



Subject: Ability for Alpine Ski race clubs to train and compete during Level 2
December 23, 2021

Premier Higgs
Chancery Place
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1

CC: Deputy Minister Liston, Deputy Minister Hurley, Deputy Minister Mills, Deputy Minister Comeau

The intent of this letter is to request modifications to guidelines for Level 2 to enable athletes of the three NB Alpine race clubs to continue to train and compete within the province. After meeting with Deputy Minister Hurley, Mills, Comeau, and Liston on Monday December 20, we are optimistic that Ski NB will work with government to ensure we have an adequate training program for our athletes that complies with public health guidelines.

In addition to the discussion earlier this week, we have the following three requests that we would like to discuss to ensure the safe training of our ski athletes.

In summary we are requesting:

- Allow competitions to take place during Level 2
- Allow athletes to travel between zones for purposes of training and competition regardless of which zones may be in Level 2
- Allow athletes in the U12 category to train and compete

There are three ski race clubs in New Brunswick - Poley Mountain Race Club (PMRC), Crabbe Mountain Race Club (CMRC) and Mont Farlagne Race Team. If travel between zones is restricted it will prevent Zone 1 athletes from both skiing and training as they would not have access to a ski hill within their zone. More importantly, a large number of athletes from the three race clubs are preparing to represent the province at the 2023 Canada Winter Games.

The alpine events for these games are being hosted at Crabbe Mountain and contain a speed focused event called Super G race. Safety of the athletes in terms of readiness for the Super G race is absolutely critical. There is an annual speed camp the last week of January, which is hosted by Ski NB at Crabbe Mountain, as they are the only hill in the Maritimes that can accommodate a Super G racetrack. The camp was cancelled last year and if it is not allowed to proceed this year there will be a large number of athletes that will not have any training for the Super G event. This will pose a significant physical risk for these athletes.

We understand and support the goal of Public Health to minimize COVID transmission and as such have developed a comprehensive COVID race team protocol for all clubs. The plan contains elements specific to training, additional measures for competition and is applicable to athletes of all ages. We are also in contact with Ski Quebec Alpin who are finalizing their COVID plan in preparation for competitions starting late January.

The three ski hills as well as the race clubs within NB have mandated that anyone ages 12 and up must be fully vaccinated for purposes of both recreational skiing and race club training/racing, ensuring the youth are protected. Given that alpine skiing is an outdoor sport where risk of exposure and transmission is lower, we feel that the Ski NB plan ensures the safety of the younger athletes as well (U12 athletes).

We look forward to discussing these important measures for New Brunswick ski athletes.

Your consideration of these perspectives and request is much appreciated.

Dick Daigle
President – Ski NB