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# NEW HAMPSHIRE NORDIC COACHES ASSOCIATION

157 Cobble Hill Road • Swanzey, NH 03446

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## **Competition and Rules for Selection of Team to Represent New Hampshire at NENSA's U16 and Eastern High School Championships**

### Section 1: Governing Body

The New Hampshire Nordic Coaches Association is the organization of coaches recognized by NENSA as the body that selects the team of high school aged skiers, up to 24 boys and 24 girls, to represent the state of New Hampshire at the NENSA U16 and New England High School Championships (hereinafter TEAMNH)

*The mission of the New Hampshire Nordic Coaches' Association (NHNCA) is to develop middle and high school Nordic skiers of all abilities, through education and support of competitive Nordic racing programs in the state. The NHNCA will also organize and manage Team New Hampshire athletes eligible to participate in the Eastern Nordic Youth Cup competitions, and sponsor need-based scholarships for individual competitors.*

### Section 2: Eligibility

In accordance with NENSA eligibility requirements, equal access to the selection process for TEAMNH is provided to all candidates who meet the following criteria:

- U16: The candidate must have celebrated their 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> birthday in the year directly preceding the year of the competition.
- EHSC: The candidate is a high school student (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade: public, private, or homeschooled)
- U16 & EHSC: The candidate either maintains permanent residence in New Hampshire or attends school in New Hampshire

### Section 3: Competition – NHNCA Race Series

The NHNCA conducts two statewide races each year. These races consist of six fields: High School Boys A Race, High School Girls A Race, Middle School Boys Race, Middle School Girls Race, High School Boys B Race, High School Girls B Race.

### Section 4: Selection Process

The following steps will be used to select athletes for TEAMNH

1. The top 20 overall athletes from each gender at the NHNCA Coaches Series Races automatically qualify for TEAMNH. This standing will be calculated using both average placing and percent back calculations. Any variations between the two methods will be resolved at the discretion of the team leader.
  - a. U16 Standings – These standings are compiled from the skiers who born in the appropriate calendar year window, across all fields of competition.

- b. EHSC Standings – These standings are compiled from skiers who compete in the High School A races, which are the premier events of the day.
2. At least 4 spots for each gender team will be reserved for athletes who have requested to be considered for the team through a waiver process described in Section 5.
3. Any remaining spots for each gender will be filled by proceeding down the list of overall standing from each gender at the NHNCA Coaches Series Races. In addition, five alternates from each gender will be named.
4. In the event that it is necessary to fill a vacancy on TEAMNH due to sudden illness or other extenuating circumstances, suitable replacements will be selected at the discretion of the team leader for TEAMNH.

#### Section 5: Waiver Process

Overview: An athlete who is unable to attend a NH Series race due to severe illness, family emergency or other extenuating circumstances may apply for a waiver of that race by completing the 2 steps listed below and communicating the results to the team leader of TEAMNH. Circumstances, which are within the athlete's control, will generally not be considered. These include, but are not limited to, participation in other races, events, or activities. However, participation on NENSA sponsored teams or in NENSA sponsored events will be considered.

Step 1: Write a brief explanation of why the athlete was unable to attend the event.

Step 2: The athlete will provide race results from a comparable time period that clearly indicate(s) where the athlete might have finished in the Series race that was missed. For example, if the Classic race were missed then race results from a classic race of similar length within the last month with competitors who also attended the Classic Series Race could be offered as evidence for inclusion on the team. For a waiver to be granted, the athlete must provide convincing evidence that they would have finished among the top 10 J2 athletes/top15 EHSC athletes at the Series race that was missed.

Timetable: For the first NH Series race, these steps must be completed within one week of missing the race. For the second NH Series race, these steps must be completed prior to the start of racing for the second race

Granting Process: The team leader and two designated representatives from the NHNCA will make a final decision related to all waiver submissions prior to the announcing of the team at the awards ceremony for the second NH Series race.

#### Section 6: Naming of TEAMNH

TEAMNH will be named at the awards ceremony for the second NH Series race. Subsequent additions to the team will be informed through direct communication by the team leader.