

Ismaning, 2018-10-20
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APP 14: Age for participation at World Cup

The recently imposed age restrictions, where the athletes can take part in the World Cup races only from the age of 16 (previously it was 14 years of age) and 17 years for the athletes born in 2007. This has been explained with need to increase the level of professionalism of Inline Alpine, however, from my point of view, this is utterly hampering the motivation of the athletes who currently in the groups under U16 to take part in the WC. The athletes are not interested to take part in the WC if they cannot fully participate. It is wrong situation.

At the moment, Inline Alpine cannot be considered as a well-known discipline hence we cannot allow the decrease of the number of athletes, who take part in the WC. The argument given about the age restrictions is not critique-proof and cannot be considered valid- it is not directed towards increasing the number of athletes and to popularize the sport. It is in all of our interest for the Inline Alpine to become an Olympic sport, isn't it? To add more, the athletes who are 14 or less are the ones who could become the future Olympians. In my opinion, we have to give these adolescents a chance to compete along side with elite class athletes in order to observe them in action, to compare themselves to them, to look up to them and to improve their own skills.