



PARENTING FOR SUCCESS

Winter Sport Parent Information

MEMBERSHIP OFFERS MORE



U.S. cross country star Liz Stephen raced alpine until her sophomore year (photo by Sarah Brunson/USSA)

Is your child on the competitive track in their sport? Here's a brief outline of the organizations that are involved and what they do.

USSA: National governing body for sport, sanctions events for all sports except telemark. Responsible for competition and development pipelines from the grassroots all the way to Olympic teams.

USASA: Represents the recreational and competitive interests of amateur snowboarders and freeskiers. In these sports, the USASA Rocky Mountain Series is the primary competition pathway until elite levels.

USA Nordic and Women's Ski Jumping

USA: Supports the development and elite teams of ski jumping and nordic combined.

United States Telemark: Sanctioning organization for telemark racing in the U.S.

Rocky Mountain Division: Local governing body for alpine, freestyle and jumping/nordic combined. Handles the calendaring of competitions for these sports in Colorado, provides funding support through athlete and project grants, and administers the Colorado Ski Country USA All-Star pass program.

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There are new options for athletes this year and it is good news for families. Most SSWSC athletes, with the exception of many snowboarders, freeskiers, telemark and development skiers and riders, need to become a member of the national governing body for ski and snowboard competition – the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA). USSA has completely re-vamped its [membership structure](#), benefiting both large families and athletes at programs where programming for many different disciplines is offered, like the SSWSC.

Improvement #1: Any USSA member can carry multiple memberships, but now only pays for one (the one with the highest price). In addition, for youth categories, pricing has generally come down, especially for the youngest ages, as membership categories by sport are entirely based on age.

This works great for athletes that choose to add a second sport to their SSWSC programming, which can be ideal, particularly for athletes ages 13 and younger. As noted in the previous article about playing multiple sports, the skill transfer between the sports at this age is believed to be greater than at any other time. For both USSA and SSWSC, the athlete designates a primary sport when registering. Note that while USSA does not charge for additional sports, the Rocky Mountain Division has separate fees for alpine, freestyle and jumping/nordic combined.

Improvement #2: There is a cap on the total membership cost for a family. This will only kick in for families with older athletes or with parents involved as the cap is \$400, but knowing the cost challenges for big families this helps. For this offer, all memberships for the family must be purchased at the same time. (FIS registration is not included in the cap.)

USSA has also created a low-cost general member category. This does not provide access to USSA sanctioned events, but does provide access for most of USSA's member benefits including equipment discounts. It can be upgraded to a competitor membership during the season by paying the cost difference. USSA membership renewals are due October 15.

Snowboarders and freeskiers attend competitions governed by the United States of America Snowboard and Freeski Association (USASA). USSA membership is usually not required until the higher levels of competition (NorAm, Rev Tour, etc.), but athletes do need to [become USASA members](#).