**ALPINE SPORT COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM PROPOSAL**

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| Date: | 04/13/20 |

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| For consideration by: | Alpine Development SubCommittee; Alpine Sport Committee |

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| Copy to: | Alpine Coaches Ed, Alpine U16 and older, Alpine U14 and younger, Alpine Quotas, Alpine Collegiate |

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| Rule reference: |  |

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Background:

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| This proposal comes from the Health of Sport Task force formed after Congress 2019 to address increasing costs, travel, and missed school while examining retention and athlete development.  The 4 parts of the proposal are the start of the effort by directing regions to build appropriate levels of racing with head to head performance based advancement regionally, reducing the amount of racing for first year FIS athletes, and creating standards for discretionary racing outside of the regional and national pipeline.  Improve retention: Ability appropriate and accessible competitions close by  Lower cost: Reduce expensive travel, minimize time out of school, de-emphasize points in selections thereby reducing point chasing, and lessen the “arms race”.  Enhance development: Clear athlete pipeline with advancement of top performing athletes through head to head competition. |

New Proposal:

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| 1. Regions and divisions will establish an ability-matched system of race series for U16 and older, whereby athletes start at an introductory level and advance to the next level by meeting a standard, such as points, rankings and/or qualifying event results, determined by the region and/or division. Head-to-head competition should be included in the advancement method. 2. Whenever possible, head to head racing should be utilized for selections. 3. Regional selections to Regional Camps, NPS, Jr. Nationals and U.S. Alpine Championships ~~will~~ should be based on head-to-head competition within one’s own region 4. National selections that cross regions (i.e. national projects) may utilize seed points 5. Exceptions may be made for athletes who are unable to compete in the head-to-head series races due to attending national projects. 6. Racing in the Southern Hemisphere is prohibited for 1st year FIS athletes 7. Start limitation recommendations for 2020-21 season. Applies to SL and GS starts only. ~~Athletes who have reached their start limit will not be eligible to enter additional events in that season.~~ 8. 2004 YOB: ~~30 FIS starts~~ amended to 35 SL and GS FIS Starts 9. 2005 YOB: ~~30 National starts~~ amended to 25 SL and GS National Starts 10. 2006 YOB: ~~30 National starts~~  amended to 25 SL and GS National Starts   Amendment motion to D. was by Morin/ second by Paul. Passed. |

Comments:

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| This four-part proposal is designed to build a system of advancement in US ski racing. By establishing standards for advancement and movement, while controlling start volume, there will ultimately be lower costs to the families.   1. A step-by-step system helps athletes and programs understand the trajectory an athlete needs to take to achieve goals. Athletes will race in appropriately competitive fields 2. Coordination between Regions creates consistency in our sport, promotes racing in one’s own region (conflicts eliminate availability), and lessens the perception that there are “better” opportunities outside of one’s region. 3. Prohibiting southern hemisphere racing for 1st year FIS athletes allows for more meaningful prep period training, reduces cost, and reduces the perceived advantage for well resourced (lowers the cost of the sport). 4. Limiting tech start volume for younger U19’s helps: 5. Regions design effective race calendars 6. Athletes and their coaches manage the most effective race schedule 7. Open time for training and speed experience 8. Reduce cost of the sport |

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| Submitted by: | Health of Sport Task Force |

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| Contact Person: | Karen Ghent karenghent@gmail.com |