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## U16 HPP - CAMP 2 - UPDATE

The U16 High Performance Program (HPP) just wrapped up its second camp for 2023. Twenty-three athletes from 7 clubs across the province spent the last two weeks training in Saas Fee, Switzerland.

The coaching staff on the camp are very pleased with the progress the athletes have made, both technically and tactically, during the camp. The camp began with a great SL block on the lower lanes, progressing from free skiing to stubby courses to full gate training. The large volume of teams training on the glacier made for some long turnaround times, but the athletes showed great focus and determination in getting quality training.

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Cup and high-level FIS teams, one day working in behind the Slovenian WC team. They are known as the "FIS' lanes because the hill is long, steep, and demanding. The athletes may have been intimidated initially, and there were some challenges, but they all persevered, progressed, and skied the course confidently by the end.

We want to thank all of the athletes who participated in both of our U16 HPP camps this summer and wish them all luck as they return to their clubs for the season.

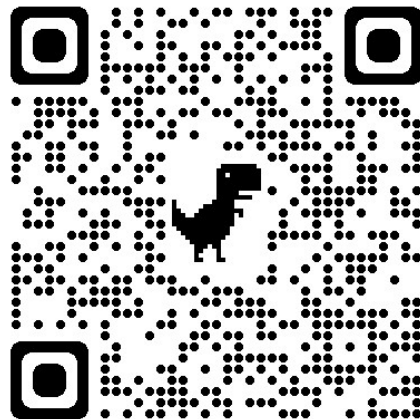
AOA would like to give a big thank you to the coaches who supported this camp's success – Bill Real (Searchmont), Martin Rog (Camp Fortune), MB Hemphill (Craigleith), and Mike Stratton (Devil's Glen).



Lots of great NEWS to share!

The season's first [SOD Committee Newsletter - START GATE](#) went out last week!  
You can check it out [HERE](#).

Make sure you [Subscribe to START GATE HERE](#) so you don't miss it!



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## OFFICIALS NEWS

### - North American FIS TD Update -

Notably, 110 officials from Canada and the US attended the North American FIS TD Update event in Nashville this past weekend. It was a great showing by the officials and their commitment to staying current with the rules and operations of alpine ski racing. The plan is to share learnings with respective provinces and regions outward to the broader community in the upcoming weeks.

Additionally, it's bittersweet to hear about David Hopper retiring as a FIS TD after serving in this role since 2008. His dedication and contributions to the field are undoubtedly appreciated.

Reminder! ON Officials update is Nov 7 online.

**Signup Deadline:** Mon Nov 6, 2023.

[REGISTER HERE](#). Everyone, please attend!

Picture - Left to Right -

L Doug Campbell FIS TD Commissioner for Canada

M David Hopper FIS TD retiring

R Jen Gillard SOD Officials Chair



## UPCOMING EVENTS





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# Free Zoom Event. The Path to the Podium

A Conversation on achieving excellence in Alpine Ski Racing



## Ski racing families and fans of Alpine Ski Racing in Canada:

Join us for a dynamic discussion about alpine ski racing, to help athletes and parents achieve their best. How can athletes achieve excellence in the sport and what are the key decision points and challenges regarding the sport, programming and education.

We will discuss with current Canadian Ski Team members Jack Crawford (reigning Super G World Champion), Ali Nullmeyer and Jeffrey Read alongside their parents including 1980 Kitzbuehel Champion and former Crazy Canuck, Ken Read as well as Angus Crawford and Brad Nullmeyer.

Ski racing athletes and their parents are all welcome to attend. There will be time to have your questions answered by these passionate and knowledgeable people. There will be prizes for the best questions.

The Path to The Podium is an event series to foster discussions regarding the sport and to raise funds to fill gaps for the men and women teams as they head into the upcoming season.

100% of the donations received from this event will go directly to the teams.

**DATE: Wed. Nov. 15th at 7pm EST**

In support of:



**ALPINE CANADA ALPIN**

**DONATE NOW!**  
CLICK HERE

This FREE Zoom event is hosted by Nick Hamilton of:



**Wealth Management  
Dominion Securities**

TO JOIN THIS ZOOM EVENT



Register HERE

**WINTHINKING.ORG**

**DON'T MISS IT!  
ONTARIO WINTER GAMES  
SURVEY**



**Thunder Bay  
2024**

Ontario  
Winter Games  
Jeux d'hiver de  
l'Ontario

and are interested, please take the survey.

Note: This event is open to Division, SCUP, and OCUP athletes and is separate from the OCUP Finals. For more information about the Games, go to (the Ontario Winter Games Website - Linked below)

TAKE THE SURVEY HERE

ONTARIO WINTER GAMES WEBSITE



AOA 2023-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN  
SPOTLIGHT



## **BUILDING RESILIENCY, INCLUSIVITY, COMMUNITY, AND IMPROVING RETENTION IN ALPINE ONTARIO U16 RANDOM START ORDER**

Starting with the 2023/24 season, Alpine Ontario, with the unanimous support of the Alpine Ontario Athletic Committee and backed by Alpine Canada's High-Performance System Working Group, will implement Random Start Order at the U16 level. This start order will be implemented for divisional and OCUP U16 races, except OCUP Finals, which will still operate under divisional seeding.

AOA will join Alberta Alpine, BC Alpine, and USSA Rocky Mountain Division in implementing random start orders at the U16 level. This new start order aims to build resiliency and community and help to improve athlete retention.

"It's all about maintaining balance and snow contact when things get rough." Says Pat Biggs, AOA Executive Director and former World Cup racer. "We've got to remember that U16 is still relatively early in the 'train-to-train' learning phase within the greater context of our sport. Allowing all kids to race on a smooth course is fun and builds engagement! Having our lowest-pointed racers learn to race from the back develops strong character, setting them up for future sports success. On many fronts, it's moving us in the right direction as a development system".

As coaches, clubs, and a province, it's our duty to best prepare our kids for the next step in their athletic journey. With this change, it's our goal to develop versatile racers to ski well in less-than-ideal snow conditions and compete for podiums regardless of start position. This skill set will help build resiliency and prepare the athletes to transition into FIS racing after U16, where everyone starts at the back of the pack before earning their first FIS points. As an added benefit to the rule change, coaches in Colorado have noticed a heightened emphasis from their athletes on

Random start order gives all athletes the same advantages and disadvantages. Everybody gets a chance to start early, in the middle and late. This approach to racing at U16 can help improve engagement for higher-pointed athletes who previously always started in the worst conditions. Athletes with fewer participation opportunities or who are new to the sport don't need to worry about their point profile to be able to have their share of good start numbers.

We're building community. Random seeding contributes to a more cohesive group because of the mix of abilities at the start and finish. Athletes of all abilities have a better chance to create relationships simply because they are experiencing closer proximity to each other. Regions that have already implemented have noted an increase in athletes, parents, and coaches staying to the last racer to cheer on and encourage all racers.

Simple and equitable, here's how the new start order will operate:

**Group Draw and Start Order:**

RANDOM DRAW determines the starting order of the competitors in all alpine competitions (Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super-G).  
The draw must take place on the day before the race. The draw must be held in a team captain's meeting. The Jury may allow a computer-assisted draw. A representative of each Club/Team MUST sign the team entry at the team captains' meeting before the draw is conducted by computer.

**Starting Order for the 2nd Run:**

The second run will be the reverse order of the first run. Athletes who DNF or DQ will be permitted to start.

ACCESS THE FULL AOA 2023-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN



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AOA MEMBER REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Alpine Ontario Membership Registration is officially OPEN! 🎉 This year, we're making the process even more seamless and user-friendly. ✨ Introducing our new How-To Video guiding families step-by-step through the registration process. 🎥 ✨ .

HOW-TO VIDEO



PREMIER PARTNERS



PLATINUM PARTNERS

KARBON

FASKEN

PROUD PARTNERS





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