

U12

Born 2015-2016 / Ages 10-11

Plan for a junior slalom pair and a junior giant slalom pair as the athlete learns the differences between the events. Keep both skis manageable.

Pinnacle starting points by weight

Weight (lb)	GS ski (cm)	SL ski (cm)
60-70	135	128
70-80	144	135
80-90	151	135 / 142
90-100	158	142
100-110	165	149

Lengths come from Derek's junior sizing chart. Current models use different increments. Coach approval should consider height, skill, the ski's flex and the next season's needs.

Which skis? Junior race construction appropriate to the athlete's weight. Ask the coach before choosing an adult race ski or stiff plate.

Budget decision: If beginning with one pair, let the coach choose the best temporary setup. A separate speed ski is a coach decision tied to the actual camp or event.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard race rules

The 2027 guidance recommends SL and GS pairs with athlete-appropriate lengths. Only one pair may be inside the race arena for inspection and competition. This equipment sheet gives no numeric U12 ski-length or radius minimum.

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.

U12: equipment

Born 2015-2016

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

Boots and bindings Fit first	Fit the foot and the athlete first. Current Gearpass examples: about 65 flex at 70-80 lb, 70 at 80-100 lb, and 90 at 100-110 lb. These are brand ratings, not rules. A shop checks fit and sets/tests compatible bindings.
Helmet and goggles Race rule	Use a certified hard-ear ski-racing helmet for GS and Kombi. USSS does not yet require the FIS RH 2013 label at U12, but a labeled race helmet can serve later seasons if it still fits. Soft ears are allowed in SL, not parallel SL.
SL gate protection Coach timing	Plan for shin guards, pole/hand guards and a compatible chin guard as the athlete progresses into gate contact. These can be purchased early. When the coach asks for them, be ready to add them.
Body protection Recommended	A well-fitted back protector is recommended. Cut-resistant pants are an optional early purchase for domestic U12 racing. Padded shorts or a padded top can help when contact increases.
Race suit and layers Recommended	A race suit is useful for regular racing, with warm layers and jacket/pants for training and waiting. Include spare gloves, ski socks and a lens suitable for local night training.
Poles and ski care Race rule + care	Use poles with nonmetal baskets, functional ski brakes and fluorocarbon-free wax. No helmet cameras or mounts. USSS U14-and-younger rules prohibit waxing on resort property at competitions.

Buying priority

A junior ski that the athlete can bend is a better starting purchase than a larger ski selected only to last longer. Ask the coach which pair needs replacement first.

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.