



2018-2019 NYSEF Freeride Program

We use the term Freeride to define the many disciplines within the sports of downhill skiing and snowboarding not including traditional alpine ski racing. Below are descriptions of each of the disciplines and some of the terminology used to describe each.

Freestyle skiing – Considered the foundation for what we call Freestyle skiing are the traditional sports of Moguls(M) and Aerials(A). The word “freestyle” can also be used as a general term to describe snowboarding & skiing disciplines such as Halfpipe, Slopestyle, & Rails (or Urban) where athletes are “free” to perform any maneuver.

Slopestyle (SS) – a judged skiing/snowboarding event held on a terrain-park course consisting of a variety jumps and rails.

Skiercross (SX) – Also called Ski Cross. Downhill race with as many as six athletes in a heat on a course consisting of a variety of jumps, banked turns, and rollers. Athletes are normally seeded by way of an individual time trial prior to heat racing. The top athletes in each heat advance to the next round while the others are eliminated.

Boardercross (BX) – Also called Snowboard Cross (SBX). Same as above with snowboarders.

Giant Slalom (GS) & Slalom (SL) – Within Freeride, GS and SL refer to snowboarders only and is the same as alpine racing but on a snowboard.

Railjam(RJ)(R) – Railjams are ski and/or snowboard events held solely on rails or box features in a jam-style format. In this format athletes take as many runs as possible in a pre-determined time period and may or may not proceed to a final round. Can be judged by a panel of judges or by the competitors themselves.

General Program Info - all information based on Whiteface Mt. schedule and operating times. Please contact program director/head coach for specifics on Belleayre and Gore programs.

Schedule – All Freeride groups normally meet every Saturday/Sunday and select weekdays during the holiday weeks. The main exception is the Intro to Competitive Ski and Snowboard which meets Saturdays only. Christmas falls on a Tuesday this year so groups will have that day off and will meet Wednesday through Sunday (12/26-12/30). We will confirm all schedules through your athlete’s primary coach and via the TeamSnap app.

Daily - All groups head to the lift @8:30am. Plan to get to the NYSEF building early to gear up and be ready by 8:15am. If late, go to the reception desk and ask to contact your coach via radio and await instructions to catch up with the group. Depending on where your group is it may take a while so be patient.

Mid-morning break - Our groups usually stop for a short mid-morning break at mid-station (times vary). Athletes may want to have means to purchase hot chocolate or a snack.

Lunch break - We generally like to take lunch around 11:30 am but times may vary according to individual groups so check with your athletes' coach to confirm. Lunch is not provided. Athletes are free to meet family or friends in the main lodge or brown bag it in the NYSEF lodge. Break lasts 45-60 min.

Afternoon session – Groups will head up the lift at set times based on their lunch break and will continue training until end of program day at 2:00pm. Athletes are not supervised after that time, so parents please make plans for pickup or set a predetermined meeting place.

Weather – The weather at Whiteface Mt is continually changing and conditions vary greatly from the base area to the summit. Please prepare and pack extra layers - gloves, facemasks, etc - to ensure your athlete stays warm. If they show signs of cold or frostbite they will be sent indoors to warm up.

On the occasion of severe weather or extreme conditions it may become necessary to shorten the program day. We try to avoid this at all costs but there are times when either lifts are not operating or, in the interest of athlete safety, we feel it's best to forego training. We cannot plan ahead for this but be aware of the possibility based on forecast or recent weather (ex. - Rain followed by dropping temps = icy conditions).

Gear – It is important that your athletes' gear has been fitted properly and checked for safety (binding check) each season. Improperly fitted or adjusted equipment can lead to injury. Our coaches will evaluate and document each athlete's equipment and make suggestions based on what they find. If you are asked to update, tune, or upgrade gear please understand it's about keeping athletes safe. Helmets are required for all participants and must fit according to manufacturer recommendations. If purchasing a new helmet, be certain it is made specifically for snowsports – no skate or motorsports helmets are allowed. Though motorsports and other sport helmets may be safe for their intended purpose they may not be for use on snow. Check with your coach if you are unsure.

Special note on concussions: All NYSEF staff are required to review and complete the Centers for Disease Control Concussion Training online at www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/. Athletes suspected of having sustained a head injury will be pulled from training and competition until they can be evaluated by a medical professional trained in recognizing concussion symptoms.

All USSA & USASA coaches and officials are now required to do the same with all athletes under the age of 18.

Athlete ability level – All NYSEF Freeride program athletes must be of at least intermediate ability and actively be training for competition in order to participate. Here at Whiteface we equate that to being able to successfully negotiate (make controlled turns and stops) blue square terrain such as Excelsior and Lower Cloudspin.

Work Deposit/Volunteering – Your work deposit is refundable after working two volunteer days. There are many options including both indoor and outdoor positions assisting with the many events we run each season. The majority of volunteer need is in the alpine race program as they have more events that require manpower. The entire USASA series (home and away events) is another possibility for you to volunteer though the need is not as great. Check the schedule and contact either Mike Kirchner (Freeride – mikek@nysef.org) or the NYSEF Race Administrator to sign up for your preferred event/date.

Competition

NYSEF is a competitive training program and all athletes are expected to compete at some level throughout the season. While some competition tracks are clearly defined others are not, but that doesn't mean it's not a viable path to their goal. For athletes new to competition it may be best to test the waters with low-level, casual events until a specific discipline catches their interest. For those determined to excel at a chosen event a step-by-step training and competition plan is the best choice. Either way, it's important to keep it fun and plan for enough training between competitions to make it possible to achieve their goals.

Our coaches will assist in creating a competition plan for all athletes and will represent them at events that have been pre-approved. Travel to events and costs for registration are not included and vary from event to event.

- All Adirondack(or Catskill for Belleayre Mt) regional USASA events will have NYSEF coaches on site.
- USSA Eastern Division and Open events must be pre-approved. The three regions, (Eastern, Central, and Western), within the Eastern Division cover mountains in PA, NY, VT, NH, and ME. Travel must meet the needs of the team and be necessary to reach pre-determined athlete goals. Consult with your individual coach.

Useful links –

- **NYSEF** www.nysef.org click on “Freeride”, “Whiteface” and either the “Snowboard” or “Ski” tab. Links to ski and snowboard calendars and to our blog. Blog is updated regularly with results and upcoming events and info.
- **USASA** United States of America Snowboard Association – www.usasa.org Click on “regions”, “Adirondack” for regional information. Or hit the “events” tab for schedule info.
- **USSA** United States Ski & Snowboard Association - www.ussa.org - For information on Eastern region freestyle events go to www.easternfreestyle.org
- **FIS** – International Ski Federation - www.fis-ski.com - site with links to all FIS disciplines, news rules, and event listings
- **AFP** – Association of Freeskiing Professionals – www.afpworldtour.com - worldwide sanctioning body for skiing
- **Ski the East** – www.skitheeast.net - Eastern-bred ski site with events listing for non-sanctioned events.
- **Newschoolers** – www.newschoolers.com - Ski site with video, news, info, and events based on new school ski culture.
- **Whiteface Mt.** – www.whiteface.com check out home mountain’s events page
- **Transworld Snowboard Magazine** – www.snowboarding.transworld.net - many more great links as well as “trick tips”
- **Empire State Winter Games** - www.eswgames.com - registration and results for this year’s games taking place Jan 31- Feb 3, 2019. (Mogul athletes sign up through the Eastern Freestyle site link above.)

Competition levels

Local mountain events

This can be a good way to test the waters. Local events usually offer prizes and competitors range from first-timers to the very experienced.

Industry Tours and Open Events

These events are not sanctioned by any governing body such as those listed below and are generally funded by corporate sponsors offering cash and prizes or opportunities to access higher level events. Examples would be The Gatorade Free Flow Tour, The Dew Tour, Volcom Peanut Butter and Railjam, & Trans Am Tour, Burton US Open, ESPN X-Games to name a few. Some have open registration while others are invite-only. In general, weekend athletes are free to attend these events but are not represented by NYSEF coaches unless it is a part of their pre-determined competition track.

USASA

United States of America Snowboard Association – www.usasa.org - This is a nationwide organization consisting of 30+ regions of grass-roots “racing” for skiers and snowboarders in the disciplines of Halfpipe, Slopestyle, Railjam, Boarder/Skiercross, & Banked Slalom(exhibition only) and snowboard only in Giant Slalom and Slalom. Athletes compete locally in the Adirondack region accruing points in their respective age groups and disciplines throughout the season. Winners in each category as well as those with a qualified national ranking are invited to USASA Nationals at the end of the season – (Copper Mt., CO). Membership in either USSA or USASA is required for all NYSEF athletes. Check with your coach to determine which is for you.

USSA

United States Ski & Snowboard Association – www.ussa.org - A network of 400+ USSA clubs provides opportunities to participate in all levels of skiing and snowboarding competition. The USSA provides education and support to local coaches, officials, parents and volunteers, a local and national calendar of events, competition rules, and a development system to provide for advancement from grassroots up through the national Team. Also, check the following link for information on our home USSA Freestyle division(Eastern). www.easternfreestyle.org We are in the “Central” region of the “Eastern” division. Membership in either USSA or USASA is required for all NYSEF athletes. Check with your coach to determine which is for you.

FIS

International Ski Federation – (Federation Internationale de Ski) - www.fis-ski.com - International governing body for Cross-Country, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Alpine Skiing, Freestyle Skiing, and Snowboarding. FIS sanctions the World Cup and Nor-Am Tours as well as the Olympics. Membership is required at the Revolution Tour/Nor-Am level and above.

2018-19 Whiteface Freeride Staff

Mike Kirchner (Snb) – Freeride Program Director, mikek@nysef.org, 518.946.7001, x-35

Bob Witt (Snb) – Sr. Freeriders Coach - bobw@nysef.org

Kevin Ladue (Snb) – Jr. & Intro Coach – Intro to Comp Snowboard Program

Justin Perry (Ski) – Head Freeride Coach justinp@nysef.org , 518.946.7001, x-22

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Nick Arnold (Ski) – Head A Moguls Coach nicka@nysef.org

Jackson Deeney (Ski) – Assistant Coach

Zach Horrocks (Ski) - Assistant Coach

Administration

John Norton – NYSEF Executive Director/Alpine Director

Lynn Gaffney – Financial Administrator

Beatty Schluetter – Winter Term Coordinator & U10-12 Alpine Director

Daniella LaCavalla - Communications & Development Director

Hadley Driscoll – Alpine Race Administrator/Development Assistant

Kate Zientko – Volunteer Coordinator/Administrative Assistant