

The Far West International Fund

Far West Nordic Ski Education Association (FWNSEA) seeks to grow the sport of cross country skiing in the California and Nevada area. As part of that mission, FWNSEA seeks to support FWNSEA athletes who have demonstrated the consistent drive, commitment, work ethic and determination to be competitive on the world stage. FWNSEA is grateful to have received restricted donations for the creation of an International Fund with the goal of making high level international race experience more accessible to unfunded (or underfunded) athletes in our region. The Far West International Fund is designed to support not only those athletes who currently live in our region and participate in our local clubs but also recent alumni and post graduates who continue to give back to the FWNSEA community. It is our belief that the International Fund will provide residual benefits to athletes of all levels in our region as the fund recipients return home from international experiences to add valuable mentorship, inspiration and pace to our programs during local training and racing.

As a region of U.S. Ski and Snowboard ("USSS"), FWNSEA's primary focus must necessarily be the support of USSSB cross country athletes in the Far West region in the pursuit of their goals in cross-country skiing. Thus, athletes representing USSSB in international cross country competition will be prioritized in the grant process. However, FWNSEA will also consider grants to Far West members competing in biathlon as well as Far West members competing for foreign governing bodies, as FWNSEA finds that this is within the spirit and intent of the International Fund..

To be eligible to apply for an International Fund grant, athletes must meet the following criteria:

1. Be current Far West Nordic Members;
2. Be current members of USSS and either:
 - a. Designate Far West as their region in their USSS membership; or
 - b. If attending college outside of the region, have attended high school in the Far West region and have designated Far West as their region in three of four years prior to graduating from high school; or
 - c. For athletes who have graduated from college and live outside of the region, have attended high school and designated Far West as their region in three of four years prior to graduating from high school or be currently skiing for a club in the Far West region. In either case, post graduate athletes must be prepared to demonstrate how they have consistently continued to support and give back to FWNSEA on an ongoing basis which will be evaluated in the sole discretion of the selection committee.
3. Be selected to a competition trip sanctioned by their respective sport's national governing body, including without limitation USSS, U.S. Biathlon Association, or, in the case of foreign athletes, by the highest level of that country's nordic/cross country/biathlon governing body.

4. Be able to designate that at least 50% of your expenses for the international trip for which you seek a grant are not funded by any other national or international organization.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Far West Nordic Board of Trustees. The Far West Nordic Board of Trustees reserves the right to designate the number of members and composition of the committee in their sole discretion.

Grant requests will be considered in three annual application cycles. In order to be considered for a Grant, applications must be submitted by November 30th, January 31st or March 31st.

In issuing grants, the selection committee will be bound by the following priorities:

- 1) Priority of funds will be given to the highest form of competition.
 - a. World Championships
 - b. World Cup
 - c. U23/ Junior World Championships
 - d. U18 Scandinavian Cup
 - e. International Training Camps sponsored by USSS
- 2) International Fund Allocation Breakdown:
 - a. Athletes representing U.S. Ski and Snowboard: no more than 50%
 - b. Athletes representing U.S. Biathlon Association: no more than 15%
 - c. Athletes representing foreign countries: no more than 10%
 - d. Mandatory Reserve for Following Fiscal Year: a minimum of 25%

Far West International Fund Application:

Name:

Club:

FIS/USSA Number:

What international race/training camps were you invited to:

What international race/training camps did you attend:

Please attach a copy of your international results (maximum 5 best results)

Please attach a copy of your international race/training camp expenses (maximum \$5,000)

In less than 500 words explain ways that you as an athlete can use your platform to help grow and engage with the Far West community:

(This may vary from being able to engage in in-person events with the Far West community, promoting Far West events/fundraisers through your personal social media platform, etc.)

Submit applications by **May 8th** in a pdf document sent to info@farwestnordic.org