

**Qualifying for the Frances Piche Invitational  
Western Massachusetts Region  
Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association  
2017**

The Gunstock Ski Club's (GSC) U12/U14 Francis Piche Invitational Race commemorates the contributions of Francis Piche, who founded the Piche's Ski Shop and did much to promote the sport of skiing in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. This race has been held for over two decades. The race is held at Gunstock Mountain in New Hampshire, and will be held starting on March, 15<sup>th</sup> 2017. There will 3 practice days, and a GS race on Saturday, followed by a Slalom race on Sunday.

The event allocates invitations to states in the Eastern Region who then determine qualifying procedures for their respective teams. The race is not part of USSA championship qualifications, but attracts top talent, and is the major U12 multi-region competition. The qualifying process is not part of the USSA Tri-State Alpine Ski Racing Association's (TSASRA) processes. The qualifying process is run by state level organizations.

For Massachusetts, there is a Piche Organizational Committee, which works with Gunstock, to extend invitations to the race. The Committee is composed of Eastern and Western MA TSASRA, Berkshire Interclub and Eastern Massachusetts Buddy Werner League race organizations. Each of the entities is treated equally for the purpose of this event.

Each organization is allocated 60 positions in the Massachusetts Piche Qualifier. Competing in this race is the only way to qualify for the State's allocation from Gunstock Ski Club.

**Qualifying Race Details**

- DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2017
- LOCATION: Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, Princeton MA
- FORMAT: 2 run Giant Slalom – combined time, will determine ranking
- Racers who are eligible to attend, based on their leagues, process will be required to register through Wachusett Ski Area's registration on [Adminskiracing.com](http://Adminskiracing.com) The registration process will require a USSA membership
- The expected U12 quota from GSC will be 10 boys and 10 girls.
- The expected U14 quota from GSC will be 8 boys and 8 girls.
- **Following Tri-State U14 Championship those ending up qualifying for both the**

Piche and the U14 Regional Champions will relinquish their Piche slot to the next alternate – regardless of organization affiliation.

Western Massachusetts will use all four races from U12-U14 season to determine the athletes who will be invited to attend the Massachusetts Piche Qualifier.

The 60 positions will be equally allocated by gender. The allocations to U12's and U14's are based on the respective age groups invitations from Gunstock. There will be 17 U12 Girls, and 17 U12 Boys, as well as, 13 U14 Girls, and 13 U14 Boys sent to the qualifier.

The scoring will use run and race places from the four races. Each racer will need a minimum of 5 results out of a potential total of 12 from the four races. Each race will have three potential results; 1<sup>st</sup> run place, 2<sup>nd</sup> run place, and Race Result. Effectively a racer must complete at least one race and two additional runs to qualify. Scoring will be based on the sum of the five lowest results, which could all be run places, with the lowest overall value

For example a racer finished first in one race with both runs being in first place. The next race they finish second, with a first place run and third place run. The third race they finish first in the first run but DNF the second run. They did not ski the fourth race. The score would be 5, which is the lowest possible. Ties would be settled with the next lowest result. In this case that would be 2 and then 3. If the tie still existed, and the other racer had a score (finished another run, or extra race score) they would prevail over the DNF and DNS results.

Race 1			Race 2			Race 3			
Run	Run	Race	Run	Run	Race	Run	Run	Race	Score
1	1	1	1	3	2	1	DNF	DNF	5

There will be every effort made to fill all spots in order to maintain future allocations. Athletes will be expected to confirm attendance and register immediately. Any late or last minute changes will be done on a best effort basis focusing on the next alternates and the ability to contact and confirm attendance. This may require immediate responses.