

Minnetonka Alpine Ski Racing Information Packet 2026-2027

September 25th, 4 PM to 4:45 PM, Excelsior – Homecoming Parade Alpine Float

- Captains will reach out to former team members with details.
- New team members should contact Captains if interested.
- I encourage all members to attend, It's fun. 😊

October 7th, 5:30 PM - Introductory PAC meeting

- The parent athlete coach meeting will be October 1st at 5:30 PM in the high school cafeteria.
- At that time, we will review the goals of the program, training and race schedules, team selections, and answer any questions.
- In addition, athletes can view and try on the team merchandise for the season.

October 10th, 5 to 7 PM - Paradise Cruise Fundraising Boat Trip

- Season opening get together on the lake.
- Sign up at the following link:
<https://cruisereservations.twincitiescruises.com/TCCcruiseDetail.php?recid=43924>

October 19th - Registration opens online

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| 1) The Annual School Participation fee (online) | \$83.00 |
| 2) The Alpine Ski Activity Fee (online) | \$138.00 |
| a. Team Equipment | |
| 3) The Hyland Pass, transportation, Coaching Fee: (online) | \$550.00 |

Payment Links:

Participation and Alpine Activity Fee: <https://1976a.cf.wordwareinc.com>
Alpine Team Fee: <https://minnetonka.revtrak.net/>

- All registration forms and fees must be completed before athletes will be allowed to participate.
- **Athletes must have a current sports physical (dated within 3 years) on file at MHS to complete registration.**
- If you already completed an eligibility form for a fall sport, and paid the \$83 annual participation fee, you do not need to complete again for Alpine Skiing.

Training

- The season starts November 9th with Dry Land workouts until Hyland opens for on-snow training.
- Dryland practices November 10, 12, 17, 19, 24th at Life Time Minnetonka 6:45 PM to 7 PM
- On snow ski practices are held at Hyland Hills weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM. Starting December 1st or when ski area opens.
- From time to time, there will be additional free skiing drills from 6PM to 7 PM on the south hill before gate training at 7PM. See schedule on Teamsnap.
- Varsity and JV train together.
- There will be two training lanes (when available).
- There is no JV training on Varsity race days.
- There is no school bus service provided for training or JV races at Hyland.

December 3rd to December 5th - Lutsen Training Camp

- Departing via Coach bus Thursday December 3rd at 3:00PM for Lutsen.
- Stay at Eagle Ridge condos on Lutsen Mountain
- Train December 4th and 5th.
- Depart Lutsen 3:00 PM on Saturday December 5th
- Fee for transportation, training, lodging, meals & lift tickets ~ \$400/racer
- Sign up at the following link: _____

December 15th to February 9th – Varsity and JV Ski Meets

- The O' Lakes Invite will be on January 1st at Wild Mountain for both Varsity and JV teams. (All day event)
- Run orders will be announced approximately 2 to 3 days in advance of race day.
- A racer's result consists of the combined time of the first and second run.
- The top 6 racers' times and corresponding points are calculated to determine team placement.
- Varsity races will be at Buck Hill starting at 4PM on December 15th, January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th.
- The Varsity Conference Championship is the combined team result of the conference races
- The Section V meet is at Wild Mountain on February 2nd, 2025.
- The State meet is at Giants Ridge on February 9th, 2025.
- The Section and State teams consists of 6 members plus an alternate.
- JV races will be at Hyland Hills each Friday starting at 4:30PM on January 8th, 15th, and 22nd, and 29th
- The JV Conference Champs are at Buck Hill on Feb 5th, 2025.

Communication

- All team announcements, schedules and race results will be delivered via TeamSnap.
- To sign up, please email the following information to Dave at dgartner@ecs-sales.com for racer and family members wanting to receive the communications.
 - Name
 - email address
 - mobile phone number
- Please direct any questions or comments regarding the program to the head coach via email or phone.

Skiing Experience and Ability Level Guideline

Grades 9 to 12

- A minimum of one year's skiing experience.
- Able to make continuous parallel turns on an intermediate run and perform a parallel stop on command.
- Contact Head Coach if you need help assessing ability level.

Middle School

- Accomplished USSA racer
- Junior Championships qualifier
- High confidence level of qualifying for the varsity team.
- Contact Dave to discuss it before registering!

Equipment Requirements

- Racer must have the following:
 - Slalom specific racing skis that are regularly tuned (about once per week) to ensure they are sharp!
 - Ski boots
 - Ski poles with slalom guards
 - Shin guards
 - Ski helmet with slalom chin guard (preferred) or mouth guard
 - Ski goggles with appropriate lenses for the light and in good condition.
 - Rope tow gloves or glove guards.
- For new equipment, there are several good ski racing ski shops in town including:
 - Pierce Skate and Ski
 - Gear West

- Tonka Cycle and Ski
- Hoigaards
- For used equipment, the club ski teams all have ski swaps **in October**
 - Afton 10/9/26 – 10/11/26
 - Gilboa 10/23/26 – 10/25/26

Team Uniform & Apparel

- The team uniform consists of a bib and “starter” jacket that will be used at races.
- Bib must be turned in to the captain at the finish area at the completion of each race!
- Loss of a team bib or jacket will incur a replacement cost to the racer it was assigned to for that race.
- In addition, athletes are strongly encouraged to purchase a team coat. This year’s coat is a down puff jacket from Arctica. The price is roughly \$??? including team embroidery.
- Additional team-branded apparel will also be available such as shirts, hats, joggers, etc.
- Apparel is available for purchase at the following link: _____

Team Size, Selection and Expectations

- Time trials will be scheduled for the first few weeks in December or as snow depth allows to set gates.
- The varsity team roster each week will be selected initially by using the time trial data and through the season from varsity and JV race results and additional time trials.
- **Therefore, athletes who don’t qualify for the varsity roster on race 1 are not excluded from making the varsity roster later in the season.**
- The Varsity team roster consists of 12 boys and 12 girls.
- Minnetonka will ski 1 boy and 1 girl forerunner for the Varsity race we “host”.
- Junior Varsity roster carries the remaining team members (boys and girls).
- Typically, all JV team members participate at each JV race (unless limited by the race organizers).
- Varsity athletes also skiing USSA/FIS are required to attend one day of training per week throughout the season.
- Varsity athletes not skiing USSA/FIS are expected to train a minimum of 2 days per week.
- All racers will conform to following team rules:

Athlete will:

- adhere to the rules and conduct regarding participation by MHS and the MSHSL
- arrive on time at the top of the hill ready to train.
- communicate to the head coach any absences from practices and/or meets in advance.
- stay through the completion of the entire practice and race to help tear down and cheer on fellow athletes

Note: Failure to comply with the rules may result in forfeiting your spot on the run order for an individual race to removal from the team.

Varsity Letter Criteria

- Letters are awarded to skiers who participate in 2 Varsity races. This includes Forerunning

Conference Champions and All Conference Criteria

- The Conference Champions are determined by combining the point totals for the conference races.
- Individual All Conference selections will be determined by the FIS World Cup point system.

Sections Selection Criteria

- The Section team will be determined by using WC points.
- Consideration will be given for athletes missing races due to injury, sickness, school activity or attending a USSA/FIS race. (Was racer consistently fast, contributing significant points for the team in the reduced number of starts?)

Transportation

- Training at Hyland: No school buses for training. Athletes must drive or get a ride from parent.
- Varsity and JV Meets: Buses are provided for varsity races; however, no school busses for JV races at Hyland.

Excused Absences from School

- The racers selected to ski at the regular season Varsity meets are excused from class at 2:05 pm on those days.
- At the Section V Section meet, a full day is excused for the 6 boy and 6 girl racers, plus the alternates.
- All other team members are encouraged to attend the Section and/or State races to support the team; however, they must get excused on their own.

Fundraising

- Fundraising activities are initiated by the Captains and the Booster Club.
- Paradise Cruise Season Kick Off Boat Trip
- Bay Side Nails
- Booster Club is now a 501c nonprofit organization. Donations welcome.

Banquet/Awards

- The end of season banquet/award ceremony is organized by the captains' parents, and it is typically scheduled a week or two after the State Meet. It is a great time to re-live the fun events from the season, and everyone is encouraged to attend!
- This year the banquet will be on ?????
- The coaches will present team awards and many individual awards to both Varsity and JV athletes. In addition, Varsity letters, All Conference, and All State awards will be presented. The captains also have their own awards, which are given to every team member attending the banquet. (One of my favorite parts ☺)
- Next year's captains are selected and announced by the coaching staff.

Parents Responsibilities

- 2 parents per race are needed to volunteer as a gatekeeper, assistant starter, or scoreboard recorder at the Varsity and JV races.
- Sign up at the PAC meeting. No experience required. Honestly, it is really fun to be part of the action, and I strongly encourage you to sign up!
- The captains' parents are responsible for
 - Appointing a Treasurer
 - Appointing an Apparel Manager
 - Appointing a trailer manager
 - Obtaining a host family for pasta parties
 - Organizing Invitational and Section Race food and tent set up
 - Organizing the banquet

Coach Contact Information

Head Coach	David Gartner (612) 991-9900 dgartner@ecs-sales.com
Assistant Coach	Steve Midthun (612) 963-2540 smidthun@jpmpropertiesllc.com
Assistant Coach	Marlee Benson (612) 500-6732 marlee.gartner@gmail.com
Assistant Coach	Duncan Hurrelbrink (612) 508-5885 duncanhurrelbrink@gmail.com

Captain Contact Information

Girls

Liina Witte	612-380-7080
Alexandra Anderson	
Kylie Gaffney	952 818 2426
Marjorie Flaherty	(763) 367-0321

Boys

Paul Braunwarth	paulmbraunwarth@gmail.com
Tanner Pierce	612 360 5141
Chip Scott	612-366-8703