



WISCONSIN NORDIC SKI LEAGUE

On the Glide Newsletter

Issue #11

May 12, 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 the *On the Glide newsletter* with your teams and families, it includes several topics and schedules that are important to review going into the 2025-26 Nordic season.

THANKS to those who attended the May 8th WNSL Virtual Meeting that outlined the newest WNSL donation to fund two initiatives this summer & fall: Growing Nordic in Wisconsin and GLD Athlete Coaching. *To be honest with the WNSL, it was disappointing that only 8 people attended the meeting that will affect all 18 WNSL Teams."*

Please review the attached document that outlines the two initiatives. As requested in the document, a *letter of interest* needs to be submitted by any WNSL coach or member interested in participating within the format of the two initiatives: Growing Nordic in Wisconsin and GLD Athlete Coaching; and, to potential receive stipends from the WNSL donations to fund the initiatives.

- To date I have received 1 WNSL coach interested in the Growing Nordic in Wisconsin roles.
- To date I have received notice that four WNSL coaches are interested in the GLD Athlete Coaching roles.

NOTE: to receive stipends for services rendered, a brief outline needs to be submitted by-monthly listing what was planned, accomplished, and the number of athletes and coaches involved.

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)
- **Committee Reports should be submitted to the WNSL Executive Board**

2. WNSL Executive Board Nominating Committee

Chair: Ben Popp

- Committee: Andrew Johnson, Tamara Bryant, Dale Fanney
- **Committee Reports should be submitted to the WNSL Membership**
 - **Executive Board Election: October 5, 2025**

3. State Meet Committee

Chair: Scott Putman

- Members: Sam Edwards, Rick Haese, Ernie Luedke, Tamara Bryant, Andrew Johnson.
- **Committee Survey Responses Due ASAP**
 - **LINK:** <https://forms.gle/vLYDQtfy4tTQA1fe7>
- **Committee Reports should be submitted to the WNSL Executive Board**
- **NOTE:** The 2026 State Championships will be outlined by this committee and voted upon by the WNSL, before any plans or sponsorship can move forward and published.



WISCONSIN NORDIC SKI LEAGUE

Notes, comments, and thoughts to be considered by every WNSL team:

How does your Nordic ski team support the mission of the Wisconsin Nordic Ski League?

WNSL Mission:

Development & Promotion of Nordic Skiing Opportunities for Wisconsin Youth & Junior Skiers.

Defining the WNSL Mission:

- **Mission:** an important role that someone or some group is given to do.
- **Development:** the process in which something grows or changes and becomes more advanced.
- **Promotion:** the act of encouraging something to happen or develop.
- **Opportunities:** the occasions or situations which make it possible to do something.

What is the purpose of the WNSL mission?

- It defines a goal for a group of 18 plus teams to grow, change, and develop the league for the betterment of Wisconsin youth and junior skiers.

What are the goals of the WNSL for 2026 and beyond?

- **How do the goals of your team affect the goals of the WNSL?**
- Throughout the past 45 years, the WNSL has gone through many changes: the number of clubs, the number of athletes, a changing Board of Directors, race formats, race organizing committees, bylaws, rules of competition, involvement with JNQ racing, Wisconsin as a part of the Great Lakes Division.

How is the WNSL currently funded?

- **WNSL Membership Fee:**
 - \$50.00 per High School Teams (18)
 - \$50.00 per Middle School Teams (18)
 - **\$1,800.00 is not nearly enough to support the budget of the WNSL.**
- **Sponsorships & Donations**
 - 50/50 Sponsorship Program (a new updated until for 2025-26 is in the works)
 - Friends of the WNSL Program (<https://www.wisconsinxcski.org/support/>)
 - The 2024-25 Silent Auction
 - Apparel Sales Commission
 - Event Sponsorships + Grants



Continued - How is the WNSL currently funded?

- **WNSL State Championship Race Fees**

- **2025 = \$50.00 per weekend (\$100.00 per athlete for distance + sprint weekends)**
- **Participation Numbers**
- MS Boys Sprints: 55 // MS Girls Sprints: 42
- HS Boys Sprints: 93 // HS Girls Sprints: 64
- MS Boys Distance-Pursuit: 74 // MS Girls Pursuit: 58
- HS Boys Distance-Pursuit: 103 // HS Girls Pursuit: 89

- **2024 = \$50.00 per weekend (\$100.00 per athlete for distance + sprint weekends)**
- **Participation Numbers**
- MS Boys Sprints: 68 // MS Girls Sprints: 54
- HS Boys Sprints: 134 // HS Girls Sprints: 88
- MS Boys Pursuit: 79 // MS Girls Pursuit: 69
- HS Boys Pursuit: 144 // HS Girls Pursuit: 102

- **2023 = Fees Unknown**
- There was only TEAM Sprints, so no calculate regarding the number of athletes
- MS Boys Pursuit: 99 // MS Girls Pursuit: 88
- HS Boys Pursuit: 143 // HS Girls Pursuit: 105

2025-26 WNSL Fundraising Suggestions

- **A way for all WNSL teams to take ownership of the WNSL**

- All clubs should be required to enlist at least TWO 50/50 Sponsors.
- 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.

- **NOTE:**

- There will not be a number or an amount on any of these funding efforts -- this is up to each team and their community. **We will not have a major sponsor for 2025-26;** therefore, if the WNSL wants the State Meets to continue at places like Ariens and the Birkie, all WNSL teams will need to help cover those venue expenses.
- The auction items could be as simple as a t-shirt or a hat; securing a Friends of WNSL could be a donation of \$5.00 to \$100.00; and the 50/50 sponsorship program is a benefit to a team and the WNSL -- this donation could range for \$10 to \$2000.

**How does your Nordic ski team support
the mission of the Wisconsin Nordic Ski League?**



OTHER Talking Points from Bruce:

Coaches Development

- All WNSL Coaches should consider obtaining their USSS L100 Certification
 - USSS Membership renewal begins May 15, 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 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.

WNSL Communications – please provide your input!

- 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?
- Would you be willing to administrate a FaceBook and Instagram site for WNSL?

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
 - **We know these bibs were used during the 2024-25 State Meets!**
 - **Please check with your athletes and families regarding these missing race bibs.**





2025-26 DATES & OPPORTUNITIES on the Nordic Calendar

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

May 12-July 31 GLD CO-OP Training Plan

- Email: Katie Eichten: katieeichten@yahoo.com

May 12-16, 2025 USSS Spring Congress

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

May 17, 2025 CXC Annual Meeting & Spring Congress

- Website: <https://www.cxcskiing.org/pages/events/cxc-congress.html>

June 10-13, 2025 UW-GB Summer Camp

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

June 16-21, 2025 GLD Co-op Team Ironwood Training Camp

- Email: Katie Eichten: katieeichten@yahoo.com

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](#) (Rhinelander, WI)

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

January 31-February, 2026 [WNSL Sprint Championships](#)

- Venue: Arians Nordic Center
- **Race Formats: outlined by the new State Meet Committee and voted on by WNSL**

February 7-8, 2026 [WNSL Distance Championship](#)

- Venue: ABSF Trailhead & Great Hall
- **Race Formats: outlined by the new State Meet Committee and voted on by WNSL**

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.rmisking.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