

U10 and younger

Born 2017 or later / Ages 9 and younger

One manageable multi-event ski is the normal starting setup. Prioritize balance, turning and confidence before adding specialized pairs.

Pinnacle starting points by weight

Group	Weight (lb)	Multi-event ski (cm)
U8 / younger	40-50	110
U8 / younger	50-60	120
U8 / younger	60-70	127
U8 / younger	70-80	134
U10	50-60	120
U10	60-70	130
U10	70-80	134 / 141
U10	80-90	148

Original Pinnacle reference sizes. Choose a similar current model only after checking height and manageable flex. Very young or small beginners may need a shorter recreational ski outside these examples.

Which ski? An easy-flexing junior multi-event or combo race ski. A second race pair is generally unnecessary at this stage.

Next step: Learn to make varied turns on the same ski. Move to separate SL and GS skis when the program and the coach call for it.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard race rules

The 2027 guidance recommends one size-appropriate multi-event pair for U10.
The equipment sheet gives no numeric U10 ski-length or radius minimum.
A certified event-appropriate helmet, working ski brakes and nonmetal pole baskets are required.
A slash means alternative model sizes, not a requirement to own both. Weight bands are approximate and overlap at the endpoints. Use a coach-led fitting outside the chart's range.

Sources: Derek Delzer, original Pinnacle sizing deck, slide 11. [USSS 2027 Equipment, pp.3-4](#); [2027 Alpine Guide age table, p.20](#). All lengths cm; weights lb.

U10 and younger: equipment

Born 2017 or later

Equipment status identifies a race requirement, Pinnacle expectation or coach-guided purchase.

Boots and bindings

Fit first

Choose junior boots with secure heel hold and a cuff the child can flex. Current Gearpass examples include 65-flex junior boots for some 50-90 lb U10 racers, while smaller beginners may need softer boots. A shop must fit boots and set/test compatible bindings.

Helmet and goggles

Race rule

Certified ski helmet with a snug fit and goggles that fit the opening. USSS allows soft ears for U10 GS. A hard-ear race helmet is a useful Pinnacle recommendation. No camera or camera mount in official training or racing.

Gate protection

Coach timing

Shin guards, pole/hand guards and a compatible SL chin guard become useful as gate contact develops. Buying early is fine. Have them ready when the coach asks. Use the chin guard only for SL.

Body protection

Recommended

Consider a correctly fitted back protector. Cut-resistant lower-body clothing is optional at this age in the domestic guidance. It does not replace warm layers.

Clothing and race suit

Everyday kit

Warm jacket and pants, base layers, ski socks and waterproof gloves or mittens. A race suit can wait while skills develop. Bring spare gloves and an appropriate goggle lens for night training.

Poles and ski care

Race rule + care

Sized poles with nonmetal baskets, working ski brakes and labeled gear. Use fluorocarbon-free wax. For USSS U14-and-younger races, finish waxing before arriving at the resort.

Buying priority

First purchases: a good boot fit, suitable skis with serviced bindings, and a correctly fitted helmet. The coach will tell you when protection for gate contact becomes necessary.

A shop should measure both feet and check shell fit, cuff height and heel hold. Avoid buying extra boot length simply for growth.

Sources: [USSS 2027 Equipment, pp.3-4](#); [Skiis & Biikes / Gearpass, 2027 age/weight examples](#). Pinnacle recommendations: Director guidance. Product examples checked 11 Oct 2026.