

PARA U19 Age Chair Report

2017-2018 Season

PA Cup Series and State Team

This season 40 female (up 9) and 58 male (up 10) U19 athletes competed in the PA Cup Series. Overall field size for the PA Cups 1 thru 4 including U16's – Men 60(low) to 92(high) Average 74.

-Women 43(low) to 65(high) Average 56.

On average, **30% of the men's field and 38% of the women's field** in the first four PA Cup races were made up of **U16 athletes**. Due to rescheduling of the U16 finals, no U16's competed in the PA Cup Series Finals at Elk Mountain.

Allowing U16's to compete in the PA Cup series has several benefits. First, it reasonably increases the field size of those events (average 129). Second, it allows U16's to establish and develop a point profile earlier. Long term, this helps the overall point profile of PARA athletes. Lower point profiles help our athletes going to post season events or events outside of PARA, get more competitive start positions.

Races were hosted by Seven Springs (2SL), Blue Mountain (2GS) and Elk Mountain (2GS, 1SL). PA Cup 5 SL, originally scheduled at Blue and postponed due to weather, was rescheduled to be run at Elk. Weather once again took it out on the event and PA Cup 5 SL was cancelled. The order of the events at Elk was shuffled to accommodate for weather and the attempted rescheduled PA Cup 5.

The 2018 PARA State Team was comprised of the top 5 ranked female and the top 8 ranked male athletes based on the final PA Cup results at the conclusion of PA Cup 6, 7 and 8 at Elk Mountain. The number for the state team remained the same as the previous year at 13. This was done to match the number of quota spots allotted to PARA for the US Ski and Snowboard Eastern Finals at Gore Mountain.

2017 PARA State Team U19

Kyra Frederick**	LMRT	2001
Brianna Lucas**	WPRC	2001
Claire Turner**	EMSC	2000
Anna Midock**	SRRC	2001
Eliza Dewey**	WTSEF	2001
*Maggie McCoy	WPRC	2001
*Catherine DeScisciolo	LMRT	2001
*Anika Furrer	SRRC	2000
*Mia Zwally	LMRT	2001
*Ania Zwally	LMRT	2001

*Alternates competing at Eastern Finals at Gore as members of PARA State Team

**Did not attend Eastern Finals at Gore

Duncan Bedell **	SRRC	2001
Andrew Dykstra	SRRC	1999
Conor Newman	EMSC	2000
Joey Cichon**	PASEF	2000
Harrison Combs**	BMRC	2000
Sam Reilly	SRRC	2001
Nathan Kistler**	JFRT	2000
Andrew Kukla	HVRC	2000
*Omar Boukhriss	SRRC	2001
*Owen Van Der Zwan	BMRC	2001
*William Wanovich	HVRC	1999
*Shaun Clem	SRRC	2000
*Mark Matusinsky	BMRC	2001

*Alternates competing at Eastern Finals at Gore as members of PARA State Team

** Did not attend Eastern Finals at Gore

Post Season Events

US Ski and Snowboard Eastern Finals were held at Gore, NY from March 22nd through March 25th.

PARA sent 9 male and 5 female athletes to this event. However, due to various scheduling issues, spring break schedules and time commitments to school and other circumstances, 5 of our female and 4 of our male State Team athletes were unable to attend this event. Quota spots were filled from the next available athletes based on the final PA Cup results.

Athletes attending were: Maggie McCoy, Catherine DeScisciolo, Anika Furrer, Mia Zwally, Ania Zwally, Andrew Dykstra, Conor Newman, Sam Reilly, Andrew Kukla, Omar Boukhriss, Owen Van Der Zwan, William Wanovich, Shaun Clem and Mark Matusinsky.

We had some great results in **SG**, with six of our athletes placing in the top twenty across both genders. **Maggie McCoy (WPRC)** at 6th **Mia Zwally (LMRT)** 14th, **Catherine DeScisciolo (LMRT)** 16th for the women. For the men, **Andrew Kukla (HVRC)** in 9th followed by **Sam Reilly (SRRC)** in 10th. and **Andrew Dykstra (SRRC)** 20th were respectable finishes.

In **GS** our most notable finish was from **Omar Boukhriss (SRRC)** 11th, followed closely by **Sam Reilly (SRRC)** 13th. On the ladies side **Catherine DeScisciolo (LMRT)** 12th, **Maggie McCoy (WPRC)** 13th and **Mia Zwally (LMRT)** 14th were all stacked together in the top 20.

In **SL** **Anika Furrer(SRRC)** led the women, finishing 8th, followed by **Mia Zwally (LMRT)** 12th and **Catherine DeScisciolo (LMRT)** 16th. The men had a challenging course set on the second run with minimal vertical distance, lots of offset in between some gates on flat terrain. Our best finishers were **Sam Reilly (SRRC)** 15th, **Mark Matusinsky (BMRC)** 17th and **Conor Newman (EMSC)** at 21st followed by **Owen Van Der Zwan (BMRC)** at 22nd.

USSA Penalty for US Ski and Snowboard Eastern events were as follows:

SG- 286.09 (M) 180.01 (W)

GS- 104.15 (M) 140.98(W)

SL- 105.62 (M) 139.03(W)

Eastern High School Championships were hosted by Cannon Mountain / Mittersill, NH on March 9-11, 2018.

The event at the Mittersill facility, used a new format which included a revised schedule due to a huge snow storm the day before the event. Mens and ladies GS races were held on separate days. Mens and Ladies SL events were conducted on the same day utilizing separate courses. PARA sent a team consisting of 6 male and 6 female athletes as well as a COMPOSITE team of 10 male and 11 female athletes that compete as PARA athletes, but attend high school in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia or D.C.

This is a large event with **over 115 male and 120 female athletes** in the field for each discipline.

USSA Penalty for these events were as follows:

SL- 88.88 (M) 110.90(W)

GS- 80.86 (M) 145.49(W)

As you can see, this continues to be a good points event for those looking to establish or improve on their point profile.

This year we allowed our PARA athletes to sign up for High School Championships in advance rather than wait for results from the PA Cup Finals and the U16 State Championships. This somewhat improved attendance of our PARA athletes and helped parents making travel plans for post season events. Weather and the flu did take its toll on a few athletes immediately before the event.

The other issue that was a contributing factor to our athletes not attending any post season event was scheduling. Timing of these events did not coincide with some spring break schedules and some others were hampered by other scholastic sports beginning practice. Time off school is still a factor with some athletes after taking time off to compete during the regular season.

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 looking to develop or improve on an FIS point profile may be able to attend some of these events.

Athletes desiring to attend these events should first contact the head coach for their home program, who will then contact the U19-U21 Chair.

Intent to compete in these events MUST be made +30 days in advance of the event. There are no guarantees that you will be entered. Entry to these events is based on USSA/FIS points.

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

-The PA Cup races were again complimented this year by having many U16 athletes competing and starting to establish their USSA point profiles. As stated above, on average, **U16's** made up better than **30% of the men's and 38% of the ladies field** in the first four PA Cup events. Due to weather and event rescheduling, the top U16's from the PA Cup races were not able to compete at the PA Cup Finals at Elk Mtn.

-Attendance for the High School Championships has increased slightly this year. 12 athletes (6 male, 6 female) made up the PARA team with 21 athletes (10 male and 11 female) competing as the PARA Composite team. Filling the 48 spots continues to be a challenge due to the timing of the event. This year there was only four days between our last PA Cup races and the U16 PARA Championships until the start of the event. This left little time for athletes to make a commitment to the event if they had not already signed up.

This year we did "open" sign-ups to attend HSC, prior to our PARA final events. Sign-up documents were posted on the PARA website, which allowed for some early commitments to the event. Plans are to continue this with an earlier release of the sign-up forms allowing more time for athletes to make commitments and travel plans.

HSC is a challenging and well run event with low points. It is also great exposure for younger U16 athletes or any high school athlete looking for some great competition. Students from the Mid-west as well as New England region provide some fantastic teams to this event.

-Attendance for post season events this year was challenging. Reasons for **NOT** competing in post season events were many. Scheduling time off from school was not possible, practice for other sports had begun, illness, conflict with spring break schedule, timing of the event in general and other vacation plans, all made it challenging to fill our quota spots. This season we did not ask for any additional quota spots for the US Easterns at Gore.

For PARA, that meant that our top five PA Cups females and four of our top males did not attend Eastern finals at Gore. This also provided an opportunity for some athletes to attend a quality post season event.

-Recognizing our PARA athletes at post season events continues to be something that we should be supporting and have not addressed. Providing access to a "TEAM" garment would be a nice addition for the athletes at any post season event. It is the one thing that most post season athletes would like to have and have repeatedly asked for. A proposal should be put together and presented.

-Thank You to all ROC's, officials, coaches, parents, volunteers and especially the athletes for making this season happen...we couldn't do it without all of you!

Submitted 4/25/2018

Curt Schramm
U19 Age Chair