



# Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2014-2015 Report

*April 22, 2015*

Submitted by Rob Lipton, Alpine Officials Chair

## **Ski Racing Season Highlights:**

It seems that Mother Nature smiled on PARA. We had one of the earliest starts to the ski season ever recorded. It was cold and snowy from before Thanksgiving... right through the middle of April, which was long after the last ski race; or for that matter long after the last ski area closed.

The Good-news was, since the weather cooperated; most races were held as calendared. The first race scheduled for 12/28/2014 was canceled, and another race that was to run on the next day at the same venue was re-scheduled to run on the same day as the first race due to extremely cold and brutal weather....

There was some uncertainty to whether the USSA announced Ski equipment specification would be enforced; given the scarcity of legal equipment. This was dealt with by a letter of clarification from USSA. Other changes in the ACR included the adoption of new helmet rules (effective the 2015-16 season) that specified exactly what type of helmets are allowed to be worn by a competitors. These helmets will have a FIS sticker indicating compliance with the new standards.

Also USSA's Concussion Policy has changed to include any USSA athlete, not just minor athletes – this includes those with the new Club Participant membership. An athlete suspected of suffering concussion, either in or out of competition, will be prohibited from further participation until evaluated and cleared in writing to resume participation in USSA sporting events by a qualified health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussive head injuries.

Once again the Interdiction rule was the topic of many pre-race gate keeper meetings. The language has been modified to now state that if a competitor comes to a “stop”, they must not continue... This is slightly more definitive! 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 and cutting down on protests.

This year, PARA received the Kelly Brush Grant. This helped to augment the fencing requirements; especially at the GS and Super G venues. This extra fencing was used to further increase the security of the competitors when competing as well as when training. ROCs have embraced this increased awareness associated with fencing their venues. Many TD's report that the race venues have added more fencing hence increasing the security of the competitors. Blue Mountain who hosted a Super G camp and the U16 PARA finals placed over 125 roles of fencing during these events.



## **Alpine Officials by the Numbers:**

During the 2014-15 season, there were 319 Alpine Officials in PARA. This is a reduction of 24 Alpine Officials in PARA from the 2013-14 year.

At least 165 had attained at least one AO certification. 14 alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications. There are 18 certified Technical Delegates in PARA. Of the 18 certified Technical Delegates, 13 TD's handled PARA's race calendar.

There are 146 alpine officials with a **competition official** certification, 116 alpine officials with a **referee certification**, 120 alpine officials with a **jury advisor** certification, 44 alpine officials with a **chief of course** certification, 37 alpine officials with a **chief of race** certification, 36 alpine officials with a **data management** certification, 36 alpine officials with a **race administrator** certification and 34 alpine officials with a **timing and calculation** certification. **Please note that every certification classification is lower than the previous year!**

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 Jack Frost (East, North East) Wisp (Western), and at Tussey Mountain (Central). There were a total of 81 participants who attended these three Alpine Official workshops. Once again John McGregor and I facilitated the three AO workshops held throughout the state. There was a continued emphasis on the USSA 2014-15 Alpine Officials Fall Update document. 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.

This year USSA and PARA sponsored a full day of continuing education; especially designed for race coaches. This FREE workshop was open to all Club Coaches in PARA. The workshop occurred on Sunday, November 9, 2014, from 8:00 AM To 4:30 PM at Blue Mountain Ski Area Eric Harlow USSA - Eastern Region Alpine Program Director conducted this workshop. I presented an Alpine Officials update, specifically designed for educate coaches that updated them on recent rule changes, policies, and procedures to help them to perform their coaching and Referee duties. There were over 50 Coaches attending from a 12 different from NJ and PARA. Those who attended earned a full-day of continuing education coaches' credit and an AO update credit.

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 AO TD document for the 2014-15 year at  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1\\_v4iFQAFegXZRLEN\\_uaKyT0JXKmEOnIPoWdL3pURHVU/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_v4iFQAFegXZRLEN_uaKyT0JXKmEOnIPoWdL3pURHVU/edit#gid=0)

**Ski Race Statistics:**

**PARA Calendared Forty (41) U10 – U21, Master, Senior, (Men & Women) Races. 1 Super G camp 2 days. One  
 races was cancelled 1 race was changed to run on the same day as another.**

**Total of 40 Forty Races plus 2 Super G Camp days ... 42 Total Events**

Month & Year	Number of Race Days
	Men and Women events counted as one race
December 2014	0
January 2015	15
February 2015	22 +2 (SG Camp)
March 2015	3

**Scored - Non Scored Races:**

- 15 - Scored
- 23 - Non-scored
- 4 - Both

**For the 2014-2015 Ski Season, PARA has 13 Active Technical Delegates who worked at least one race.**

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

**Note: Three (3) TD’s had injuries that did not allow them to perform all of their scheduled events for the entire season. Special thanks to Gus for helping out!**

**Upgrades and Promotions:**

**319 Alpine Officials Registered in PA (Decrease of 14 over last year)**

**12 Exams Administered**

- 4 Referee (1 out of State)
- 1 Technical Delegate I
- 6 Timing and Calculation Exam I
- 1 Timing and Calculation Exam III (Failed)



There are 41 PARA Alpine Officials recommended for promotion to a level 1 or 2 for 2014-2015 year

Classification	Number of Requests
CC : CHIEF OF COURSE	1
CO : COMPETITION OFFICIAL	16
CR : CHIEF OF RACE	0
DM : DATA MANAGEMENT	4
JA : JURY ADVISOR	3
RA : RACE ADMINISTRATOR	4
RF : REFEREE	3
TC : TIMING AND CALCULATIONS	9
TD : TECHNICAL DELEGATE	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>

**Level 3 or 4 PARA AO Upgrades Requested 2014-2015**

Classification	Number of Requests
RA : RACE ADMINISTRATOR	1

Expired Updates (2011 or earlier) required 6 downgrades of certifications.

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

- TD Recruitment (one new TD for the 2015-16)
- Realistic expectations of USSA and PARA regarding the ROC's hosting the races
- The ROC's escalating costs to prepare the venue for security of the competitor and appropriateness of the race venue
- Continued equipment changes, regulations, procedures and additional responsibilities by the Alpine Officials and ROC... Example homologated GS panels, FIS inscribed helmet requirement.
- Staffing of races with qualified(certified) personnel

Respectfully Submitted - April 23, 2015

Rob Lipton

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USSA # 5413679