

**PARA U12 Chair Report  
(2023-2024 Season)  
Tim Brown, U12 Age Chair**

**U12 Derby –**

The event took place February 23<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Roundtop Mountain Resort. The field consisted of a total 88 racers, 46 boys and 42 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 at Ski Roundtop, as well as Alice Anderson who acted as the derby chair. Roundtop was a great venue for this age level. I would also like to thank all the coaches and parents for all their help, both on and off the hill. Special thanks to Bruce Wickersham for being the TD.

The PARA State Team consisted of 11 boys and 11 girls.

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

**Boys**

1. Thomas Kennedy	WTSEF
2. Jack Dalton	JF/BB
3. William Raynes	WPRC
4. Ryan Mehdizadeh	LMRT
5. Patrick Coyne	SRRC
6. Harry Anderson	PASEF
7. Anthony Altobelli	SRRC
8. Harald Holton	WTSEF
9. Lucca Tobias	BMR
10. Colin Donnellan	WPRC
11. Henry Jones	WPRC

**Girls**

1. Avery Hodge	WTSEF
2. Vivian Raimondi	WTSEF

3. Nellie Wood	WPRC
4. Ava Stambaugh	SRRC
5. Aurore Czapla	PASEF
6. Olivia Saltzman	PASEF
7. Gabrielle Kintzer	EMSC
8. Carolina Wolski	PASEF
9. Mackenzie Jenkins	JFBB
10. Rachel Golant	PASEF
11. Helena Geist	EMSC

### **Francis Piche Invitational –**

The Francis Piche Invitational was to be held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 13<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 U12 quota originally consisted of a total of 22 racers, allocated as 11 boys and 11 girls.

PARA sent a total of 23 U12 racers, with the addition of a last-minute slot opening.

Top U12 finishes:

GS – Avery Hodge (WTSEF) 15<sup>th</sup>, Thomas Kennedy (WTSEF) 15<sup>th</sup>  
 SL – Avery Hodge (WTSEF) 16<sup>th</sup>, Harald Holton (WTSEF) 30<sup>th</sup>

Special thanks to the PARA coaches, Megan Hersh and Charles Donnellan.

**American Downhiller Speed Project** – The event was opened up to select U12s this year. Number that attended is unknown. I continue to hear positive feedback about the event.

### **Agenda Item – Possibly additional U12 post season event for 2025:**

#### **Whiteface Mountain U12 Championship (Event for 2025?)**

Stephen Mergenthaler -Alpine Sports Director with NY State Ski Racing reached out to both Patrick Wende and myself last March with an invite for PARA to participate in a U12 State Championship. The event was to be held the third weekend in March at Whiteface Mountain in Lake Placid NY. Ten PARA athletes would have been invited to participate. Stephen was slow in providing details, and since it would have been a rush to select athletes and coaches to attend it was decided that PARA would follow up with Stephen regarding the event in 2025.

The following details about the event were provided:

Event Content - open event, 1st and 2nd Year U12s

2-day event Saturday / Sunday March 23-24, 2024

**Optional** Training Day at Organizers Discretion - SL Progression to be Included if possible, for U12s

Day 1 // Kombi Race - 3 Run Race

Day 2 // GS Race - 3 Run Race

Place points for Awards, Best two finishes.

**\*\*Short Sprint Like courses approximately 30 seconds.**

Awards - Top 10 U12s M/W age class. Overall Award. Skimeister for top finisher across all 6 runs.

Council Cup for Best Top Finishing Council

Event - to Include some of the following. Sense of Arrival, Recognition of event, Swag, Gift, Banquet, BBQ.

I followed up with Stephen last week. He is planning on holding the event next year. He will provide PARA with the schedule this fall. He feels it is not only a valuable athlete development project, but great coach collaboration and education opportunity.

As U12 Age Chair I am looking for the boards thoughts on possibly supporting this event next season (2025) by fielding a team of U12 athletes and PARA coaches.