

RELATIONSHIP OF ALPINE LEAGUES TO OVERALL OISRA ORGANIZATION

November 13, 2020

What does OISRA do for Alpine Leagues now that they acquire their own insurance?

Background: Because of the settlement of a multi-million dollar lawsuit in 2019 involving an Alpine accident, OISRA was unable to obtain sufficient liability insurance for the Alpine Leagues at a reasonable cost. In fact, the only insurance quote received was from a high risk insurer for what was substantially less coverage at an unrealistic cost. The only reasonable resolution to save the Alpine season was for the individual leagues to secure insurance as separate entities.

As a result, the liability for the OISRA organization with respect to the Alpine Leagues is now reduced to being liable only to the extent of being a Service Provider for the Leagues. The Alpine Leagues are liable for the behaviors of their coaches, students, and volunteers during OISRA sanctioned events. To emphasize again, this transfer of liability was necessary as OISRA was no longer able to acquire organizational liability insurance to cover Alpine activities. Be aware that OISRA is still able to secure insurance for the Nordic Division.

It is important to understand that this creates a change in the financial and liability relationship between OISRA and the Alpine Leagues; however, the impact is limited to that arena. The organizational structure and governance still remains the same as reflected in the OISRA By-Laws and Policies. The OISRA Board, comprised of Alpine and Nordic representatives, remains responsible for the overall governance of the organization.

OISRA Functions: The OISRA Board develops and enforces the organization Bylaws and Policies. The OISRA Board maintains oversight and approves the actions of both Nordic and Alpine Divisions. This legal and regulatory compliance which applies to practically every aspect of the organization is one of the more important roles that OISRA performs. Changes and updates to the regulatory environment are constantly occurring which requires vigilant monitoring to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations regarding protections to high school athletes as well as safety concerns. It also applies to privacy laws and legal considerations in handling personal information.

Of course, it also applies to staying current with all applicable coaching requirements. The current policies about coaches' training requirements were approved by board members who were considering state laws, the examples from OSAA, and similar coach requirements in organizations such as US Ski and Snowboard. Using their best judgment, they set up requirements that protect the organization from being held liable for not providing reasonable oversight for governing a youth organization - and, in turn, they protect the best interest of the coaches.

As referenced earlier, OISRA now has a financial role for the Alpine Leagues as a Service Provider. As such, OISRA is executing Service Provider contracts with each of the Alpine Leagues for the 2020-2021 season. The following oversight and administrative services are provided for a fee as noted in the contracts.

- The OISRA legal and regulatory oversight that benefits Alpine leagues include
 - securing legal advice,
 - maintaining a website,
 - paying IRS and DOJ fees,
 - paying for coaches' training courses for Alpine coaches,
 - purchasing Directors and Officers insurance (which includes coverage for Alpine steering committee officers),
 - purchasing cyber insurance (to protect OISRA's online registration exposure risk)
 - paying salaries for the OISRA treasurer and the OISRA Administrative Services Provider

- The OISRA Administrative Services person provides the following services to Alpine Leagues
 - *Racer registration*
 - *Service Provider shall maintain and facilitate online registration for all racers on all OISRA affiliated teams.*
 - *Service Provider shall provide a roster of all racers by league and team upon Buyer request.*
 - *Coach education*
 - *Service Provider shall collect and maintain archival records of all required coaches' education courses, as required by OISRA.*
 - *Training includes, but is not limited to:*
 - *Fundamentals of Coaching*
 - *First Aid*
 - *Concussion Awareness*
 - *Mandatory Reporting of Abuse*
 - *Boundary Invasion*
 - *Hazing*
 - *Covid-19*
 - *Service Provider shall provide evidence of satisfactory completion of training for all Buyer affiliated coaches to Buyer upon request.*
 - *Coach background checks*
 - *Service Provider shall utilize a third party to conduct background checks for all coaches for OISRA affiliated teams.*
 - *Service Provider shall provide the third party background checks reports of all Buyer affiliated coaches to Buyer for their assessment of coaches upon request.*
 - *School Agreement Forms*

- *Service Provider to receive completed school Agreement forms from teams and maintain records.*
- *Academic Eligibility (as required, once per season)*
 - *Service Provider shall determine academic eligibility for all OISRA affiliate racers once per season: on or about December 1st each year.*
 - *Service Provider shall notify Buyer of any academic ineligibility on or about January 2 each year.*

OISRA has always committed to maintaining their fees as low as possible. As shown above, OISRA pays for Administrative and Treasurer support; however, it should be noted that the compensation is nowhere near commensurate to the hours of work performed. In addition, the OISRA Executive Director does not accept a salary and the OISRA Secretary has declined a salary or compensation for thousands of hours of work. The OISRA Board of Directors does not receive any compensation (except for travel and meal expense).

Hopefully this information is helpful in understanding the current OISRA organizational structure and the associated costs behind the participant fees. The OISRA Board is committed to providing cost effective interscholastic skiing opportunities in a safe and legal environment.