

The Definitive Guide to Masters Ski Racing
Getting involved with Masters ski racing, the definitive guide
Masters Ski Racing – Give it a Try!

So, you'd like to get involved in Masters ski racing. Maybe this came as a desire to improve your recreational skills? Perhaps you raced as a youngster or collegian and would like to feel that rush of adrenaline once again? Or just maybe you've been racing in your local ski bum series or dabbling in NASTAR, and you'd like to take on more challenge? And then again you might be considering trying masters racing to meet new friends, enjoy post-race parties and raffles, as well as explore exciting new mountains and terrain.

Masters racing is open to all who are 18 and older and will accommodate all levels of abilities and sources of motivation. Masters racing is financially structured so you can dip your toe in the water without making the plunge, but if you like what you have seen, it's easy to dive in. Check it out:

***Masters ski racing is conducted regionally, but organized nationally under the umbrella of USSA (United States Ski and Snowboard Assoc.).** The respective masters ski racing circuits are conducted regionally throughout the winter and culminate with a national championship in late March. **Participants must be members of USSA.**

***Racers may purchase a one-day USSA short-term membership for \$15, or buy a seasonal membership for \$90.** USSA reduced the cost of membership this season in order to make the winter-long option more appealing.

***Those who have purchased USSA coaching, officials, or race administration licenses do NOT have to pay an extra fee to race masters.** And conversely the \$90 cost of a Masters membership will be deducted from the cost of other USSA licenses.

*USSA member coaches who participate in any USSA masters ski races will receive credit toward certification.

***Membership directions, regional and national championship schedules, rules, and links to regional circuits can be found on the USSA website: www.ussa.org.** Click on "alpine" and then click on the "masters photo," and voila, membership directions and all questions will be answered. Follow the link to your regional circuit to find out about your specific regional schedules, rules, and any additional membership requirements.

***Masters racing is user friendly.** On regional websites, you will also find information on training opportunities, discount equipment purchases, ride sharing, and race entry procedure.

***Once you attend your first race, you will receive a warm welcome, as well as assistance with the race-day routine from inspection to seeding procedures to multiple invitations to attend the post-race social events.**

***All events are conducted by USSA rules and race venues must adhere to USSA specifications.** This ensures experienced race organizations, uncompromised safety, diligent course maintenance, and some of the best racing venues in the country.

Whether you are 18 or 80 years old, maybe it's time to give your skiing more focus, set new goals for improvement, or venture outside your comfort zone. Whether you were a collegiate star or are currently learning the rudiments of a carved turn, the masters ski racing experience will be memorable and the rewards will be plentiful. Maybe it's time to give masters racing a try.