



WISCONSIN NORDIC SKI LEAGUE

On the Glide Newsletter

Issue #10

April 23, 2025

*The **On the Glide Newsletter** is the official newsletter of the WNSL. The newsletter will provide teams, clubs, families, and sponsors with information that promotes Nordic skiing across the Midwest.*

PLEASE share this issue with your teams and families, it includes several topics and schedules that are important to review going into the 2025-26 Nordic season.

The WNSL Executive Board voted to approve the 2026 WNSL State Meet dates and venues, as discussed during the 2025 WNSL Spring Meeting:

- **January 31-February, 2026 WNSL Sprint Championships**
 - Venue: Ariens Nordic Center
 - Race Formats: to be outlined by the new State Meet Committee and voted on by WNSL
- **February 7-8, 2026 WNSL Distance Championships**
 - Venue: ABSF Trailhead & Great Hall
 - Race Formats: to be outlined by the new State Meet Committee and voted on by WNSL

Committees formed during the 2025 WNSL Spring Meeting

1. WNSL Guest Class Committee

- Chair: Andrew Johnson
 - Members: Jake Barnes, Dale Fanney, Nick Rickinger, Brett Ostby (Rochester Nordic)
 - Reports should be submitted to the WNSL Executive Board
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- **The Value and Purpose of the WNSL Guest Class:**
 - Why would the WNSL want to invite Guest Teams?
 - Why put limits on the Guest Class teams?
 - What would make a Guest Class Team worthy of being equal to voting Wisconsin teams?
 - Should the Guest Class be eliminated from the WNSL State Championship competitions?
 - Is there a timeline to officially accept Guest Class Teams into the WNSL?
 - What Rules of Competition will need to be revised?
 - Would the WNSL have an interest in collaborating with the Michigan Nordic Ski League?



2. WNSL Executive Board Nominating Committee

- Chair: Ben Popp
- Committee: Andrew Johnson, Tamara Bryant, Dale Fanney
- **Vote for Officers: October 2025 WNSL Fall Meeting (Date/Location TBD)**
 - President, Ben Popp - term expires 10/2025
 - Treasurer, Tamara Bryant – term expires 10/2025
 - Vice President, Andrew Johnson – unknown term expiration
 - Secretary, Dale Fanney – unknown term expiration
 - Administrator, Bruce Manske – NOT an officer, term expires based on WNSL vote
- **Compensation /Stipend to Executive Board Members**
 - Evaluate roles of the Executive Board
 - Consider compensation, as the time required has increased, mostly for the treasure
- **Finalize 2025-26 Budget Due**
 - Fiscal Year begins July 1, 2025

3. State Meet Committee

- Chair: Scott Putman
- Members: Sam Edwards, Rick Haese, Ernie Luedke, Tamara Bryant, Andrew Johnson.
- Reports should be submitted to the WNSL Executive Board
- **Tactical State Meet Committee Roles:**
 - Work with the WNSL Administrator (currently, Bruce Manske) to learn how WNSL can best support this role, both in the months leading up to the events and on race days.
- **Establishing a State Meet Schedule of Events for TWO weekends**
- **This needs to be finalized, approved and voted on by MAY 31, 2025; this date is important and reasonable for seeking and securing event sponsors.**
 - Securing dates & venues & contract – this has yet to be done!
 - A planning & preparation schedule 4-week timeline leading up to the event(s)
 - Race day format and race day time schedule + seeding
 - Awards: individual awards and team awards
 - Athletic seeding protocols + awards presentations
 - Timing contractor + data collection
 - Team Camps / Wax Area / Parking
 - Revise the Rules of Competition
 - Enforcing Rules of Competition
 - Updating & Revisions to the WNSL Website



State Meet Committee - Continued

- **The Organizing Committee is NOT the Competition Committee**
 - **State Meet Committee** to establish an **Organizing Committee** and define each specific role as they pertain to the WNSL State Meets.
 - **This needs to be finalized, approved, and voted on by AUGUST 31, 2025; this date is important and reasonable for the purpose of communications and planning meetings with the Chief of Race Organization / Director of Operations (most likely the WNSL Administrator, as well as securing sponsors and supporters:**
 - Chief of Race Organization / Director of Operations
 - Most likely the WNSL Administrator
 - Chief of Competition + USSS Technical Delegate
 - Assistant Chief of Competition + USSS Assistant Technical Delegate
 - Jury: Technical Delegate + Asst Technical Delegate + Chief of Competition
 - Chief of Secretariat
 - Race Secretary
 - Team Captains' Meeting
 - Chief of Course
 - Grooming
 - Course Crossing Guards
 - Forerunners
 - Chief of Timing & Results
 - Electronics
 - Finish + Start + Results
 - Chief of Stadium
 - Start Control
 - Stadium Set-up
 - Athlete Stadium Services
 - Finish Control
 - Chief of Competition Control
 - Technique Control
 - Bib Control
 - Chip Control
 - Equipment / Wax Control



State Meet Committee - Continued

- **State Meet Committee** to establish a **Competition Committee** and define each specific role as they pertain to the WNSL State Meets.
- **This needs to be finalized, approved and voted on by NOVEMBER 14, 2025; this date is important and reasonable for the purpose of communications and planning meetings with the Chief of Race Organization / Director of Operations (most likely the WNSL Administrator before the holidays and racing schedules begin.**
 - Chief of Race Organization / Director of Operations
 - Chief of Competition
 - Race Secretary
 - Chief of Bib Pick-up
 - Chief of Expo + Silent Action + Merchandise Sales
 - Chief of Course
 - Chief of Stadium
 - Chief of Start
 - Chief of Finish
 - Chief of Announcing
 - Chief of Timing & Data Collection
 - Chief of Awards
 - Chief of Volunteers / Hospitality
 - Chief of Course Controllers and Security / Spectator Access
 - Chief of Media + Promotions; including Banners & Flags
 - Chief of Medical

Strategic State Meet Committee Work

- Plan ahead: 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030...
- State Competition and Conference Competition Goals
- Summer Camps + Roller Ski Race Series Goals
- To include or Not include a Guest Class within the WNSL
- Sponsorships and Funding
- Data Collection: the highlights and lowlights of WNSL Competitions
 - What is valued by WNSL athletes?
 - What is valued by WNSL coaches and clubs?
 - Specific protocols to honor MS & HS athletes



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OTHER Talking Points from Bruce

Coaches Development

- All WNSL Coaches should consider obtaining their USSS L100 Certification
 - USSS Membership renewal begins May 1, 2025
 - Required to participate in trips: Junior Nationals, Canadian Nationals, NENSA
 - Bruce is on the USSS National Faculty and can assist with the certification process

WNSL Fundraising Suggestions – as a way for teams to take ownership of the WNSL

- All clubs should be required to enlist at least TWO 50/50 Sponsors.
 - **Mary Eloranra has agreed to create a formal document**
- All clubs should be required to enlist at least TWO Friends of the WNSL supporters.
- All clubs should be required to enlist at least TWO Silent Auction sponsors.

WNSL Sponsorships & Specialty Donations

- Bruce will begin seeking 2025-26 sponsorships, as soon as the race formats are finalized by the newly formed State Meet COmmittee and voted upon by the WNSL
- Bruce is finalizing a specialty donation to partially fund GLD Coach(s) & Athletic Development (schools & communities) positions within the WNSL
 - Both positions report to the WNSL Administrator
 - Stipends issued based on reporting and documentation
 - Interested individuals need to send email “letter of interest” to Bruce
 - Bruce and WNSL Executive Board will evaluate applicants
 - Both positions will begin ASAP, based on securing the funds and the “letters of interest”

WNSL Communications

- Is the **On the Glide** newsletter of value to coaches, athletes, and clubs?
 - Do you share the newsletter with your coaches, athletes, families, & clubs?
- Does the WNSL Website meet the needs of your club and families?
 - How can the WNSL Webpage be improved for clubs and families?
- Does the WNSL Website meet the needs for outside interests: sponsors & public interests?
 - How can the WNSL Webpage be improved for outside interests?
- Does the current WNSL Email lists work for your coaches and clubs?

WNSL Race Bibs

- Salomon / Swix Race Bibs – for use during the WNSL State Competitions
- Wisconsin Nordic Development Bibs – current stored with John Burke / Jake Barnes
- **MISSING:** WNSL Salomon / Swix Race Bibs: #1, #253, #299
 - Please check with your athletes and families regarding these missing race bibs.



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2025-26 DATES & OPPORTUNITIES on the Nordic Calendar

NOTE: The 2025-26 JNQ Race schedule TBD very soon via CXC / USSS

May 2, 2025 **Women Coaches Symposium (U of M Huntington Bank Stadium)**

- Website: <https://wcs.umn.edu/> /// Contact Katie Eichten: katieeichten@yahoo.com

May 8-10, 2025 **United States Collegiate Ski Association Annual Conference**

- Website: <https://www.uscsa.org/annualconference.html>

May 12-16, 2025 **USSS Spring Congress**

- Website: <https://www.usskiandsnowboard.org/governance/meetings>

June 10-13, 2025 **UW-GB Summer Camp**

- Contact Samuel Myers, UW-GB Head Coach: myerss@uwgb.edu

June 13-15, 2025 **CXC Igor Legacy Camp**

- Website: <https://cxcskiing.org/pages/events/camps/cxc-training-camps.html#IgorLegacyCamps>

JULY 11-12, 2025 **The Shoreline Rollerski Race (Rice Lake, WI)**

- Website: <https://outthereshop.com/shoreline-sprints/>
- Contact: shorelinerollerski@gmail.com

July 8-13, 2025 **Central Regional Elite Camp**

- Website: <https://cxcskiing.org/pages/events/camps/cxc-training-camps.html>

July 9-13, 2025 **CXC Dream Camp**

- Website: <https://cxcskiing.org/pages/events/camps/cxc-training-camps.html>

July 14-18, 2025 **High Performance Training Camp with US Biathlon Coaching**

- Ariens Nordic Center /// Contact: <https://ariensnordic.com/events/>

July 19-20, 2025 **US Biathlon Midwest Regional Summer Rollerski Championships**

- Ariens Nordic Center /// Contact: <https://ariensnordic.com/events/>

July 23-26, 2025 **Northern Michigan University Summer Junior Camp**

- Contact Ruth Oppliger, NMU Nordic Coach: roppliger@NMU.edu
- Contact Katie Eichten, Spooner Rails Nordic Coach: katieeichten@yahoo.com



2025-26 DATES & OPPORTUNITIES on the Nordic Calendar - Continued

August 9, 2025 Madnorski Up Up & Away Classic Rollerski Race (Blue Mounds, WI)

- Website: <https://www.madnorski.org/upup/>
- Contact Tamara Bryant: bryant.tamaraj@gmail.com

August 10-13, 2025 Porcupine Mountains Summer Camp

- Contact David Stette, Superiorland Nordic: dslette@frontiernet.net
- Contact: Scott Putman, ANST: anstcoaches2013@gmail.com

August 15-17, 2025 Northern Conference Rollerski Camp (Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters)

- Contact Christel Kern, Lakeland Nordic Coach: christel.kern@gmail.com

August 23, 2025 Grind up Granite Rollerski Race

- Contact Jon Oestreich: jonoestreich@me.com
- Website: <https://www.wausaunordic.org/>

October 3-5, 2025 USBA Fall Camp & Schutzenski Rollerski Festival #1

- Soldier Hollow, Utah
- Website: <https://utaholympiclegacy.org/soho-events/?month=2025-10>

October 5, 2025 WNSL Fall Meeting

- DC Everest High School, Wausau, WI

October 17-19, 2025 USSS Schutzenski Rollerski Festival #2

- Soldier Hollow, Utah
- Website: <https://utaholympiclegacy.org/soho-events/?month=2025-10>

October 24-26, 2025 CXC Wayne Fish Coaches Conference (Cable, WI)

- All coaches encouraged to attend and earn their USSS L100 / L200 Certification
- Website: www.cxcskiing.org

October 25-26, 2025 Swenor CXC Rollerski Championships (Cable, WI)

- Contact Yuriy Gusev: yuriy.gusev@cxcskiing.org

September 12-13, 2025 NorthShore Inline Marathon

- Duluth, MN /// Contact Bruce Manske: bruce@northshoreinline.com
- Events: Inline Skating, Running, **Rollerskiing** on the North Shore of Lake Superior
- **FUN:** Team Awards, Costume Contest, Two Distances & Awards
- Website: <https://www.northshoreinline.com/>



2025-26 DATES & OPPORTUNITIES on the Nordic Calendar - Continued

November 28-30, 2025 Turkey Birkie

- Cable, WI // ABSF Trailhead & Great Hall

January 5-9, 2026 USSS Senior Nationals Cross Country Ski Championships

- Mt. Van Hoevenberg, Lake Placid, NY

January 17-18, 2026 Hodag Challenge (Rhineland, WI)

- Contact Brian Hegge: brian.hegge10@gmail.com

January 31-February, 2026 WNSL Sprint Championships

- Venue: Ariens Nordic Center
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February 7-8, 2026 WNSL Distance Championship

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February 6-22 2026 XXV Winter Olympic Games

- Milan and A Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy
- Website: <https://www.olympics.com/en/olympic-games/milano-cortina-2026>

February 18-22, 2026 American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation Week (Cable & Hayward, WI)

- Includes, USSS SuperTour 50K Freestyle

March 9-14, 2026 USSS Junior Nationals Cross Country Ski Championships

- ABSF Trailhead, Cable, WI

March 10-13, 2026 NCAA Division I Nordic Skiing Championships

- Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman, Montana

March 20-22, 2026 FIS World Cup Final Race Weekend

- Mt. Van Hoevenberg, Lake Placid, NY

March 26-29, 2026 USSS SuperTour Finals

- Location: TBD, most likely Fairbanks or Craftsbury



Skiing beyond High School

There are many colleges offering Nordic opportunities in the United States:

- Central Collegiate Ski Association: <https://www.ccsaski.com/>
- United States Collegiate Ski Association: <https://www.uscsa.org/>
- Midwest Collegiate Ski Conference: <https://www.skimcsa.com/nordic.html>
- Rocky Mountain Collegiate Ski Association: <https://www.rmisaskiing.com/>

There are now seven professional Nordic ski clubs in the United States:

- APU Nordic Ski Center <https://apunordic.com/>
- BSF Pro Team <https://www.bridgerskifoundation.org/nordic/pro>
- Craftsbury Green Racing Project <https://www.greenracingproject.com/>
- Mansfield Pro Nordic <https://www.mansfieldnordic.org/>
- SMS T2 <https://www.gosms.org/athletics/nordic-program>
- Sun Valley Gold Team <https://svsef.org/programs/cross-country/xc-gold/>
- Team Birkie <https://www.teambirkie.com/>

Fun Reading: Nordic Websites

- <https://nordicinsights.news/>
- <https://www.skinnyski.com/>
- <https://fasterskier.com/>
- <https://nordicteamsolutions.com/>

WNSL Executive Board

- Dale Fanney - Secretary: secretary@wisconsinxcski.org
- Tamara Bryant - Treasurer: treasurer@wisconsinxcski.org
- Ben Popp - President: president@wisconsinxcski.org
- Andrew Johnson - Vice President: vp@wisconsinxcski.org

- Bruce Manske - League Administrator: administrator@wisconsinxcski.org