

Dear SVSEF Athletes and Families,

Mountain weather is unpredictable and this has been one of the most fickle springs I remember. It seems like summer and warm weather keeps making a hard right turn and missing us completely. This may be one of those none summers, time will tell.

Unpredictable could be a theme for the SVSEF. We've seen lots of changes in the last few years; the most significant would be the economy. Needless to say everyone is experiencing the downturn and learning to adjust.

Just like everyone else the SVSEF needs to adjust to remain healthy. After three years of holding tuitions steady next year's tuitions will be increasing. The adjustment is necessary to compensate coaches for doing more work at the same wage over the last three years. In general, every program expanded their offerings while maintaining the same tuition structure. This put pressure on our coaches to make ends meet. Remember, the majority of the coaching staff has to have a second or third job to coach, and those second or third jobs are not easy to find and fit into the demands of the training calendars.

Also, for many of our coaches the pressure to make a living as a coach was becoming an issue and some were considering the possibility of not coaching and accepting a "real" job, with real hours; not mixing and matching several jobs to "coach". The new tuitions mean increases for the coaching staff. FYI, 100 percent of tuitions go to pay for the coaching staff.

Economics of the SVSEF:

As I pointed out the SVSEF staff continues doing an amazing job of maintaining costs and working with unyielding budgets. This year's budget was tight and as we move towards the end, June 30th is the end of the SVSEF's fiscal year, we should break even. Yet, over the long run, the bigger picture, we are still in the black and have resources to pull on. Basically, we're healthy.

Priorities have to be made in budgeting for the coming year. Our first priority is to support the fundamental relationship between the athlete and coach. Every issue and expense has been reviewed with that relationship in mind. Also, we've reviewed our fundraising strategies and are pushing harder than ever to attract supporters and maintain donation levels. Please understand difficult priorities and choices were and will be made, none of them lightly, and some will be disappointed with those decisions, but I feel we've made the correct choices. With that said, as the season progresses we will be constantly reviewing our finances and where possible add back items dropped or, if necessary, even make more cuts. My guiding thought for the coming year continues to be: we have to be realistic, deal with the hardships, and look forward positively.

Important Registration Deadlines and Information:

Registration online: This is being done to save money and time. **No registration paperwork will be sent via US Postal Service.** 2011/12 registration paperwork (athlete agreement, tuition fees, program fees, etc) and info will be posted on the SVSEF website, www.svsef.org, under Programs and Registration.

REGISTRATION DATES FOR RETURNING ATHLETES – this year returning athletes will have two registration dates.

JUNE 30th, Registration Due for Year-Round Teams

Alpine: J1-3, FIS, Post Grad

Cross Country: Comp, Prep, Post Grad

Freestyle: Comp, Prep, Post Grad

Snowboard: Comp, Prep

AUGUST 15th, Registration Due for Seasonal Teams

– All Devo Teams

The dates have been changed to allow more effective use of the staff's time to process registration and prepare for the fall.

Avoid \$60 late registration fee - Register even if your child is on the fence about next season. No payment is due at time of registration and you can withdraw up until December 1st.

BALDY SKI PASS – Sun Valley Company is reviewing pass prices and will announce the 2011-2012 ski pass pricing soon. When we learn the prices we'll let you know. Until then, for registration, we are using the 2010-2011 price. **Remember, purchasing your athlete's Baldy ski pass through the SVSEF directly supports the purchasing of the SVSEF coaching staff's Baldy ski passes.** Also, remember SVSEF Baldy ski passes are not restricted and are equivalent to the Blaine County Student ski pass.

CROSS COUNTRY SKI PASS – All cross country athletes pay a fee for the trail grooming at Quigley and Lake Creek. The trail grooming fee is included in the cross country tuition. The fee structure is outlined on the SVSEF website – click “Programs and Registration”, then “Forms”, then “2011-2012 Tuition Price List”.

PAYMENT PLANS – There will only be one payment plan as specified in the Program Agreement. Sorry, No exceptions. Please plan accordingly.

Payment Plan Due Dates

1. October 10th – 50% of Tuition Due
2. November 10th – Baldy Ski Pass due in Full
3. December 10th – Second 50% of Tuition Due

Financial Aid Scholarships – financial scholarship applications will be posted on the SVSEF website under “Programs and Registration”. Financial scholarship due dates: July 15th for returning year-round athletes and August 15th for returning seasonal athletes.

Don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or comments: donw@svsef.org, or 726-4129 x 103. .

These are the highlights for the moment. All of the SVSEF staff is looking forward to the new year and are working diligently to be the BEST junior development program in the nation.

All the best,
Don