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Colorado Gold Medal Initiative

Background: Colorado is widely considered the premier skiing and snowboarding region in the world with the most reliable snow conditions, finest resorts and over 10,000,000 skier visits per year. However, in the history of snow sports, Colorado has not produced even one Olympic Gold Medal in Snowboarding, Alpine, Freestyle or Nordic Skiing; an achievement enjoyed by 12 other states including Alaska, Oregon, Vermont, New York, Utah, California, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Maine.

Purpose: The *Colorado Gold Medal Initiative* is an athlete centered talent development initiative of the RMD to produce an Olympic Gold medal followed by sustainable Olympic excellence by supporting programs for the athletic development of Colorado snow sports athletes.

Focus: RMD will provide funding through supporting grants to the member sports for programs that are designed to recruit, retain and develop talented, young Colorado athletes with the potential to advance to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Teams. Programs must be designed to advance athletes to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Teams with the pre-requisite competencies to become competitive at the highest levels of international competition.

Process: The respective sports' Competition Committees will have the opportunity to propose projects for funding on an annual basis. Proposals must be new initiatives focused on enhancing the development of the respective sport's athletes. Results must be measurable. Reports must be submitted following the implementation of the program detailing the use and results of the awarded grant. Grants may not be made to individual athletes.

Summary: The *Colorado Gold Medal Initiative* is the rallying cry for RMD, it's member sports, clubs, athletes, coaches, parents and supporters. It provides a focus for RMD's programming, fundraising and communications. It provides a lay person with a tangible goal. The *Colorado Gold Medal Initiative* is designed not to supplement or duplicate the efforts of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Teams or individual clubs. Rather, to support the programming designed to help develop Colorado athletes to the next level with the skills to become successful at the highest level.