

PARA U18-U21 Chair Report

2014-2015 Season

PA Cup Series and State Team

This season 40 female and 54 male athletes competed in the PA Cup Series. There were no U21 females and only 7 U21 males that competed in the PA Cup Series this season

Races were hosted by Seven Springs(2SL), Blue Mountain(2GS, 1SL) and Elk Mountain(2GS, 1SL)

At the conclusion of the final PA Cup race at Elk Mountain the PARA State Team was named, the PA Cup Champions were awarded. This season there was no recipient of the Frank Sheibley Memorial Award.

The 2015 PARA State Team was comprised of the top 7 ranked female and the top 10 ranked male athletes based on the final PA Cup results at the conclusion of PA Cup 8.

2015 PARA State Team U18-U21

Annelise Depaulo	BMRT	1997
Courtney Clark	WPRC	1997
Hana Stevic	LMRT	1997
Margaux Klingensmith	WPRC	1997
Kelly Flack	BMRT	1997
Kyra Long	SRRC	1998
Harris Wright	WPRC	1997

Nelson Dibaise	WPRC	1997
Devon Shaeffer	WTSEF	1998
Casey Wakeen	SRRC	1997
William Ryley	BMRT	1998
Matthew Dailey	SRRC	1998
Stephen Combs	BMRT	1997
Tyler Long	SRRC	1996
Aaron Jacobson	LMRT	1996
Liam Cook	BMRT	1997
Nathan LeBauer	LMRT	1998

The **Frank Sheibly Memorial Award** for 2014-2015 was not awarded this season.

The Frank Sheibly Memorial Award is determined each year from nominations submitted to the PARA Executive Board. It is presented to the U21-U18 athlete who demonstrates the qualities of character, sportsmanship and dedication to the sport of alpine ski racing in PARA.

Post Season Events

USSA Eastern Finals were held at Gore, NY from March 14th through March 17th.

PARA sent 10 male and 7 female athletes to this event which included SG Training, Two SG's, SL and GS competitions.

We had some very good results in **SG**, with Katie Miller(3rd) and Courtney Clark(10th) in the first SG and Courtney also finishing 6th in the second SG for the women. Two finishers in the top twenty for the men, Nathan LeBauer had a 13th and an 18th place and Aaron Jacobson with two 19th place finishes.

SL results were truly "earned" by a number of our athletes finishing at the top of the field. Casey Wakeen(9th), William Ryley(11th) and Stephen Combs(13th) for the men and Courtney Clark(6th), Hana Stevic(14th), Harris Wright(20th) for the women. Both men's and ladies slalom courses presented very challenging conditions with a majority of the field struggling to get any result.

GS results were more rewarding for the women and most challenging for the men. Only Casey Wakeen(12th) and Nelson DiBiase(17th) would finish in the top 20 for the men. For the women, five of the seven cracked the top 20. Courtney Clark TIED for FIRST followed closely by Katie Miller(4th), Kelly Flack(14th), Hana Stevic(16th) and Kyra Long(17th). Great results for our PARA athletes.

USSA Penalty for these events were as follows:

SG#1- 120.66(M) 201.89(W)

SG#2- 121.58(M) 203.12(W)

GS- 78.55 (M) 121.96(W)

SL- 80.43 (M) 108.73(W)

Eastern High School Championships were hosted by Cannon Mountain, NH on March 6th- 8th, 2015.

The event included one training day, followed by GS and SL races.

PARA sent a partial team consisting of 4 male and 6 female athletes as well as a COMPOSITE team of 8 male and 8 female athletes that compete as PARA athletes, but attend high school in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland or D.C.

This is a large event with **over 100 male and 100 female athletes** in the field for each discipline. In **GS** only Julianne Wanner was able to crack the top 30, finishing 27th.

In **SL** only Matt Sadler managed to reach a 20th place finish.

USSA Penalty for these events were as follows:

SL- 66.71 (M) 85.07(W)

GS- 77.52 (M) 98.47(W)

As you can see, this is a very good points event for those looking to establish or improve on their point profile. Even though our quota for this event was reduced this year, we still had

trouble filling all of our available spots. As a reminder, this event is open to High School students who race as PARA athletes. It is open as well to U16 athletes that are High School students. I would encourage any High School athlete who may not qualify or be able to attend another post season event to give the High School Championships serious consideration.

Eastern FIS Championships

Held at Okemo Mountain, VT this year. No athletes from PARA attended this event. FIS inscription is required.

FIS and Development

PARA does have Development (DEVO) opportunities available at a limited number of races throughout the season in Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire. Athletes with a current FIS inscription (license) looking to develop or improve on an FIS point profile **MAY** be able to attend some of these events. Entrance is NOT guaranteed and is based on athletes point profile. Athletes desiring to attend these events should first contact the head coach for their home program, who will then contact the U18-U21 Chair.

Intent to compete in these events **MUST** be made +30 days in advance of the event.

PARA does NOT provide coaching staff for athletes attending these events. Other arrangements for representation at these events must be made prior to attending.

Summary

We have had many changes presented to us this season. Quota changes, qualifying procedures as well as post season schedule changes. Most of these were in the best interest of our athletes and ski racing in general. It can be a very complex and at times, a very difficult to understand "system". Within PARA we only scratch the surface of what the ski racing world is about. Even though we have some "smaller" programs and we train and race on some "little" Pennsylvania hills, we still produce some very competitive and well rounded athletes. AND on occasion, we get to attend an event or two that one of those athletes (sometimes more than one) earns the chance to stand on the podium. It is an honor and a privilege to be part of that process.

Submitted 5/08/2015

Curt Schramm
U18-U21 Age Chair