

# **Marquette Mountain Racing Team Handbook**

## **PURPOSE**

The Marquette Mountain Racing Team is a non-profit organization that promotes the lifelong support of alpine skiing and its recreational, social, physical, and competitive opportunities. The team encourages young skiers to grow as athletes in a nurturing environment, which sets no limits to their dreams. The team strives to teach its athletes the fundamental skills of alpine ski racing, which they can build upon to compete at local, state, national, and international levels.

## **RACING TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

Membership on the Marquette Mountain Racing Team (MMRT) shall be open to skiers at least 7 years old, who are able to use the chairlift by themselves, and who are enrolled in school at grade levels one through twelve. The MMRT does not discriminate based on race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Membership is contingent upon payment of membership fees and submission of all required information and waiver forms. Racers can enroll at any time, but must be enrolled as an MMRT member at least one week prior to racing. A late registration fee may apply after December 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

The MMRT Board of Directors may limit the number of racers accepted on the team for reasons such as maintaining a manageable coach-to-racer ratio, or race day duration. If a cap in racer numbers is designated, racers will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

The MMRT Board of Directors shall review and establish membership fees prior to the general information meeting each year. The board shall also establish minimum levels of competence for membership in MMRT. These may include but are not limited to the ability to put on equipment, ski, and get on and off the lifts independently. The board may entertain individual membership requests that do not meet these criteria.

## **Governance By-Laws**

### **Board of Directors**

The Marquette Mountain Racing Team shall be governed by a Board of Directors. The Board shall include eleven voting members (at least seven shall be parents of active Racing Team skiers).

The Board shall call at least two general meeting each year: the organizational meeting prior to each ski season and the awards meeting following the close of each ski season.

The Board shall hold Directors' meetings at least monthly from October through April, which all Board members shall be expected to attend.

Board members shall serve three-year terms and may be re-elected. Elections take place at the awards meeting. Board terms shall alternate so that no more than four terms may expire in a given year. Continued membership shall also depend in part upon members' active participation. The Board may request members who fail to attend three consecutive Board meetings or otherwise fail to support the Board's activities to yield their seats. The Board of Directors may appoint interim replacements for the remainder of the unexpired term.

### **Officers**

The Board of Directors shall select officers from among its members each year following the general organization meeting in the fall. These officers shall include at a minimum a president, a treasurer, and a secretary.

### **President**

The President shall call and preside over all Board and general meetings. The President shall serve ex officio on any committees needed to further the Racing Team's purposes. The President shall review all payments from Board funds and all mailings to Racing Team skiers and parents. The President shall notify members whom the Board decides must yield their seats. The President shall vote at Board meetings only to break ties.

### **Vice President**

The Board may request the Treasurer or a Secretary to preside when the President is absent, or it may designate a member to act as Vice President. The Vice President shall assume the duties of President when the President is absent and shall take over the duties

of President until the next general meeting, if the President should leave the Board through resignation or other cause.

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall record all receipts and disbursements and report on the Team's financial standing at each Board meeting. Disbursements in excess of two hundred dollars shall require prior approval by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer shall receive and account for all membership fees. The Treasurer shall deposit Racing Team funds under the Marquette Mountain Racing Team name in a federally-insured financial institution approved by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall pay all bills by check for purpose of record.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep a record of business transacted at all Board meetings and mail out all correspondence.

The Board may if it deems necessary divide recording and correspondence duties between two secretaries.

### **Amendments**

The Board may propose revisions of these governance by-laws. Such revisions go into effect upon adoption by the general membership.

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## Conduct

1. Team members shall conduct themselves in a sportsperson-like manner while involved in any team activities.
2. Team members shall be courteous and respect the decisions of coaching staff, race officials, and all ski area employees and personnel.
3. Racers shall not use alcohol, tobacco products, or illegal drugs.
4. Racers shall not use profane or abusive language.
5. Racers shall be truthful and honest.
6. Racers shall respect others' belongings. The team does not tolerate stealing or tampering with other athletes' equipment.
7. Team members shall be considerate and supportive of others. No racer shall interfere with or prevent others from learning.
8. Team members must submit all completed application forms, fees, team agreements, and releases prior to participating in any team activity for the coming year.
9. Racers must observe ski area rules:
  - Carry the ski area season pass in view at all times.
  - Obey ski area signs.
  - Cutting lift lines is not allowed. Racers do not have special privileges at the ski area.
  - Respect area employees and other skiers. The general skiing public always comes first!
  - Slow down in crowds, at intersections, and before getting to the lift loading areas. Racing and tucking is for the race course only!
  - In case of emergency, contact the ski patrol or go to the lift attendant at the top or bottom of any lift.

Participation with the MMRT is a privilege that can be revoked. Each athlete should know and respect all rules.

MMRT racers represent the Marquette Mountain Racing Team and are highly visible. They should bring credit to themselves by the way they ski and by their exemplary behavior on the slopes, in the lines, and riding the lifts. MMRT racers are responsible athletes; through their positive actions, the ski area and all skiers will be proud to support ski racing!

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## Violations

The Board of Directors places discipline with the Marquette Mountain Racing Team coaching staff. Coaching staff shall have authority to enforce training and sportsmanship rules and to impose penalties as follows:

### Principal Offenses:

- Irresponsible conduct that endangers other persons or property.

### **Penalty**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Minimum of two-week suspension from all team activities and exclusion of the next two consecutive races up to indefinite suspension and forfeiture of all points.

### Major Offenses:

- Use of Illegal Drugs
- Use of Alcohol
- Use of Tobacco Products

### **Penalty**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Two-week suspension from all team activities.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Indefinite suspension from team activities and forfeiture of team points.

### Minor Offenses:

- Misbehavior
- Violation of Ski Area Rules
- Violation of Marquette Mountain Racing Team Rules

### **Penalty**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: One-week suspension from all team activities.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Two-week suspension from all team activities.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Indefinite suspension from all team activities and forfeiture of all team points.

## **Appeals**

Athletes may appeal disciplinary actions imposed by the Marquette Mountain Racing Team within 48 hours to the Head Coach. An Appeals Committee will review, evaluate, and act on all appeals within three days of submittal by the athlete. The Appeals Committee consists of five members: The President of the Board of Directors, two Board Members, the Head Coach, and one staff coach. The action of the Appeals Committee is final.

If the athlete makes no appeal during the 48-hour period, the disciplinary action will be considered justified by both the team member and the MMRT and will stand.

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## **Training**

1. Be on time for designated training sessions and team activities.
2. Dress in a responsible manner for the day's weather.
3. Maintain equipment regularly to insure safety and performance.
4. Inspect all courses unless otherwise instructed.
5. Proper protective eye gear only for gate training – no sunglasses.
6. Assist to keep training courses clear for other athletes.
7. Slip all courses before and after use, unless otherwise instructed.
8. Help set up and tear down all courses, unless otherwise instructed.
9. Helmets are strongly recommended.

## **Start Order**

Racers will run within their age groups in general. Age group order will rotate so that each age group has a chance to run first. However, the MMRT Board reserves the authority to change race order if it deems appropriate.

Individual start order within age groups is determined by results from the previous race:

- a) Racers will run in order of their times from the previous race – fastest first.
- b) Next come racers who did not compete in the previous race.
- c) Racers arriving late can run at either the end of their age group, or the end of the entire run. Racers will not be allowed to run early.

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## Competition

Racers shall compete in age classes as follows:

Ages 7-8  
Boys and Girls  
J6 Group

Ages 13-14  
Boys and Girls  
J3 Group

Ages 9-10  
Boys and Girls  
J5 Group

Ages 15-16  
Boys and Girls  
J2 Group

Ages 11-12  
Boys and Girls  
J4 Group

Ages 17-18  
Boys and Girls  
J1 Group

If either of the 15-16 or 17-18 groups should include fewer than ten signed-up participants, that group will merge with the other for the season.

For competition purposes, participants may choose to compete one age group above their normal age group. Participants who choose to do this must have the consent of a coach and must announce the choice prior to the first race. A competitor may not change age groups after the first race.

Boys and girls racers shall each accumulate both age class points and overall race points for each race during the season as follows:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Overall</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	25	50	9 <sup>th</sup>	7	8
2 <sup>nd</sup>	20	25	10 <sup>th</sup>	6	7
3 <sup>rd</sup>	15	20	11 <sup>th</sup>	5	6
4 <sup>th</sup>	12	15	12 <sup>th</sup>	4	5
5 <sup>th</sup>	11	12	13 <sup>th</sup>	3	4
6 <sup>th</sup>	10	11	14 <sup>th</sup>	2	3
7 <sup>th</sup>	9	10	15 <sup>th</sup>	1	2
8 <sup>th</sup>	8	9	16 <sup>th</sup>	1	1

Racers shall earn at least one age class point in each race for competing.

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## Awards

At the end of the season, each racer shall retain the best 70 percent of his or her possible age class finishes and the best 50 percent of his or her possible overall finishes, regardless of discipline (slalom or giant slalom). The Board of Directors will then announce age-class awards and overall awards on the basis of these adjusted points at the spring general meeting.

All racers' points reset to zero at the beginning of each season. Racers who receive indefinite suspension from the team for serious offenses forfeit all points earned up to the times of suspensions (See section on violations).

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## **RACE DAY!**

There is nothing like the excitement of race day! This is the opportunity for racers to push themselves and discover their personal best.

Parents, help your child to become a responsible racer who is prepared with the proper equipment and clothing. More advanced or competitive racers will want to check the temperatures and snow conditions so they can wax for the conditions of the day.

All racers should have regular tune-ups on equipment to ensure that bindings are functioning properly and settings are appropriate to the level of skiing ability.

### **What to expect:**

1. Call the MMRT hotline (222-2221) for last minute details on the race. Sudden changes in weather have caused last minute cancellations in the past.
2. Report to the race hill. Generally a board is set up at the base of the hill with the race details including start time, start order, prizes awarded, etc.
3. After the course is set up, MMRT allows for course inspection (**SLIPPING THE COURSE**). Racers may **SLOWLY** snowplow or side-slip through the course. Other racing venues besides MMRT may only allow course inspection from the side. Our allowing racers to slip through the course helps with learning to pick a line through the gates and removes excess loose snow from the course.
4. Fifteen to twenty minutes before the race begins, an announcement will be made that the course inspection is **CLOSED**. Racers should exit the course and be prepared to report to the start gate. A forerunning skier will take the course first to ensure that the timing is working proficiently.
5. During the course of the race, racers should report to the start gate in the order established by the race order for the day.
6. Race times are generally posted on boards outside for the racers and families. Racers or parents should not go into the race shacks and ask for times. Seek out a race volunteer or coach to ask for a time that may have been missed or to see if a re-run is necessary. Working the timing equipment requires concentration and a quiet environment so reports can be received from the start gate.

7. Racers should pay attention to announcements over the loud speaker as they cross the finish line. Oftentimes a re-run may be asked of them or they could be asked to report to the race shack.
8. At the end of the race, an announcement will be made as to where the awards ceremony will be held.

**Racers, have fun!!**

**Parents, consider volunteering to help! Many hands make a light load, and a faster race day for everyone.**