








# COMPETITIVE ALPINE SKIING PATHWAYS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Type of Competition:	 U.S. Ski Team (USST)	 NCAA	 USCSA	
			USCSA Varsity	USCSA Club
<b>Disciplines</b>	DH, SG, SC, GS, SL, Parallel SL	SL, GS	SL, GS, Parallel SL	SL, GS, Parallel SL
<b>Competitiveness</b>	Highest level of competition  FIS elite, NorAm, Europa Cup, World Cup, Olympics	Elite-level FIS racing against NCAA ski teams  Div I, II, III compete in same race series  Schedule includes regular season races, regionals and Nationals	FIS, USSA, and non-USSA racing during regular season against other colleges  Varsity and Club teams compete in the same series  Schedule includes regular season races, regionals and Nationals	USSA and non-USSA racing during regular season against other colleges  Varsity and Club teams compete in the same series  Schedule includes regular season races, regionals and Nationals
<b>Team Expectation</b>	Most competitive  Must meet team criteria to qualify; must produce to stay on team or be selected for key competitions (i.e. Europa Cup, World Juniors, US Nationals)	Highly competitive; many team members are former USST or foreign national racers  Roster varies by team; typically 6 - 12 athletes per gender  1 - 2 new racers recruited per gender per year	Competitive  Varsity roster varies by team; typically ~7 athletes per gender  "B" team athletes may also compete during the season	Competitive but inclusive  Team size varies by school and club budget  All roster athletes eligible to compete during the season
<b>FIS/USSS Points</b>	Under 20 FIS points in multiple events; but eligibility is based on USST criteria involving rankings and performance at National races	Div I: 25 - 100 FIS points in one event; 30 - 50+ FIS points in another  Div II/III: 30 - 40 FIS points in one event; 50 - 60+ FIS points in another	Under 150 USSS points in both events  Check team rosters and results as competitive level varies by school and from year to year	Rosters vary and may include athletes from elite to entry-level experience  Check team rosters and results as competitive level varies by school and from year to year
<b>Average Athlete Age</b>	15 yrs to 30+ years old	18+ yrs (max 26 yrs)  Div I may delay/PG start of eligibility up to 3 yrs	Mostly 18+ yrs	Mostly 18+ yrs
<b>Coaching</b>	Paid coaching staff	Paid coaching staff	Paid coaching staff	Varies by club: Volunteer or paid coach, student coach(s), or self-coached

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<b>Cost/Fees/Aid</b>	Varied funding based on team (A, B, C or Development)	School-funded  Athletic scholarships may be available: DI: multi-year, full DII: partial DIII/Ivy schools: not available	School-funded  Equipment usually paid by athlete  Athletic and academic scholarships may be available	Students pay club dues; support varies by school  Equipment paid by athlete  Academic scholarships may be available
<b>Race Venues</b>	Europe, North America	U.S.	U.S.	U.S.
<b>Race Season</b>	Late Nov - Apr	Late Nov - Apr	Late Nov - Apr	Jan - Mar
<b>Training</b>	Most of year; On snow typically begins in Aug  Training venues may include: Europe, North/South America, Australia, New Zealand	Fall dryland; optional summer training	Fall dryland; optional summer training	Optional fall dryland
<b>Championships</b>	NorAm, US Nationals, World Cup, Olympics	NCAA Nationals, NorAm finals, US Alpine National Championship	USCSA Nationals  2-5 teams qualify from each region  USCSA Nationals Individuals may qualify for NCAA Nationals through regional competition	USCSA Nationals  2-5 teams qualify from each region
<b>Regular Season # Competitors (Indiv/Teams)</b>	Varies based on criteria; usually 1-8 athletes per team (A,B,C and Development)	20 teams  Two Regions: East: 13 teams West: 7 teams	Over 250 teams  6 regions 11 conferences	Over 250 teams  6 regions 11 conferences
<b>Championship # Competitors (Indiv/Teams)</b>	Varies based on meeting qualifications or national rankings	34 men; 34 women (max of 3 athletes per gender per team; top 3 results score for team)	200+ competitors at Nationals (max 5 athletes per gender per team; top 3 results score for team)	200+ competitors at Nationals (max 5 athletes per gender per team; top 3 results score for team)
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.usскиandsnowboard.org">www.usскиandsnowboard.org</a>	<a href="http://www.ncaa.com/sports/skiing">www.ncaa.com/sports/skiing</a>	<a href="http://www.uscsa.org">www.uscsa.org</a>	<a href="http://www.uscsa.org">www.uscsa.org</a>

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How to get more info	Review USSS guidelines for USST eligibility  Contact regional USSA representatives for more information	Email or call coach to arrange visit or learn more about team  Follow NCAA guidelines for eligibility, etc. on NCAA Clearing House	Email or call coach to arrange visit or learn more about team  If a Div I school, adhere to NCAA Clearing House Guidelines  Attend Fall USCSA College Fair	Email or call club coach/student president or contact “club sports” office at college/university  Attend Fall USCSA College Fair

Source: U.S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association (USCSA) 2022; Ski Racing Media 2023