



## **ASC Freeride - Alyeska Freeride Team 2023-2024 Program Guide**

### **PROGRAM OPTIONS**

**Weekend** (Saturdays and Sundays) U12 (10-11 years old) and U14-U19 (12-18 years old)

**Three-day\*** (Friday-Sunday) U14-U19 (12-18 years old)

**Four-day\*** (Thursday-Sunday) U14-U19 (12-18 years old)

\*Weekday training is from 3:30-7:00pm

### **INTRODUCTION**

ASC's Alyeska Freeride Team is designed for competitive freeride and freeskiing athletes. The program is formatted around the International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association (IFSA) Junior Freeride Competition Tour ([www.freeskiers.org](http://www.freeskiers.org)). Our athletes train with experienced coaches to hone their skills in all aspects of freeskiing, with a heavy focus on the fundamentals of freeride: Line Choice, Technique, Style, Fluidity and Control.

The program will be fluid in terms of training specific competitive focuses on any given day. Groups will optimize the focus for each day based on snow and weather conditions at Alyeska. Athletes can expect to have coach directed trick practice, technique drills, assessments or mini-competitions, video analysis, mentoring with older athlete role models, and of course, freeskiing with a group of some of the best freeskiers on the mountain.

The program will staff one local IFSA Regional and one local IFSA National event. The team will also travel to IFSA National events. Athletes planning on traveling are motivated to succeed, be good role models on our home mountain, disciplined, and have good attendance at training. Any athletes deemed to not represent our team's values, will be removed from the travel team regardless of their registration status for events. Program cost does not include travel and coach expenses at competitions.

**Note:** All athletes are required to be licensed members of IFSA. Please visit the IFSA website [www.freeskiers.org](http://www.freeskiers.org) for Freeride competition information and licensing. Alyeska Resort has a strict policy on inverted aerials. These maneuvers are not allowed outside of designated Alyeska Resort Terrain Parks. Inverted aerials are allowed during Alyeska Resort events and competitions.

## **SUITABILITY**

Tryouts are required and held in March/April every season. Every athlete, including athletes previously a part of the competitive program, will try out for 100 spots. No athlete is guaranteed a spot on the team every year, they must attend tryouts to defend their spot. Athletes who do not meet the expectations outlined below may lose their opportunity to try out for the team.

All selected athletes will receive a link to register for the program in July.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

Below is a list of what we expect from our athletes. If these expectations are not met on a regular basis, the athlete will not be invited back next year. The AFT represents our sport, our team, and our mountain.

1. Athletes are expected to be good stewards of the mountain and respect public, ski patrol, mountain staff, and follow all the rules of the mountain.
2. Athletes are expected to be good role models to younger athletes.
3. Athletes are expected to ski in control and respect the other skiers "bubble"
4. Athletes are expected to have good attendance and show up on time.
5. Athletes are expected to listen to the coaches.
6. Athletes are expected to respect the locker room and its rules.
7. Athletes are expected to rack their skis always.
8. Athletes are expected to support their teammates on and off the hill.
9. Athletes are expected to have a good attitude, have fun, and give out lots of high fives.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Communication in this program is extremely important to keep up with training, travel, events, volunteering, and the overall program. The coaching staff sends regular emails via TeamSnap. If you are unfamiliar with TeamSnap, it is an app used to communicate with your team via emails or texts and have easy access to a calendar with our schedule of events. The coaching staff is always willing to answer your questions via phone call and email; however, we do ask that you check your email regularly. Every athlete must have all coach phone numbers in their phone and TeamSnap downloaded. Coaches are available via

TeamSnap text, phone call, and radio. If an athlete is going to be late, they need to let a coach know when they will be at training and we will designate a meeting location. If an athlete is going to miss practice, we ask that the athlete or parents notify the staff, or the responsibility will fall on the athlete. If an athlete is separated from the group, they need to contact a coach via phone or radio in the RTC.

## **TRAVEL**

As mentioned earlier in our program guide, the team travels to IFSA Junior National Freeride Competitions throughout the year. Registration for these competitions generally opens in mid-December and is a very competitive registration process. See additional details on competitions below. Athletes and parents will be notified of which competitions the coaches are targeting, and the dates and times of registration. The team will often send a coach to competitions upon request if families would like to attend a competition we are not targeting as a team.

Athlete families are responsible for booking their own travel and lodging. The families cover coaching expenses for the trips. You must confirm with the staff that you will be traveling on the trip by making a \$300 non-refundable deposit through the provided travel registration link. Coaches are available to answer questions regarding booking the trip.

## **IFSA COMPETITION AND REGISTRATION STRUCTURE**

For those who have not experienced the freeride registration process, it can be chaotic, so please prepare by reading this program guide, the IFSA Junior Series Handbook, and the IFSA's 10 step guide to registration developed by the IFSA:

<https://www.freeskiers.org/news/429-athlete-instructions-for-event-registration-on-the-driven-platform.html>

**Regional Events:** Registration for Regional events generally opens 6 weeks prior to the event. These events are generally geared towards athletes who are newer to the sport, are easier to get into, and have a smaller point value than National level events. More experienced athletes compete in Regional events to obtain points toward their overall ranking. Your best two of three regional finishes count toward your overall ranking

**National Events:** Registration for National events follows a 3-step structure outlined below. These events are geared toward more experienced athletes, are more difficult to get into, and have a higher point value toward overall ranking. Your best two of three National finishes count towards your overall ranking.

1. Quota Registration: Our team is granted 3-4 quota spots to each National level event, which grants athletes a special registration period to sign up for the event

first. Once the quotas are allotted to teams, we send out a Quota Request email, which is your chance to apply for the spots our team is allotted.

2. Pre-Qualified Athlete Registration: Athletes who were ranked highly in North America can be granted pre-qualified status, which allows them to register for events ahead of the rest of the athlete population.
3. Open Registration: Open registration opens after both Quota and Pre-qualified registration is complete. The event registrations open on a schedule over three-four days. You will need to be prepared to click the registration link for the event as soon as it opens, as these events fill in seconds.

**North American Championships:** At the end of the year, any athletes who qualify for the IFSA Junior National Championships will travel as the Alyeska representation to compete against the top 175 athletes in North America. **For more information about freeride competitions, visit the IFSA website at [WWW.FREESKIERS.ORG](http://WWW.FREESKIERS.ORG). All athletes and parents are expected to read the IFSA Athlete Handbook as well as the IFSA NA Junior Event series guidelines.**

### **DRYLAND (Ages 12-18 Only)**

To be successful in this sport it is extremely important to be in shape and ready to rip on day one. This year's dryland starts in September and will run through mid-December. Dryland will consist of two days a week at Elite Sports Performance. The program is specifically designed by a professional trainer for competitive downhill skiing athletes. If an athlete is going to participate in dryland (strongly recommended) you will need to select the dryland add-on during registration and the price \$638. Athletes who are physically prepared for the season have a higher chance of success and a lower chance of injury.

Freeride U19 athletes may also opt to join the U18 Juniors fall dryland sessions on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45pm to 5:00pm instead of attending the Freeride DL sessions.

### **DAILY ACTIVITIES**

**Assessments:** During these sessions, athletes will be directed to a pre-designated venue to show off what they've learned. Athletes will be expected to make their **Line** choice as if they are in a competition, and drop in with their **Technique, Style, Fluidity, and Control** in mind. Coaches will be at the bottom of the venue taking video and providing the athletes with feedback as they make as many laps as possible during the session. This is where athletes are given focus areas and drills.

**Directed Freeskiing:** Athletes ski in groups led by coaches. The coach sets the pace and tone of the freeskiing session. This may vary from skiing groomers, doing drills, skiing off-piste, and jump laps. Collective, group freeskiing with focus areas in mind is where the foundation of proper technique is developed. Coaches lead by example and demonstrate

proper skills which athletes can visualize and improve upon. Coaches are role models for how to ski the mountain and are expected to have excellent freeskiing skills.

**Undirected Freeskiing (Ages 12-18 Only):** The staff allows athletes to ski the mountain undirected when they notify their coach and seek permission with the understanding that they are skiing with a partner and abiding by the rules of the mountain. Conditions generally have to be favorable for athletes under 14 to participate in undirected freeskiing. It is expected the athletes keep their focus areas in mind during undirected freeskiing. Skiers in any age group will only be allowed to participate in undirected freeskiing if they have demonstrated the values of the team. It is at the discretion of the coaches and not the athletes as to when they can leave training to ski undirected.

The staff asks that parents communicate with the coach (email, phone call, or permission slip) to indicate if an athlete is not participating with the program on a given day.

**Powder Days:** When there is significant snowfall and the normal training day is relegated to skiing powder then athletes will be notified in the morning that it is a 'Powder Day'. We meet at 9:45am as usual in front of the RTC. Athletes not ready to meet the coaches at 9:45am will miss the plan and meeting times for the day (the RTC office has radio contact with coaches for late arrivals). The Top of Chair 6 is considered the meeting place for late athletes and coaches will look for these athletes there. The staff requires the practice of skiing with a partner and when conditions merit, will attempt to ski with a lead and tail-guide coach especially on more advanced terrain. 3:45pm is considered the end of the day meeting time for athletes on a Powder Day; athletes departing early should notify the RTC office staff.

Coaches are directed to be on-the-hill during 'Powder Days' with cell phones and radios available for contact with the RTC and Ski Patrol dispatch. Ayeska receives a lot of snowfall and powder days are where athletes and coaches develop great camaraderie and it is about 'Having fun, making memories, and skiing pow!'

## **ASC STAFF**

Kaleen Haines – ASC Executive Director ([executivedirector@alyeskaskiclub.com](mailto:executivedirector@alyeskaskiclub.com))

Alex Wilson – Alpine Director ([alpinedirector@alyeskaskiclub.com](mailto:alpinedirector@alyeskaskiclub.com))

Drew Petrie – Freeride Head Coach / Program Director

([freerideprogramdirector@alyeskaskiclub.com](mailto:freerideprogramdirector@alyeskaskiclub.com))

James Geiss III –ASC Office Manager ([officemanager@alyeskaskiclub.com](mailto:officemanager@alyeskaskiclub.com))

Amber Momblow – ASC Finance Manager ([financemanager@alyeskaskiclub.com](mailto:financemanager@alyeskaskiclub.com))

## **AFT COACHING STAFF**

Drew Petrie - Head Coach/Program Director

John Gurry - U12 Head Coach

Alec Stepovich - U14 Head Coach

Sage Dudick - U18 Head Coach

## **TRAINING CAMPS**

### **Optional Add-On Winter Break Camp (ASD winter break)**

Camp Days: December 26- 29, 2023 & January 2-5, 2024. The cost of the camp is \$360 - Daily training activities will be happening from 10:00 am to 3:45 pm.

\*There is no training during any other ASD holiday or Spring Break

### **DAILY SCHEDULE (Weekend Training)**

9:45am

10:00am

10:30am 10:30am-12:30pm 12:30pm-1:30pm 1:30pm – 3:45pm

Meet coaches at their designated meeting locations in front of the ASC Race Training Center for pre-session huddle.

Line up at Teds Express (Chair 4) in front of the ASC Race Training Center.

Load lifts

Morning Session – Group at top of Glacier Bowl Express (Chair 6) Lunch

Afternoon Session – Group at top of Glacier Bowl Express (Chair 6)

Coaches may make changes to the schedule due to factors including weather and conditions. If the athlete is late for the initial meeting time at 9:45 am, they will miss the rundown and meeting times for the day. Late athletes are expected to call one of the coaches and wait for them according to the coach's instruction.

### **DAILY SCHEDULE (Weekday Training)**

3:30pm Meet coaches in line at Teds Express (Chair 4) in front of the Alyeska Ski Club Race Training Center.

3:30pm-7:00pm Training Session. Thursday's focus is on drills, tricks and park skills. Friday's focus will alternate between freestyle and fundamentals/gate training.

Coaches may make changes to the schedule due to factors including weather and conditions. If the athlete is late for the initial meeting time at 3:30 pm, they will miss the rundown and meeting times for the day. Late athletes are expected to call one of the coaches and wait for them according to the coach's instruction.