

U18 / high school / non-FIS

U18: born 2009-2010; also useful for older non-FIS racers / Fit the athlete and race series

Continue with SL and GS skis that suit the athlete and local courses. A high school or domestic USSS racer can follow a different progression from an athlete entering FIS.

Pinnacle non-FIS starting points by weight

Weight (lb)	GS ski (cm)	SL ski (cm)
90-100	165	142
100-110	170	149
110-120	175	150
120-130	182	157
130-150	182*	157*
Outside these bands	Individual fit	Individual fit

*Reference points from Derek's U16/U19 table, with the open-ended older band limited to its documented 130-150 lb portion. Height, strength and construction can lead the coach to a different choice.

High school pathway: Derek's progression examples settle near 175-180 cm GS and 155 cm SL for many developed high school racers. These are coaching examples, not universal size targets.

Which rulebook? School-only races use the current school/league rules. When the same athlete enters USSS, the domestic rules listed here apply. Confirm the season's MHSAA requirements with the school coach.

When entering a domestic USSS race

- SL:** at least 130 cm. No SL radius minimum.
- GS:** at least 17 m radius. No specified domestic GS length limit.
- SG/DH:** at least 183 cm and 30 m radius, if entered.
- Stand height:** 50 mm max. Sole-to-footbed boot height: 43 mm max.

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, slides 7-8 and 13. [USSS 2027 Equipment, p.1](#); [MHSAA coach resources](#). School-only starts follow their own current rules; USSS starts follow USSS rules.

U18 / high school / non-FIS: equipment

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

Boots and bindings

Fit first

Use a race boot that fits and flexes appropriately for the athlete's size and skiing. There is no universal U18/non-FIS flex number. A shop checks sole/binding compatibility and sets/tests the bindings.

Helmet and SL chin guard

Check race series

USSS U14+ requires the FIS RH 2013 helmet for GS/speed/Kombi/parallel. The latest posted MHSAA manual (2025-26) requires hard ears in GS and an integral chin guard in SL. The school coach must confirm 2026-27 rules.

Cut-resistant pants

Pinnacle requires

Pinnacle's U16-and-older equipment expectation continues for U18 and older non-FIS racers. Choose the right size and coverage. A FIS-compliant three-star product is useful if the athlete may enter FIS later.

Gate and body protection

Recommended / coach

SL shin guards and pole/hand guards, a fitted back protector and suitable padding. Use the coach's instructions for full-gate protection. Add arm guards when GS contact makes them useful.

Race suit and layers

Regular race setup

A suitable race suit with warm layers for training and waiting. Keep spare gloves, appropriate goggles/lenses and ski socks in the race bag. Check that protective clothing works with the suit and boots.

Poles and service

Race rule + care

Working ski brakes and nonmetal pole baskets for USSS. No helmet cameras or mounts in official USSS training/racing. Use fluorocarbon-free wax for sanctioned USSS races and follow the school's equipment checks.

Buying priority

Non-FIS is a race pathway. It does not remove equipment rules from USSS starts. Buy for the actual race calendar and the athlete's ability to use the equipment.

Sources: [USSS 2027 Equipment, p.4](#); [MHSAA 2025-26 manual, p.5](#) (check current season); [FIS Oct 2026, pp.29-35](#). Pinnacle cut-clothing policy: Director guidance.