



Madison Nordic Ski Club

Juniors Handbook

Updated October 18, 2021

Mission, Vision, Values

Mission - Cross Country Skiing for Everyone

The MadNorSki team seeks to instill the love of skiing, to promote a healthy, active outdoor lifestyle, and ultimately, to instill the highest standards of sportsmanship, competition and collaboration among our team members.

Through the sport of Nordic skiing we will encourage our athletes to become motivated, respectful, self-sufficient, educated, and positive contributors to our community and the world.

Our team prepares athletes mentally and physically for competition, through focused training in both classical and skating techniques. The team provides a structure for individual and team goal setting, as well as training plans that are designed to help young athletes work toward achieving their own goals.

Vision

- To teach the sport of Nordic skiing and racing.
- To prioritize fun.
- To provide age appropriate racing opportunities for interested skiers
- To make skiing accessible for everyone by honoring our differences in family background, gender, race, age, ability, and personal differences
- To fully support each skiers unique goals and life path.
- To recognize that some skiers are drawn to competition and some are not, and to allow both to thrive within the same team.
- To demonstrate, by our actions, the value of being honest, respectful, helpful, encouraging, kind, friendly, and sharing.
- To build community, in our community, and outside our community.
- To teach skiers how to develop goals, objectives, and supporting plans, and then how to execute the plan to achieve their goals. Plan the work and work the plan.
- To engage the community in investing in youth.
- To recognize that skiers will mature physically and emotionally at different speeds, and as a result, we will adjust their curriculum to best meet their needs.
- To focus on quality over quantity, and the personal development of the individual over the performance results of the skier.
- To always remember that it's about the kids, and to do what is in their best interests.
- To recognize a skiers outstanding performance in life (athletic, academic, or other).

Values

Fun Inclusion Leadership Learning Excellence Self-respect Determination

Code of Conduct

Athletes, Coaches & Parents

All Madnorski athletes, coaches and parents shall conduct themselves in ways that reflect positively on themselves, their teammates, coaches, and their families. Team members are expected to be courteous and supportive to all teammates, coaches and parents at all times. In addition, Madnorski seeks to uphold the US Ski & Snowboard Code of Conduct as well as the Wisconsin Nordic Ski League (WNSL) code of conduct, including self-control, responsible behavior and consideration for the physical and emotional well being of others. All members of the team must feel that they are respected, valued and safe.

In order to protect all Madnorski skiers, misconduct will be penalized in accordance with the gravity of the violation. Minor infractions may be dealt with by reprimands from coaches. Athletes of any age may be suspended from practice or competition for:

- Harassment, intimidation or bullying of teammates
- Disruption of practices (not including tardiness)
- Showing disrespect to any teammate, competitor, coach, official or parent, including use of profane or abusive language
- Buying, selling, possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal or performance-enhancing drugs
- Attending gatherings where underage drinking or drug use takes place
- Fighting, stealing, lying or cheating

Any misconduct that warrants suspension will be documented and reported to the coach(es) for review.

Practice

Season

September through November is when we do dryland training where we will build strength through hill bounding, trail running, rollerskiing, and other activities. Our fall dry land training program runs from late September until Thanksgiving meeting Mondays and Wednesdays.

Winter program runs from November 29 - March 3. Formal practice will not be held during Winter holiday, December 20 - January 2.

Schedule

Practice for the Juniors team will follow the following schedule. All skiers should enter their availability for practices each week into Teamsnap. Skiers are encouraged to attend as

many practices as possible, and to let coaches know via TeamSnap when they will not be able to attend.

High school (U16, U18, U20): Monday through Thursday from 5:30 - 7:00 pm (opportunities for weekend events, check Team Snap)

Middle school (U12, U14): Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm (opportunities for weekend events, check Team Snap)

Training Plans

General plan for each practice will be available on TeamSnap.

Training & Practice Locations

Our team's primary snow location is **Elver Park in Madison, at 1250 McKenna Blvd**, near Gammon Road on Madison's west side. Elver Park provides shelter, lights, man-made snow and grooming. Snow will be made by CXC Skiing, MadNorSki and the City of Madison. On-snow skiing will begin in early to mid-December, once the temperatures are cold enough to make snow, and run through the end of February, conditions permitting..

Practices may also be held at a variety of venues throughout the Madison area, on the east, west and central parts of Madison. MadNorSki Juniors occasionally train at Lussier Heritage Center, Odana Hills Golf Course, University Ridge Golf Course, McCarthy Park, and other venues, especially at the beginning of the season.

Dryland Training locations include Elver Park, Lussier Heritage Center, Eagle School, UW Arboretum, and Dawley Conservancy. These locations provide safe and well paved roller skiing trails, rolling hills and steeper hills for hill bounding and trail running.

Addresses for all locations are below and maps available through TeamSnap::

Elver Park: 1250 McKenna Blvd, Madison, WI 53719

Odana Hills Golf Course: 4635 Odana Rd, Madison, WI 53711

University Ridge Golf Course: 9002 County Rd PD, Verona, WI 53593

McCarthy Park: 4841 Co Hwy TT, Cottage Grove, WI 53527

Lussier Heritage Center: 3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison, WI 53711

Eagle School: 5454 Gunflint Trail, Fitchburg, WI 53711

Dawley Conservancy: 2656 S Seminole Hwy, Fitchburg, WI 53711

Uniforms & Equipment

Racing Suits and Sweatshirts

Racing suits and sweatshirts are available through our online store and can be ordered using the following link: www.madnorski.org/apparel-purchase/ Skiers can choose team jackets, race tights, jerseys, and/or sweatshirts with MadNorSki logos. For racing, athletes should have at least a team jersey. Team jerseys make it much easier to identify teammates on the trails!

We ask that middle & high school athletes purchase a jersey. First-year skiers to the team can borrow older team uniforms as available.

Equipment

On-Snow Training & Racing

Skiers will practice both classic and skate techniques. Skiers will need equipment for both techniques, which includes 2 sets of poles (skate and classic), 2 sets of boots (skate and classic, or one set of "combi") and 2 sets of skis (skate and classic). Skiers are strongly encouraged to purchase their own equipment. **New skiers have first priority on MadNorSki gear.**

RENTAL FROM MADNORSKI: Limited equipment is available to rent from the team. First year skiers can rent the equipment for a \$25 maintenance fee. After your first year, there will be a fee of \$125 per skier if equipment is available. **The team will have a ski fitting on Saturday, October 23.** You will need to sign up for a time slot for the fitting. This will be your only chance for a fitting so please make it a priority. [Sign Up HERE.](#)

MADNORSKI SKI SWAP: Saturday, October 30 at REI parking lot

TEAM DISCOUNT from [Pioneer Midwest](#) in Minnesota.

If you plan to buy new equipment, below are good Junior options at different price points with commentary from the Pioneer Midwest staff.

For skate skis + bindings

1st option: Atomic S1. Entry-level skate ski. With binding

2nd option: Salomon RS7 nicer ski, needs bindings. Skis+bindings

3rd option: Fischer Aerolite, another little step up from RS7.

Classic + bindings

Skin Option: Atomic C2 Skintec + binding

The skins are a very convenient way to get out on the trail for classic vs spending time with kick wax. Without knowing what kick wax to put on, the advantage is almost non-existent. And at best you are spending an extra 10-20 mins before every practice/race putting on kick wax. With the skin skis, you just do glide wax on the tips

and tails like your skate skis, and the skin is ready to go at any time in place of kick wax.

Waxable option: Salomon RC 7 + binding
and a nice kit that has most of what you need for kick wax
<https://www.pioneermidwest.com/swix-tour-pack.html>

Poles

Entry-level option: Swix Quantum 6
A big step up: Swix Quantum 4

Pole sizing chart

https://cdn.shoplightspeed.com/shops/605672/files/25999010/pole-length-suggestion-chart.pdf?_ga=2.252433802.2017511136.1601309030-797866709.1547237975

Boots

If the athletes still need boots, the Salomon R/combi and Pro Combi boots are great. They fit the widest range of people and have the most adjustability. They can do both skate and classic with the same boot.

boot sizing conversion, keep in mind that the website lists the UK size:

https://static.shoplightspeed.com/shops/605672/files/000809372/salomon-atomic-size-chart.pdf?_ga=2.180409636.2017511136.1601309030-797866709.1547237975

Other Shops: Consider visiting [Bike Doctor Nordic Ski Shop](#) in Dousman, WI or [REI](#) in Madison, [Enjoy Winter](#), or [Gear West](#) in Minneapolis.

Dryland Training

For spring, summer and fall sessions, athletes will need ski boots, poles and roller skis, in addition to a bike helmet, high visibility clothing, gloves, a water bottle and carrier, and headlamps/lights for night time roller skiing. The team has a limited supply of roller skis and poles available, which will be distributed during the first week of November. It is highly recommended that athletes purchase their own roller skis after their first year with the team. When buying boots, please ask for NNN bindings.

Team deals are available at [Pioneer Midwest](#) and [Enjoy Winter](#).

Athletes must have a helmet, lights and high visibility clothing to participate in roller skiing.

NO HELMET NO PRACTICE.

Communication

The website at Madnorski.org provides general information about the team, coaches, registration, and general schedule. The team also uses **TeamSnap** for communication about practices, touring events, races, social outings and for sharing team contact information. You will receive an email invitation to join TeamSnap. If you need to get a hold of a coach, TeamSnap is generally the best option. For urgent or time sensitive matters, please reach out via phone or email.

Coaches and Leadership Team

All ski coaches are certified by the US Ski and Snowboard Association (US Skiing) at level 100 or higher, and together have combined experience racing in Europe, the World Cup, NCAA's, national, regional and local competitions, and coaching at the national, regional and local levels. MadNorSki coaching staff aims to have a five to one skier to coach ratio, to ensure the highest level of support for skiers at every level. All coaches have completed [Safesport training](#).

Program Director Tamara Bryant bryant.tamaraj@gmail.com (608) 852-4362

Lead Coach Jacob Huseby - jacobhuseby2@gmail.com

Lead Coach Nicole Fischer - nicole.fischer@wisc.edu

Brenda Baker - bbaker@madisonchildrensmuseum.org

Parent Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of our team. Emails will periodically ask for help for upcoming events. Some of the ways you can help are:

Trip Leaders

Coordinate race and touring events: Makes reservations for hotel rooms, plans for team meal(s), communicates details through TeamSnap email and calendar, assists in arranging transportation and lodging for unaccompanied youth, pass out bibs the morning of race.

Helping at Practices

Assisting coaches, ski along with the group, help kids with equipment or waxing.

Fuel the skiers!

Bring chocolate milk to practices!

Stalwart Parent Volunteer Team for 21-22

Registrar--Brad Herrick

Youth Committee members--Jonny Hunter, Helen Sarakinos, Brad Herrick

Volunteer Coordinator--Helen Sarakinos

Trip Lodging Coordinator--Eric Baker
Equipment Manager--Mike Collins

Racing

Competitions

MadNorSki athletes are encouraged to participate in up to ten events in the Midwest each season, many of them coordinated by the Wisconsin Nordic Ski League. Races take place from mid-December through early March. Athletes with a desire to compete at a higher level of competition are encouraged to compete in the Junior National Qualifier Series (JNQ's), which includes an additional four weekends of racing each season, and the chance to qualify for the Great Lakes Junior National Team and participate in the [Junior National Championships](#). Additionally, MadNorSki offers the Tuesday night race series at Elver Park starting in January, which is a fun and easy way to try out racing.

While race participation is optional, we encourage all members to join some of our weekend outings, where we will also provide chances to ski without competing, for those who are interested in ski touring instead.

Tuesday Night Race Series

The MadNorSki Club hosts a Tuesday night race series in January and February for all club members. This fun race series starts the first Tuesday in January. Minors will need a parent/guardian signature on their waiver and cost \$10 for the season or \$2 per race. If you would like to be eligible for awards your skier will need to sign up for the whole series. Registration starts at 6pm and ends at 6:30pm, with races starting at 7pm on Tuesday evenings. The races are held at Elver Park, and the distances vary depending on available terrain, typically between 5k and 10k with shorter options available. Interested skiers should register by 6:30pm the night of.

Weekend Ski Outings

We plan to do some fun local weekend ski outings for Juniors and their families. Some outings will be day trips, others can be the whole weekend. The aim is to go together as a team including family & sibs, explore new trails, and stimulate your sense of adventure!

December Ironwood Weekend:

Our first on-snow weekend outing is in early December in Ironwood, MI. All skiers who choose to attend must travel with a family member(s) and arrange their own housing and meals. Please make lodging reservations NOW! The weekend includes 2 mornings of on-snow coaching and instruction. Parents and siblings are welcome! We will be asking for a per family donation of \$15-\$25 to help cover the costs of lodging and transportation for our awesome team of coaches!

Weekend Ski Outing & Race Schedule

High School and Middle School JNQs/Extras

Event		Location
November		
11/20-28/21	Sa-Su FKT-Madnorski Adventure Race FKT	Trails in Madison!
December		
12/3-5/21	F-Su Ironwood Ski Weekend, Ice Age Invite**	Ironwood, MI
12/4-5/21	Sa-Su Super Tour, CXC Super Cup (U16, U18)	Duluth, MN
12/11-12/21	Sa-Su Super Tour, CXC Super Cup	Birkie Trailhead, Cable, WI
12/18/21	Sa Lodi Invite**	Lodi, WI
January		
1/8/22	Sat Outing/Snekkevik Classic Race(CL)**	Wausau, WI
1/9/22	Sun Outing/ Iola Invite Race (SK)**	Iola, WI
1/15/22	Sat Outing & Club Meeting**	Blue Mound State Park
1/16/22	Sun Greenbush Challenge Race	Greenbush Trails, WI
1/18/22	Tue Tue Night Race Madnorski Timetrial	Elver Park, WI
1/22-23/22	Sa-Su Outing or Hodag Challenge **	Rhineland, WI
1/29-30/22	Sa-Su CXC Great Lakes Divisional JNQ**	Michigan Tech, Houghton,, MI
1/30/22	Su Community Service--lead outing**	Family Outreach at Lussier Center
February		
2/3/22	Thur Southern Conference Ski Meet (CL)**	Lapham Peak, WI
2/5-6/22	Sa-Su WI State Sprints**	Elver Park, Madison, WI
2/12-13/22	Fri WI State Distance Championships**	Cable, WI
2/19-20/22	Sa-Su CXC Great Lakes Divisional JNQ**	Rhineland, WI
2/23-26/22	W-Sa Kortelopet/American Birkebeiner	Cable, WI
March		
3/5-6/22	Sa-Su Weekend Outing--Loopy Loppet**	Minocqua, WI
03/5-6/22	Sa-Su CXC Youth Championships (U12, U14)	Grand Avenue Nordic Center, Duluth
3/6-12/22	Sa-Su Jr National Championships (U16, U18)	Wirth Park, Minneapolis, MN

** Popular races/events

CXC Cup Racing (Races highlighted yellow)

For skiers with experience racing the Wisconsin Nordic Ski League races who want to race at a higher level of competition, the CXC Cup races provide young athletes racing opportunities to develop their skills through excellent ski venues, well-organized olympic style races, and guidance from the coaches and teammates. Madnorski encourages skiers participating in these events to think of these races as a way to challenge oneself and to learn more about the sport. Skiers may also qualify for regional camps and ski trips by competing in the CXC Cup events. The Madnorski Juniors has had a number of past skiers go to the New England Nordic Skiing Association (NENSA) championships, the Junior National Championships, and the Regional Elite Summer Training Camps.

For 2021-2 season, Madnorski coaches plan to support interested skiers going to the CXC race in Cable in December, and the CXC race in Rhinelander. Skiers will still need to have meals and lodging with their family. Madnorski will support with team meetings, course previews, waxing help, and coaching during the weekend of racing. In past years, Madnorski coaches did not support these races, and families and skiers would compete as part of the CXC Junior Development Program for coaching support.

USSA Membership

Athletes who are planning on competing in the JNQ races, a USSA membership is necessary to participate.. The license will cost \$55 - \$155 and can be obtained from the [CXC Website under "Membership"](#). You can choose "Cross Country General Membership" or "Cross Country Competitor".

Madnorski Program Fees

Fees are \$590 for high school students and \$360 for middle school students.

Fees for the winter season include:

- on-and-off snow coaching
- waxing instruction
- use of team wax for pre-race waxing
- coaching at December Ironwood Weekend
- training plans
- race entry fees for WNSL Meets & Wisconsin State Championships
- coaching and waxing at Wisconsin Nordic Ski League races on calendar
- use of club roller skis, skis, boots and poles (for a rental fee, as available)

Fees for the winter session do not include:

- hotel, transportation or food costs for weekend ski outings
- Entry or trail fees for weekend ski outings
- Entry fees, waxing, transportation or hotel for JNQ races

Scholarships for Madnorski Program Fees

Additionally, MadNorSki offers scholarships to youth who would otherwise not be able to participate. Please contact Tamara Bryant to learn more.