 Racing

The J4/5 program is for racers ages twelve and under. Eleven and twelve year old athletes race as J4s; those 10 and under compete as J5s. J4/5 races in the Far West are non-scored USSA-sanctioned events.

J4s and J5s compete in the same races. The J4s and J5s are maintained as separate fields with their own start lists and are run separately. The starting order is determined by one random draw per weekend, which is reversed for the second day and again for the second run in GS and SL races. For SG events there will be a draw for the first start list, which will be reversed for the second race, and a new draw for the third race. All competitors are allowed to start the second run in their starting spot, including those who did not finish (DNF) or were disqualified (DSQ) in the first run. Awards will be given for each age class and gender. It is required to use Hero gates for all J5 Slalom events.

## J4/5 Racing Continued....

In order to minimize travel, the program is divided into three geographic areas within the Far West: North (Tahoe, Mammoth, Shasta, Northern Nevada); Central (Western slope of the Sierra); and South (Southern California, Southern Nevada). Each of the three geographic areas runs a season-long series. The North, Central and South series consists of three slaloms (SL), three giant slaloms (GS) and two Super-G's (SG) for J4 athletes; and three slaloms (SL), three giant slaloms (GS) and two giant slaloms (with minimum gates and maximum length) for J5 athletes. For the 2011/2012 season the North Series will replace one GS and one SL with two dual races for J4's and J5's. Any variations in the schedule will need to be approved by the Far West ACC. In addition, there are three races (SL, GS, SG for J4s; SL, GS, one run GS or two run GS for J5s) at the divisional championships. There are also non-series races for J4/5 athletes. J4 Super-G racing: A training run on the actual racecourse must be provided to all competitors. Training runs may be run in team order. Any J4/5 Kombi race will require a training run per course.

The philosophy behind the scheduling of J4/5 races is to encourage racing in each athlete's own geographical series by scheduling the same events in each geographical area on the same weekend. Series races are scheduled to allow time for skill development, using GS as the base event.

## Far West J4/5 Championships

Athletes from all three geographic areas will meet at the end of the ski-racing season for the Far West J4/5 Championships, consisting of one SL, one GS and one SG for J4s; one SL, one GS and one two run GS/ one run Big G for J5s. A fourth special event, such as a dual slalom or Kombi, may also be held but will not count towards the Championship overall standings. Start lists will be a random draw for each event held at the Championships.

The Championships are open only to current age-eligible members of FWS and USSA. Competitors from out-of-division are not allowed to participate in these races.

## J4 Performance Camp

The camp goal is to bring together J4 athletes from the North, Central and South series and give them the opportunity to improve their skiing skills and to introduce our athletes and coaches to each other and foster a healthy Far West environment. Athletes will have to be current members of USSA and Far West Skiing for the 2011/2012 season.

The camp will rotate throughout the Far West and include three days---Day 1 Super G training, Super G Race; Day 2 GS training and GS Race; Day 3 Slalom Training and Slalom race- similar to the J4 Festival of the past. Qualifying would be the same as the past J4 Festival, with twelve athletes from the North, four from the Central and four from the South. Discretionary

spots will be available, for a total not to exceed 50 (25 female and 25 male). Participants of the J4 Performance Camp will be invited to the J3 Spring Speed Elements Camp.

**Selection Criteria:** The athletes who are invited to the performance camp are the top 12 men and women from the North Series, and the top 4 men and women from the South and Central Series. Discretionary spots will be available, for a total not to exceed 50(25 male and 25 female) athletes. The rankings are based on the total “Old World Cup Points” earned during the current season Giant Slalom and Slalom series races. Discretionary requests must be submitted by the head coach to the J4/5 Chairman on a Regional Development form no later than two days after the final qualifying event. For ‘X’ numbered athletes to participate in the selection procedures they must be members of Far West Skiing prior to the first J45 series race (this membership must be done directly through the Far West office, not USSA).

### **J4/5 Awards**

For the individual overall season awards, J4/5 series races will be scored by age class using current “Old World Cup Points.” A racer may win a series award in only one geographic area (North, Central or South). The results from the championships shall be scored separately. All results from the scheduled series races (regardless of discipline) are used to calculate the series awards. A tie is broken by a racer’s best GS “Old World Cup” score(s), until the tie is broken. If conditions force the cancellation of a series race, the FWS ACC J4/5 subcommittee determines and publicizes any necessary changes in scoring.

### **Maury Rasmussen Team Series Award**

The Maury Rasmussen Team Series Award (a perpetual trophy) goes to the top team in each of the three geographic areas within Far West. There is no maximum number of competitors per team. For scoring, the top fifteen (15) J4 finishers and top fifteen (15) J5 finishers of the respective geographic area will count. The top three (3) boys and the top three (3) girls from any one team will be scored per race. All series races held will be scored. Scoring will be by “Old World Cup Points.” This series is named after Maury Rasmussen, the developer of Bear Valley/Mt. Reba and a strong supporter of Far West junior racing.

### **Allan Cup**

Brendan Allan was a talented athlete who skied all of his life. This cup was named in memory of his love for the sport and achievements in his racing career. The Allan Cup is given to the best J4 boy and girl finishing the SL, GS and SG races at the Far West J4/5 Championships, using “Old World Cup Points”. Ties are broken by adding the times from all three races, with the best combined time winning.

### **Richmond Cup**

Bryan Richmond was a talented athlete who skied all of his life. This cup was named in memory of his love for the sport and achievements in his racing career. The Richmond Cup is given to the best J5 boy and girl finishing the SL, GS and one-run GS or two-run GS races at the Far West J4/5 Championships, using “Old World Cup Points.” Ties are broken by adding the times from all three races, with the best combined time winning.

### **Jeff Todd Sportsmanship Award**

Jeff Todd was a long time coach with the Mammoth Mountain Ski Team and has a long history of supporting, coaching and organizing events for the Far West J4/5 group. The Jeff Todd “Sportsmanship Award” is an award to be given to the athlete who displays a love for skiing, competition and his/her fellow competitors. This athlete may have had to overcome some special physical or emotional adversity while competing at the J4/J5 Championships. The J4/J5 ACC Age Class Chair will take nominations from coaches prior to the awards banquet and, with the help of the race officials; select the winner of the award. The award will be presented during the annual Dinner and Dance awards banquet at the Championships.

### **Far West J4/5 Development Team**

The J4/5 Development Team recognizes athletes who have excelled in their specific age groups. Four J4 boys and four J4 girls, as well as four J5 boys and four J5 girls, will be selected by the total of “Old World Cup Points” from the Far West J4/5 Championships (SL, GS, SG).

### **J3 Racing**

The J3 program is for racers ages thirteen and fourteen. All Far West J3 athletes may compete in the WILD WEST SERIES (qualifiers for the Junior 3 Jr Champs), OPEN SERIES RACES, and GRAND PRIX SERIES (minimum points cut offs apply for the Grand Prix Slalom and GS races).

### **Wild West Series**

This J3-only series includes three SL, three GS and three SG J3 Jr Champs qualifying races open to all Far West J3 athletes. When possible, there will be additional events in this series. All racers may participate in the second run of SL and GS events in J3-only competitions. Racers who did not finish or were disqualified in the first run are allowed a second “fun” run; their

times will be posted on the unofficial posting board in the finish area but WILL NOT appear on the results. First-run DSQ and DNF racers will take their second “fun” run after all qualified racers and reruns have been completed; run order will be in reverse order of their first-run start.

### **Team Series Scoring System**

This Team Series award goes to the top team in the Far West. There is no maximum number of competitors per team. All the J3 JR Champs events (current Wild West Series) will be scored by all Far West teams (North/Central./South). Each team may score up to their best five boys and three girls, skipping repeats of teams athletes thereafter, until all points are scored, using the “Old World Cup Points” system.

**Far West Finals** SL, GS, DH and SG races are open to all J3s.

### **Far West J3 Development Team**

The J3 Development Team recognizes athletes who have excelled in their specific age group. The team consists of the top four (4) girls and the top four (4) boys from the J3 Junior Championships qualifying list. A J3 competitor who is selected to the current-season Far West Ski Team is automatically a member of the Development Team and does not count against the quota. Any J3 athlete that is invited to and participated in National Team or USSA Development Program projects or race events is an automatic to the J3 Development Team. The J3 Development Team is listed in the *Appendix*.

### **Bobby Mehrhof Award**

This award was named in memory of Bobby Mehrhof, a Mammoth Mountain Ski Team member that enjoyed ski racing through his life. The Bobby Mehrhof Award is to be given to the J3 Boy and Girl who values friendships and displays a love for the sport. The Far West J3 Chairman will take nominations for the Bobby Mehrhof Award. The J3 committee will recommend the recipients to the Far West ACC for approval for naming.

### **Middle, J1 and J2 Racing**

Middle (also called “Mid” or “A”) racers are aged 20 and older; J1s are 17, 18 and 19 years old; J2s are 15 and 16 years old. There are four levels of competition in the Far West for these age groups.

The **GRAND PRIX SERIES**: This is the qualifying series to the Western Region Junior Championships for J1 and J2 athletes, these races are USSA/Far West scored events and divisional FIS events. The series consist of three (3) SL, three (3) GS and two (2) SG

SL & GS events are open to all Mid, J1 and J2 athletes, J3 athletes may compete if they meet the Grand Prix point cut-off in the discipline from the current USSA points list.

SG & DH events are open to all Mid – J3 athletes

J3 athletes may compete in GRAND PRIX races only if there is no conflict with a WILD WEST SERIES race. J3 athletes meeting the Grand Prix point cut-off in Slalom or Giant Slalom disciplines from the valid USSA points list may race in those Grand Prix events. Any J3 Junior Championship team member from the previous season is an automatic to all GRAND PRIX events.

Point cut-off's for the Grand Prix series are established by the FW ACC on an annual basis. The point cut-off's are published in the FW Competition Manual and the Far West website. Cut-off's for the 2011/12 season: are 225 for men and 225 for women.

The FAR WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS and OPEN SERIES are open to all racers in these age groups.

Overall champions from the Grand Prix Series will be awarded the following:

Overall champion – Mid/J1 Men/Women; J2 Men/Women	\$300 scholarship
2 <sup>nd</sup> place – Mid/J1 Men/Women; J2 Men/Women	\$150scholarship
3 <sup>rd</sup> place – Mid/J1 Men/Women; J2 Men/Women	\$100 scholarship

These scholarships will be available for use the following season towards racing expenses.

The calculations are completed using total, cumulative World Cup Points (WCP) earned in every race of the Grand Prix Series. The series includes the Far West Divisional FIS (SL, GS and SG) and all four disciplines in the mid-J3 Far West Finals.

The places are determined by adding up the total World Cup Points earned during ALL the races listed above. Each race is scored by separating the field by gender into mid-J1 and J2 classes. Foreign, out of division, current USST and J3 participants in each race are removed and results are sorted by class prior to assigning WCP's for each race.

### **Jinny Glass Award**

The Jinny Glass award is presented to a male and female junior (J1/2) for their outstanding performance during that season. Nominations are taken made by the FWACC and the FWBOD in Mid-March of each year. The award is presented during the Spring Series.

### **Jill Kinmont Award**

Jill Kinmont was an up and coming ski racer out of the Mammoth area in the 1950's. The Jill Kinmont award is presented to a male and female Mid for their outstanding performance during that season. Nominations are taken made by the FWACC and the FWBOD in Mid-March of each year. The award is presented during the Spring Series.

### **USSA/Far West Race Series**

Following are specifics of all USSA/Far West race series. All racers must be members in good standing of FWS and USSA and qualified as noted below:

#### **Grand Prix Series (GP Open Races & FW Finals)**

Events: Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super-G, Downhill  
Awards: Cumulative season Mid-J1 Men/Women  
Cumulative season J2 Men/Women  
Scholarships for the following season (see Middle, J1 and J2 Racing Section)  
Who can race: SG & DH MID – J 3's  
SL & GS MID – J 2's and J 3's who meet the point cut off  
Qualifies for: Western Region Junior Championships (FIS), SL and GS Qualifiers

#### **Divisional FIS Racing Events**

Who can race: Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G  
Qualifies for: All FIS registered Mid-J2 athletes  
Awards: Western Junior Championships (FIS) for Super G only.  
Trophies 1st-5th, Mid-J1, J2, Men/Women, each race (race organizer)

#### **Far West Finals Events**

Who can race: Slalom, Giant Slalom,  
Super-G, Downhill  
Awards: All Mid-J3 athletes  
Trophies 1st-5th, Mid-J1, J2, J3  
Men/Women, each race (Race Organizer)  
Hard charger medals - J3 one per gender per race SL, GS, SG only  
(Far West Provided)

#### **Open Series and GP Races Events**

Who can race: Slalom, Giant Slalom,  
Super-G  
Awards: All Mid, J1, J2 and J3 athletes  
Trophies 1st-5th, Mid-J1, J2, J3 Men/Women, each race  
(race organizer)

#### **Wild West Series Events**

Who can race: Slalom, Giant Slalom,  
Super-G  
Who can race: J3 athletes only  
Qualifies for: USSA/WR J 3 Junior Championships  
Trophies 1st-5th, Men/Women, each race (Race Organizer)

**J4/J5 North, Central, and South Series - Based on 1/4th of the field**

Who can race:

Awards:

Hard charger medals - one per YOB, per gender, per race (FW provided)  
Season overall 1st - 3rd, Men/Women (total WCP's from all Wild West races)  
(Far West provided)  
Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super-G(J4); Slalom, Giant Slalom one run Giant Slalom  
(J5)-in each geographical area, Dual Slalom & Dual Giant Slalom in the North Series  
All J4's and J5's  
Trophies 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> boy/girls each race (race organizer)  
Medallions 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, J4/5, boys/girls, each race (Central/South) FW provided  
Medallions 4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, J4/5 boys/girls, each race (North) FW Provided

**Far West J4/5 Championships**

Events:

Who can race

Awards

SL, GS, SG (J4); SL, GS	1 run GS(J5)		
All Far West J4/5's			
Trophies 1 <sup>st</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> , J4/5,	Boys/girls	Organizer	
Allan Cup/Richmond Cup	Donation		

**J4/5 Year end awards - Based on 1/4th of the field**

North Series

South/Central Series

1st-15th Far West Provided