



Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2016-2017 Report

April 21, 2017

Submitted by Rob Lipton, PARA Alpine Officials Chair

Ski Racing Season Highlights:

This year's weather was better than last year, at least for making and keeping snow on the hill. Once again, PARA's early race conditions were less than desired. As the race season progressed, most ROC's were able to run their races as scheduled. There were some race cancelations and venue changes to accommodate the ever-changing weather conditions.

For example, one Super G speed event was held on the warmest day ever recorded in the month of February (78 degrees) in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The track was rock hard! Thank goodness for Urea and the army of ROC volunteers to spread it and prep the course.

Our entire PARA alpine racing community should be commended for their herculean-efforts to hold quality events. It is a testament to our Alpine Officials who work tirelessly to provide fair and safe events no matter the situation.

As usual, USSA announced new ski equipment specifications to bring conformity to the FIS equipment requirements. These changes led to some shortages of legal ski equipment. It also led to some athletes competing on non-compliant equipment. There were several instances in which it was alleged that competitors competed on non-compliant equipment. Since there were no formal protests during the competitions against these competitors, no action was taken by the alpine officials (jury) at these races to disqualify those competitors' results.

Please note that the current USSA policy governing non-compliance on legal equipment is that a person with standing (team captain, coach, etc.) may protest non-compliant equipment by notifying the jury of their intent to do so. A specific protocol is then put into action to facilitate the equipment protest. For specific details, please review the "Guidelines Regarding Equipment Control and Equipment Protests at USSA non-FIS Events" found in the USSA master packet forms.

Since the inception of the Equipment Control and Equipment Protest protocol, PARA, alpines officials require a formal protest to challenge a non-safety related competitor's competition- equipment. This policy has been in place at all PARA races since this USSA policy was announced (2005-06 season). The current application of this policy (protest only) has been sufficient/adequate to address this type of infraction and although, there are some in the PARA community who may disagree, adherence to this policy preserves both the letter and the spirit of how infractions of the equipment rule are adjudicated.



As was the case this year, the PARA bylaws do empower the PARA executive board with the appropriate remedies to penalize any competitor who was found to have competed on non-compliant equipment. This procedure (stripping the competitor's World-Cup points associated with the races completed on non-compliant ski equipment) worked well this year. If needed, it can continue to be used as a remedy for a competitor on non-compliant skis to be penalized if the competitor has not been protested according to the USSA rules during the race, but later found to have not competed on legal equipment. I will be lobbying USSA to rescind the equipment rules for USSA races.

This year we had a choice of two timing software programs; valid for USSA alpine ski racing. Both VOLA and Split Second were used in PARA. Various race administrators and timing and calculation alpine-officials have reported minimal problems with either timing program. This was a welcome relief given the angst and ambiguity that VOLA presented to the Alpine Officials community last year. The USSA Live Timing application was also used this ski racing season with good results.

[Admin SkiRacing](#) was used again this year to register competitors by the PARA race venues. There were no reports of problems. The ROCs have indicated confidence in the vendor and will most likely be used in the future.

Once again, our Alpine Officials with help from our PARA alpine racing community performed exceptionally well. I am proud to be part of a group of dedicated volunteers who give freely of their time and effort to our athletes. I am truly appreciative to each and every one of you who perform their Alpine Official duties no matter the weather, temperature, negative circumstances, etc.

Alpine Officials by the Numbers:

During the 2016-17 season, there were **337** Alpine Officials in PARA. This is an **addition of 9 Alpine Officials** in PARA from the 2015-16 year. At least **195** had attained at least one AO certification; up from 2 in 2015-2016. Twenty-two alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications. There are 17 active certified Technical Delegates in PARA. Of the 17 certified Technical Delegates, **11 TD's** (*an increase of 3 over last year*) officiated the PARA's race calendar as Technical Delegates.

There are:

189 (+40) alpine officials with a **competition official certification**,

132 (+16) alpine officials with a **referee certification**,

154 (+35) alpine officials with a **jury advisor certification**,

41 (-2) alpine officials with a **chief of course certification**,



- 41 (+4) alpine officials with a **chief of race certification**,
- 33 (no change) alpine officials with a **data management certification**,
- 30 (-3) alpine officials with a **race administrator** certification
- 42 (+1) alpine officials with a **timing and calculation** certification.

Again... 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 three general Alpine Officials workshops, geographically dispersed throughout the state*. They were held at Blue Mountain (East, North East) Wisp (Western), and at Ski Liberty (Central). There was a total of 88 participants who attended these three Alpine Official workshops. These three AO workshops held throughout the state were facilitated by myself.

An emphasis on the USSA 2016-17 Alpine Officials Fall Update document was presented; highlighting those rules specific and common to alpine ski racing in PARA. Other current and relevant information on the upcoming USSA ski racing season were also covered in these sessions. Alpine Official Exams were offered to those who requested them. There were also club level workshops *provided throughout the state*. These workshops were designed to educate the parents of the racers on the basic rules of Alpine ski racing. The Competition Officials exam document was covered and a CO designation was awarded to all current USSA members who attended these clinics.

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. The revised race schedule for the past year is posted on the first page of the website

Ski Race Statistics:

PARA hosted forty-five (45) U10 – U21, Master, Senior, (Men & Women) Races. 2 Super G camp, each were 2-days in length. One race was canceled, several race venues were changed to accommodate snow conditions

Total of 45 (+8 over last year) alpine races plus 4 Super G Camp days ... 45 Total Events



Month & Year	Number of Race Days Men and Women events counted as one race
December 2016	1
January 2017	12
February 2017	22 +4 days (SG Camp)
March 2017	6

Scored – Non-Scored Races:

- 18 - Scored
- 19 - Non-scored
- 8 - Both

For the 2016-2017 Ski Season, PARA has 13 Active Technical Delegates who worked at least one race.

1 TDs Officiated 8 races
1 TD Officiated 7 races
1 TD Officiated 6 races
2 TD Officiated 5 races
1 TDs Officiated 4 race
1 TD Officiated 3 races
3 TDs Officiated 2 races
1 TDs Officiated 1 races

Upgrades and Promotions:

337 Alpine Officials Registered in PA (increase of 9 over last year)

25 Exams Administered

- 11 Referee
- 9 Jury Advisor
- 3 Timing and Calculation Exam
- 1 Chief of Race
- 1 Chief of Course.

There are 68 PARA Alpine Officials recommended for promotion to a level 1 or 2 for 2016-2017 year

Classification	Number of Requests
CC : CHIEF OF COURSE	1
CO : COMPETITION OFFICIAL	38
CR : CHIEF OF RACE	2



DM : DATA MANAGEMENT	0
JA : JURY ADVISOR	11
RA : RACE ADMINISTRATOR	2
RF : REFEREE	11
TC : TIMING AND CALCULATIONS	2
TD : TECHNICAL DELEGATE	1
Total	68

Level 3 or 4 PARA AO Upgrades Requested 2016-2017

Classification	Number of Requests
Technical Delegate - level 4	1
Competition Official – level 3	7
Referee - Level 3	2
Total	10

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

- TD Recruitment – A perpetual issue not only in PARA but throughout all USSA regions. ... two TD candidates currently
- Increasing complexity of the rules of USSA alpine officiating
- Escalating direct and indirect costs by USSA and PARA being passed on to the ROC for hosting races; Includes the costs to prepare the venue for security of the competitor and appropriateness of the race venue, new equipment for timing, and ever increasing head taxes.
- Continued equipment changes, regulations, procedures and additional responsibilities by the Alpine Officials and ROC... Are mandatory inspections on the horizon?
- Staffing of races with qualified(certified) personnel (becoming a critical issue for some ROC's)

Respectfully Submitted - April 21, 2017

Rob Lipton

Pennsylvania USSA- Alpine Officials Chairman

USSA # 5413679