

Volume

16

VAIL/BEAVER BUDDY WERNER LEAGUE

BEAVER CREEK, COLORADO

2026-2027 Parent & Skier Handbook

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Welcome!

Buddy Werner League - Vail/Beaver Creek (BWL), started in 1968 by Vail locals Vi and Byron Brown, is a ski race program designed for skiers in grades 2nd thru 8th, seeking a learning experience that is ski skills oriented. Each year, 250 participants meet in small groups from December into March with approximately 50 adult volunteer coaches. BWL offers a recreational racing program; the goal is to make participants better skiers through race training. The focus of the program is on safety, skills, etiquette, introduction to racing and fun. The program is not, however, a Learn to ski program and all participants must be a **level 5 skier** or above to enter the program. Level 5 skiers must ski consistently with poles and confidently link parallel turns on green and most blue runs but may revert to a snowplow on blue runs when conditions are challenging.

2026-2027 Season Calendar

This schedule is approved by Beaver Creek but may change at any time:

Tryout Day December 5th for all new skiers to the program. Meeting time and place will be emailed a few days prior but will fall between 9am and 12pm and will last approx. 1-hour. Coaches will not be required to attend.

Contact Days: January 3, 10, 17; February 22, 28, March 13 - Final day of BWL

Race Days: January 23, ^{February} 6, 21 All skiers will race each day.

The BWL Western Slope State Championships will be at Sunlight Mountain, Glenwood Springs, CO March 6/7. See page 9 for more information.

Registration Information

Registration will be offered this year through a link on our website and will open October 1, 2026, through November 15th. The league will be filled on a first come, first serve basis to the first 250 skiers. Completed registration forms, liability waivers and payment will all be completed through the Playbook link on the BWL website.

Your registration complete when all the following are received:

- Playbook registration is complete online.
- All three liability waivers must be filled out in their entirety for each skier and have an original signature. (1. BWL Liability Waiver; 2. BWL Photo Release and 3. Vail Resorts Liability Waiver.)
- Skier Code of Conduct Contract signed by both skier and parent
- Payment of \$475/child for Eagle County School students.
- Payment of \$625/child for Non-Eagle County School students.
- Coaches receive a discounted rate of \$100 per skier.
- Please note: A \$700 non-volunteer fee will be charged on March 22, 2027, for any parent who has not fulfilled the 6-hour volunteer commitment by this date.

2026-2027 BWL Fee Schedule and Policies

BWL is a Not-for-Profit organization and dependent on the support of our volunteers. We need your help! This program cannot run without the participation of all parents. To receive the discounted annual price for the program, BWL requires a parent to volunteer one day, 6-hours, per participating child. Volunteer opportunities, expectations and requirements are outlined later in the handbook.

Annual Fee per Eagle County School participant \$475.00

Annual Fee per Non-Eagle County Schools participant \$625.00

Coach's skier Fee per participant \$100

(In the case of homeschooling, registration fee will be determined by mailing address, Eagle County vs. non-Eagle-County, and proof of schooling may be requested)

Volunteer Fee Policy: \$700 will be charged to the original form of payment on March 22 2027, to all families who DO NOT complete their volunteer commitment of 6-hours per skier by this date. This may also be paid at time of registration if you choose not to volunteer during the BWL ski season.

Coaches receive a discounted rate of \$100 per child. All coaches will receive a uniform BWL ski Jacket. Coaches do NOT need to sign up for a volunteer position-regardless of the number of children in the family.

Cancellation of a BWL day due to extreme weather will be at the sole discretion of the BWL board.

BWL Withdrawal Policy

If a skier withdraws from BWL prior to January 3rd a refund will be issued (minus \$150 processing) fee and no volunteer time will be due. A written withdrawal request (email acceptable) must be received. After the 2nd contact day if a skier withdraws, no refund will be issued. If a skier is injured, refunds may be issued on a case-by-case basis.

BWL Behavior Policy

All BWL skiers are expected to ski with their team for the entire BWL ski day, typically from 8:30 – 2:30pm. Skier Code of Conduct Contract must be signed by both skier and parent by January 3rd for skier to participate.

Skiers who misbehave during this time will be brought to the BWL Info Table in Race City to stay with the Parent Table Volunteer until they are ready to return to their team. This includes skiers staying with the team, treating their coaches and teammates with respect, skiing safely and using etiquette regarding other skiers on the mountain, especially in the lift line.

It is also important for skiers to be on time to meet their teams in the morning. Parents are responsible for arranging with the coaches to meet up with your skier after the morning meeting time is missed. Parents must be on time to pick up their skiers at the end of the day.

BWL TEAMS

Skiers are grouped by skier level, age and coach and friend requests.

Volunteer Information and Policies

Please visit <https://dash.pointapp.org/> to view and sign up for Volunteer positions.

It is the responsibility of the parent to sign up for a volunteer position and complete their volunteer obligation to receive the discount program fee. Sign-up will be available on the BWL Website and in emails. If you do not fulfill your volunteer requirement, the card or bank account used to register will be charged \$700 on March 22, 2027. Please note that skiing with your child's ski group does not fulfill the volunteer requirement unless you are an official coach for the team or have been approved as a substitute coach. To become a volunteer coach, see *Coach Information* in the Handbook on the Registration page of the BWL Website.

New Skier Try Out & Team Placement

All new BWL skiers will be evaluated to assess skier ability level. This is to ensure their skiing level is at least a level 5 and it helps BWL place each NEW skier on a team that best meets their skiing ability. At new skier try outs, all skiers are required to complete a simple skiing test with a group of board members on a blue ski run. Coaches will not be required to attend. BWL will consider friend requests, however ultimately teams need to be cohesive in ability. **New Skier Testing will be on December 5** from 9 – 12 on Beaver Creek Mountain. Each skier will be assigned a 1-hour testing time based on their age. Skiers should be dressed ready to ski and will need to check in with BWL at their assigned time. Location TBA. BWL Board and volunteers will escort skiers in a group to a blue run for testing. Team placement will be determined, and parents will be notified by the Program Coordinator of the assigned Coach and team via email within 3-days. If it is determined during the testing that your child is not an all-mountain skier, BWL will process a full refund.

Daily schedule pick up and drop off

For the 2026/27 season, Buddy Werner League teams will meet at the Bear Lot. BWL parents will park and walk their skiers to the bus stop area. Older children can be dropped off away from the meeting/pickup area. Each team will be assigned an exact drop off and pick up details prior to the first day of BWL by their coaches. There will be no outdoor gear storage available.

On the first day of the season, please meet your coach and team members ready to ski at the place they designate. All teams will start between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM.

Skier pick-up options will be at the Landing or Bear Lot at 2:30 PM. Coaches will communicate specifics.

***It is VERY important that parents drop off and pick up their children ON TIME. It is very difficult to catch up with teams once they have dispersed for the day. If your child is late on any day throughout the season, it is the parent's responsibility to get your child to their team on the hill. Coaches will provide contact information to you at the beginning of the season.

Also, coaches most often have commitments following their ski day. If you are late for pick up, your child may be taken to the BWL Info table to wait for you. Repeated late pick-ups may result in your child's expulsion from the program.

Teams will ski appropriate terrain throughout the day. Age, skiing ability and weather will influence when the team takes breaks. For more information about your child's team schedule please contact your coach. Please note-a team's schedule can change at any time during the day. Please be respectful of the fact that there is 6+ kids and coaches skiing, and it may not always be possible to meet your child's team at an exact time and location. If you need to pick your child up early, it is your responsibility to coordinate with your child's coach a drop-off plan.

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances pick-up time on race day can fluctuate. Coaches are required to have an authorized adult check your child in and out at the beginning and end of the day.

On each contact or race day, a BWL Information Table is located outside in Race City, behind the Centennial Chair Lift and will be staffed by a volunteer all day to assist with sick, tired or lost skiers. This is also where parents can get in touch with a BWL Board member.

Teams will ski appropriate terrain throughout the day. Age, skiing ability and weather will influence when the team takes breaks. For more information about your child's team schedule please contact your coach. Please note-a team's schedule can change at any time during the day. Please be respectful of the fact that there is 6+ kids and coaches skiing, and it may not always be possible to meet your child's team at an exact time and location. If you need to pick your child up early, it is your responsibility to coordinate with your child's coach a drop-off plan.

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances pick-up time on race day can fluctuate. Coaches are required to have an authorized adult check your child in and out at the beginning and end of the day.

Parent Volunteer Requirement

It is the responsibility of the parent to sign up for a volunteer position and complete their volunteer obligation to avoid the additional fee of \$700 at the end of the BWL season. Sign-up will be available on the BWL Website and a link to the volunteer sign up site will be included in emails. If you do not fulfill your volunteer requirement, the card or bank account used to register will be charged \$700 on March 20, 2027. Please note that skiing with your child's ski group does not fulfill the volunteer requirement unless you are an official coach for the team or have been approved as a substitute coach. To become a volunteer coach, see *Coach Information* in the Handbook on the Registration page of the BWL Website.

What your child needs to bring to BWL each day

The following items are required for your child on each day they attend BWL

- **Ski pass**-Buddy Werner will not provide a pass to any child. If the child shows up to BWL without their pass, they will be taken to the table parent and their parent will be called. It will then be up to the parent to help the child get a replacement pass and reconnect with his/her team.
- **Helmet/Goggles** A ski helmet is required for all children in the program and BWL recommends that skiers use helmets that are 2 years old or less. The helmet needs to be properly fitting and in good condition for the child to ski with BWL. Goggles should fit with the helmet to prevent fogging.
- **Appropriate clothing**-Waterproof, wind-proof, warm ski pants & jacket; WARM mittens/gloves and neck gaiter. If a child shows up to BWL without these items, they will be sent to the parent table and a parent will be called.
- **Appropriate Equipment**-Equipment that has been certified by a ski technician is required by BWL, including appropriately sized skis and ski poles. If equipment is deemed unsafe by BWL, we will call a parent to discuss. If a child shows up missing any of the above items, they will be brought to the BWL Info table and parents will be contacted to either pick the child up or bring the item to the child and then plan to meet the team on the mountain. We do not expect an entire team to change their plans for a child that has forgotten something or is late. It is up to the parent to meet up with the team wherever the team may be on the mountain.
- **BWL Race Bib-Skiers 6th grade and below are REQUIRED to wear their BWL race bib EVERY DAY of BWL-not just race days. 7th & 8th Graders may wear the Official BWL Jacket or the BWL race bib.** This unique bib helps identify our skiers in case of emergency. The assigned bib is the one to be worn all season. Bibs are not interchangeable amongst skiers! Also, our sponsors have paid to have their names on these bibs and the exposure of the bibs being worn every day is part of our commitment to them. Replacement bibs can be purchased for \$75 and will NOT be available the day of a race. Arrangements must be made ahead of time to replace a lost bib. **It is also imperative that racers wear their bib on race day as skiers race in bib order.**
NO BIB, NO RACE! NO EXCEPTIONS!

Lunch or Lunch Money

Lunch plans will be communicated by your coach. Your skier **MUST** have a way to pay for their lunch. Coaches are not responsible for paying for lunches for teammates. On mountain dining does not accept cash.

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Race Training Days

On designated days, a training course will be available to all teams on Bear Trap or the Toyota Racecourse. Teams are encouraged to take advantage of training on the practice course. Coaches will be notified at the beginning of the season of the designated days. Skiers may bring race skis.

Race Training days will be posted on the BWL schedule. This is subject to change. Please refer to the official schedule on the website for updates.

Race Day Information & Schedule

This is the day that all our skiers look forward to! Race day is an exciting and fun day for all our skiers, and it takes a lot of careful management and assistance to run our skiers thru the course -TWICE! There are many moving parts to a race day that includes not only skiers but many volunteers as well. Below is an outline of the day and some important racer and volunteer information. ALL BWL races take place on Bear Trap. Schedule

8.30am -Teams meet and depart up Centennial.

-Volunteers check in with a Board member at the BWL table located in the BC Chop House Breezeway.

8.45am Race Official's meeting (BWL table) - Volunteers performing the following jobs: gatekeepers, starters, sweepers *are required to attend this meeting to review their responsibilities and the day's schedule.*

8:45-9.45am - Course Inspection- all teams are required to inspect both courses together with their coaches.

9.45am - All racecourse volunteers (gatekeepers, starters, timers, scoreboard etc) should be at their assigned location on the course

- Racers Begin to line-up

10:00-11:45 **Race 1. BWL will be running races in bib order, 1 - 300. We expect teams to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to their bib start. This will allow us to run the race faster, and keep all of the age groups together, with the odd bib numbers on one course and the even bibs on the other. The afternoon racecourse will be opposite from the mornings runs. This will mean that the red course will be one race and the blue course will be the other race. Teams should plan to eat lunch as soon as their 1st race is finished.**

12pm-12:45 - Course 2 Inspection for skiers

- Lunch for volunteers will be available at the BWL Info Table.

12.45pm All racecourse volunteers (gatekeepers, starters, timers, scoreboard etc) should be at their assigned location on the course

1pm-3pm **Race 2. Same as above except course assignments are opposite.**

3:30pm-4pm Awards Ceremony will take place at Race City located behind the Centennial lift building. We encourage all racers and their families to attend and stay for the awards ceremony even if your child did not place in the top winning categories. This is a great opportunity for your child to cheer on their friends and teammates. We also have a raffle with many great prizes donated by our generous sponsors.

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Race Day Rules and Regulations

***No athlete will be allowed to participate on race days until all waivers have been signed and turned in and approved.

As stated above, racers will run in bib order with even bibs on one course and odd bibs on the other course and then will reverse courses for the afternoon race. Start lists will be available the morning of each race on <http://www.live-timing.com/>. This website will also help you gauge when your skier(s) will be racing. Approximately 4 racers go each minute.

USSA Rules

BWL will use USSA rules as a guideline, updated guide on BWL website. These rules are subject to change.

Helmets:

- Our contract with Vail Resorts requires that all competitors, coaches, forerunners, course workers and anyone within the race arena must wear a helmet for official training as well as for the race. For the safety of all our skiers, BWL recommends that skiers use helmets that are 2-years old or less. **Go Pro Cameras are NOT allowed in BWL Races.**

BWL Race Bib

- We expect our BWL skiers to wear their assigned 2025/26 BWL race bib every day of BWL. It is imperative that racers wear their assigned bib on race day as skiers race in bib order. **NO BIB, NO RACE! A skier will be DQ'd for wearing the wrong bib. This is not negotiable!**

If a BWL bib is lost, a replacement bib will cost \$75. Please first contact Beaver Creek Lost & Found. If not found, please contact the BWL administrator so a new bib can be assigned. Replacement bib arrangements must be made prior to a race day!

Race Arena

- All athletes are required to inspect the racecourse prior to the start of the race. The competitors with their coach will be allowed on BOTH courses for inspection between 9:00-9:45. This inspection is a side slipping inspection only – NO SKIING PLEASE.
- Athletes May NOT ski through the finish during inspection.
- For access to the course during inspection, all competitors must have bib showing and all coaches must be with their group.
- There is NO free skiing in the race arena
- **There is NO SKIING, HIKING, etc. ANYWHERE on Bear Trap**, parents may stand or hike outside of the race arena only.
- There is NO public access to the racecourse
- All course slippers are required to exit the racecourse BEFORE the finish line (skiing through the finish line at any time during inspection is NOT allowed and can cause your team to be disqualified) you may only ski through the finish line if it is during your ski run.
- If there is heavy snow on a race day, coaches will be given specific instructions, and it is possible Beaver Creek Race Dept may cancel the race for safety reasons.

Disqualifications:

A competitor will be disqualified if he/she:

- Skis from one course to another
- Fails to make proper passage around all the gates on their course. (No hiking is allowed)
- Receives outside help during the competition (athlete falls and someone helps the athlete back up, with no loss of equipment)
- A parent ski next to their athlete to the finish
- Has the parent crossing the finish line with the athlete.
- Losing a ski more than two gates above the finish line is considered a clear disqualification. The competitor may not continue the course
 - the exception to this disqualification is if the athlete loses a ski one –two gates above the finish, the athlete will be allowed to cross the finish line, and a time will be awarded. Finishes the run on the wrong finish line.
- If a skier faults, he may not continue through the finish line.

***In case of a fall between the last gate and the finish line, the time is taken when a part of the competitor's body or equipment stops the timekeeping system

Rules of Re-Runs Prerequisites:

- Any competitor who is obstructed while racing must stop immediately after the incident takes place and NOT continue through the finish. The competitor would make his/her way to the finish line along the side of the course.
 - The Competitor must apply to a board member for a rerun. Board members are located at the finish area or in the finish timing building
- Provisional re-runs will be given if, in special situations (e.g. in case of a missing gate, failure of the timekeeping system or other technical failures), the board may order a rerun.
 - Grounds for interference
 - Blocking of the course by an official, a spectator, an animal or other obstruction
 - Blocking of the course by a fallen competitor who does not clear the course quickly enough
 - Objects in the course such as a lost ski pole or the ski of a previous competitor
 - Absence of a gate knocked down by a previous competitor that has not been promptly replaced.
 - Other similar incidents beyond the will and control of the competitor
- Validity of a re-run. If the competitor was already disqualified before the incident entitling him to a re-run, the rerun is not valid
- The provisional or subsequently approved run remains valid even if it proves slower than the previous run.
- Start time of the re-run, The start referee will insert the re-run competitor into the already established start times once the competitor is ready.

Protests:

Following each race, disqualifications (DQ) will be posted at the scoreboard as soon as all gate judges' scorecards are in. Once the DQ list is posted, 15 minutes will be allowed for the DQ to be challenged (protested); after this time the disqualification will stand as posted. A board member will be placed at the start of the racecourse and/or in the timing building. A board member may only accept a protest if it is based upon physical evidence or eyewitness testimony and new evidence exists that relates to the disqualification.

Gate judge importance:

- The gate judge is to follow the instruction of the board
- If a competitor does not pass a gate correctly the gate judge must immediately and clearly mark the gatekeeper card with the following:
 - The bib number of the competitor
 - The gate number of where the fault was made
 - A drawing of the fault committed is essential
- The decision handed down by the gate judge must be clear and unbiased.
- The gate judge must also observe that the competitor accepts no outside help (in case of a fall)
- A gate has been passed correctly when both the competitors ski tip and both feet have passed across the gate line.
- If a skier stops or loses continuous motion at any time, they will be a DSQ, and the judge will note their bib # on the card.
- If the competitor loses a ski, the competitor will not be allowed to continue, and the gatekeeper will note this on the card as a DNF
- The gate judge must declare a fault only when he/she is convinced that a fault has been committed
- The gate judge can consult the adjacent gate judge in order to confirm his opinion, he/she can (if time allows) quickly check the race line to see tracks on the course.
- When an adjacent gate judge or a member of the board makes a report concerning a competitor, which differs from the notes of the gate judge in question, the board may freely interpret the notes in view of a possible disqualification or a protest.
- A gate judge that has a fault on their card will be required to explain the fault to the head gate judge or a board member at the finish building. Gate Judges - Please do not leave the race arena until your card has been reviewed and accepted by a board member.
- The competitor is fully responsible for his/her actions and must respect the gate judge's final decision.

Race Format

- BWL will be running TWO separate races each race day. Age group awards will be given for both runs. Age grouping aligned with USAA Races and other BWL clubs. They are: U8 (7), U10 (8 - 9-year old's), U12 (10-11yo), U14 (12-13yo) and U16 (14-15yo) (All based on age as of December 31st of that year). U14 and U16 will be scored as one age group. Beaver Creek does not allow 6-year old skiers to race on Bear Trap.
- The top 5 male and female in each age group will be awarded at an awards ceremony approximately 45 minutes after the last skier behind the Chair 6 building.

Scoreboard

BWL volunteers will write finish time on the scoreboard at the bottom of Bear Trap. They will also write times on skier bibs.

State points and Calculations

To determine the qualifying racers for the State Finals, points are awarded to competitors finishing in the top 15 for each race in their division. Points are calculated and added to each competitor's accumulative results after each race. The points will be calculated with 4 results, we will throw out the high and the low score of the 6 events skied and calculated to determine the state qualifiers, please know that this is different from years past. If in the event of a tie the tie will be broken with the calculation of all 6 events points.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 st	25	6 th	10	11 th	5
2 nd	20	7 th	9	12 th	4
3 rd	15	8 th	8	13 th	3
4 th	12	9 th	7	14 th	2
10 th	6	15 th	1	5 th	11

This year, Powderhorn will be hosting a team competition based on the overall race times of the team on March 7/8.

What your skiers need on race day

Racers are required to be on time and prepared for the day i.e., properly equipped and attired. This includes:

- **BWL Race Bib** -We expect our BWL skiers to wear their BWL race bib every day of BWL. This very unique bib helps identify our skiers in case of emergency. Also, our sponsors have paid to have their names on these bibs and the exposure of the bibs being worn every day is part of our commitment to them. It is also imperative that racers wear their bib on race day as skiers race in bib order. **NO BIB, NO RACE!**
- No broken, questionable or unsuitable equipment is permitted.
- Skiers must race with poles, which have straps.
- Clothing suitable for all weather conditions
- Helmet
- No Go-Pro Cameras are allowed at BWL Races.

Race Day Etiquette for All

As was mentioned earlier in the handbook, there are many moving parts to running a race for 300 plus skiers. We've outlined below important information that allows for a smooth race operation. This information applies to racers, coaches, spectators and volunteers.

- **Racers** are required to wear this year's bib on race day. Any racer without their assigned current year bib at the race start will not be allowed to race.
- **Spectators** are always welcome to cheer on our BWL racers. For the safety of both our racers and the spectators, please stay within the designated spectator areas: outside of the finish area fencing, lower knoll of bear trap (away from the racecourse and behind the spectator fence) and outside the starting gate area.
- **DO NOT SKI THRU THE FINISH LINE**- If you are helping your team with jackets, please know that Skiing thru the finish line can adversely affect a skier's finish time. **Don't do it!**
- **DO NOT SKI IN THE SNOWMOBILE LANE** (located on skier's left of Bear Trap). This lane is exclusively for the regular snowmobile traffic going up and down the slope. Skiers are not always visible to the snowmobile driver. Skiing in this area could lead to a terrible accident.
- **DO NOT** follow your child down the racecourse. You won't be allowed on the racecourse, so this is not an option.

Code of Conduct-Child

Each racer is expected to be a **"Junior Ambassador"** for the **Buddy Werner League program** and **behave in a manner that will bring credit to the parents, coaches, Beaver Creek Resort and him/herself while skiing, training and racing.** Participants should be considerate of the efforts put into providing the skiing and training facilities by the resort and volunteers. Racers must obey all skier safety rules while on the hill. Courteous and responsible behavior is always required including while eating in mountain restaurants. Skiers are expected to always represent the league and our community in a responsible and positive manner. Skiers with behavioral problems and/or who do not follow the rules of the resort or league will face appropriate disciplinary action by a coach or board member, which can include being sent home or expulsion from the program. Under no circumstances will a racer be entitled to receive a refund of program fees in the event of expulsion from the program.

Code of Conduct-Parents/Family Members

Parents and family members are also expected to be respectful of everyone involved with the BWL program, including Beaver Creek Resort employees, volunteers of the program and members of the board. Please remember that the coaches of your child's team have volunteered their time to be on the mountain with your child. At no time do they deserve anything other than the utmost respect and gratitude. If there is a problem identified with a coach or another volunteer or a child in the program, the issue should be addressed to a member of the board. If it is deemed that a parent has acted inappropriately towards a BWL volunteer, board member or resort employee, expulsion of the child from the program may occur, with no refund due to the family.

A BWL skier code of conduct contract will be signed by skier and parent/guardian in order to ski with BWL.

Coach Information and Requirements

Without our coaches, the Buddy Werner League wouldn't exist! Their dedication and commitment to the league are essential to our success. We provide, annually, coaching and race training for all of our volunteer coaches and require that our coaches have a passion for skiing. In addition to training, BWL provides lift tickets on contact days to coaches without lift passes.

To become a Buddy Werner League coach, you must meet the following qualifications:

- Skier Level of 6 or better
- Attend Coach training – dry-land (Nov 11, 2025) and on-mountain (Dec 7, 2025)
- Pass a background check
- Must be able to coach on all contact and race days. Although we understand that this is not always possible, we assign 2 coaches per team in the event a coach is sick or unavailable.
- All coaches will have to complete a youth concussion course so that we can all comply with C.R.S.
 - 2543-101 through 103. This course is available free online:
<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

SAFETY

Above all else, Buddy Werner League - Vail/Beaver Creek is concerned with the safety of our skiers. We will take the following precautions to ensure our skier's safety:

- Skiers must ski with their team at least once prior to a race day. If the coach decides they are not ready to race, that decision stands for the safety of the child!
- Two coaches will be present at all times-one coach leads, one coach follows. Even if not skiing in a perfect line, one coach will always be the "sweeper".
- Coaches will discuss emergency procedures and precautions with skiers each morning before the first run. They will pick a "safety" theme of the day.
- Children 8 and younger (or small children) will ride the chairlift with an adult.
- All skiers, coaches, junior coaches and volunteers are required to wear a helmet. -Sign in/sign out of skiers will be done by text this year

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, coaches and board members will follow the organization's procedures as noted below. Coaches will review this information with their skiers on the first day **however we ask that parents also discuss "what if" situations with their children so that they are prepared in an emergency.** At the beginning of the season, each child will be given an "important contact numbers" card that includes telephone numbers for Ski Patrol and Board members which can be attached to their season pass lanyard. Coaches will also add their contact information on the back.

Sick Child

If a skier becomes sick during the day, a coach or board member will escort the child to the BWL Information table located in behind the Centennial lift. Either the coach or volunteer on duty will contact the parent or guardian to notify them that the child needs to be picked up. We ask that you pick up your child as soon as possible. BWL will follow health guidelines from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as well as Vail Resorts for current recommendations.

Lost or Child is separated from their team

If a child is lost or separated from their team, the coach will immediately report the child to ski patrol, the BWL Info table volunteer parent on duty and a board member. The parent table, ski patrol and Board member will continue to communicate until the child is found and returned to their team. The child should ski to the last lift he/she rode with their team and notify the Lift attendant that they were separated from their group and need to contact Ski Patrol. It is important to mention that all skiers are required to wear their BWL bib, as it will allow for easy identification.

Injury

In the event of a skier injury, coaches will report any serious injury first to BC Ski Patrol. Next a coach will contact a BWL board member and the parents. One coach will stay with the child, and the other coach, junior or volunteer will ski the remaining team members down. If it's necessary for the skier to be taken down in a toboggan to the Medical Center, a BWL board member will meet the skier there with the Medical Authorization form. If a skier is taken down the mountain in a toboggan, they will not be allowed to ski for the rest of that day and a doctor's release note must be provided before the skier can return to BWL.

Discipline

A child who is unwilling to follow the team plan may also be dropped off at the BWL Info Table to sit with the Table parent. This can be used to encourage an attitude adjustment. A coach must pick the skier up after one run or the skier must be picked up by their parents if they continue to be difficult.

Werner Wisdom Program

In addition to developing our skiers physically, the Werner Wisdom Program helps coaches to strengthen their skiers socially and morally as well. Buddy Werner was well known by his peers for having many positive qualities and we feel that it is our job to instill these as well. Each non-race week coaches will be given a Werner Wisdom topic with a few fun facts to share with their team. Weekly Werner Wisdom skiers will be rewarded with an incentive gift. At the end of the season, the BWL Board will award one skier (nominated by their coach) and one Coach as the Werner Wisdom Winners at the awards banquet.

Awards Banquet

On the last day of the BWL season, Saturday, March 8 at 2:30pm, BWL will host an awards banquet to celebrate the season. Skiers will be recognized for many achievements. Please plan to attend!

Sponsorship

The Buddy Werner League is always looking for sponsors to help support our great program. We have various levels of sponsorships that provide exceptional advertising and marketing opportunities for any local business. For more information, please contact Laura Merlihan, BWL administrator at bwl.vailbc@gmail.com for more information.

Buddy Werner League Contact Information

The BWL Board of Directors works in cooperation with Beaver Creek Ski Resort to organize, support and manage the program and its events. The purpose of the board is to provide a recreational ski program that is both affordable and fun for experienced skiers in grades 2nd thru 8th. The board's responsibilities include managing the organization's operations, events, property and affairs; to maintain financials, prepare and oversee an annual budget; to review policies and procedures and to the best of their ability maintain good communications with all participants, their families and sponsors who support BWL.

The BWL Board welcomes your positive feedback and comments on the program and are available to speak to in person each contact (day) morning and afternoon after teams have departed and/or participants have been picked up. To reach a board member or the administrator, please email bwl.vailbc@gmail.com and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Board of Directors

Jasen Brown
Graham Danzoll
Bill Davis
Matt Hayden

Dave Assell
Nick Sunday
Doug Jimenez
Laura Merlihan (Administrator)

Please email BWL.vailbc@gmail.com to get in touch with the board.

Updated 9/29/2026

