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Midwest Collegiate Ski Association: Pre-Season Press Release

OCTOBER 5th, 2022. The Nordic division of the Midwest Collegiate Ski Association (MCSA) convened its Midwestern Nordic Assembly on Thursday, September 29th, to accelerate preparations for the 2022-23 competitive season. After three consecutive years of dramatic growth, MCSA Nordic enters its fourth season as largest Nordic division of the U. S. Collegiate Ski & Snowboard Association (USCSA), and the second-largest collegiate Nordic league in the United States.

MCSA Nordic also enters the coming winter under energetic new student leadership. This session of the Assembly was the first chaired by Emma Reineke, who was unanimously elected Nordic Student Representative in May of 2022. A sophomore at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Emma currently serves on the UMNTC Nordic Officer Board, and was 10th place, Second Team All-American in the Classic Sprint at the [2022 USCSA National Championships](#). Also in attendance were Nordic Coordinator Ted Theyerl, and League Commissioner Luke Dykowski. The Assembly affirmed the 2022-23 racing schedule, informed Clubs on the details of the upcoming season, and indicated that USCSA registrations will be due in the Midwest by **December 1st**.

Schools in Attendance, Fourth Nordic Assembly:

- Carleton College
- College of St. Olaf
- Luther College
- Michigan Technological University
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota-Duluth
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- University of Wisconsin-Madison



*Emma Reineke, MCSA Nordic Student Representative
and President of the Midwestern Nordic Assembly*

2022-23 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. Notably, a sprint competition has been added to the Cup schedule for the first time; it will take place at Mt. Ashwabay after the notoriously-challenging [25k skiathlon](#).

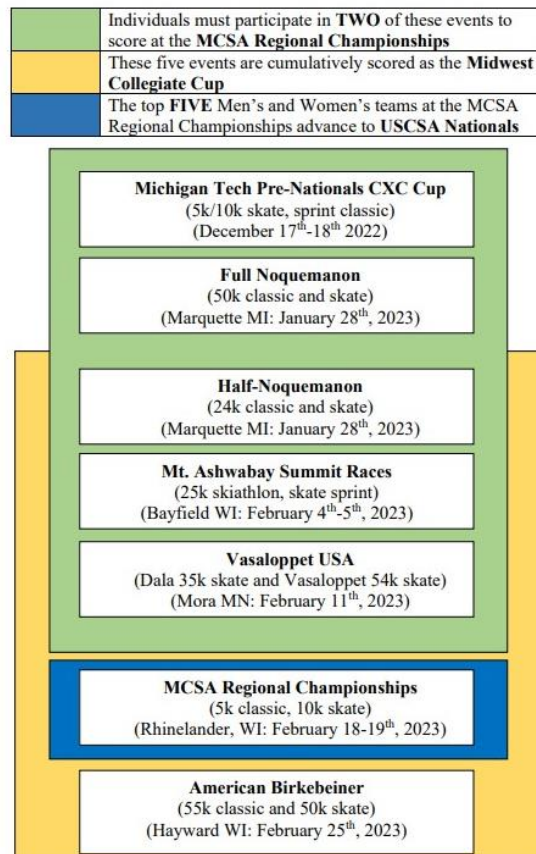


Following a [thrillingly close finish](#) in in Hayward in 2022, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Women will look to win their third consecutive Cup title in 2022-23, while the University of Minnesota-Duluth Men will be defending their first-ever championship win. The Cup will once again begin with the Half-Noquemanon’s dash to the Superior Dome in Marquette, MI on January 28th, and will conclude on Main Street with the American Birkebeiner on February 25th.

This season will also see MCSA Nordic [return to Rhinelander, WI](#), for its Regional Championship event. The Michigan Technological University Men and the College of St. Olaf Women were the 2022 Regional Champions. 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 – 11th 2023 in Mammoth, CA).

Following changes to USCSA Nordic rules, up to five Men’s and Women’s teams from MCSA Nordic will be able to qualify to attend Nationals in 2023. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Women, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Men and Women, and the College of St. Olaf Men and Women represented MCSA Nordic at Nationals in 2022. The College of St. Olaf Women were the 2022 National Champions, with the Oles’ Erica Meyers winning her second consecutive individual National Championship title.

MCSA Nordic’s full schedule, as well as Regionals and Nationals qualification requirements, can be found below:





The Three Cohorts and the Road Ahead

The 2022-23 season marks an inflection point in the composition and path of MCSA Nordic. The first and founding cohort of MCSA members had no experience with intercollegiate league racing when they met at the [2019 Stout Conference](#); they had skied with their respective college Clubs, but never in a unified competition system. The thinking of this cohort was firmly grounded in the thirty years of non-league racing which preceded 2019. It embraced the traditional primacy of citizen races, the independence of Clubs, and while ambitious and dedicated to the league's experimentation, could be fractious. The last students of this cohort have graduated.

The second cohort of MCSA members – those whose first year of college skiing coincided with MCSA's inaugural year – are now seniors, and constitute the ranking leadership at many of their college Clubs. They have been active participants in each of MCSA Nordic's past years – its rapid emergence in 2019-20, its dogged perseverance and expansion [in 2020-21](#), and its triumphant return to post-pandemic racing in 2021-22. They bring firsthand experience with every stage of the league's growth and adaptation to the helms of their respective Clubs, and now face the task of not only driving continued evolution, but of instilling enduring commitment to this evolution among their skiers.

The third cohort of MCSA members – those who matriculated in 2020 or later – has not competed in the Midwest without an intercollegiate league. This cohort now constitutes the vast majority of regional Club skiers. MCSA Nordic is their “superb inheritance,” built by and for students whose interests, goals, and conceptions of racing have changed dramatically in the last three years. In the months and seasons ahead, this third cohort will assume responsibility for guiding and shaping *their* league. They must decide how to balance regional traditions with national competition; how to draw on the examples of the previous cohorts while advancing their own objectives; how to promote excellence while expanding accessibility; how to grow membership while maintaining unity and cohesion.

This is a formidable task. It will require continuous innovation and adaptation on the part of these students. It will also require the continued support and adaption of the broader Nordic community which, having assisted MCSA Nordic's formation, must now dedicate itself to the common goal of sustaining and institutionalizing this league. But this is hardly impossible. MCSA Nordic has already demonstrated the vitality of a system which combines student leadership, regional volunteerism and enthusiasm, and national expertise to create a unique racing experience and intercollegiate forum. In continuing to contribute to this system, our skiers, event organizers, coaches, and community members can transition MCSA Nordic from meteoric emergence to robust, inclusive endurance.

Let the Hunt Begin

With the above exhortation in mind, MCSA Nordic calls on its friends and supporters to assist in its seasonal tradition of headhunting. League leadership greatly appreciates any information that may assist them in contacting the following collegiate Clubs, which are known or believed to exist, and which have not yet established or have lost contact with the MCSA:

- The **College of St. Ben's / St. John's University** Nordic Ski Club (St. Joseph-Collegeville, MN)
- The **Macalester College** Nordic Ski Club (St. Paul, MN)



- The Nordic Ski Club at **Northern Michigan University** (Marquette, MI)
- The **Northwestern University** Nordic Ski Club (Evanston, IL)
- The **North Dakota State University** Nordic Ski Club (Fargo, ND)
- The **Saint Mary's University of Minnesota** Nordic Ski Club (Winona, MN)
- The **Winona State University** Nordic Ski Club (Winona, MN)

Please forward relevant contact information, including email addresses or phone numbers, to mcsanordic@gmail.com AND reine368@umn.edu .

If you have relevant contact information for a Midwestern collegiate Club not listed here, and not known to be a member of the USCSA / MCSA, please forward it to email addresses above.

With questions about joining MCSA Nordic or the USCSA, please email the addresses above, or visit skimcsa.com. Our league appreciates your assistance, and looks forward to racing with you in 2022-23.

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Luke Dykowski is former Nordic Student Coordinator for the MCSA and its current League Commissioner. For more information, please current Nordic Student Coordinator Emma Reneike at reine368@umn.edu , or visit skimcsa.com.