



2022/2023 President’s Report

PRESEASON

The COVID-19 restrictions greatly subsided, and PARA was able to schedule a full event season with a minimal worry about further restrictions and event shutdown.

All USSS-Eastern post-season events were scheduled, and PARA was issued quota slots for these events.

As President, I worked with Jeff Lifgren (VP Vail Mid-Atlantic and Pennsylvania Ski Area Association Chairperson) on standardized lift ticket pricing for race day events. We believe that PSAA and PARA should work in tandem to make skiing an affordable opportunity for Mid-Atlantic families. This past season, Jeff instituted a race day ticket price of \$55 for the Vail-owned resorts. In speaking with Jeff recently, he intends continuing standardizing this practice with all the PSAA member areas leading into the 2023/24 season.

MEMBERSHIP

The overall PARA Membership level saw a slight decrease from the 2021/22 season however still significantly greater than prior to the 2020/21 COVID season. Continued normalcy.

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
1197	1218	1345	1378	1444	1514	1531	1458	1695	1671

- Alpine Youth (U14 and younger): **3.5% decrease**
- Alpine Competitor (U16+): **2.8% increase**
- Alpine Officials: **6.0% increase**

ALPINE OFFICIALS

PARA calendared three general Alpine Officials workshops to update AOs on Alpine rule changes and new/revised procedures and offered a general refresher of the Alpine ski racing rules. The workshops were delivered using a virtual meeting format and Zoom (a virtual meeting software) was used to present all of this year's workshop educational updates. There was no cost for these workshops.

There was continued reduction in the number of AO exams given this year, and this was due to most AOs attending virtual workshops and not wanting to travel to take an exam in person. There was an 90% pass rate. The creation of more online certification exams is being discussed at the national level to augment the Referee and Competition Official's exam currently in place.

COACHES CERTIFICATION

USSS has deferred the requirement that all coaches attending USSS-sanctioned events be Level 100 Certified. Deferral timeline has not been mandated yet. From a PARA perspective, the Coaches Committee should pursue creating in-state opportunities for coaches workshops.



SEASON

Weather in PA was very wet and soggy this season causing events to be postponed and cancelled. Consecutive weeks of rain and warm weather during midweek caused many areas to struggle with complete area coverage.

Events

Each PARA region scheduled races throughout the season. Early season events are problematic due to weather uncertainty.

PARA U18/U21 Cup Series were run statewide with events at Seven Springs, Blue Mountain, and Elk Mountain. The Series averaged approximately 145 participants.

PARA continued the U16 Cup Series running statewide events at Tussey, Elk Mountain, and Blue Mountain. The Series averaged approximately 168 participants (74% of age membership level). This leaves approximately 65 U16 athletes not participating. What are we doing with these athletes?

Championship Events were held towards the end of February/early March

- U12 was to be hosted by Ski Roundtop; Changed to Big Boulder due to weather limiting snow conditions
- U14 was hosted by Seven Springs; Changed to Elk due to weather limiting snow conditions.
- U16 Cup Finals were hosted by Blue
- U18 Cup Finals were hosted by Elk

Some COVID procedural restrictions instituted in 2020/2021 continue to be carried forward into this season:

- Pre-event online coaches meeting; allowing for more coaching time on race day
- Team coach registration/bib distribution; alleviating race day chaos in racer registration
- Electronic/Online/SMS communications between ROC, Official, and Coaches; better and more efficient communication before, during, between, and post runs.

Speed Committee

At the 2022 PARA Spring Meeting, the Board of Directors approved a budget item to promote speed education for PARA athletes. A Speed Committee was established to create recommendation. Matt Superczynski (LMRT) (THANKS led the committee and organized a very well received U16/U18 camp at Okemo. The event allowed 83 PARA athletes the opportunity for speed training and racing. This camp was staffed by six World Cup/Olympic athletes/coaches (American Downhillers) as well as a contingent of PARA coaches who benefitted from this valuable educational experience. THANKS Matt Super and the Speed Committee!!!!

Eastern Projects

- No U12 projects were established.
- One U14 Project was scheduled this season at Sugarbush, VT. PARA sent 2 male (Quota = 3) and 3 female (Quota = 3) athletes.
- The U16 projects were based on athlete submission to the USSS Eastern Development staff for consideration.
 - Stratton Eastern U16 SL/GS – 2 male and 1 female athletes.

COMMUNICATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA

The Instagram account (@pa_alpineracing) continue to be used to help with both inward and outward promotion of PARA athletes and events.



The www.paracing.org website continues to be the primary vehicle for general news, announcements, and updates associated with the organization. We need to focus this off-season on moving to a more suitable platform per the Web Committees recommendations. The website continues to be maintained via our webmaster Carrie Scheetz. Thanks, Carrie for keeping all the information up to date.

LOOKING FORWARD

Competitor Focuses

- Proposals for U16+ events and progressions (out of state events, FIS events)
- Speed proposals for U16+
- Speed proposals for U14 and younger
- U14 post season event coverage
- Proposals for U12 and younger events;
 - Change the focus from qualifying for U12 Championships towards Carnival-type events?
 - what should we do for Post season events?

Number of Events and the Cost of Events

PARA must help clubs find ways to lower the costs of events. Push for consistency in event registration pricing as well as lift ticket pricing.

We need to consider starting the events later in the season and reduce the number particularly for the younger age classifications. Our starting dates are getting pushed out while we are also being constrained on the backend of the season by earlier post-season events.

Continue work and discussions with PSAA on joint PA skiing opportunities.

Educational and Official Opportunities

PARA must continue to look at promoting and providing educational needs of its membership. PARA and its clubs should continue the need to fulfill the Coaches Level 100 Certification for those coaches still requiring compliance; even though USSS has delayed the mandate timeframe.

Investigate focused training per season. Example – T&C, RA, Chief of Race, etc.

TD replenishment due to retirements, etc. TD candidate recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bond'.

David Bond
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