

League Leaders,

Welcome to the beginning of the 2021/22 OISRA ski racing season!

As President of OISRA I just wanted to reach out and wish everyone a wonderful fall and a great beginning to a winter sports ski season. This year it is my anticipation that we see a trend toward a more normal racing year with the exception of certain COVID requirements such as vaccinations, masking and distancing. I think we should plan for a more normal year of training, racing and hosting state championship racing. I have received some feedback that the resorts might be more receptive to weekend events.

The biggest advantage is that we have been through a season of COVID and the restrictions that came with it from both a governmental and race hosting standpoint. We have seen that this sport can operate safely and efficiently with COVID restrictions. With that said, there is another new issue I will mention below.

Your Alpine Committee is set to have their Fall meeting (in person) on October 3rd and I am waiting on a Nordic date. The OISRA board is planning on meeting on October 7th (Zoom). Once registration fees have been approved we would like to open athlete registration on October 15th. Deadline for OISRA athlete registration will be December 5th midnight. Anything after this date will be late registration.

It is important that coaches get registered and certified as soon as possible. In most cases, especially with head coaches this is not an issue. Where there is difficulty is with your assistant coaches. This year there will be a \$100 deposit required during coaches registration and this will be immediately refundable upon certification. Hopefully this will give incentive to get certified in a timely manner. Nora will notify you when coaches registration will open.

Along with certification a mandate by the OHA this year will be that all coaches and anyone that is working directly with athletes (volunteers & race officials) must be vaccinated. For those coaches working as employees of the school or district you may already be aware of this requirement. There are some exceptions and OISRA will be discussing how to implement these requirements at our upcoming board meeting. My suggestion is to make sure your coaches and volunteers get vaccinated now.

Something to think about. Oregon Health Officials report that 85.6% of the Oregonians who contracted COVID in the first two weeks of August were unvaccinated. Also, a friend of mine who works at Providence reports that the vast majority of hospitalizations from COVID are from non-vaccinated.

You can visit the OSAA website for information on COVID requirements and rules. <https://www.osaa.org/coronavirus>