



February 2015

2015 USSA Junior Championship Athlete,

Congratulations on qualifying for the 2015 USSA Junior Championships. I was once in your shoes and I remember what an honor and thrill it was to compete in a championship event. You should be proud of your accomplishments and confident of your future career as an elite athlete. Congratulations on your hard work, training and preparation that have gotten you to this level!

You are following the footsteps of many great athletes. Champions such as Ted Ligety, Mikaela Shiffrin, Lindsey Vonn, Hannah Kearney, Kikkan Randall and Billy Demong to name a few, are some of the special athletes that have achieved high levels in our sports. They were all USSA junior athletes and have backgrounds not too unlike you. While there is of course no guarantee that World Cup success follows championships such as these, your participation here bodes well for your career.

As a USSA athlete, you are part of an organization with a Best in the World vision. The Junior Championships are an opportunity to show family, friends and your USSA club that you're ready to move up the ladder and achieve greater goals. At the same time, take a few moments to enjoy your surroundings, great venues and skiing terrain. The organizing committees that are hosting you welcome you and hope that you can enjoy this time despite your focus on competition. Relax and enjoy the special moments as this will only help you perform. Meet new people and share experiences.

Finally, while at Junior Championships take a moment to thank the volunteers and resort hosts. Your organizing committee has invested countless hours to ensure that your event is a success. A short thank you from an athlete always means a lot.

I know that you will compete to the best of your ability and wish you the best of luck!

Tiger Shaw  
President and CEO  
U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association



**U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association**  
The National Governing Body for Olympic Skiing and Snowboarding