

Buddy Werner Youth Snow Sports League

Parent and Skier Handbook

2018-2019 Season

Introduction

Wallace "Buddy" Werner (1936-1964)

Wallace "Buddy" Werner, a native of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, started out his skiing career as a ski jumper, winning his first regional championship at the age of 10. Buddy soon decided to focus his attention on alpine skiing during his younger years. This decision would take Buddy Werner from a local hometown skier to an international icon, and one of the greatest skiing legends there ever was.

Buddy was a three-time member of the United States Olympic Team and a two-time member of the United States Federation Internationale De Ski Team. Buddy made the international ski competition circuit as a member of FIS at the age of 18. Two years later, he made his first Olympic appearance at the 1956 Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. He also competed in the FIS games in Austria in 1958. Although Buddy was a team member for the 1960 Olympic winter games just up the road in Squaw Valley, California, a broken leg suffered eight weeks earlier would keep him from competing. But just four years later, Buddy would again secure his place on the Olympic Team and competed in Innsbruck, Austria, for the United States.

Buddy was favored to win in those 1964 Olympics, but as it would happen, he crashed during his race. At the time, the U.S. Men's Alpine Team had not won a medal for their country. Buddy's hopes to become the first had been crushed during that final attempt. However, when his teammates, Billy Kidd and Jimmie Huesa, who were both considered long shots to medal, clinched second and third place to capture the first two medals for the U.S. Team, Buddy leaped into the finish arena and threw his arms around them. His enthusiasm and sportsmanship were impossible to deny. This, it is said, was typical of Buddy's attitude.

On April 12, 1964, Buddy was in the Swiss Alps filming a television documentary when an avalanche struck. Buddy tried to outrace the thundering snow, but to no avail. Sadly, Buddy did not survive, and the world lost one of its most enigmatic, dedicated sportsman. Buddy always gave 110 percent. People said he would either finish first or finish last because he gave it his all; there was no middle ground. Locals tell of a young man who, even at the height of his fame, would always come out to ski with the local kids.

After Buddy's untimely death, the councilmen of Steamboat Springs unanimously voted to rename the town's ski mountain from Storm Mountain to Mt. Werner, in honor of their beloved hero and friend. The U.S. Department of the Interior approved of the renaming, and the dedication ceremony took place in 1965. Buddy was posthumously inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame in 1964.

The BWYSSL League

The Buddy Werner Youth Snow Sports League (“BWYSSL”) is a ski race program founded in 1979 and is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to providing the youth of South Lake Tahoe and the Western Slope of the Sierras in El Dorado County with an opportunity to develop skills necessary for alpine ski racing in a competitive, fun, and encouraging environment. Our goal is to promote the ideals of good sportsmanship and personal integrity through exercises in personal responsibility, self-discipline, and teamwork in the spirit of the late Olympic champion Wallace “Buddy” Werner. We aim to enhance the participants' skiing experience, helping them to build a strong technical foundation for a life-long recreational activity. And although the focus of the program is skills, etiquette, safety, introduction to race skills and lots of fun, the program is not a “Learn to Ski” program for beginning skiers.

Structure

The Program

Participation in BWYSSL is open to children ages 6 through 14 (through the 8th grade) that meet the minimum skier ability requirements. We usually ski on Sundays- conditions and competition schedule permitting. We offer a combination of ski race skill instruction in slalom and giant slalom race competitions, which we believe improves the skier's on-hill experience. Our program is based at Sierra at Tahoe.

Teams

If your child is new to the BWYSSL program, they are required to attend the new skier evaluation day. This date will be noted on the season schedule. At the new skier evaluation day, each skier's performance will be evaluated by coaches and board members and a consensus will be reached on the appropriate team placement for each skier. BWYSSL will strive to place each skier on a team that best meets their skiing ability. We do consider requests for specific team placement; however, our priority is to create teams that are cohesive in ability. After the new skier evaluation day, the Board and coaches will meet to establish the number of teams and each skier will be assigned to either a race team or a pre-race team in accordance with the skier's ability.

Assignment on a race team allows more experienced skiers the opportunity to compete against skiers with similar skills in a competitive, yet supportive environment. Assignment to a pre-race team provides an excellent opportunity for the skier to further develop and improve their general skiing and racing skills in a low-key competitive atmosphere, with support and encouragement from the league and race teams.

Coaches

Head and Assistant Coaches: Without our coaches, the BWYSSL wouldn't exist! Their dedication and commitment to the league are essential to our success. We provide basic ski skills and race training for all our volunteer coaches and require that our coaches have a passion for skiing. All

BWYSSL Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are volunteers with previous skiing or coaching experience and are appointed by the Board of Directors.

Each coach shall be at least 18 years of age, shall be deemed qualified by the Board, and will have submitted to and passed the background check in accordance with BWYSSL Board and Sierra at Tahoe policies. All coaches shall maintain a positive demeanor, will always treat skiers with respect and will encourage sportsmanlike behavior. In addition, each BWYSSL coach must attend the coaches training day scheduled at the beginning of every season and each coach must commit to coaching on all scheduled days, including practice only days throughout the entire season.

All coaches must complete an online youth concussion course and are responsible for enforcing the suspected concussion policy with regard to any skier on his or her team as per the policy established by the Board. Several courses are available free online at: <https://headsip.cdc.gov/>

Junior Assistant Coaches: (ages 14 —18, still in high school), may be assigned to a team during the year at the discretion of the Board. All Junior Assistant Coaches ski with a Head Coach, and do not ski alone with skiers. All Junior Assistant Coaches are required to follow the rules, etiquette and guidelines in this handbook as well.

2018-2019 Volunteer Requirements and Policies

BWYSSL is a Not for Profit organization that is dependent on the support of our volunteers. We need your help! This program cannot run without the participation of all parents. Accordingly, BWYSSL requires a parent to either volunteer 15 hours per participating family or pay an annual volunteer fee, as described below.

An example of the types of volunteer opportunities available are described below. Further descriptions can be found on our website. There are volunteer opportunities for parents the ski and those that do not. Volunteers are allowed to snowboard if they choose; however, all coaches are required to ski when participating with the individual teams.

Annual Volunteer Fee per family deposit: \$150.00

Volunteer Deposit Policy: Full payment of volunteer fee deposit is required at the time registration or no later than the first practice day. Payment must be made in the form of a check payable to “BWYSSL” in the amount \$150.00. Once your volunteer commitment has been met, your volunteer deposit check will be shredded or returned to you. If you are unable to volunteer, or prefer to forego volunteering, please let us know and we’ll deposit your check at the beginning of the season to release your family from the volunteer commitment.

Examples of Volunteer Jobs

Please see official position descriptions on our website:

<u>Daily</u>	<u>Race Day</u>	<u>Special Jobs</u>
Head & Assistant Coaches	Course setters	Registration / Admin Help
Lodge Desk	Race Starters	End of Season BBQ Coordinator
Training Course setters	Course Control	Raffle Coordinator
Team Parent Assistant	Finish Line	Photographer
		Volunteer Coordinator

It is the responsibility of the parent to sign up for a volunteer position and complete their volunteer obligation in order to have their volunteer fee deposit returned to them. Sign-up opportunities will be available for all special jobs at the beginning of the season and before every scheduled event for daily or race day jobs. If you are unable meet your volunteer hour requirement through these sign-ups, please contact the volunteer coordinator to discuss alternative volunteer opportunities. If you do not fulfill your volunteer requirement, your volunteer deposit will be deposited.

Practice and Race Days: Example Schedule*

8:00-8:30 a.m.	Skiers, Coaches & Volunteers: Be in the upper Aspen Lodge geared up and ready to go. Please do not be late! Skiers: After you check in, find your team table and meet your coach there. Volunteers, coaches, and skiers must all sign in.
8:15 a.m.	Course Setters should meet the Race Directors in the lodge. Daily volunteers should meet with the volunteer coordinator in the lodge in order to confirm your job assignment for that day.
8:30 a.m.	Coaches Meeting: Meet in lodge. Skiers should be at team table with gear on, ready to go. No horseplay in the Lodge!
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Coaches meet with their teams. General announcements will be made.
9:00 a.m.	All teams on snow for warm-ups and practice. Race Course starts and timers on course for time checks.
9:30 a.m.	Race days, all teams: Course inspections with Race Director & Coach

- 10:00 a.m. Start of Races or practice drills at course: Coaches are asked to have their team on the race-course 10 minutes prior to their race. Every attempt will be made to allow the pre-race teams with very young racers to complete their races or drills on the course prior to calling for the more experienced pre-race and race teams.
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch with team in the Aspen Lodge. On race days, resetting of course for second run.
- 1:00- 2:00 p.m. Race Course breakdown to be completed by 2:00 pm. Each race team is assigned a weekly turn to assist with course breakdown (approximately 30 minutes). Schedule is will be announced in advance. Race team participation is MANDATORY.
- 2:00-2:30 p.m. Mandatory skier check-out — Aspen Lodge. All skiers MUST be checked out by a parent/adult, skiers cannot check themselves out.

- *Our daily schedule is subject to change at any time given weather and mountain conditions.*

Practice Objectives

We will conduct training and practices in order to learn new techniques and improve upon existing skills. The skiers are also expected to know the resort rules, BWYSSL rules, and the Skier Responsibility Code. Your skier will be instructed with regard to appropriate ski racing skills, including, but not limited to, turning, pressure, steering, edging, balance, stance, hand position, pole plant, upper body position, safe jumping, and racing techniques. For more information on the skills being taught, please contact a member of the Board.

Codes of Conduct

Code of Conduct-Child

Each racer is expected to be a “Junior Ambassador” for the BWYSSL program and behave in a manner that will bring positive credit to the parents, coaches, the Sierra at Tahoe Resort and him or herself while skiing, training and racing. Participants should be considerate of the efforts put into providing the skiing and training facilities by the resort and volunteers. Racers must obey all skier safety rules while on the hill. Courteous and responsible behavior is always also required including while eating in mountain restaurants.

Skiers are always expected to represent the league and our community in a responsible and positive manner. Skiers with behavioral problems and/or who do not follow the rules of the resort or league will face appropriate disciplinary action by a coach or Board member, which can include being sent home or expulsion from the program. Under no circumstances will a racer be entitled to receive a refund of program fees in the event of expulsion from the program.

Code of Conduct-Parents/Family Members

Parents and family members are also expected to be respectful of everyone involved with the BWYSSL program, including Sierra at Tahoe employees, volunteers of the program and members of the board. Please remember that the coaches of your child's team have volunteered their time to be on the mountain with your child. At no time do they deserve anything other than the upmost respect and gratitude. If there is a problem identified with a coach or another volunteer or a child in the program, the issue should be addressed to a member of the board. If it is deemed that a parent has acted inappropriately towards a BWYSSL volunteer, board member or resort employee, expulsion of the child from the program may occur, with no refund of the cost of registration or volunteer fee due the family.

Skier Responsibility Code

In addition to the skier code of conduct described above, the skier responsibility code listed below must be observed. Each skier shares with his or her teammates the responsibility for a great skiing experience, as follows:

1. Always STAY IN CONTROL, and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.
2. People ahead of you (down-slope) have the right of way. It is YOUR responsibility to avoid contact with them.
3. You must NOT stop where you will obstruct a ski trail, or are not visible to a skier above (up-slope) from you. If you fall, make sure you get off to the side of the trail to put your skis back on safely.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to skiers coming down. There may be somebody coming towards you who can't stop.
5. Always use devices to prevent runaway equipment.
6. Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of bounds areas.
7. Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride, and unload successfully. Ride with your coach if you need assistance.
8. All skiers must wear their assigned BWYSSL bibs during all race and practices times.

Equipment and Clothing

1. Ski boots should be of the proper size. Please assist your children with their boots prior to practice start time. The coaches will be involved in meetings on race day and cannot assist with dressing.
2. Skis should be in good repair, waxed, and have bindings adjusted properly for safety.

3. Ski pants and jackets - it is advised that water-repellent skiwear be worn, as the conditions on the mountain are unpredictable. It may be wet some days, and we want to avoid having children missing races because they are wet and cold by race time. Layering is advised.
4. Gloves - waterproof gloves are suggested.
5. The use of an approved snow sport helmet is mandatory. Bike helmets are not allowed.
6. Goggles - eye protection is recommended, especially in inclement weather.
7. BWYSSL Bib — will be assigned and distributed to each skier at the start of the season. Skier must bring and wear their bibs each week. It is the skier's responsibility to take care of the bib during the season. If a bib is lost or damaged you will be charged the cost of replacement for a lost bib (approximately \$45 per bib).

All-Star Invitational

The All-Star invitational is an annual ski race competition open to eligible skiers. The Invitational is open to various youth ski leagues in the greater Tahoe and western Sierra areas and is hosted by a different league each year. The Invitational is usually held at the end of our season. The skiers who've earned the privilege to represent BWYSSL at the All-Star Invitational will be announced after the end of season race. Parents of All-Star skiers will be notified of entrance fees associated with their child's participation in the Invitational.

In addition to always following the codes of conduct described above, in order for a skier to be eligible to participate in the All-Star Race, he or she must maintain his or her good standing within BWYSSL and must have met the following requirements:

Attendance Requirements

1. May not have been disqualified from more than one (1) race for unsportsmanlike conduct during the season.
2. May not have missed more than twenty percent (20%) percent of all scheduled season **practices and races**. (Exceptions to this attendance requirement may only be made with prior approval from the Board.)
3. May not have been found to be ineligible for participation in accordance with the BWYSSL minimum eligibility requirements.

Selection of All-Star Racers

In order to be eligible to participate in the All-Star Invitational, the skier must be in good standing with BWYSSL and have met the attendance requirements described above. Final race times from eighty percent (80%) of the skier's season races will be included in the calculation of the top skier season finishes.

Each All-Star participant is expected to attend the All-Star practice, which is usually held on the Saturday of the All-Star Invitational weekend.

Selection of All-Star Coaches

The Board shall determine the Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches for the Race Teams.

Communications

The weekly newsletter will be emailed out to all registered families and coaches on Thursday each week during the season. The newsletter is intended to keep everyone informed of the upcoming weekend schedule, race results, volunteer requests, and much more. Please take the time to read the newsletter, there may be team specific information included for your skiers. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please make sure we have your current email address on file. We do not text or file share our newsletters, they are only emailed out and posted to our Facebook page.

Skiing is a sport that is at the mercy of the weather, road conditions and mountain conditions. It can all change very quickly, and we will do our best to communicate any changes as quickly as possible via email and our Facebook page. Our top priority is skier safety and we work very closely with Sierra at Tahoe when these situations arise.

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Acknowledgement of Receipt

I, _____ acknowledge that I have received and carefully
(printed name of parent or guardian)
read the Buddy Werner Youth Snow Sports League Parent and skier handbook. In addition, I
have reviewed all of the policies, practices and procedures contained in the handbook with my
child skier.

I understand that it is my responsibility to contact a member of the Board of Directors should I
have any questions or need clarification regarding any policies, practices, and procedures
contained in the handbook.

Signature of Parent/ Guardian

Date

Name (s) of child skier