



COACHING UPDATE FROM THE SARS BOD

The SARS Board of Directors is excited to announce the restructuring of certain staff coaching positions. This reorganization was done with the intent of long-term sustainability of the club in mind, keeping the success of our kids in the forefront, and to reward those who have chosen ski race coaching as a profession.

JAMIE LANDWEHR, Program Director and FIS Team Head Coach:



"I'm really looking forward to spending the season working at the level where I have spent most of my coaching career with a new generation of very talented and passionate SARS FIS athletes. SARS is an exceptional organization with a great group of coaches and member families."

Jamie has been the SARS Program Director and Head Coach since 2009. Jamie was hired by SARS in 2005 as the FIS coach. Prior to 2005, Jamie was the FIS coach at Big Mountain Race Team (2004-2005), the Head Ability Class coach for the Telluride Ski Club (2002-2004) and the SARS J3 coach (1999-2000). Jamie is a SARS alumni, raced at all levels and got his start in the STARS program! He went on to compete for the Western State Colorado University ski team, which is a Division I NCAA program. Jamie has Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental

Science - Public Lands Management and a second Bachelor of Arts degree in Outdoor Leadership.

Interesting fact: Many of you may not realize this, but when SARS hired Jamie as the PD in 2009, he was being heavily recruited to be a coach for the U.S. Ski Team. We are lucky Jamie chose Sandpoint as his home!

With this reorganization, Jamie is returning to head FIS coaching and will have primary responsibility for the development and coaching of our oldest athletes, while keeping his program director duties. Ultimately, we will be looking to hire a young coach that will assist Jamie in the FIS coaching responsibilities.

Jamie is married to Christa and they have two boys, Dakota, 6, and Solen, 3.

TED MCNAMARA, Youth Director and U16 Head Coach:



I truly enjoy working with young athletes to help them gain similar rewards from ski racing as I did as an athlete. I am excited to challenge myself within this new roll and in turn help SARS Juniors to achieve their goals. I am also excited for the new possibilities and growth that Courtney and Joel will bring to a fun and successful youth program. Cheers!

While most of you are accustomed to seeing Ted directing traffic weekend mornings and ensuring the YSL athletes get in their proper groups, you probably do not know that Ted was initially hired by SARS in 2008 as a FIS Coach. He became the SARS Youth Head Coach a year later because of his experience and administrative abilities. Prior to coming to SARS, Ted worked in the retail ski industry and then ski patroller at Red Lodge Mountain for four years (2000-2004) before returning to his roots of competitive racing. He was the Junior Teams Coach for the Silver Run Ski Team at Red Lodge from 2004 to 2006 and then promoted to be the Silver Run Program Director and Head Coach from 2006 to 2008.

Ted grew up racing for the Loveland ski team outside of Denver for eight years and the Lake Eldora Racing Team in Boulder, Colorado for two years where he reached the elite level of junior racing. Ted has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Metropolitan State College in Denver and a Master's degree in Education from Montana State University—Billings.

Three cool things you didn't know about Ted: He has his name on a ski trophy that dates back to 1940. He once competed in the World Tour Finals for the International Free Skiing Association. A picture of Ted in a ski joring race was published in Sunset Magazine.

Widely regarded as one of the best technical ski coaches in the division, Ted is returning to full time coaching of our U16 athletes. He will continue to be the Youth Director and have overall responsibility for the YSL program. However, his YSL head coaching responsibilities will be split between Joel Rasmussen and Courtney Nova.

Ted is married to Erin and they have two kids, Tristian, 19, and Addison, 14.

COURTNEY NOVA, Youth Comp Team Head Coach and U14 Coach



"I've had an absolute blast being a part of SARS for the last three years. I am really looking forward to being more involved in such a wonderful program and the sport that has been such a big part of my life."

Courtney has been a SARS YSL coach since 2012 and was a J6 boys coach for MBSEF before that. She grew up racing at Stephens Pass prior to moving with her family to Sandpoint. Courtney raced through her high school years as a member of the SARS FIS Team and some of her successes include being a Buddy Werner Champion and competing at the NORAM level. Courtney is also a successful real estate agent here at Schweitzer.

In her new duties, Courtney will oversee all on hill components of the U14 and two day YSL competition teams. She will also be the primary communication link to parents for the full time youth programs

JOEL RASMUSSEN, Youth Devo Teams Head Coach

Joel has extensive coaching experience within the SARS program dating back to the late 1990's. He has worked all levels within the SARS youth and U16/J3 programs. Joel also has a strong background in teaching skill development through experiences that he has gained through PSIA. In his new role as Youth Devo Teams Head Coach, Joel will be responsible for overseeing the on-hill operations for the one day development team athletes, groups, staff and training opportunities.

Joel is married to Sarah Donohue, a current SARS YSL coach, and they have a ten year old, Emily, who is on the YSL Competition Team.

In other coaching news **Cathy Gidley** will remain as the Head STARS (Schweitzer Tiny Alpine Racing School) coach; **Chelsea Nova** will be back as Assistant Junior Teams Coach (U16 / FIS) (follow her on instagram at @coach.chels) and **Brandon Moon** will continue as Junior Teams Assistant. and Junior Teams Equipment Manager.

Lastly, **Olivia Merithew**, now in her seventh year with SARS, will continue to serve as the club administrator. She will be responsible for spearheading many of the off-hill functions which make our club run as smoothly as it does.