



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Visit: skimcsa.com

uscsa.org

Midwest Collegiate Ski Association: Pre-Season Press Release

DECEMBER 12th, 2021. The Nordic division of the Midwest Collegiate Ski Association (MCSA) convened its Midwestern Nordic Assembly on Wednesday, December 8th, to finalize preparations for the 2021-22 competitive season. At last count, MCSA Nordic now includes 21 men's and women's teams and 145 individually-registered members – making it the largest collegiate Nordic league in the Midwest, the largest Nordic division of the U. S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association (USCSA), and the second-largest collegiate Nordic league in the United States. This explosive growth testifies to the effectiveness of MCSA Nordic's student-driven leadership and citizen-focused racing, and leaves the region poised for a winter of intense competition.

New Season, New Faces

2021-22 brings an array of new teams to MCSA Nordic. From the 'Core Four' of schools which established MCSA Nordic following the [2019 'Stout Conference'](#) (UMN Twin Cities, UMN Duluth, UW Madison, and Michigan Technological University), the league overcame the logistical challenges of the [2020-21 season](#) to add UW Eau Claire, North Dakota State University, and the University of St. Thomas to its roster. Today, the MCSA accounts for 42% of Nordic teams and 36% of Nordic-registered individuals in the USCSA, with Gogebic Community College, Luther College, Carleton College, and the University of Notre Dame joining the mix. The University of Michigan and the College of St. Olaf, longtime USCSA members, have also officially joined the Midwestern racing circuit and governing structure.

2021-22 Racing Schedule

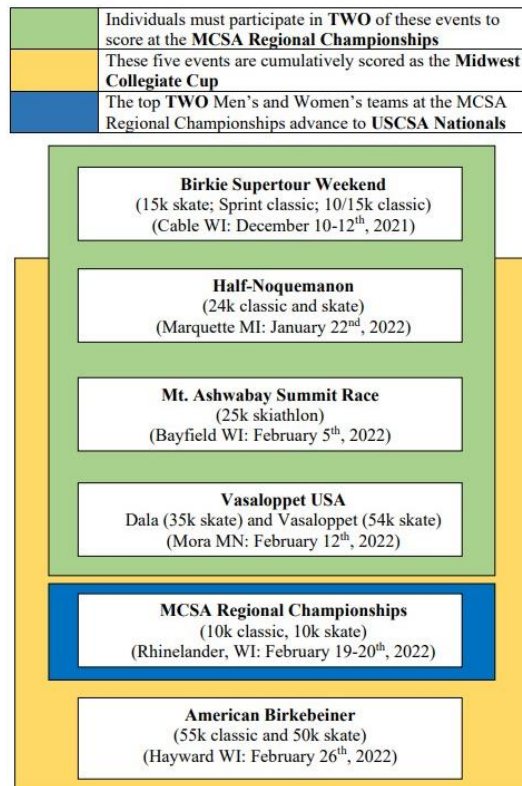
Fostering robust, inclusive regional competition remains the primary goal of MCSA Nordic. This year's Midwest Collegiate Cup – the Midwest's premier intercollegiate racing circuit – will aggregate team scores from five events and disciplines, constituting a rigorous test of skier endurance and versatility. The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities men's and women's teams will both compete as the defending Cup champions in 2021-22, with the men seeking to retain their title for the third straight year. The Cup will begin on January 22nd with the Half-Noquemanon in Marquette, MI, and conclude on February 26th with the American Birkebeiner.

This season will also see MCSA Nordic [return to Rhinelander, WI](#), for its Regional Championship event. In addition to constituting the penultimate competition of the Midwestern Collegiate Cup, these two days of racing in Hodag Country will qualify teams for the USCSA National Championships (to be held March 6th – 12th 2022 in Lake Placid, NY). The University of Wisconsin, Madison and Michigan Technological University represented MCSA Nordic at Nationals in 2020. They were joined



by the College of St. Olaf and the University of Michigan, whose attendances at Nationals were grandfathered prior to their accession to the MCSA Nordic governing structure. There was no Nationals event in 2021 due to Covid-19.

Wednesday’s Assembly strengthened the participation requirements for Cup racing and Regionals qualification. To score at Regionals, an individual will now need to compete in at least two regular-season events prior to racing in Rhinelander. MCSA Nordic’s full schedule, as well as these updated requirements, can be found below:



Student-Driven, Citizen-Focused

Weighed against the rest of the United States, Midwestern Nordic skiing is indisputably unique. The region has the largest, highest-quality citizen races on the continent. It has the highest concentration of student-led collegiate Nordic clubs, supporting the largest number of league and recreational skiers in the nation. These clubs and these races are inextricably connected: for the last three decades, Nordic club athletes have competed alongside masters, alumni, seniors, and novices at citizen events from Mora to Marquette – combining energetic, ambitious student leadership with college racing and community engagement.

MCSA Nordic’s structure and schedule recognize this uniqueness and fit the particular needs of its member teams. In 2019, club collegiate athletes voluntarily and deliberately established MCSA Nordic on their own terms, with the sole and express purpose of supporting *club* collegiate skiing in the Midwest. MCSA Nordic was not created as a proxy for NCAA racing, nor was it designed as a



provisional alternative to the CCSA. It was built to serve college clubs and their skiers. It was built to embrace the clubs' inclusive, 'big tent' approach to skiing, and to provide a forum for interclub collaboration and competition.

This intent is reflected in the [MCSA Nordic Charter](#), which vests league governing power in the student-led Assembly of the Nordic clubs. It is reflected in the Cup schedule, which will continue to emphasize citizen racing. And it is vindicated by the league's tenacious endurance and dramatic growth. By successfully combining the professional expertise of the USCSA with local volunteers and passionate, fiercely independent regional clubs, MCSA Nordic has demonstrated the strength of a system which gives club collegiate skiers the best of racing in the Nordic community and a platform which allows them to contribute to the vitality of that community. Our clubs, athletes, and supporters look forward to continuing this demonstration in 2021-22.

###

Luke Dykowski is the Co- President of the University of Minnesota Nordic Ski Club, the Nordic Student Coordinator for the MCSA, and the Nordic Student Representative for the USCSA. For more information, please email dykow003@umn.edu, or visit skimcsa.com.