

BRITISH U16 AND U14 REPRESENTATIVE SKI RACING

SUMMARY

Many members of the British skiing public contributed to a review of the British Children's ski team over the summer that was led by Tim Fawke, CEO of Snowsport England and BSS Board member. Following that review, the Board of BSS produced a series of recommendations and asked the Alpine, Speed and Telemark Committee to form a Working Group charged with implementing those recommendations.

The summary of these recommendations is as follows:

- There will be a BSS selected squad for U16s. BSS will not run an U14 squad. The focus of the BSS U16 squad will be on helping athletes to prepare for their entry into FIS racing and hopefully into the BSS performance programme for U18, U21 and older racers.
- BSS is consulting with the Home Nations on the possible establishment of Home Nations U16 and U14 squads
- U16's selection to the BSS squad will reflect an Athletic Capacity Evaluation (ACE), skills and race results. We expect selections to the Home Nations U16 and U14 squads will be made on a similar basis. We expect to publish more detail on selection criteria early in 2014.
- The programme of international racing for U16s and U14s that has been organised by BSS will be essentially unchanged.
- While selection to the BSS U16 squad will reflect a number of factors, U16 race selection will be on the basis of race results. Early season allocations will be done from the BSS U16 squad but later season allocations will allow for exceptional performance at Christmas races.
- Being a member of the BSS U16 squad will not automatically mean international race selection.
- Selection for U14 race allocations will be done in conjunction with the Home Nations. We expect these selections to come from the Home Nations U14 squads.
- There will be no BSS snow programmes at U16 or at U14 levels.
- BSS will supply and support sport science services to the BSS U16 squad members.

BSS acknowledges that the breadth of opinion expressed in the review was such that not all parties will be completely satisfied with what is proposed. However, BSS believes that this structure represents a coherent way forward, and will be looking to implement it for the 2014/15 season.

The main elements of this structure are:

- The formation of a BSS U16 squad that is likely to be wider than has historically been the case.
- Selection to this BSS U16 squad will be based upon skills assessment, ACE and race results.

- This BSS U16 squad will focus on a range of core skills that reflect much of the off snow focus of the support services programmes that BSS is establishing for older athletes, including athletic capacity, psychological performance and nutritional advice.
- BSS is in detailed ongoing consultation with the Home Nations on how to make this squad a coherent part of a wider development and performance pathway for our athletes.
- As part of this consultation, BSS is in advanced discussions with the Home Nations on the creation of 3 squads of U14s and U16s to supplement the BSS U16 squad. These discussions currently envisage that selection to both BSS and Home Nations squads will be through a selection weekend where athletes will be subject to an ACE and a skills assessment. We expect that skiers can be in both a Home Nation and BSS U16 squad.
- Activity is likely to be limited to two weekends per year including one weekend which will serve in part as the selection weekend. There will be no snow based camps.
- Selection factors to the BSS U16 squad will include race results, but will also include an assessment of athletic capacity and psychological skills.
- At the U16 level we will continue with the international race programme that has been in place for some time. Early season selections will come from the BSS U16 squad based from the previous season's results while later selections will also allow for strong performances at Christmas races.
- BSS will not be running an U14 squad, but international race selection will be made in conjunction with the three Home Nations.
- The discussions envisage that U14 international race selection will only consider skiers in the Home Nations U14 squads.
- BSS is continuing to examine a number of other aspects of its U16 squad and U16 and U14 race teams and is likely to make further announcements as appropriate.

In Summary:

There will be a selected BSS U16 squad

We are expecting the establishment of Home Nations U16 and U14 squads

U16 race selection will largely be from the BSS U16 squad

U14 race selection will be from the U14 Home Nations squads.

There will be no BSS snow programmes.

BSS will supply and support sport science services.