

**PARA U12 Chair Report
(2021-2022 Season)
Tim Brown, U12 Age Chair**

U12 Derby –

The event took place February 26th and 27th at Ski Roundtop. The field consisted of a total 86 racers, 45 boys and 41 girls.

The event consisted of three runs of SL on Saturday, followed by three runs of GS on Sunday. Sunday afternoon consisted of an awards ceremony and naming of the state team.

As both the age chair and a coach I had the opportunity to spend the majority of my time on the slope. I was very impressed with the behavior and sportsmanship exhibited by all the racers. Congratulations to all the racers who attended. I found that the quality/level of the field to be representative of what I would expect at a state championship event. Laughs, fun, camaraderie, building life-long friendships and life lessons is what it is all about at this age.

Special thanks to Ben Shirk and his staff, as well as Sandy Stefanic and Alice Anderson who acted as the derby chairs. Thanks to Tracey Beinhauer for all her help. Special thanks to Paul Rudy and Wes Heather for all their help with timing and World Cup calculations. I would also like to thank all the coaches and parents for all their help, both on and off the hill. Special thanks to Curt Schram for being the TD.

The PARA State Team consisted of 10 boys and 10 girls.

The following racers qualified for the PARA State Team based on their results at the derby.

Boys

1. Ty Millett	Elk
2. Jacob Pianalto	WTSEF
3. Calvin Ord	BMR
4. Noah Schacher	Elk
5. Brecken Greenier	WPRC
6. Clay Schatt	BMR
7. James Petroff	SRRC
8. Luca Loverich	TMART
9. Doyoon Kim	BMR
10. Asher Eckel	DCWST

Girls

1. Jooha Kim	SRRC
2. Miya Lippuner	DCWST

3. Ella McKnight	WPRC
4. Madylin Carlozzi	WTSEF
5. Kesley Glantz	TMART
6. Ellison Lincoln	TMART
7. Dylan Stadler	WPRC
8. Flora Wheeler	WTSEF
9. Olivia Nichols	WPRC
10. Sophia Murray	JFRT

Francis Piche Invitational –

The Francis Piche Invitational was to be held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 16th through the 20th. The event consisted of two optional training days, a Dual SL/Team Event, a day of GS and a day of SL. This year's PARA quota originally consisted of a total of 40 racers. This year's quota was allocated as 11 U12 boys, 11 U12 girls, 9 U14 boys and 9 U14 girls.

PARA sent a total of 22 U12 racers after the quota was expanded. The team consisted of the 20 state team members along with one additional girl and one additional boy.

PARA U12s finished fourth overall in the team event.

Top U12 finishes:

GS – Ella McKnight (WPRC) 23rd, Noah Schacher (Elk) 20th
 SL – Jooha Kim (SRRC) 21st, Ty Millett (Elk) 10th

Special thanks to the PARA coaches, Megan Hersh, Ty Newman, Josh Lincoln and Danny Ord.

Future Stars Festival –

Prior to COVID NYSSRA held two-day, skills focused, event at Gore Mountain, NY. I reached out to Stephen Mergenthaler at NYSSRA regarding the status of the event mid-season. Per Stephen the format of the project was to change with first year U12s following a development path similar to Future Stars and second year U12s participating in an introduction to SL. As it was an open event for all NYSSRA U12s outside participation was not available this year.

Eastern Region U12 Skills & Duals Project -

A U12 Project had been held in prior years at NWAC. The intent of the project was to bring U12 racers from the northeast together for a camp focused on skill development, tactics and technique. The camp consisted of training courses and dual slalom and GS courses. This event, unfortunately, has not been held the last two seasons. I had received a lot of positive feedback about the event, so I am hoping that Eastern will bring it back in some form.

Thoughts/Suggestions -

I would like to see the U12 state team expanded to 22 racers to match the quota of Piche, if that remains the only post season event for our U12 racers.

I think skill development has continued to improve across PARA at the U12 age level. In my opinion the skill level of the racers at this year's U12 Derby was the best I've seen in years. I think it is a testament to the individual programs/clubs across PARA that make skill development a priority. Can we do more as an organization to help promote it, sure. It probably would be a good idea to bring some form of a Skills Quest event back to PARA, if not on a regional basis similar to the Eastern Region Skills Project or the Future Stars Camp. Coaches' education and development has, and will continue, to help a lot. A post season event similar to the Future Stars would be great, rather than just sending our U12s off to Piche.