



Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2013-2014 Report

April 22, 2014

Submitted by Rob Lipton, Alpine Officials Chair

Ski Racing Season Highlights:

The 2013-2014 Alpine Ski racing season in PA was one of the best in years. Since the weather cooperated; all races were held as calendared. Changes in the ACR included that the Interdiction rule now being enforced for all (fixed interval) scored and non-scored races. Also changes in the slalom rules no longer allow competitors to continue if they are about to be overtaken by another racer. Helmet rules have further quantified to what types of helmets are allowed to be worn by a competitors.

Another major change this season was in the duties of the Referee. He/she were no longer solely responsible for inspecting the course immediately after it is set. In addition, the Referee no longer has the right to change the course by taking out or adding gates. These duties/rights are deferred to the Jury as a whole. (601.4.10).

There was also increase scrutiny by USSA to require the ROC to confirm that all coaches present have current USSA membership and are appropriately certified when acting as an alpine official. This was also evident with increased oversight by the state chairs to make sure that with the exception of Competition Official (CO) and Data Management (DM), all USSA certified officials are required to attend a bi-annual Alpine Officials' Continuing Education Clinic in order to retain current certifications.

Once again the Interdiction rule was the topic of many pre-race gate keeper meetings. The long and short of it was... "the rule is hard to explain"; but, "you know it when you see it!" Our certified gatekeeper program was updated to reflect the current changes in the rules. The ROCs continue to use these certified gatekeepers making for more consistent gate judging results.

The USSA initiative to strictly enforce the Concussion policy went much more smoothly this season. Increased awareness by ongoing continuing education to our alpine racing community coupled with our TDs being very vigilant has yielded positive results.

The future status of the flex pole standard of 25-27mm in diameter and a minimum gate height of 54 inches from the snow surface to the top of the gate shall be used for USSA U14 and younger SL events is unclear. (Was not implemented this season)

This year's USSA course setting guidelines for un-scored competitors no longer allow for an ROC to legally run scored and un-scored competitors on the same course. This change adds to the complexity of running these multi-class events. The fencing requirements especially at the GS and Super G venues for security of the competitors continue to grow exponentially. Blue Mountain who was recently homologated for Super G requires



fencing completely down the course on both sides; some sections required double fencing over 130 roles of fencing was used during the Super G camp.

Our overall number of Alpine Officials in PARA, for the 2013-14 season, was **333**; most of these AO's have at least 1 certification and 14 alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications. For the third year in a row, the ranks of Active PARA's Technical Delegates have decreased. Currently, we have **13** active TD's (26 total includes – retired).

There are **166** alpine officials with a **competition official** certification, **127** alpine officials with a **referee certification**, **134** alpine officials with a **jury advisor** certification, **49** alpine officials with a **chief of course** certification, **46** alpine officials with a **chief of race** certification, **38** alpine officials with a **data management** certification, **40** alpine officials with a **race administrator** certification and **37** alpine officials with a **timing and calculation** certification.

We have a dedicated alpine official community in Pennsylvania, and I am very proud and honored to represent them. Thank you for everything you do for alpine ski racing ... without you, there would be no ski racing in PARA.

Educational Opportunities:

PARA provided four general Alpine Officials workshops, geographically dispersed throughout the state*. They were held at Elk, Seven Springs, Blue Mountain, and in *Bethesda Maryland (120 participants attended). Two of the workshops featured Eric Harlow, USSA Eastern Alpine director who presented an update on USSA club initiatives and answered other questions regarding USSA *activities*. John McGregor, Dan Chayes and I facilitated the four AO workshops held throughout the state. Emphasis on the USSA 2013-14 AO fall update and other current and relevant information on the upcoming USSA ski racing season were covered in these sessions.

I continue to host the PARA AO Website <http://scis.nova.edu/~rlipton/para/default.htm>. The Alpine Officials community uses this website to retrieve the most recent versions of all USSA forms and documents and to find out about other pertinent updates, rule changes, clarifications and other timely information useful to our AO community. I continue to use a Google doc to schedule the Technical Delegates and Referees for this year's races.

You can review the document at

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0At1DGe5JRA1dDkyNTdqTTQzY1FJa0F2NXF0aWNhZ2c&usp=drive_web#gid=0



Ski Racing Statistics:

PARA Calendared Forty-one (41) U8 – U21, Master, Senior, (Men & Women) Races. All races were run as calendared

Month & Year	Number of Races Men and Women events counted as one race
December 2013	2
January 2014	13
February 2014	22
March 2014	4

Scored - Non Scored

- 14 - Scored
- 27 - Non-scored
- 6 - Both

For the 2013-2014 Ski Season, PARA has 12 Active Technical Delegates who worked at least one race.

1 TD	Officiated 9 races
1 TDs	Officiated 6 races
1 TD	Officiated 5 races
1 TD	Officiated 4 races
4 TDs	Officiated 3 race
1 TD	Officiated 2 race
3 TDs	Officiated 1 race

Upgrades and Promotions (By the Numbers)

333 Alpine Officials Registered in PA (increase of 31 over last year)

31 Exams Administered

- 10 Referee (2 out of State)
- 2 Chief of Race
- 1 Chief of Course
- 16 Jury Advisor
- 2 Race Administrator



There are 44 PARA Alpine Officials recommended for promotion to a level 1 or 2 for 2013-2014 year

Classification	Number of Requests
CC : CHIEF OF COURSE	3
CO : COMPETITION OFFICIAL	39
CR : CHIEF OF RACE	3
DM : DATA MANAGEMENT	3
JA : JURY ADVISOR	17
RA : RACE ADMINISTRATOR	2
RF : REFEREE	16
TC : TIMING AND CALCULATIONS	1
TD : TECHNICAL DELEGATE	0
Total	84

Level 3 or 4 PARA AO Upgrades Requested 2013-2014

Classification	Number of Requests
RF : REFEREE	1

Issues and Concerns - on the Horizon (many of the same issues as previous years)

- TD Shortage on the horizon
- Impact of race fees (cost to race)
- ROC's escalating costs to prepare the venue
- Heighten medical resources and procedures required
- Proposed equipment changes
- Staffing of races with qualified(certified) personnel

Respectfully Submitted - April 22, 2014
 Rob Lipton
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