



Snowchasers Race Team

The Snowchasers race team is one of the most successful race teams in **Open League Racing**, a part of the **Bay Area Snowsports Council**, **Far West Ski Association**, and the **Far West Race Association**.

- We provide a lot of friends to socialize, ski, board, and race with during the ski season. The friends you will compete with and then ski or board with are the best part of club racing. Imagine having a lot of friends that ski or board at the same level that you do, and always there to run and play when the race is over.
- Our club competes with the other Open League clubs within the council. This means that we race as club teams, so you will have to join the Snowchasers club in order to race with us. Most racers are only concerned with their individual results and bragging rights. I am also interested in our club standings as a part of the point competition with the other Open League clubs.
- We have both skier and snowboarder classes. The classes are divided into skill-levels, age groups, and gender. We have a dozen skill-level based classes for beginners up through elite racers. These classes are then divided into three groups to compete on courses of varying difficulty. There is a novice course, an intermediate, and an advanced course. Skill levels are set up according to handicap.
- New people race as rookies on their first day to establish a beginning handicap and determine where they will be placed. A new handicap is computed for every race that a racer finishes. Racers who improve their handicaps are then bumped up into the next class. Old folks who are slowing down are bumped down so they can still be competitive in their group. This way all racers are competing in a group where they can win on a good day. You get a pin for that along with bragging rights.
- If you are not sure you want to jump in with both feet, you can try racing as a "Courtesy Racer" for \$25 a day. Just go to the registration table and give them your \$25 and you can race for that day only. This way you can see if this is something you enjoy before committing to the program. The \$25 will be applied to your race registration fee if you decide to sign up. The only down-side is that you will not earn points on that day.
- The races are held at a variety of Tahoe Resorts. We have sign-in registration at the lodge at 8:00 to 8:30 in the morning of a particular race. Each racer will get one or two runs a day, depending on class and conditions. There are usually a couple hundred of us on a given race day.

- There are 7 or 8 races scheduled each ski season, plus four more for the various championships. We do need to cancel a race on occasion due to weather, but the league tries to reschedule when possible. The race schedule is in our club newsletter and web site. The schedule as well as race results are also posted on the Open League web site, www.olrc.org.
- Our league runs Slalom and Giant Slalom races. There is a Super G race once a year put on by another league and they do invite us to participate. There are also several clinics available during the season. Please see the race schedule for this year's races and clinics. A few of the Tahoe resorts also offer Master's training and races. We are invited to race with other local leagues too.
- At the very end, we compete in the Far West Championships, attended by every league in the western states. The Far West competition is hosted at resorts all over the west.
- Other chances to compete are available at the annual Far West Ski Association North America Ski Week in January or February, and the Keystone Nationals in December.
- For more club information, or for links to related skiing organizations, visit our website at www.snowchasers.org
- Please let me know if this is something you are interested in pursuing. I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. I can also fill you in regarding fees, which are in addition to the club membership dues. Beating your friends will be worth it. After all, what are friends for anyway?

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Race Director

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