

PARA U16 Chair Report

2023-2024 Season

U16 Field Size

Due to a large U16 population for the 23-24 season, a new tiered race registration process was utilized to give ranked athletes priority registration. After a several day priority period, registration opened to all PARA U16 athletes. All that wanted to race were able to register even though host venues had set maximum race fields. None of the maximums were met. There were a few glitches with some athletes registering due to “qualified athlete” settings in AdminSkiRacing.

For the 24-25 season there are 58 Male ranked athletes and 45 Female ranked athletes that will be eligible for priority registration for the U16 State-Wide Race Series.

There were a total of 176 U16 athletes in PARA for the 2024 competition season. This is 50 fewer than the prior season. 2024 U16 population comprised of 86 male and 90 female racers.

PARA U16 State-wide Race Series

Warm weather conditions hampered snowmaking and Tussey Mountain was not able to host the first 2 SL races on Jan 27-28. Elk picked up one of the races and hosted 2 GS and 1 SL. Blue hosted U16 Finals with an SG, GS, and SL. Total races for the 2024 series was 6 instead of 7. The 2023 race season was the 3rd season of the PARA U16 statewide series. Field sizes and percent of U16 participation is listed in 2 far right columns of the table below.

Race #	Host	Date	Discipline	Male	Female	Total Field	% of U16
1	Elk Mountain	Feb 9	GS	46	59	105	60
2	Elk Mountain	Feb 10	SL	57	67	124	70
3	Elk Mountain	Feb 11	GS	56	64	120	68
4	Blue Mountain	Mar 1	SG	38	35	73	41
5	Blue Mountain	Mar 2	GS	53	63	116	66
6	Blue Mountain	Mar 3	SL	52	61	113	64

A total of 61 of 86 male athletes raced at least one race of the series (71%). 73 of 90 Females raced at least one race of the series (81%). Total for both genders was 134 of 176 (76%).

PARA State Team

This year’s U16 State Team consists of a total of 20 athletes per the new State Team size guidelines passed at the 2022 PARA Spring Meeting.

The following racers qualified for the PARA State Team based on the overall U16 Series results:

Females

Johanna Cook BMRA 2008
 Tara Pak EMSC 2008
 Blair Kennedy WTSEF 2008
 Julia Krugh WTSEF 2008
 Reese Ryan SRRC 2009
 Efemia Britt PASEF 2008
 Devon Geist JFRT 2008
 Drue Lincoln TMART 2008
 Mariella Contini WPRC 2009
 Jennifer Ma BMRA 2008

Males

Luke Hodgkinson WTSEF 2009
 Curt Friedrich BMRA 2008
 Reed Sanders SRRC 2008
 Collin Schreiber BMRA 2008
 Becket Pottinger HVRC 2008
 Anders Ryon BMRA 2009
 Benjamin Kasofsky SRRC 2008
 Charlie Neel BMRA 2008
 Mark Driker JFRT 2008
 Warren Hilbert-Graham DCWST 2009

USSS Eastern Championships

U16 Eastern Championships were held at Burke Mountain on March 11-15th. There were 5 females and 6 males that attended Eastern Championships. Para quota was 7 Females and 6 Males. 2 female spots to Champs went unfilled due to last-minute pulls. The following PARA athletes attended:

Females

Blair Kennedy	WTSEF	2008
Julia Krugh	WTSEF	2008
Reese Ryan	SRRC	2009
Devon Geist	JFRT	2008
Drue Lincoln	TMART	2008

Males

Luke Hodgkinson	WTSEF	2009
Reed Sanders	SRRC	2008
Collin Schreiber	BMRA	2008
Beckett Pottinger	HVRC	2008
Anders Ryon	BMRA	2009
Benjamin Kasofsky	SRRC	2008

Female finishes

SG: Krugh 55, Kennedy 56, Ryan 57, Geist 62, Lincoln 69
GS Kennedy 34, Lincoln 47
SL Kennedy 43, Krugh 47

Male finishes

SG: Hodgkinson 21, Sanders 53, Kasofsky 57, Schreiber 63, Pottinger 65, Ryon 68
GS: Hodgkinson 27, Schreiber 47, Pottinger 48, Sanders 51
SL: Hodgkinson 12*, Sanders 34, Schreiber 35, Pottinger 38, Ryon 40
*Based on his performance at Eastern Champs, Luke Hodgkinson was invited to attend May Camp at Loveland CO by USSS Eastern

Coaches that supported the PARA team were Jim Pottinger and Steve Kunkle.

USSS Eastern Finals

U16 Eastern Finals were held at Gore Mountain on March 17-20. There were 6 females and 7 males that attended Eastern Finals. PARA quota was 8 Females and 8 Males. 2 female spots and 1 male spot to Finals went unfilled due to last-minute pulls. The following athletes attended representing PARA:

Females

Mariella Contini	WPRC	2009
Reese Hughes	HVRC	2008
McKenzie Little	WPRC	2008
Mollie Gill	HVRC	2008
Madeline Mafodda	JFRT	2009
Zinta Jacob	HVRC	2008

Males

Warren Hilber-Graham	DCWST	2009
Benjamin Kruler	BMRA	2009
Eli Sanford	SRRC	2009
John Stanley	BMRA	2008
Ian Frable	BMRA	2009
Alex Sarkisov	WTSEF	2008
Desmo Treiber	LMRT	2009

Female finishes

SL: Jacob 40, Little 41, Mafodda 43, Hughes 44, Gill 48
GS: Gill 31, Contini 32, Little 40, Jacob 42, Mafodda 45
SG: Gill 23, Contini 35, Hughes 37, Mafodda 40, Jacob 47

Male finishes

SL: Hilbert-Graham 20, Treiber 31, Stanley 37, Kruler 38, Sarkisov 39, Sanford 42, Frable 50
GS: Hilbert-Graham 25, Sanford 32, Kruler 37, Sarkisov 41, Frable 43, Stanley 46
SG: Treiber 16*, Hilbert-Graham 28, Sanford 38, Sarkisov 44, Frable 45
*Of special note: Desmo Treiber won the Hard-Charger award for SG, finishing 16th from bib/start #47

Coach that supported the PARA team was Mike Mafodda.

USSS Eastern Region Project Series (RPS)

Four PARA athletes attended the Eastern U16 SL women's project that was held at Stratton December 16-17 2023. Tara Pak (SRRC), Cayden Hodge (WTSEF), Blair Kennedy (WTSEF), and Efemia Britt (PASEF) attended the women's event at Stratton on Dec 16-17.

Males that attended on Dec 18 were Benjamin Kasofsky (SRRC) and Mark Driker (JFRT). Due to weather the 2nd day of the boys camp with the race was canceled.

Both Female and Male events had issues. USSS East did not arrange for coaching for athletes attending without bringing a coach. They had accommodated these athletes in the past. The 2nd day of the male event was canceled while athletes were already at the event venue. Athletes and their parents were unhappy that the decision about canceling was not made earlier. USSS East apologized for pushing to make this project happen.

Speed Camp

Thank you to Matt Superczynski for continuing to work with American Downhillers to host a Super G camp at Okemo. 78 PARA U16 and U18 athletes attended the Jan 20-23 and camp which concluded with 2 SG Races. 44 male athletes and 34 females attended.

U16 Age Chair Transition

Jonathan Altman will be taking over as the PARA U16 Age Chair for the 2024-2025 season.

**Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Yen
PARA U16 Chair E6375161**