

Good evening Metro,

We are just a few hours away from the beginning of the Winter Break and I think it is a good time to give our league an update on what is going on. As soon as we are back from the break on January 2nd, we will be very busy with on-snow practice and Kelsey's Race. Please feel free to forward this email to your athletes and parents.

1. **New bibs.** Our new bibs finally arrived. They are really cool. Thank you Rick and Margie Margo for the new design and of course, thank you Orthopedic & Fracture Specialists for their support. Here they are:

Bibs should be distributed sometimes during the first 2 weeks of January, ahead of our first regular season race on 1/21 (Kelsey's Race has a separate set of bibs).

2. **New gate panels.** After 200 years or so with the same gate panels, Metro is blessed to have Columbia as gate panels sponsor starting this year. These will be used for our GS races as well as the State GS race in Mt Bachelor. Thank you Rick and Margie for the design, thank you Ashish Gupta for convincing Columbia to be a very generous sponsor for Metro, and of course a big thank you to Columbia Sportswear. Here are the new gate panels:

3. **Canby High School.** Canby High School Ski Team is normally part of our sister league Three Rivers League. However, due to calendar constraints related to religious beliefs, the ski team petitioned to race with Metro this season, as our league has the smallest number of Sunday races in all the leagues competing on Mt Hood (2 Sundays). OISRA approved the petition and the Metro board unanimously voted in favor of integrating Canby High School Ski Team in our league for this season. Welcome, Canby High School athletes, coaches and families!

4. **2023-2024 Season registration.** On 12/6, we closed registration. Below is the current number of athletes in the Metro league, including Canby HS. These numbers may slightly change depending on late registration activity (probably one or two more racers at most):

5. **State Qualifications.** I kept the best part for the end... Tonight, the OISRA Board of Directors voted in favor of a motion to amend the State Qualification matrix for the 2024 State Race. In the previous matrix, based on the number of Metro teams (see above in point 4: 11 Girls Teams and 12 Boys Teams), Metro would have been granted 4 teams per gender and 5 individual racers. With the matrix approved tonight, **Metro is granted 6 teams and 3 individual racers per gender** (assuming the number of league teams in point 4 does not go down). Since the State Race's field size cannot be extended beyond a certain level, it is very

likely that, following OISRA policy, alternate racers will not partake in the race if they are not replacing a missing racer. More details to come on that.

Have a great Winter Break and I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks for the start of our racing season!

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