

# *There is ski racing life after high school!*



While a very few select juniors advance on to post-grad club ski programs or the US Ski Team, for most, college ski teams provide a great opportunity for graduating high school athletes to continue their competitive ski racing career. Depending on the college you attend, participation with a college ski team can provide scholarships or partial to fully-funded skiing. Within the United States, there are two main organizations for collegiate ski racing, the NCAA and the USCSA. The NCAA has a large website for all its sports, <http://www.ncaa.org> To find what schools have NCAA ski teams, go to:

<http://web1.ncaa.org/ssLists/sportByInst.do>

You can then scroll down to either men or women's ski teams to get a list of all the NCAA schools. Because NCAA sports are classified as varsity sports, many of these teams have tough criteria to make their teams, consequently it is important to contact NCAA schools you may be interested in early. For information concerning NCAA racing within Rocky Mountain Division, contact Richard Rokos, at [rokos1@hotmail.com](mailto:rokos1@hotmail.com)

USCSA (United States Collegiate Ski Association) is the sports federation for collegiate team ski racing and snowboard competition in America. The USCSA provides competition and development opportunities for student/athletes in a team atmosphere leading toward National Titles in Alpine racing, Cross-Country racing and Snowboarding. In excess of 150 colleges from coast to coast, field some 3,800 men and women, alpine, cross country and snowboarding athletes in over 200 race events annually. While many of these programs have very strong ski teams, many others are organized as clubs, and are open to all interested students.

Similar to USSA divisions, the USCSA is divided into eleven conferences. USCSA affiliated colleges within Colorado and the University of Wyoming comprise the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC). The RMC includes the following schools: Colorado College, Colorado State University, Fort Lewis, University of Denver, University of Colorado, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado Mountain College, US Air Force Academy and the University of Wyoming.

Each season, starting in mid-January, ski teams from each school in RMC compete in a four weekends of giant slalom and slalom races. These races are all USSA scored races, that require USSA membership for all athletes. From these conference races, the top five to seven qualifying teams per gender move on to the Western Regional Championships. Regionals brings together the top 19 schools from seven western states and British Columbia. From that weekend of racing, the top four ski teams per gender advance to the USCSA National Championships. This year, the Regional Championships will be held at Red Lodge, Montana, and the USCSA National Championships will be at Sugarloaf, Maine.

For more information on the USCSA, go to the USCSA website <http://www.uscsa.com> You can get a list of all the USCSA schools in the country there at the "Conference Menu" link: <http://www.uscsa.com/colleges.htm>

For further information about ski racing within the Rocky Mountain Conference of the USCSA, please feel free to contact the RMC coordinator, George Thomas at [georget@springsips.com](mailto:georget@springsips.com) or call him at 970.870.4471.