

# Nordic Ski Racing, Boys, Nordic Ski Racing, Girls

Submitted on: Fri, 01/20/2023 - 1:44 PM

## Indicate the category of the proposed recommendation

State Tournament Recommendations regarding Format and Non-NFHS Rules or NFHS Experiments

## Authors of the Proposal

Minnesota High School Nordic Ski Coaches Assn

## Activity/Activities (Check all that apply)

Nordic Ski Racing, Boys, Nordic Ski Racing, Girls

## Current Rule/Policy

### State the rule/policy as it appears in the current MSHSL Handbook or Activity/Sport Specific Rules and Policies.

The info regarding order of events is listed on page 10 of the "Nordic Ski Racing Rules and Policies" document on the MSHSL website.

<https://www.mshsl.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Nordic%20Ski%20Racing%202021-2022.pdf>

## Proposed Recommendation

### Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy.

Proposed Event Details

Separate days for the sprints and pursuits.

Clarifying that the sprint technique will alternate yearly and that the pursuit race will always be a freestyle interval start followed by a classic pursuit.

Wednesday

- Sprint Relay Prelims
- Sprint Relay Final

\*Technique will alternate yearly between skate and classic with even years being skate and odd years being classic

\*\*Race order between boys and girls will rotate on a two year cycle per the following:

- o 2021 – boys first, girls second (no relay this year, added to better show the pattern)
- o 2022 – boys first, girls second
- o 2023 – girls first, boys second
- o 2024 – girls first, boys second
- o 2025 – boys first, girls second
- o 2026 – boys first, girls second

Thursday

- Freestyle Interval Start
- Classic Pursuit Start

\*Race order between boys and girls will alternate yearly with the boys going first in even years and the girls going first in odd years

Rationale For Proposal

The current information around the format for the state meet is lacking in detail, in addition some things were learned from the first two-day state meet that everyone agrees should be implemented and clarified.

Separate days for the sprints and the pursuit:

- This would allow the 64 individual qualifiers in the pursuit race to participate in their race in one day as opposed to two days

- It will also help the team managing the race logistics as they will not have two completely different events with different courses and setups taking place on the same day

### **Include any other policies that are impacted by this proposal.**

Clarifying sprint relay order between boys and girls

- With the technique rotating yearly that would mean the boys would always go first in the skate years and the girls would always go first in the classic years
- Over a four-year period this would allow the boys and girls to go first in both techniques, eliminating any perceived gender discrimination between going first vs. second
  - o The reality is the advantage to going first vs. second is completely conditions based and unknown until race time

Clarifying pursuit order

- In recent history the pursuit portion of the race has been classic technique as it allows for skiers to race without being slowed by fellow skiers when compared to a skate pursuit
- The 2022 state meet, which was run as a skate pursuit, reaffirmed that a classic pursuit allows for the best race experience

## **Rationale**

### **What is the history of the proposal?**

Historically we have just had a pursuit race...in recent years. With the addition of the sprint relays we have added an additional day and we now have two state site managers. Last year there were significant changes made that altered previous order precedence. This proposal restores the precedence, resolves the issues with girls and boys starting year over year with the same technique in the sprints, and creates a permanent order for the pursuit with the skate (free style) technique first and the pursuit race being classic. Due to the constrained silver trail, it creates many compression areas impacting free racing movement during freestyle skiing.

### **How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students?**

Creates a fair racing environment without having athletes impede each other.

### **What other policies are significant in this proposal?**

Tournament Administration

- These changes would help the team managing the state meet to have a clear direction for how the meet will be run
- The clarifications will reduce questions from coaches and provide a document on the MSHSL website for coaches to refer to

### **Provide evidence of support for the proposal from other groups**

The Minnesota High School Nordic Ski Coaches voted almost unanimously for this change.

## **Impact**

### **How does your proposal affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools**

None

## **Administration**

**How does your proposal impact section and state tournaments?**

Makes the racing environment fair and unimpeded

## **Length of Tournament**

**How does your proposal impact the needed competition time for section and state tournaments?**

None

## **Participants**

**How does your proposal impact the number of participants/teams?**

None

**How does your proposal impact the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the state tournament?**

No impact

## **Facilities**

**How does your proposal impact the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation at both the section and state level?**

No change. Venues remain the same for classic and skate

## **Awards**

**How does your proposal impact the number of awards at both section and state?**

No impact

## **Other**

**Provide any other pertinent information not included in this proposal**

This codifies the process for the order of events and restores the historical order of the sequence of the techniques, insuring that girls and boys will have fair rotation year after year with the changing techniques

## **Primary Author and Contact for Proposal**

**Proposal submitted by**

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