

**PROPOSAL:**  
**PARA U19, U16, & U14 ELIGIBILITY RULES &**  
**VOLUNTARY SKI INSPECTIONS AT PARA CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS**

**USSA Ski Rules & Eligibility for PARA U19, U16, and U14 at State Level Events:**

- To be eligible for World Cup Points at all PA Cup Giant (Slalom and Giant Slalom), U16 State Championship Event (consisting of Super-G, Giant Slalom, and Slalom), and U14 State Championship Event (consisting of Giant Slalom, and Slalom) athletes are required to demonstrate the skis they use in the event(s) comply with USSA Equipment Rules.
- Athletes are responsible for ensuring their competition skis are clearly marked by the manufacturer to be in compliance with USSA's equipment rules for the current season.
- If the manufacturer markings are not clear or are not present, it is the athlete's responsibility to provide sufficient documentation from the manufacturer demonstrating that the skis' actual specifications meet the current USSA ski rules. It is the athlete's responsibility to provide this documentation (see below) the day of the event.
- Athletes may opt out of the PARA World Cup Points for these events and still compete in them.

**Voluntary Equipment Inspection Procedures For PARA Championship Events:**

- The Race Organizing Committees for the following PARA Championship events must offer athletes a voluntary ski check:
  - all PA Cup races
  - the U16 State Championship races
  - the U14 State Championship races
- Only those athletes that demonstrate their skis are in compliance with USSA's ski rules will be eligible for World Cup Points from these events.
- Athletes may choose not to participate in the ski check and still compete in the event.
- Athletes opting out of the inspection will still be awarded World Cup points from other events in the Championship series. U16s opting out of the SG ski check are still eligible to qualify for the State Team and post-season events.
- USSA rules regarding equipment and USSA protest procedures still apply to all competitors.
- The Race Organizing Committee must offer all competitors the opportunity to have their equipment inspected.
- The time and place of the equipment inspection must be posted in the event program and announced at the Coaches meeting. The inspection should be conducted at the top of the course just prior to the athlete's 1<sup>st</sup> race run (in the case of Super-G the athletes only run).
- The inspection must be conducted by a two-person team consisting of an inspector and a recorder.

- The inspectors will record the athlete name, bib number, and the manufacturer markings relevant to the current rules (e.g. radius = or > 30m). If the skis do not display the proper manufacturer markings, the inspectors must take a picture of the skis.
- In the case where the competitor's skis are not clearly marked (e.g. >27m), but the athlete provides documentation from the manufacturer, the inspector must record the ski make, size and take a pictures of the skis and the provided documentation.
- Team Captains may request to view the data collected by the inspectors. Race Organizers may also text pictures of the findings to team captains.
- The race organizer may opt to provide & require stickers for the inspected skis. In this case, the Start Referee may opt to also record which athletes compete with stickered skis.
- Documentation from the manufacturer must state the model, size, production year, as well as any specifications relevant to the current USSA equipment rules. The letter must be from the manufacturer or a manufacturer sales representative and be on company letterhead.
- Athletes who falsely represent their equipment during the voluntary equipment check (e.g. present one pair of skis for the inspection and are found to compete on a different pair that were not inspected, etc.) will be sanctioned by the jury, and are not eligible for of ANY World Cup points for the entire PARA Championship Event or PA Cup Series. Appeals of any such sanctions will be handled according to the PARA bylaws.

### **PARA Communication To Members:**

The PARA Executive Committee is required to take the following steps to ensure these rules and procedures are communicated to the athletes and Program Directors, and coaches along with the current ski rules for each age class.

- Provide email or similar notice to all U19, U16, and U14 members/their families, and all PARA member coaches and officials.
- Post a notice of the rule on the home page of the PARA Website, with a link to the complete rule.
- Post the complete rules and enforcement procedures on the PARA website and in the PARA Rules and Procedures document.

The Executive Committee is encouraged to explore other methods of communication such as Docusign, etc..

All PARA member clubs are strongly encouraged to share these PARA rules and procedures with their athletes and member families along with USSA's current and any draft rules expected for future seasons.