



## CROSS COUNTRY SKI MEMBERSHIP

### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### WHO NEEDS A U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD MEMBERSHIP?

A U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership is necessary for anyone who has regular contact with or is in a position of authority over athletes. Events is used in a broad term and not only sanctioned U.S. Ski & Snowboard competition. Individuals that are in a position of authority over U.S. Ski & Snowboard members – particularly in the place of authority for making decisions for minors (17 & under) require a membership. For example, club board members that may or may not have direct or routine interact with athletes, however help create and implement policy and guidance that effect U.S. Ski & Snowboard member – especially minors (17 & under).

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF I AM A “PENDING,” “NOT CURRENT” OR “NOT ACTIVE” MEMBER?

These terms mean that not all membership requirements have been fulfilled or the individual hasn't registered or renewed their membership. Please check the email address that you have linked to your U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership account to determine if you have messages and reminders to fulfill certain membership requirements. The most common reason for a “pending” membership is that one has not completed background screening, or annual SafeSport training. These are often the two items that result in one's membership not being current or active. Coaches who have yet to achieve Level 100 certification are also required to complete Coaching Fundamentals every two seasons.

Individuals cannot participate in U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events until they are active/ current.

#### THOSE TURNING 18:

It is critical to remind our 17-year-old members that they need to fulfill SafeSport Training prior to membership activation and Background screening as soon as they turn 18. There is a small grace period (45 days), from an athlete's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in which to register for and receive a green light on background screening. Failure to do so will result in an inactive membership AND a delay in their points profile to return if their membership goes inactive during the competition season.

#### WHERE DO I GO TO REGISTER OR RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP?

The best method to register or renew is at the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website. Here is a direct link to registration: <https://my.usskiandsnowboard.org>.

#### WHO IS THE U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT and WHAT IS THE MAAPP?

The U.S. Center for SafeSport was created in 2017 and is an independent organization that is directly overseen by the U.S. Congress (Federal Government). They are tasked with ensuring that National Governing Bodies under the USOPC are working to ensure athlete safety. Below (in gray) is who they are in their own words.

MAAPP stands for Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy which entails how each National Governing Body (NGB) implements policy, rules and guidance to abide by the U.S. Center of SafeSport. U.S. Ski and Snowboard's MAAPP can be found [here](#).

The [Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017](#) codified the U.S. Center for SafeSport, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, as the nation's safe sport organization. It gave us the



scope and authority to resolve abuse and misconduct reports for more than 11 million individuals throughout the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement—from whom we are fully independent. The Act also charged us with developing and enforcing policies, procedures, and training to prevent abuse and misconduct. The Center’s [SafeSport Code](#) governs all participants in the Movement, and our oversight authority helps us ensure all Olympic & Paralympic national governing bodies (NGBs) adhere to [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies \(MAAPP\)](#) that support athlete safety.

## DO OUR CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEED MEMBERSHIP?

This is a broad but frequently asked question, and the answer is MAYBE. Clarification is below with examples, for your club, event or organization to determine who may need a club volunteer membership.

Volunteers that need a membership can go here to acquire a club volunteer membership:  
<http://usskiandsnowboard.org/membership/cross-country-club-volunteer-membership>

- **Volunteer coaches** that are in regular contact with or in a position of authority over athletes need a membership. It is best practice that these coaches acquire a coaching membership and seek out the coaches’ certification programs to best instruct and inspire our next generation of athletes. That said, a club volunteer license may be appropriate.
- **Officials** supporting sanctioned U.S. Ski & Snowboard events need a membership because they are in a position of authority and/or may regular contact with member athletes.
- **Team PT’s/Physicians** that work directly with athletes need a membership.
- **Wax Technicians** MAY need a membership. We address this scenario specifically below.
- **Race volunteers** MAY need membership, however often they do not (see immediately below). The exception may be race volunteers with regular contact with athletes and are not in “open and observable” areas. In general, these tasks can be adjusted in a manner to avoid triggering a MAAPP violation or U.S. Center for SafeSport training and hence would not require a membership.

Volunteers that do not need a membership

- **On-site Emergency Event Medical Staff** do not need a membership. They are on-site for events to care for non-routine medical scenarios.
- **Timers and Live Web Broadcasters** do not need a membership
- **Most event volunteers that are in an** “open and observable” area such as parking cars, grooming, set the racecourse, etc. do not need a membership.

## DO FOREIGN ATHLETES NEED A MEMBERSHIP?

The answer depends greatly on the athlete’s current residence and the level of competition. Athletes traveling to the USA from a foreign country for a FIS level event and have a FIS-coded license from a foreign country do not require a U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership.

**Foreign athletes that are in current residence in the USA** such as residing with a club and/or Team (such as NCAA) and are routinely engaged in U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events in the USA **need a full U.S. Ski & Snowboard license.** for they are in routine contact with minors at sanctioned U.S. Ski & Snowboard events.

Non-FIS foreign athletes competing in U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events (non-FIS level) require a membership. There are two membership options, and these membership options are dependent upon the age of the



athlete. Foreign athletes competing in multiple events (multiple locations) will require a full U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership.

Athletes competing in one event may have the option to purchase a short-term U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership. One event is defined as one location with one block of competitions up to five days total, such as U.S. Nationals (4 races – Jan 2-7).

#### **U.S. Ski & Snowboard Short-Term memberships:**

- Athletes 17 and under may purchase a standard short term membership just as a USA short-term member would (follow these instructions: <https://my.usskiandsnowboard.org/node/8112>)
- Athletes 18 & over, should contact membership via email at [membership@usskiandsnowboard.org](mailto:membership@usskiandsnowboard.org) to acquire a Cross Country Foreign adult athlete short term membership.

#### **DO FOREIGN COACHES NEED A MEMBERSHIP?**

Yes, if they have one or more U.S. Ski & Snowboard member athletes on their team and they are seeking to be involved and engaged in any U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event.

#### **DO WAX TECHNICIANS NEED A MEMBERSHIP?**

It is best practice that wax technicians have a membership. A “club volunteer” membership is often adequate, for that fulfills both SafeSport Training and background screening requirements.

<http://usskiandsnowboard.org/membership/cross-country-club-volunteer-membership>

A wax technician will need a membership if they have regular contact with or are in a position of authority over athletes – especially minor athletes. Secondly, wax technicians can be placed in an environment that is “not open and observable” For example, a club-owned or event enclosed waxing area. Such scenarios can place athletes, technicians, the club, the event and the NGB at risk. Acquiring a membership and the accompanying SafeSport training that comes with it will provide the wax technician with information as to appropriate interaction as well as outline SafeSport and MAAPP violations such as one-on-one interaction in a wax cabin with a minor, so this does not take place.

Also, many events have “closed” racecourses. It is the authority of both the officials and the event host to determine who has access “Inside the Field of Play.” Having a membership provides the wax technician the best opportunity to support their team, club or athletes “Inside the Field of Play.”

A wax technician **does not** need a membership if they do not have regular contact with or are not in a position of authority over athletes and do not need to access “Inside Field of Play” to conduct their work.

#### **DO WAX SKI INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS NEED A MEMBERSHIP?**

Please review “WAX TECHNICIANS” immediately above for the rationale and determination as whether a ski industry supplier needs a membership is very similar to a wax technician. In short, if the ski supplier is in regular contact with or in a position of authority over athletes and/ or potentially seeks access “Inside the Field of Play” then this triggers the need for a membership. Also, if suppliers have any form of scenario that is not “open and observable” such as an indoor container at a sanctioned U.S. Ski & Snowboard event then that too triggers the need for a membership such as a “club volunteer” membership that fulfills both SafeSport Training and background screening requirements.