**MCSA 2023-2024 SEASON GUIDE**

Welcome to the Midwestern Collegiate Ski Association! As we enter our fifth competitive season, we are excited to have your Nordic Club compete with us, and we are looking forward to expanding and strengthening the Midwestern skiing community with you.

This Guide contains important information about 2023-2024 season, with details on:

1. The MCSA Nordic Charter / Bylaws
2. Midwest Collegiate Cup Schedule and Scoring
3. The MCSA Regional Championships
4. Registration and Fees
5. Discounts and Sponsorships

If you have *any* questions, concerns, or need clarification, please contact:

* MCSA Nordic Student Representative and Nordic Assembly President: Emma Reineke: reine368@umn.edu
* MCSA Nordic Coordinator: Luke Dykowski: lukedykowski@gmail.com
* MCSA Nordic Advisor: Ted Theyerl: TheyerlT@uwstout.edu
* MCSA Conference Coordinator: Robin Dzubay: robin@uscsa.org

General information about the MCSA can be found here:

<https://www.skimcsa.com/> .

General information about our national governing body, the USCSA, can be found here:

<https://www.uscsa.org> .

1. **MCSA Nordic Charter / Bylaws**

Prior to our 2021-22 season, our founding Clubs met to approve a new Charter, which continues to govern our operations, structures, and decision-making.

Article V of the Charter is of greatest relevance to our new and returning Clubs. It establishes our decision-making body, the Midwestern Nordic Assembly, in which all MCSA-registered Clubs are entitled to participate. For Clubs returning this 2023-24 season, or for new members, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with our Charter and bylaws, all of which are available on the MCSA website.

1. **Midwest Collegiate Cup: Schedule and Scoring**

MCSA Nordic continues to have two categories of scored competition – a cumulative, World-Cup style racing circuit (the Midwest Collegiate Cup) and an MCSA Regional Championships event.

The Collegiate Cup scores Clubs against one another at popular citizen races; much like the International Biathlon Union World Cup, the Collegiate Cup includes the MCSA Regional Championships in its cumulative scoring totals.

Typically, the MCSA Regional Championships are an MCSA-only event which determine which MCSA Clubs qualify to attend the USCSA National Championships in March.

This year, due to the Minneapolis World Cup events, the MCSA Regional Championship standings will be determined by aggregating the cumulative team and individual scores from the first three events of the 2023-24 Midwest Collegiate Cup.

Please note that Clubs are divided into Men’s and Women’s teams for scoring purposes.

The **2022-23 Midwest Collegiate Cup** will aggregate team scores from:

* The Half-Noquemanon (24k classic and skate): Marquette MI, January 27th, 2024
* The Mt. Ashwabay Summit Race (30k skiathlon): Bayfield WI, February 3rd, 2024
* The Vasaloppet USA (Dala skate, and Vasaloppet skate): Mora MN, February 10th, 2024
* The American Birkebeiner (55k classic and 50k skate): Hayward WI: February 24th, 2024

Team scores for the Midwest Collegiate Cup are calculated using the Mathie-Halvorson system. A model of the Mathie-Halvorson system can be found at the end of this document in Appendix 1. **Only USCSA-registered skiers can score for your team**, and you will be required to provide a **roster** of your skiers before each race.

Remember: because the Collegiate Cup is a cumulative circuit, our scoring system does **not** require you to attend every race! Compete when you can, and field what athletes you have available / interested – your Club can score towards the Cup with even a single racer.

The MCSA will provide awards for the top 3 teams at the end of the Collegiate Cup. As in 2023, we will host the Collegiate Cup awards ceremony on the Main Street Podium on Birkie Saturday!

Note that you will be required to submit rosters of your attending skiers before our scheduled races. Failure to submit a complete roster will prevent your team from scoring.

1. **MCSA Regional Championships**

The **MCSA Regional Championships** standings will be congruent with the Midwest Collegiate Cup Standings after the first three events of the 2023-24 schedule. The top five Men’s and Women’s teams in the MCSA Regional Championships will qualify to represent the Midwest at the [USCSA National Championships](https://www.uscsa.org/2024nationals.html) in Lake Placid, NY.

Due to scheduling conflicts with the 2024 Minneapolis World Cup, our Regional Championships will not be held as a standalone event this year. You can see coverage of our 2023 Regional Championships [here](https://www.skinnyski.com/racing/college/2023/mcsa02-21.pdf). The folks up in Rhinelander were spectacular hosts in 2020, 2022 and 2023, and we can’t wait to race with them again in 2025!

**PLEASE NOTE:** the 2024 Regional Championships will not entail two tracks of scoring, as has been the case in previous seasons.

Team standings in the 2024 Regional Championships will be entirely congruent with Midwest Collegiate Cup standings following the third event of the Midwest Collegiate Cup schedule (the Vasaloppet USA events).

Individual standings in the 2024 Regional Championships will be calculated by aggregating skiers’ individual race scores, less their single lowest score or a single DNS / DNF. In the event of a tie between skiers, this dropped score will be used as a tiebreaker.

You can consult the diagram at left for an easy summary of our schedule and its requirements this season.

1. **Registration and Fees**

The USCSA/MCSA has membership fees at the Club level and the individual level. Any skier who wishes to compete and score in the MCSA must be individually registered with the USCSA, in addition to being a member of a USCSA-registered Club. **Registration is open now.**

Please register your teams and schools by **November 20th,** and report your registration to Robin.

Please register your individual skiers by **December 1st.**

**Individual Fees**:

* Are $22.50 per individual until October 31st, 2023. Register here: <https://www.uscsa.org/memberregistration.html>.
* Once an individual is registered with your Club, they must be approved by your institution’s Registrar as academically eligible to compete.

**Club Fees**: **USCSA:**

* At the USCSA level, fees are $180 per institution (i.e. “The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities) + $180 per team (“UMNTC Nordic Women”, “UMNTC Nordic Men”) until October 31st. For up-to-date pricing, visit and to register, click here: <https://www.uscsa.org/memberregistration.html>. Even those Clubs with a single administrative structure, who do not internally distinguish between Men’s and Women’s teams, will need to register separate teams if they plan to field male and female skiers. This is for scoring and awards purposes, and has no impact on schedules or race distances.
* For **new** institutions and new Clubs these fees are **completely waivable** for your first season with the USCSA. Contact registration@uscsa.org to obtain such a waiver.
* For teams with fewer than 3 members, the team fee is only $90 until October 31st.
* For Clubs who do not receive a waiver, the institution fee can be split between your Club and any other USCSA Clubs your institution fields (Alpine, Snowboard). You will need to communicate with your institution’s USCSA-affiliated Clubs to coordinate this fee-splitting.

**Club Fees: MCSA:**

* At the MCSA level, fees are $10 per USCSA-registered individual on your Club, to a maximum of 15 individuals.
* This means the *most* your Club will pay is $150 in MCSA fees.
* These fees pay for our trophies, awards, and contribute toward building our Nordic infrastructure.
* Please **complete fee payment** (or make arrangements for payment method with MCSA Coordinator Robin Dzubay) by **December 1st**.
	+ Robin can process check, card, or Venmo (@Robin-Dzubay). You can email her at robin@uscsa.org.
1. **Discounts and Opportunities**

Skiers who are individually-registered USCSA members, competing on USCSA-registered Clubs, are eligible for a variety of unique discounts and opportunities. Please note that skiers who are not individually-registered USCSA members are not eligible for any of the discounts or opportunities above, even if they are members of USCSA-registered Clubs.

USCSA-registered individuals are entitled to the following discounts and sponsorships:

* 40% off all Swix and Toko products (wax, gear, etc.)
* 40% off all Atomic Nordic equipment (skis, boots, etc.)
* 40%-50% bulk/team order discounts with Skratch Nutrition
* ExpertVoice membership for rotational discounts on gear and apparel
* Fixed, minimal-cost registration fees at:
	+ The Half-Noquemanon (approx. 50% discount)
	+ Mt. Ashwabay Summit (approx. 30% discount)
	+ Vasaloppet USA events (approx. 50% discount)
	+ Details on these Midwest race discounts will be provided to USCSA-registered members through the MCSA Nordic Student Representative
* A wide range of apparel, gear, and snowsport discounts through various retailers and brands. You can see the full list by visiting the USCSA’s [Member Benefits page](https://www.uscsa.org/memberbenefits.html).

...so, a pretty big bang for your buck! Note that your USCSA-registered Club can also use these discounts to provide customized, Club-branded gear to your skiers from Borah Teamwear and Patagonia.

Additionally, remember that your individual USCSA registration makes you eligible to:

* Win MCSA-specific awards
* Score at MCSA events towards the Midwest Collegiate Cup
* Compete at the MCSA Regional Championships
* Qualify for USCSA Nationals

We hope this clarifies any questions you may have about the 2023-24 MCSA Nordic competitive season. For further details, please reach out to the contacts listed at the top of this Guide, or visit <https://www.skimcsa.com/> .

**APPENDIX 1: Explaining the Mathie-Halvorson Scoring System:**

The sheets below demonstrate the Mathie-Halvorson Scoring System. You do not *need* to understand how Mathie-Halvorson operates – that’s the MCSA’s job. This is just to answer any questions you may have about our Midwest Collegiate Cup scoring. We have used this system effectively since its inception in 2019.

REMEMBER:

* **In 2023-24, the Mathie-Halvorson System will be used for Midwest Collegiate Cup AND MCSA Regional Championship scoring**.
* The winner of any race receives 50 points. Points back from 50 are determined by the size of the MCSA field at an event. All finishers receive at least 1 point.
* At a given event, the top 5 racer *scores* from each team are added to calculate the Team Score. Teams can score with as few as 1 racer. In races with more than one discipline, the top 5 racer scores do not inherently correspond to the top 5 racer finishing positions.
* Team Scores are added to determine final Midwest Collegiate Cup standings. The MCSA will provide awards for the top 3 Men’s and Women’s Teams on Birkie Saturday.

**The Mathie-Halvorson System:**

Below is the scoring system itself.

* The orange column demonstrates the points assigned to a field size of 30 or more skiers. This number is fixed.
* The yellow column calculates the points assigned to a field of less than 30 skiers. Play around with the bolded number at the top of the column to see how the point values change. Ignore negative numbers – all racers receive at least 1 point.
* The (Ex.) columns are simply examples of points assigned at benchmark field sizes.



**Assigning Individual Points:**

Below are the individual points from Men’s results at the 2020 American Birkebeiner. “MCSA Rank” indicates a skier’s position within the MCSA field.

* Skiers in both disciplines receive points.
* The Skate field had points assigned using the ‘30 or more’ scheme (there were 31 skiers)
* The Classic field had points assigned using the ‘less than 30’ scheme (there were 13 skiers).
* Because of the difference in field sizes, a better position does not equal a higher score: (i.e. Anders Kvalseth was 5th in the Classic Discipline and scored 20 points; Henry Campbell was 6th in the Skate Discipline and scored 34 points). This reflects the variance in field size and strength in races with multiple disciplines.

**Calculating Team Scores:**

Below are the Team Scores from Men’s results at the 2020 American Birkebeiner.

* Remember – the five highest individual **scores** from each Team are added to form the Team Score. The highest Team Score wins.
* A Team can score with fewer than five skiers.

**Calculating Overall Cup Scores:**

Below are the Men’s Collegiate Cup scores for 2019-2020.

* Three events (the Half-Noque, Mt. Ashwabay Summit Race, and American Birkebeiner) comprised the 2019-2020 Collegiate Cup.
* Team Scores from all three events are totaled to form a team’s Cumulative Score. The team with the highest Cumulative Score wins the Collegiate Cup.
* REMEMBER: A rough performance, or even complete absence at Collegiate Cup event, will not prevent your team from doing well in the Collegiate Cup! Note that despite scoring only 13 points at the Half-Noque, UWM still finished in a podium spot on the Cup.