

OISRA 2021 Race Season Information Bulletin



League leaders (please distribute to your coaches),

The OISRA board met last night to discuss tentative dates for registration, opening dates for non-mandatory practices, the race season and COVID.

Please keep in mind there are many factors that affect the ability to open athlete registration.

- We need Division budgets and an OISRA budget approved so that we know what the 2021 season dues will be.
- We also need active insurance policies in place for all four Alpine leagues. The complicating factor for insurance is that it does not make sense for OISRA and each Alpine League to purchase those policies until we are more certain if we will be able to have a race season. It is my understanding that once purchased you can't just cancel and get a refund like you can with your auto policy!

The one definitive decision we were able to make was **September 1st** is the opening date for coaches' registration.

- Remember any coach, head or assistant, will need to be registered and complete their training before they can hold dryland training.
- Coaches might as well get this done and over as soon as possible.
- One new piece to the coaches' certification process this season is a course on COVID. This will add about 15-20 minutes to your certification process.

Other tentative dates we agreed on were

- opening registration for Nordic on **November 15th**,
- Alpine registration target is **November 1st**,
- official practice for both Nordic and Alpine to begin **December 28th**
- Note: non-mandatory practice can start any time after registration is open
- Competitions are open to begin **January 9th**.

Considerations for Alpine target registration date

We discussed opening Alpine registration October 1st and utilizing last year's policies that don't expire until October 31st of this year. I need to confirm with Southern League and Three Rivers League when their policies from last season expire. MHL and Metro policies expire October 31st.

Targeting an October 1st Alpine registration date would require that all four Alpine leagues have last year's insurance still in place and are committed to having their 2020-2021 insurance purchased for a November 1st 2021 season.

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Basically it will be up to the Alpine Committee to tell OISRA when you are prepared to give us your new dues amount and when all four leagues are committed to purchase insurance for the new season.

Registration Refunds

Once we have opened registration and collected both OISRA and Alpine dues it will be hard to commit to a full refund should the seasons cancel. OISRA and Leagues will have purchased insurance which is a big expense as well as overhead costs such as Active fees that need to be covered. Both Divisions will need to strongly consider this before OISRA and the Alpine Leagues actually commit to purchasing liability insurance to open the seasons.

Remember at this point we don't even know if we can have a race season. That is too far out and with public health orders constantly changing at the local, state, and federal levels it is way too early to predict.

Staying aligned with OSAA in response to COVID-19

OISRA will follow the lead of OSAA in determining actions with Winter sports.

- Currently OSAA leaves responsibility for determining athletic team COVID policy up to the school districts.
- I think most districts are developing policy from the Oregon Health Authority.
- Remember each district and ski venues can be in different counties which can affect COVID policy differently at different times.
- In addition, teams will need to adhere to all policy and restrictions that would be required by our venue hosts.

Issues affecting our season because of COVID-19

Besides our normal issues with weather, COVID will be the biggest issue to deal with for this season. Because of the constant change associated with COVID and with the health and safety of our members, athletes, staff, volunteers, and our venue partners in mind, we are constantly assessing plans for the upcoming season. We will provide updates as they become available or the board makes decisions.

1) Will hosting venues be able to accommodate practices and league ski races?

- It is my understanding that current restrictions for Timberline Alpine ski camps are limited to 200 people. If this is the case and it continues through the first of the year for the ski resorts, I don't see how there will be a way they can host ski races. If this is the case I think our season will need to be cancelled.

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- If they are able to host our Alpine races with limitations, Leagues may need to hold races on week days and evenings. I am sure this would be discussed at the normal meeting that League leaders attend with the resorts when picking the 2021 season competition days.
- Nordic practices and races may also have restrictions on the numbers allowed by training and race venues.

2) School or District Policies

It is entirely possible that a school or district may opt not to hold a winter sports season, even if other schools or districts in their competition leagues may be open. If this happens OISRA will not look for a “work around” to accommodate skiing. That team will need to follow the directive of the school. It would be up to the coach and parents to convince the AD to allow skiing while not allowing other winter sports.

3) Transportation

Schools that normally may bus might have to add additional bussing to accommodate spacing requirements by their school district. Also other means of transportation may be required. This will be a school mandated issue. Also this could potentially affect available parking at the ski resorts. I am sure they will need to issue directives on this matter.

4) Developing COVID-19 Guidelines

When the picture becomes much clearer, and we receive information from our venue partners, then the OISRA board will develop some applicable guidelines, and each Division will clarify any guidelines specific to their sport.

With all that said, your OISRA Board will do all it can to support a race season for both Nordic and Alpine Divisions. Because of the unique differences in the two venue requirements it is also possible that there could be a Nordic season and no Alpine competition. Time will tell! We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to work through these unique circumstances.

Sincerely,

Mike McManus
OISRA President