



2021/2022 National Capital Outaouais (NCO) U16 Initiative Communiqué

- The 2021-22 season is fast approaching and the NCO in collaboration with the clubs have developed a new and exciting method of athlete development for our regional U16 level athletes aiming for the high performance pathways. As has been the mandate of the NCO organization, we will strive to unite the best alpine ski athletes in the National Capital and Outaouais region together in order to create an environment where these athletes can push each other in both training and competition to better results.

Premise

- NCO wishes to ensure that U16 athletes in our region have a comprehensive program with all the required on-snow elements to advance into the high performance pathways (NCO FIS, Provincial & National Team, and/or University/College racing)
- The NCO U16 initiative offers a hybrid approach between the clubs and the NCO

Key elements

- Athletes to remain with their respective clubs as their primary program delivery for U16
- NCO to facilitate additional pre season and in-season on-snow camps/activities outside the usual offerings of the clubs. (ie. no NCO camps to be organized in Nov/Dec)
- Projects/camps to be led and organized by NCO U16 Coordinator
- Projects/camps to be planned and coached in conjunction with the club coaches

Goals of this approach

- Bring together the regions most motivated and skilled athletes
- Ensure athletes are getting the opportunities for development
- Athletes to maintain a connection and support from their home club
- Reduce costs for the athletes
- Attract and offer opportunity to a wider group of athletes than the previous NCO U16 model
- Encourage interclub coach communication, sharing of ideas, and alignment in athlete development

Program components:

2021/22

- Monthly projects including:
- Targeted camp dates are January 12-14, mid February (3-4 days), Local March (2-3 days), April (4-5 days)

- Because of the need and availability of longer and varied terrain on the away camps, the goal will be on providing an enhanced GS focus

2022/23

- Summer and Fall training camps + the in-season monthly projects mentioned above. More details to follow in the coming months on these camp dates.

Eligibility

Active U16 athletes registered in the regional clubs (Ouataouis and NCD). Second year U14 athletes will be eligible for the local March training and April Camp.

Selection for the 2021/22

Selection for in-season projects will be based on nominations from your club head coach. Due to the lack of data resulting from the cancellation of the 2020-2021 race season, the head coaches committee have agreed that the NCO initiative will assign each club quota based on U16 registration. In addition to club quota, head coach nomination and agreement from the NCO U16 program coordinator is required for an invitation to participate. Club quotas are flexible and may be adjusted based on the input from the head coaches, and race results as the season progresses. Finite space will be available to maintain a high-quality training environment. A committee of club head coaches along with the NCO U16 coordinator will ensure that deserving athletes are given the opportunity to participate.

Selection for 2022/2023

To identify eligible athletes for summer and fall projects, a combination of on hill evaluation, and race results will be considered. Club nomination will play a key role in ensuring the identification of potential participants. Summer and fall projects are likely to accommodate fewer athletes than the in-season projects as a result of cost and logistics. Invitation for the NCO projects is aimed to be agile, such that athletes who show strong improvement throughout the fall, can be nominated by their head coaches for the in-season camps.

Cost

Camps/projects will be on a cost recovery basis and will be communicated as calendars are finalized

Structure/Coaching

The NCO accepts the responsibility of hiring a U16 Coordinator annually to oversee the operation of this program. The impact on the developing athlete cannot be understated. The participation and overseeing by the club head coaches is an integral part of our collective success.

For more information and participation please contact your respective Club Head Coach

