



**Alpine Canada Masters
2020 Newsletter Archives**

COVID-19 Impact on 2021 Season & Other News

Who could have guessed that we'd ever be living in a pandemic for 9 months now and still on the rise? Our Prime Minister assures us that we'll have a vaccine soon! The question is: Soon in the breakneck or geological sense?

This is the reason that this initial new season communication is so late partly trying to determine what our 2021 National Calendar might look like and partly trying to ascertain what the ever-changing protocols are, and where they are headed.

Trying to assemble a National Calendar over the last few months has been like no other season, with Masters' racing being a low priority amongst many hills, many categorically stating that there will be none this year, increasing training and even skiing restrictions, not to mention "red" zones and increasing travel restrictions between adjacent regions, within many provinces. Your National Masters' Committee held a Zoom call just a few days ago with 10 members attending.



As a result of so many unknowns and a worsening situation, the unanimous sentiment was regrettably that it is impossible to cobble together a National Calendar this season. Yes, this is no doubt not what anyone wanted to hear, but also not likely a surprise!

The same applies to the FMC races and Canadian Masters' Alpine Championships (CMAC) that were to be held during the second week of February, at Stoneham QC, currently in a "red" zone. Even if Stoneham was not to be a "red" zone in February, with international travel almost shut down, and increasing restrictions between provinces and even regions, attendance would have been severely impacted.

For those that earned a spot on the 2021 Canadian Masters' Alpine Team (CMAT), I will soon mail out patches and 2021 medallions, plus certificates if required. With no 2021 National Calendar, we hope you understand that there will no 2022 CMAT.

As of this update, the Rides of March, to be held from March 12-14, 2021, at Nakiska, remain scheduled (subject to change of course), but will not be FIS MAS races.

For those that have purchased a FIS Master's licence in previous years or were going to purchase for this upcoming season, with this year being exceptional due to the pandemic, I reached out to FIS to get these questions answered:

[LS] For those that renew their FIS Master's licence, but don't race, do they lose any points?

[FIS] The points are protected during the 2020/21 season once we use the BL System. At the end of the season, once we know exactly what happened (how many races were cancelled, travel restrictions, etc) we will discuss the possibility of waiving penalties to be added to Masters that did not start during the season due to the COVID pandemic.

[LS] For those that do not renew their FIS Master's licence, do they lose their points?

[FIS] If one Master does not renew his/her licence and they are in INACTIVE status, no change will be done to their points as they are INACTIVE.

Your Masters' Committee will continue to work on a limited number of activities, including:

- Masters' suits will be offered sometime this spring, for delivery before the end of 2021.
- Securing and selecting a site for CMAC and FMC races in 2022.

Watch for any smattering of regional races and reach out to your Provincial Masters' Rep if you require any guidance.

As the adage goes, use it or lose it! So stay in shape, remain active outside, ski and train if/wherever possible, and most importantly be safe!

Lloyd Sevack | President

2020/21 Canadian Masters' Alpine Team

Our 2020 season started out with a bang with the third World Winter Masters' Games (WWMG) held in January, in Austria, with over 60 Canadian racers participating, followed by four FIS Masters Cup (FMC) races and the Canadian Masters' Alpine Championships held less than a month later, in Stoneham, with 86 racers participating from eight countries. How that seems like an eternity ago! Due to the COVID-19 crisis, our short season crashed to a premature end on March 13th. From that day forward, almost everything involving groups to congregate was cancelled in the name of physical distancing!

Obviously, this led to many questions about the selection of the 2020/21 Canadian Masters' Alpine Team (CMAT). Your Masters' National Committee discussed this extensively and decided that the selection criteria shall remain the same, in light of the shortened season, as has been done at all other levels of ski racing: FIS, Nor-Am, Europa and FIS Masters.

The Committee also thought that we could all do with some positivity right now so decided to go ahead as 19 racers qualified under the published [criteria](#), in a "DNF" season! Therefore, it is a pleasure to announce 2020/21 CMAT.

Congratulations to the following Masters who met the criteria and had the top points within their age categories!

Gender, Age Category, Name, Province (# years on CMAT)

F, 75-79, HOUDE Denyse, ON (10)
F, 60-64, COLLINS Irene, AB (6)
F, 60-64, FURSEY Wendy, ON (8)
F, 55-59, SUNDBERG Hannele, ON (9)
F, 55-59, KOFFLER-BOYMAN Tiana*, ON (1)
F, 18-29, DYER Cailey, ON (1)
M, 75-79, HOUDE Michael, ON (10)
M, 75-79, IBLE Keith, AB (6)
M, 70-74, LAJOIE Jules, BC (7)
M, 70-74, BÉGIN Pierre, QC (9)
M, 65-69, ROBBINS Mike, ON (3)
M, 60-64, BEAUREGARD Philip, BC (2)
M, 60-64, SUTHERLAND Jeff, ON (7)
M, 60-64, OEHY Daniel*, ON (1)
M, 55-59, STAR David, ON (1)
M, 55-59, SEVACK Lloyd*, QC (9)
M, 50-54, DOUNAEV Kirill, ON (2)
M, 45-49, WALKER David, ON (5)
M, 18-29, SKOF Justin, ON (1)

* Qualified for CMAT by participating in a minimum of five FIS Masters' races outside of Canada. Final [World Cup Points](#) for the 2019/20 season.

Lloyd Sevack | President

Registration Deadline 9-Mar-20 for ON Championships!

The registration **DEADLINE** below is one day away!

ON Masters' Championships = 4 pm on Monday, 9-MAR-20 MINIMUM 50 ENTRIES

Sat, 14-MAR-20: Giant Slalom (am) & Slalom (pm)

The cost of two races is \$130 or \$80 for one race; the [race notice and entry form](#) (page 2) is published on the AOA calendar. Alternatively, download the stand-alone [entry form](#) to your computer, complete your details, save the PDF form and email to raceadmin@alpineskiclub.com

Ottawa Masters – Finals at Mont Cascades, QC

Sat, 21-MAR-20: GS at 10 am & SL at 1 pm

No preregistration required.

[Race notice](#)

See you at the ON Masters' Championships!

Sharon Chadwick | ON Masters' Representative

2020 CMAC & FMC Report

Submitted by Jaime Hugessen



Two weeks ago saw 86 competitors from eight different countries compete at the Canadian Masters' Alpine Championship (CMAC) and FIS Masters' Cup (FMC) held in Stoneham, Quebec. While CMAC happens each year, this represents the first time since 2008 that Canada has played host to a FMC competition. The combined events drew competitors from Canada, USA, Japan, Switzerland, Australia, France, Italy and Germany competing in a total of six races (2 in each of the super giant slalom, giant slalom and slalom disciplines). As per FIS rules, the field was split into three categories: A (men 30-59 years old), B (men 60-89 years old) and C (women 30-79 years old). Stoneham proved an excellent venue with great hills, well run races, and a "made in Quebec" joie de vivre.

The CMAC kicked off on Tuesday, 18 February, with SG training runs for all interested competitors. This provided athletes with a chance to test out the hill and refresh their SG skills. The racing began on Wednesday, 19 February, and with an overnight dump of snow, saw 62 competitors reaching speeds of up to 90km on a slightly soft track. Two separate SG races were held and the hill and race crew did an excellent job of clearing loose snow and ensuring safe running conditions for both races. Thursday saw cool and sunny conditions with overnight temperatures reaching -32°C for the first GS race. The two run race saw all three categories (A and B/C) running the same course. The race counted as both a CMAC and homologated FIS race. The 70-second course combined a steep and icy top section with a fast lower section that put a premium on tucking and gliding skills.

Friday saw even colder temperatures prevail with overnight lows approaching -35°C for the first slalom race of the series. The race was held on a steep hill with separate courses for category A and categories B/C. Both courses were technically challenging with rutty conditions prevailing for the final competitors on each run. This race also counted as both CMAC and FMC events. On Friday night, a fundraising and catered awards banquet was held to cap off the CMAC event. Overall age group winners were also feted with a shot ski and fun was had by all. The Champion of Champions awards, based on handicap results, went to Lisa Ballard Dinsmore (USSA Masters) and Pepi Neubauer (USSA Masters).

The second FIS slalom race was held on Saturday and once again, the course was steep with a technically challenging set for both the A and B/C categories. There were many DNFs and DSQs as the field struggled to finish the 40-gate course.

Sunday saw an early morning (7:30am) start for the final FIS GS race under much warmer, albeit somewhat foggy conditions. Once again, the course featured a steep technical section up top with fast gliding conditions further down the course. The sun came out for the second run and was much appreciated for improved visibility.

The series wrapped up with an awards presentation held at the bottom of the hill prior to athletes departing for home. The race series at Stoneham was expertly staged by the Stoneham Ski Club and has firmly established the presence of Canada back on the FIS Masters' circuit. Overall, it was a challenging race series, and provided the international field with a true taste of Quebec culture, food, drink, enjoyment of winter and specifically the sport of ski racing for life.

The competitions were a tremendous success and plans are underway to repeat the same format next year! Many thanks to Stoneham for the race organization and course crew, and to Jean-Rene de Varennes for his work in organizing and promoting the event. We will look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Medal count by country for [CMAC](#) and [FMC](#).

Short English CCAP.Tv [interview](#)

Long French CCAP.Tv [interview](#) from minute 17:40-26:00

Upcoming Events & Registration Deadlines!

Listed below are the registration **DEADLINES** for upcoming events:

Super GP Classic = 5pm on Friday, 28-FEB-20 MINIMUM 100 ENTRIES

Fri, 13-MAR-20: Super G team (am) & Super G individual (pm)

[Race notice](#)

Note: As at 10 am, Wednesday, 26-Feb-20, there were 55 entries so do not delay any further with registration; Georgian Peaks will be making a “go” or “no-go” decision on Saturday, 29-Feb-20.

ON Masters’ Championships = 4 pm on Monday, 9-MAR-20 MINIMUM 50 ENTRIES

Sat, 14-MAR-20: Giant Slalom (am) & Slalom (pm)

The cost of two races is \$130 or \$80 for one race; the [race notice and entry form](#) (page 2) is published on the AOA calendar. Alternatively, download the stand-alone [entry form](#) to your computer, complete your details, save the PDF form and email to raceadmin@alpineskiclub.com

7th Annual Legends Classic – Mont Tremblant = 6 pm on Friday, 6-MAR-20

Sat, 07-MAR-20 10 am: Giant slalom (1 run only)

Note: A fundraiser so not on the Masters’ national calendar but the afternoon slalom below is on the Masters’ Calendar.

[Race notice](#)

Série des Étoiles – Mont Tremblant

Sat, 07-MAR-20 pm: Slalom

Rides of March = Thursday, 19-Mar-20 MINIMUM 30 ENTRIES

Thu, 19-Mar-20: SG timed training runs (recommended)

Fri, 20-Mar-20: 2 x SG (each a 1 run race)

Sat, 21-Mar-20: 1 x GS (2 run race)

Sun, 22-Mar-20: 1 x SL (2 run race)

[Race notice](#)

Ottawa Masters – Finals at Mont Cascades, QC

Sat, 21-MAR-20: GS at 10 am & SL at 1 pm

See you at the Super GP Classic & Ontario Masters’ Championships!

Sharon Chadwick | ON Masters’ Representative

Registration deadline of 15-Feb-20 is only 3 days away!

Calling all Masters to help us stage a world-class event from 18-23 February 2020, in Stoneham, Quebec. The Canadian Masters' Alpine Championships (CMAC), being held from 18-21 February, overlaps with the FIS Masters' Cup (FMC) races being held from 20-23 February. The two events combined is your chance for six races over five days i.e. SG x 2, GS x 2 and SL x 2!

There are only three days left to register with the deadline being **Saturday, 15 February 2020, at 11:59 pm EST**, so [register](#) today!

So far, we have racers registered from Canada, USA, Australia, Japan, France, Italy and Germany across 18 different age categories.

Stoneham is only 20 minutes away from Quebec City so register, come race, and enjoy the "joie de vivre" of this part of Canada!

WWMG 2020 Report

What an experience! Many of us Canadian Masters' racers have been planning to attend the 2020 WWMG event for many years. I myself was not yet "of age" to attend the 2011 WWMG event held in Kranjska Gora and have been motivated to attend this year's event ever since hearing all of the positive reviews of the 2011 event from my racing peers. Innsbruck, Austria, is where ski racing is as popular as a hockey game in Canada; this event location promised high participation numbers from undoubtedly the best Masters' ski racers in the world. It delivered on that promise with more than 700 alpine athletes attending the event, from around the world. Canada had, I believe, the second highest participation numbers with over 60 Canadians participating in the alpine events. All alpine events were held at the nearby Patscherkofel ski complex. Landing at the Innsbruck airport likely caused similar thoughts in the minds of most of the foreign racers and that thought was "where is all the snow". The weather in Innsbruck was mild, so mild that the nearby ski hills were struggling to even make snow. Many of us, myself included, had some baggage mishaps but to my knowledge, all Canadian athletes received their luggage undamaged in time to ski a little before the official race days.

The first race day featured a non-FIS sprint GS race that many of us were confused about going into the event as little details were given regarding the course set and type, whether it would be a dual elimination race as per events in previous years, etc. As it turns out, it was a relatively tight set single run GS and a reduced course length from the regular GS race days. For the duration of the event, the men's field was split into two groups. The 30-59 year old men, in the A group, raced on the World Cup run and the 60-89 year old men, in the B group, and the entire women's group (30-79 years old) raced on an adjacent run. Many of us in the men's A group had some feelings of jealousy over much of the event as the World Cup run was steep, narrow and dark, due its north facing, with very hard snow while the women and men, in the B group, at the very least, enjoyed the sun for the majority of the day. Overall, it was a successful day with many Canadian podiums within their respective age categories.

The opening ceremonies were held on the evening of this first race day and they sure were a very cool experience. All athletes from around the world, in all events, paraded through Old Town Innsbruck. The parade ended at a stage with live music and entertainment. Again, Canada was well represented many of us were hard to miss.

Race day #2 featured an extremely challenging two-run FIS slalom for the men's A group and a one-run FIS GS for the men's B group and women's C group. Participation numbers from this day onward were considerably higher presumably due to many of the prominent FIS athletes had attended another nearby FIS race on the previous day. Overall on the men's A side, I was blown away at the level of the average athlete with numerous ex Europa Cup and World Cup racers in the field. I am sure the feeling was similar for the participants in the B/C groups. I have been involved in ski racing from a young age and never have I had a starting bib in the 200-300s! I was surprised the courses held up as well as they did but a racecourse where 200-300 athletes have gone in front of you was an experience to say the least! Most impressive was how many athletes still attacked a course that was that long and rough. Well over half the field were eliminated in the first run of the men's A group slalom.

Race day #3 swapped events whereby the A group competed in a single run GS and the B group raced a two-run slalom. The women's C group had a day off the racecourse and were able to come cheer and encourage the men or take the day to recharge. Again, I can only speak for my personal experience, but a GS course with 345 athletes skiing the same course relates to a very rough ride. Despite the course conditions, many of the Canadian men had very respectable results on both sides.

Race day #4 was intended to be the Super G day for the men's A group. I have had many of my best results in Super G but was personally nervous for this race, as the race run was extremely rough, after three days of racing. Additionally the Super G was intended to have a lower finish than the previous two races but due to lack of snow, the plan was revised to raise the start to the top of a cat track near the gondola top station. This would have resulted in exiting the start gate and "tucking" down a narrow cat track for a hundred meters or so before doing a 120-degree turn onto the World Cup race run. In the end logic prevailed, I guess, and due to conditions and the fact they still could not get enough additional gates in to meet FIS requirements, the decision was made the previous day to cancel the Super G and hold a second GS race for all groups. Having transported SG skis across the globe to race on and have the race canceled was disappointing, however, given the conditions it was likely the right decision. The resulting second GS race for the men A group was much like the first, just bumpier; this concluded the racing for the men's A group. On the other side, the men's B group had the day off while the women's C group raced their two-run slalom over the bumps and ruts, the men had put in the previous day.

The final day of racing originally scheduled for the men's B and women's C group Super G was also altered to a second GS race for reasons mentioned previously, however, they raced on the World Cup run that the men's A group had been skiing on. Rough conditions to weather after numerous days of racing but again there were numerous respectable results from the Canadian contingent.

Overall, the experience of ski racing with this caliber of athletes, in a location synonymous with the sport, was surreal. Many fellow Canadians spent extra time in the area, skied on other mountains and took in the numerous sights. Some also traveled to the legendary *Kitzbühel* to view its terrifying awesomeness. I was fortunate enough to travel to relatively nearby Flachau and watch the women's World Cup slalom night race with my close friend Adam Kennedy. It was a spectacle, the European equivalent to a NHL playoff game.

The majority of the Canadian alpine athletes stayed in the Bon-Alpina hotel, under the organization of Rich Deacon and his company Sobek. I would like to thank Rich on behalf of us all, for taking upon himself to organize these accommodations as well as the waxing space he procured and the to/from airport travel arrangements. Having so many of us all together was a big part of the overall experience and having this all put together as a package made the trip much less daunting.

We would also like to thank Victoria Fenninger for designing the WWMG Canadian jackets that many of the Canadian athletes, as well as spouses/partners, wore throughout the event. I know there was lots of positive feedback and/or jealousy from Canadian athletes competing in other events!

Thank you to Tiana Koffler-Boyman for setting up the "Catch Us if You Can" WhatsApp group to keep us all informed and connected to one another.

Thank you to Sharon Chadwick for posting so much, and so often, on the Canadian Alpine Masters' Facebook page with results, photos, etc to feed the "buzz".

Thank you to Ron Perryman for initiating the idea of WWMG sweaters and Pat Butler for seeing it through.

A special thank you to Claudio Berto for everything you do; being our voice at the racers' meetings, video recording our race runs and constantly being up the Race Committee's "ass" with regards to our safety!

Jason Barton | Alberta Masters' Representative

FIS 101 for Masters

Unless you've been buried in a blizzard or off the grid, you surely know about the Canadian Masters' Alpine Championships (CMAC) and FIS Masters' Cup (FMC) races being held from 19-23 February 2020, in Stoneham QC, with registration extended to **15 February 2020**.

What you may not know, are the various aspects of the Masters' FIS circuit including the four upcoming FMC races at Stoneham e.g.

- How Masters' FIS points work
- How to navigate the [FIS](#) website to see your results and ranking
- How medals and trophies are awarded at each race and that there are Crystal Globes to be won at the end of the season, not unlike what the best of the World Cup vie for!

Mike Robbins, the most seasoned Canadian Master's FIS racer, Crystal Globe recipient and Canadian Alpine Masters' FIS Subcommittee member, has prepared a document entitled [FIS 101 for Masters](#) that explains much about this circuit, and how the 50+ of you that raced at the Winter World Masters Games (WWMG) can see your world ranking amongst the best.

[Register](#) now for the upcoming FMC races at Stoneham and get your name, results and ranking up there too!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at both the CMAC and FMC races, so be sure to [register](#) before the 15-Feb-20 deadline!

Lloyd Sevak | President

CMAC & FMC Registration deadline 9-Feb-20

What could be more fun than six races over five days, preceded by a day of at least two timed SG training runs? This is your chance by registering for the Canadian Masters' Alpine Championships (CMAC) and/or FIS Masters' Cup (FMC) races being held from 19-23 February 2020, in Stoneham QC.

It is almost 10 years since FMC races were last held in Canada so we are fortunate to have these return and we hope they remain here for many years to come! Besides having the honour to host the highest level of Masters' racing, these events are a ton of fun! FIS will also be watching us to see how many racers and countries participate, here in Canada. I therefore encourage you to come out in force!

[Registration](#) for both CMAC and FMC closes on **Sunday, 9 February 2020**, so do not delay!