

MACC Racing



Hello again COVID Cave Dwellers,

Hoping this finds you in good health and spirits. Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday being grateful for what we do have, vs what we do not. I am thankful for my many winter friends who enjoy skiing and enjoying the outdoors during this challenging time.

This is a long one, please read through to the end!

Allow me to introduce the 2020-21 MACC Covid Communications team:

Alex Carrico and Drew Hilger: These two outstanding leaders have been in constant contact with Boyne Mountain Management throughout the summer and fall to insure we have up-to-date knowledge in order to plan a safe return to ski racing in 2021. The attached PDF "Safe Return to Ski Racing" is a detailed summary of the policies in place for 2021.

Dennis Parrot: He has been working on our online registration page to insure it is simple and easy to use so that we can receive ALL 2021 REGISTRATIONS ONLINE.

Grace Patti: Social media maven will keep us Covid-informed and bring more exposure to potential racers outside our immediate group via Facebook, Instagram and whatever additional social media means become appropriate.

Mike Sayers: Covid updates will be posted in a timely manner in addition to your favorites like race results, eNews and photos.

Debi Koltoniak: Will make sure our presence is known on the hill with banners, update 2021 publicity materials as needed, and bring the MACC eNews to you. Thanks to ghost writer Drew Hilger, we will have a new interview series in 2021 "Covid Corner" (see below) to delight and inform you. By the way, as many of you know, Drew is the brains behind the interviews, I am merely his muse. A position I gladly accept.

Please read the following documents:

1. Safe Return to Ski Racing (updated 11/20/2020)link to webpage:
https://www.maccracing.org/news/macc_covid_2020_11_20.pdf
2. MACC Schedule,updated 11/19/2020 (web site)

That being said...

Thanks to the 93 MACC racers who replied to our survey. As you know, these numbers can change daily with the upticks in Covid cases, but this is what we know now. This is the main reason we ask that you register as early as possible.

The main question: *After reviewing MACC's Safe Return to Ski Racing Plan and taking other factors into consideration, do you plan to race with MACC in 2021?*

Yes: 77 racers, 80.80%

No: 6 racers. 6.45%

Undecided: 10 racers, 10.75%

HOWEVER, THERE IS A SENSE OF URGENCY...

2021 MACC racer registrations will be open early December, and we ask that you register online early because we are currently working to determine the minimum number of people required to run our program from a financial standpoint and race worker count. We will then set a due date for 2021 racer registrations, and if we do not have enough registered, we will be forced to cancel the season.

A COST INCREASE ...

We have to pay for insurance, timing software licensing, gates, drills, batteries and other equipment. These things add up and we have been running at a deficit the last few years due to lower participation. As a result, we will have a modest increase in our race fees to \$80 for all racers. New racers or returning racers who have lost their bib will have to buy a new one for \$20

... AND A BACKUP PLAN

We have not traditionally given money back, since we incur a lot of expense before the season even starts, but given the circumstances we have been working on our **refund policy**. Essentially, a full refund will be given for racers who cancel, for any reason, before the first race. After that refunds will only be granted if MACC's board of directors cancels all or part of the season. This policy will be finalized shortly and outlined in our COVID Safe Return to Ski Racing document.

BE INFORMED AND KNOW THE 2021 POLICIES

Please read through the updated Safe Return to Ski Racing document on our website at this https://www.maccracing.org/news/macc_covid_2020_11_20.pdf

These are the main sections that were updated or added as of November 20, 2020:

1. General Procedures- Updates to Boyne Mountain's Winter Operation Plan
2. Starting Procedures
3. Course Operation Procedures
4. Spectating Procedures
5. Results- Cancellation of individual race awards
6. Refund Policy
7. Frequently Asked Questions

Attitude is Everything

2021 will be an unusual race season if/when we can pull it off. Because our numbers will be lower than normal due to Covid, please be willing to lend a hand as needed. Be fluid, and go with the flow. It will take a group of dedicated racers to make this year a go.

Some things we will need to do without

1.) Warming up/ lunching in the Othmar, pre-race warmup in start shacks. Charge up your boot heaters, heated gloves and any other heated gear you can come up with. Warm up, lunch in your vehicle. When the times tough, the tough get going.

2.) Awards gatherings: With all of the unknowns going into the 2021 season we have also made the difficult decision not to have individual race awards. We plan to have World Cup awards, but we were not comfortable buying glassware without knowing how many racers we will have or if we will even be able to ski.

3.) Guest Racing: We are trying to deliver the highest quality adult ski racing program to our members in the safest way possible and guest racing brought up several concerns for us. First, there are a lot of new rules in place related to safety and COVID. The board felt it was too much to expect someone joining us for race or two to familiarize themselves with all these rules and procedures in addition to figuring out the rest of our program. In addition, there are a lot of touch points with guest racers, which increase our exposure to COVID and we are trying to reduce the exposure as much as we possibly can.

AND NOW, WHAT YOU HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...

COVID Corner

Starring Debi Koltoniak with special guest President Alex Carrico

Debi: Alex, I know you are incredibly busy preparing for this season. With all the challenges 2020 has brought us I can't thank you enough for taking the time to join me on my all new show. I really hated to ask for your time, but I have so many people asking me about this year. A lot of me people have reservations and just don't know what to do.

Alex: I completely understand Debi. We certainly understand that people have reservations about racing this year and throughout the planning process safety has been our top priority.

Debi: Oh Alex, honey, I was actually talking about hotel reservations, flights, dinner reservations and other travel plans. My fans come from a long way away to watch me race Alex.

Alex: Of course they do Debi... I have just been hearing from a lot of people about their concerns related to COVID, so my mind just jumped there first.

Debi: Oh, I completely agree with your there Alex, my peeps have been putting in long hours getting my masks ready. You know making sure I have plenty, coordinating them with my suits, bedazzling, you know that sort of thing

you know that sort of thing.

Alex: Must be nice to be the queen of the Toledo ski club. I have to coordinate and bedazzle on my own. I am glad to hear you are getting your face coverings ready and are focused on safety. Some people are very concerned and cautious. Then we have people on the other end of the spectrum. Regardless of your approach to the pandemic we need to be safe and respect our other racers. Finally, we need to comply with all of Boyne's requirements.

Debi: So, are we actually going to be able to race this year?

Alex: I wish I knew that answer to that Debi, but we are moving forward with planning and will have a season if it is possible and safe to do so.

Debi: Is registration open?

Alex: Registration will open in early December and we are asking people to register early. We are currently working to determine the minimum number of people we can run our program with. We will then set a date and if we don't have that number registered then we will be forced to cancel the season.

Debi: What if I register and decide later that I am not comfortable racing or get a big Hollywood Movie role and can't race?

Alex: We have not traditionally given money back, since we incur a lot of expense before the season even starts, but given the circumstances we have been working on our refund policy. Essentially, a full refund will be given for racers who cancel, for any reason, before the first race. After that refunds will only be granted if MACC's board of directors cancels all or part of the season. This policy will be finalized shortly and outlined in our COVID Safe Return to Ski Racing document.

Debi: I never thought about that before, but you probably have to order all of my trophy's before I even pay.

Alex: Yes, awards are a very large expense and we typically order them before the season begins. We also have to pay for insurance, timing software licensing, gates, drills, batteries and other equipment. These things add up and we have been running at a deficit the last few years due to lower participation. As a result, we will have a modest increase in our race fees to \$80 for all racers. New racers or returning racers who have lost their bib will have to buy a new one for \$20.

Debi: Well \$80 for the year is not a big deal for a celebrity like me, but I hope that does not discourage anyone from racing.

Alex: I hope so too, but I am confident we still provide the best value for your ski racing dollar. If you break the fee down over our 12 races it is less than \$7 per race.

Debi: When you put it that way, that is a great deal.

Alex: With all of the unknowns going into the 2021 season we have also made the difficult decision not to have individual race awards. We plan to have World Cup awards, but we were not comfortable buying glassware without knowing how many racers we will have or if we will even be able to ski.

Debi: Can MACC weather the year financially if we are unable to hold races?

Alex: We can and we are in a strong position, but we have some big expenses on the horizon to plan for. Our timers are obsolete, meaning if they break we will be unable to find the parts to repair them. We currently have a backup, but if one fails it puts us in a precarious position.

Debi: How much does a new timer cost?

Alex: Currently they are around \$5,000 each, so we need to save or raise money wherever we can. Naturally this is difficult to balance with trying to grow the program. Without knowing how much revenue we will have this season we need to really manage our expenses closely. The COVID environment also limits our options for fundraising.

Debi: Well, if you need a celebrity for any of our fundraising events, don't hesitate to ask.

Alex: Thanks Debi, we'll keep that in mind.

Debi: As you know Alex, I am pretty well connected and I have heard some rumors that there will be no guest racing this year. Can you comment on this?

Alex: Certainly. This was a very tough decision for us and I want to start by saying that we love guest racing and are fully committed to reinstating this program as soon as we feel it is safe to do so.

Debi: So, guest racing was temporarily suspended due to safety concerns?

Alex: Yes. We are trying to deliver the highest quality adult ski racing program to our members in the safest way possible and guest racing brought up several concerns for us. First, there are a lot of new rules in place related to safety and COVID. The board felt it was too much to expect someone joining us for race or two to familiarize themselves with all these rules and procedures in addition to figuring out the rest of our program. In addition, there are a lot of touch points with guest racers, which increase our exposure to COVID and we are trying to reduce the exposure as much as we possibly can.

Debi: Is there a chance guest racing will come back mid-season?

Alex: Anything is possible. The only thing we know for sure this season is we will have more changes.

Debi: Is there anything else you want to share with our viewers?

Alex: Please keep an eye out for the latest news, read our Safe Return to Ski Racing document and register early if you think you want to race this year.

Debi: Well I appreciate your time today and the wealth of information you have shared. Where can people go for more information.

Alex: The MACC **website** www.maccracing.org or our **Facebook page** "MACC Ski RACING" is the best place to go for current information and up to the minute race day details.

<https://www.facebook.com/MACCSKIRACING>

Our **Facebook group** "MACC Alpine Ski Racing" is where members can share, comment or post any

ski-related topics or items of interest. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/199198344547>

Details on registration and other information will also be shared in our **eNewsletter** when they become available.

Thank you for indulging us with your patience, this was certainly a long eNews but necessary to make sure we are all on the same page!

Be Well. Be Safe. Be kind.

Debi Koltoniak
MACC Director of Communications

