
MOTION TO CAP THE FIELD SIZES FOR THE U16 SERIES EVENTS AND GIVE PRIORITY REGISTRATION TO TOP PARA ATHLETES

VERSION DATE: 5/5/23

INTRODUCED BY: Kurt Zwally, Vice President

MOTION: To cap the field sizes for each of the PARA U16 Series events at specific numbers set by the ROCs, and offer a priority registration period to the top-ranked U16s, followed by an open registration period for all U16s.

Field Size Caps:

Each U16 Series ROC would propose a maximum field size for their respective events at the Spring Meeting. For the coming season:

- Tussey proposes U16 Series 1 and 2 be limited to a total of 150 athletes. In the event that weather conditions permit setting separate courses for each gender Tussey is permitted to expand the field to 175 athletes.
- Elk proposes U16 Series 3 and 4 be limited to a total of 200 athletes.
- Blue Mountain proposes the U16 finals be limited to a total of 150 athletes.

Weather permitting, each ROC is permitted to accept an additional 10 Discretionary Athletes (5 per gender) for any athletes that missed the registration window or did not race in PARA the previous season. Any discretionary requests would need to come from the Head Coach and be submitted to the U16 Age Chair. ROCs are only permitted to accept or reject all requests for Discretionary entries.

Priority Registration Process:

- Each U16 Series ROC shall establish a priority registration period for its events lasting [two weeks (14 days)] for PARA's top-ranked U16 athletes to be defined below.
- After the priority registration period ends, the remaining entry slots for the event shall be open to all U16 athletes on a first-come-first-served basis that also lasts a minimum of [two weeks (14 days)].
- The ROC shall notify provide advance notice to all PARA Directors and Officers of the registration opening dates and times no less than [72 hours before opening]. The webmaster shall post these dates and times on the PARA website.
- [In the event that weather conditions call into question whether or not the race can be held, the ROC can shorten both registration periods above to 1 week each with approval from the Executive Committee.]

**Proposal to Cap the Field Size of the U16 Series Events &
Offer Priority Registration to the Top PARA Athletes**

Establishing the List of Top-Ranked U16s for Priority Registration:

The list of athletes qualified for priority registration shall be prepared by the U16 Age Chair by the Spring Meeting each year. (For this coming season it shall be submitted to the Executive Committee by June 1st and be approved by the Exec Comm no later than June 30th.)

The top-ranked athletes are defined as:

1. Those athletes that earned World Cup points in any U16 Series race that season, not to exceed 30 of each gender; and
2. Those athletes that earned World Cup points at the U14 Derby that season, not to exceed 30 of each gender.

2024 U16s That Scored WC Points in 2023		
Total Athletes = 92		
YOB	Male	Female
2008 (2024 2nd Yr U16)	23	23
2009 (2024 1st Yr U16)	28	18
Totals:	51	41

~~To account for any top ranked athletes that do not return for the current season, the U16 Chair shall submit an updated list to the Executive Committee by December 1st and the Exec Comm shall approve a final list no later than December 15th each year.~~

OTHER OPTIONS FOR DETERMINING THE “TOP-RANKED” U16s FOR PRIORITY REGISTRATION

Other options for determining the top athletes were considered but the above was selected for ease of administrative simplicity on the part of the Age Chair. It is important to keep in mind, that all athletes have a chance to register via the open registration period.

RATIONALE FOR CAPPING THE FIELD:

A number of Directors and officials noted that field size at the several of the U16 PA Series events was considerably larger than in previous years and this led to a long day and undermined the quality of the experience for the athletes.

2023 U16 Field Sizes			
Event	Male	Female	Total
Tussey Slalom 1	80	94	174
Tussey Slalom 2	78	88	166
Elk GS 1	74	84	158
Elk GS 2	73	86	159

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Finals SG	44	44	88
Finals GS	82	94	176
Finals SL	80	84	174

PARA membership data shows that the U16 Age Class has grown considerably in recent years, and U16 membership is expected to remain high for the coming season. Applying the average attrition numbers from the past 8 seasons, the 2024 U16 membership level could be over 200 athletes. While not all U16s race in the U16 Series, its quite possible that with U16 membership at more than 200 athletes, the U16 Series fields could be over 175 again.

Expected 2023-24 Season U16 Membership Levels With No Attrition from Current Year: 226 Athletes Total		
YOB	Male	Female
2009 (2024 1st Yr U16)	56	51
2008 (2024 2nd Yr U16)	60	59
Totals:	116	110

Expected 2023-24 Season U16 Membership Levels – With Expected Attrition: 202 Athletes Total*		
YOB	Male	Female
2009 (2024 1st Yr U16)	43	40
2008 (2024 2nd Yr U16)	60	59
Totals:	103	99

(*Avg Attrition of 22.5% applied to 1st athletes moving up from U14s; 22.5% average based on 8yrs historical data)

Although using last year’s race results is not an ideal method for qualifying athletes, this hybrid method mitigates those downsides by allowing for roughly 20% the field size to be open on a first-come first-served basis.

New athletes or those that were injured or just had a bad season the prior year can register for the event through the open-to-all period.

Further, Head Coaches have the ability to appeal for a discretionary for any athletes that fail to register before the field cap is reached.