

### Executive Summary

#### Changes Implemented This Year

- **U-14 State Championship officially changed to 2-day (from 3-day) format.**
- **New Super-G development project by NYSSRA (U14 athletes attended (see below), but conflicted with PARA's Super-G camp).**
- **No U-14 regional projects.**

#### Challenges & Issues

- **Not much athlete interest in attending Eastern Finals; no racers registered at the PA state championships; three athletes ultimately attended.**
- **Piche alternate slot allocation was inefficient.**
- **Last-minute attempt to change PA female/male USSA Eastern Champs quota allocation by race organizers.**

#### Recommended Changes for Next Year

- **Change budget to allow for two coaches at Eastern Champs, two coaches for U14s Piche, and remove coach for U-14 Eastern Finals (have the athlete's club provide support).**
- **All athletes required to register in-person for post-events at the PA state championships awards ceremony, including alternate athletes.**
- **U-14 Chair to confirm PA quota/slot allocation for Eastern Champs (total PA athletes and male/female split) and obtain reassurance that it will not change from race organizers.**

### Board Approvals

#### Proposed Rules & Procedure Changes

- N/A

#### Budget Requests

- Allow for two coaches for U14 Eastern Champs, two coaches for U-14 Piche, and consider removing coaching expenses for Eastern Finals (athlete's club provide coaching/support).
  - This coaching allocation would be a better use of resources and return on PARA's investment. Piche typically involves many more athletes attending—i.e., 18-20 U14 athletes at Piche, 12 athletes at Eastern Champs, and 2-3 athletes at Eastern Finals.



## 2025 U-14 CHAIR REPORT

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### Detailed Report

PARA U14 Chair Report  
2024-2025 Season  
Nicole Stockey - U14 Age Chair

### U14 State Championship

The event took place on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at Seven Springs Resort. This year, mother nature cooperated. We had cold temperatures and snow leading up to the race, which resulted in excellent racing conditions -- plenty of snow, cold (but not too cold) temperatures, firm course conditions, and sun.

The field consisted of a total 87 athletes. The event included three runs of SL on Saturday followed by an athlete banquet and three runs of GS on Sunday followed by the awards ceremony. The Friday Super-G training was not held this year and will likely not be held going forward given the weather challenges and logistics with Vail.

This year, CVA, an event sponsor, provided two sportsmanship scholarships. One female and one male athlete each received a \$1,000 scholarship to CVA.

The level of competition at this event was excellent. It appears that athletes, parents, and coaches all had a great time. The weather and snow conditions cooperated to make a great race weekend. We could not have had such a wonderful event without the help of parent volunteers and visiting coaches who assisted with race assignments and venue takedown. We want to especially thank the parents from Jack Frost and Blue Mountain and who provided a significant number of volunteers to fill race positions (gatekeepers, course maintenance, etc). Special thanks to Rachel Greenier for acting as the U14 State Championship Chair (yet again). Her hard work was truly appreciated, especially having her coordinate with the resort for the banquet and awards ceremony, handling bib pickup, and assisting with the awards ceremony. The chart below reflects the racer and volunteer participation for each race team:

Club	# Racers	# Volunteers
WPRC	12	31
JFRT	14	12
BMSC	9	9
WTSEF	10	2
PASEF	7	2
HVRC	6	2

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LMRT	5	1
EMSC	9	0
SRRC	9	0
DCWST	4	0
IND	1	0
TMART	1	0
TOTAL	87	59

The PARA U14 State Team consisted of 10 male and 10 female athletes. The following athletes qualified for the PARA U14 State Team based on their results at the U14 State Championship.

Jack Hodgkinson – WTSEF (1)  
Anders Miller – SRRC (2)  
Seiji Galperin – JFRT (3)  
David Ross – JFRT (4)  
Austin Ihnat – LMRT (5)  
Liam McNelis – SRRC (6)  
Victor Kruler – BMSC (7)  
Thomas Kennedy – WTSEF (8)  
Anthony Altobelli – SRRC (9)  
Jack Dalton – JFRT (10)

Reagan Ryan – SRRC (1)  
Ella McKnight – WPRC (2)  
Brielle Superczynski – LMRT (3)  
Avery Hodge – WTSEF (4)  
Hadley Beitler – BMSC (5)  
Flora Wheeler – WTSEF (6)  
Natalia Hekiert – BMSC (7)  
Vera Quinones – JFRT (8)  
Lujza Macskasi – LMRT (9)  
Olivia Nichols – WPRC (10)

### **Post Season Events**

- **U14 Eastern Championships**

Organizers of the Eastern Champs attempted to alter the slot allocation for Pennsylvania males and female athletes following the PA state championships. This would have disrupted how the Eastern Champs quotas/slots were announced before the PA state championship and ultimately awarded. Though this issue was quickly addressed and resolved with the Eastern Champs organizers, with the allocation of slots remaining the same, next year the U-14 Chair will confirm slot allocation/quotas in advance of the PA state championship to ensure that this issue is avoided.

The USSA U14 Eastern Championships were held at Whiteface, New York from March 20-23, 2025. Twelve (12) athletes were selected to represent PARA at the event. All attending athletes were members of the state team. Bruce Bedell and Dan Chayes were selected as coaches to represent the PARA athletes; however, Dan was unable to attend and was replaced by Coby Wheeler (Whitetail). The event planned to host a Skills Quest, Super-G training, Super-G race (Friday), GS race (Saturday), and SL race (Sunday). The weather presented challenges, with warm weather, then freezing temperatures, and wind. The Super-G race was cancelled due to wind and lift closures. Jack Hodgkinson placed 14<sup>th</sup> in GS and qualified for CanAm. No other PARA athlete placed in the top 30 for any run.

#### PARA Athlete Representatives/Overall State Championship Place

Reagan Ryan – SRRC (1)

Brielle Superczynski – LMRT (3)

Avery Hodge – WTSEF (4)

Hadley Beitler – BMSC (5)

Flora Wheeler – WTSEF (6)

Natalia Hekiert – BMSC (7)

Jack Hodgkinson – WTSEF (1)

Anders Miller – SRRC (2)

Seiji Galperin – JFRT (3)

Ross David – JFRT (4)

Austin Ihnat – LMRT (5)

Liam McNelis – SRRC (6)

## 2025 U-14 CHAIR REPORT

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- **U14 Eastern Finals**

No racers registered for USA U-14 Eastern Finals at the PA state championship awards ceremony; however, three athletes who did not qualify for the other post-season events (Eastern Champs/Piches) did end up attending this event. It appears that PARA athletes are less interested in attending Eastern Finals compared to Eastern Champs and Piches. This appears to be a product of Eastern Finals no longer being an invitational/qualification event.

The USSA U14 Eastern Finals were held at Berkshire East, Massachusetts from March 14<sup>th</sup> to March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The event included parallel SL, SL, and GS events. Instead of issuing quota spots for Eastern Finals, USSA made the event open to all Eastern region athletes that did not qualify for Eastern Championships. The lack of quotas and qualification requirements appear to have caused diminished interest from PARA athletes. Nonetheless, three PARA athletes attended. Corey Dein from Elk represented and coached these athletes at the event.

Given that interest in this event has decreased, we may want to consider not having a formal coach assignment and budget line item for this race for the U-14s. Any athletes that attend can obtain support from their race club. If this race starts to gain more interest and attraction from PARA athletes, we can revisit.

### PARA Athlete Representatives/Overall State Championship Place

Kellan Dein – Elk (44)

Jerry Jordan – Elk (40)

Victor Kruler – Blue (7)

- **Francis Piche Invitational**

Though all spots for Eastern Champs (12 total) were taken in-person at the awards ceremony, the selection/roll-down process for Piches presented challenges. Trying to fill alternate spots for Piches was a frustrating process. There were delays as athletes typically had to be invited through third parties – i.e., their coaches or mountain contacts, which created inefficiencies. Some responses took days to receive, resulting in a crunch to have the athletes selected, organized, and registered for the event. The proposed solution would be to have all athletes, including alternates register in-person. Proxies (i.e., athlete's coach) would be welcome to register on behalf of an athlete with athlete permission and with the appropriate contact information. This procedure will make the slot allocation and alternate selection process much more efficient.

## 2025 U-14 CHAIR REPORT

The Francis Piche Invitational was held at Gunstock Mountain Resort, New Hampshire from March 12 to March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Nineteen athletes accepted invitations to represent PARA at the event, with 18 athletes ultimately competing. Bruce Bedell coached and represented these PARA athletes at the event. This event consisted of two training days, as well as a Team Dual Slalom (Friday), GS race (Saturday), and SL race (Sunday).

PARA Red and PARA black won their first round of the Team Dual Slalom event, beating Connecticut Red and Connecticut Black. Both PARA teams lost to NHARA Red and NHARA Black in the second round.

PARA athletes placed in the top ten and top twenty of both the individual SL and GS events. The weather was warm, but all events were held, including the training days. Coach Bedell set the first run of slalom on Sunday. He was the only official PARA coach, but received assistance from volunteer siblings and parents. He noted that without these volunteers, providing support to all athletes would have been very difficult given the coach-to-athlete ratio.

If there is budget room, we should consider sponsoring two coaches for U14s at the event. This event continues to be reported as being very well-run by the organizers, fun for athletes, and most athletes were excited to be invited, even if they could not attend.

### PARA Athlete Representatives/Overall State Championship Place

Ava Stambaugh – SRRC (14)

Fiona Wilson – BMSC (11)

Lujza Macskasi – LMRT (9)

Mackenzie Jenkins – JFRT (15)

Vivian Raimondi – WTSEF (12)

Vera Quinones – JFRT (8)

Brook Anderson – SRRC (16)

Karli Saltzman – PASEF (21)

Noah Walker – JFRT (11)

Jack Dalton - JFRT (had to withdrawal at last minute due to injury) (10)

Anthony Altobelli – SRRC (9)

Timothy Gardina – WTSEF (14)

Thomas Kennedy – WTSEF (8)

Harold Holton – WTSEF (12)

Liam Miller – WPRC (23)

Lucca Tobias – JFRT (22)

Vincent Rayos Gallagher – PASEF (24)

Patrick Coyne – SRRC (27)

Ronan Koch – HVRC (28)

### **Other Events:**

This year, NYSSRA invited PARA athletes to attend a Super-G Development Project (training event) in Belleayre, New York on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Invitations were extended to first and second year U14 athletes based upon their performance at last year's state championships. Top-finishing first year U-14 athletes were invited based upon their performance at the 2024 U-12 state championships and top-finishing second year U-14 athletes were invited based upon their performance at the 2024 U-14 state championships. Almost all athletes who accepted invitations and attended this event were athletes who also ended up qualifying for the 2025 PARA state team.

The following PARA athletes attended this event:

Jack Hodgkinson - WTSEF  
Anders Miller - SRRC  
Seiji Galperin - JFRT  
Ross David – JFRT  
Thomas Kennedy - WTSEF  
Jack Dalton - JFRT  
Harold Holton - WTSEF

Avery Hodge - WTSEF  
Vivian Raimondi - WTSEF  
Ava Stambaugh - SRRC  
Flora Wheeler - WTSEF

### **Notes:**

It appears that Piches continues to be a more coveted event (over Eastern Finals) and the feedback from participants has been very positive. PARA should continue to promote and support this event, especially as it provides some of the higher-placing, but not state team-qualifying, athletes a chance to experience a post-season event with high level competition. That said, we should consider making the alternate selection process more efficient with in-person registration.

The Super-G camp coincided with the PARA Super-G training event, but athletes still seemed to have interest in this new event and PARA was well-represented.