



Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2020-2021 Report

April 22, 2021

Submitted by Rob Lipton, PARA Alpine Officials Chair

Ski Racing Season Highlights:

This year's report will mark my 19th year in which I have had the privilege of serving as the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson.

The 2020-21 alpine ski race season was "one for the books. The Covid-19 pandemic up-ended the entire world! Alpine Ski racing was NO exception. Many ski resorts disallowed alpine ski racing for the whole season. Some Ski areas even prohibited training temporarily or for the entire season.

Covid-19 forced all Alpine Official's education workshops to be held virtually. All AO specialty exams were canceled, causing an acute shortage of qualified course-setters and referees during the race season. Further needs of qualified AO's were triggered by the fear of contacting Covid-19 or contracting it and bringing it home to other more vulnerable family members.

Those ROC's that did host races were restricted by US Ski and Snowboard Covid-19 mitigating procedures. These procedures added a level of constraints and complexity that each ROC was required to perform. Couple with state, local, and ski area Covid-19 rules (Masking, Social Distancing, etc.) with the limited number of race venues, a fixed calendar of race dates, strict travel procedures, and impressive PARA held as many races as they did. Once again, many ski races were occurring "simultaneously," stretching to the limits of the availability of qualified alpine officials.

At the beginning of the Ski season, the PARA directors canceled all state championships. Individual ROC's chose to host both regional and open races. As USSS canceled all post-season events, additional races were held to provide those who wanted to race.

Once again, our PARA's Alpine Officials, with help from the PARA alpine racing community, performed exceptionally well. I am proud to be part of a group of dedicated volunteers who freely give our athletes their time and effort. I am genuinely appreciative of everyone who performs their Official Alpine duties no matter the weather, temperature, adverse circumstances, and Covid-19 pandemic.

Let's hope that the upcoming season will be described as normal, mundane, typical, par for the course, AND nothing like this year's alpine ski racing season!



Alpine Officials by the Numbers:

During the 2020-21 season, there were three hundred forty-six (346) Alpine Officials in PARA. This is a decrease of twenty-two **Alpine Officials** in PARA from the previous 2019-20 season. At least two hundred fifty-one (251) had attained at least one AO certification, a decrease of nine from the 2019-2020 year. Seven (7) alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications (all but one currently active TDs). This represents **three-less** AO's than last year. There are fourteen (14) Technical Delegates in PARA. Nine (9) **PARA TDs officiated races this year**. One out of State (MARA) TD helped officiate races.

There are: (**As of 4/22/2021**)

246 total (-14) reduction 20-19 alpine officials with a **competition official certification**,

128 total (-6) reduction 20-19 alpine officials with a **referee certification**,

129 total (-5) reduction 20-19 alpine officials with a **jury advisor certification**,

36 total (-1) reduction 20-19 alpine officials with a **chief of course certification**,

33 total (-2) reduction 20-19 alpine officials with a **chief of race certification**,

37 total (-3) reduction 20-19 alpine officials with a **race administrator certification**

50 total (-4) reduction 20-19 alpine officials with **timing and calculation certification**.

Covid-19 disrupted the process of certifying alpine ski race officials. Except for the online Competition Official's (CO) exam, there were no Alpine Official certification exams provided during the 2020-21 alpine competition ski season.

Educational Opportunities:

PARA normally provides four general Alpine Officials workshops to update AOs on rule changes, updates, and presenting a general refresher of the Alpine rules governing ski racing governed by US Ski & Snowboard. Once again, the Covid-19 pandemic limited all alpine official's education to virtual meetings. Zoom virtual meeting software was used to present all of this year's workshop educational updates.

Three general alpine officials update clinics were held on the following dates (listed below). Each workshop was three hours in length. All workshops were facilitated by Sam Ganow, Dan Chayes, and myself.



7:30 to 10:00 PM Tuesday, November 10, 2020
7:30 to 10:00 PM Wednesday, December 2, 2020
7:30 to 10:00 PM Thursday, November 5, 2020

A fourth workshop, limited only to Technical Delegates, was also held over two sessions (six hours). This workshop was held to satisfy the new rule change, which states, "*In addition to applicable certification and current US Ski & Snowboard membership, a Technical Delegate must attend a seasonal workshop approved for the continuing education of Technical Delegates prior to serving as a Technical Delegate at US Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events.*"

The first TD workshop session was held on November 17; the second session was conducted on November 24. The national Alpine Officials Working Group developed the TD workshop. The Technical Delegate Workshop Video Presentation was facilitated by myself and others well received by all of the TDs. Paul VanSlyke, FIS TD Commissioner, presented the Clean Hill Initiative. The entire AO community benefited from his excellent presentation.

The PARA AO Website Paraa.org continues to be used by the Alpine Officials' community to retrieve the most recent versions of all US Ski & Snowboard forms and documents. Alpine Officials also access it to find out about pertinent updates, rule changes, clarifications, and additionally timely information useful to our AO community.

The TD assignment race schedule for the current year is posted on the website. I also have our PARA webmaster (Carrie Scheetz) post all relevant documents to the PARA website. All pertinent AO information or links to that information can be found on the [Para Website](#)

Alpine Ski Race Statistics:

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, many ROCs chose not to host races this ski season. Only five PARA ROCs hosted races. Blue Mountain (**10 Days**), Elk Mountain (**8 Days**), Montage(**1 Day**), Seven Springs (**9 Days 3 central**)& Wisp (**2 days**) were those Ski Resorts that held races.

Thirty (**30**) USSS sanctioned races were held, **14 fewer race days than the previous years**. The reduction of the number of races was due partly to PARA canceling all state championship events. PARA also canceled the Super G camp and races because of the uncertainty of athletes attending Super G post-season events.

All races were limited to 100 maximum competitors (USSS Covid-19 mandate). PARA's regions held races for their athletes. The East/Northeast regions raced together. Western raced together. Central had no races in their region. Roundtop contracted with Seven Springs to the calendar races when the Seven Springs ROC was not holding them.



Some of PARA's regions (4 in all) raced by gender, holding double races to maximize the athlete's race day experience. At the end of the season, Blue Mountain had several open races that athletes throughout the state and NJSRA athletes attended.

Each ROC followed strict Covid-19 USSS mandates. Although the complexity and logistics of ski racing during a pandemic were challenging, each ROC shared their race-day experiences, learning from each other and modeling what worked, thus assuring them of a quality race experience.

A total of 30 race/sanctioned training days (*fourteen less than last year*) was completed

Month & Year	Number of Race Days
	Men and Women events counted as one race
December 2020	0
January 2021	8
February 2021	16
March 2021	6

Forty-four (44) Scored – Non-Scored Races:

- 14 - Scored
- 14 - Non-scored
- 2- Both

For the 2020-2021 Ski Season, PARA has 8 Active Technical Delegates who worked at least one race.

1 TD Officiated 8 races	3 TDs Officiated 2 races
1 TD Officiated 6 races*	1 TDs Officiated 1 race
2 TDs Officiated 4 races	

*Out of State TD



Upgrades and Promotions:

346 Alpine Officials Registered in PA

No Alpine Official's specialty area exams were administered

There are **71** PARA Alpine Officials recommended for promotion to a **level 1 or 2** for the 2020-2021 year

Classification	Number of Requests
CC: CHIEF OF COURSE	0
CO: COMPETITION OFFICIAL	29
CR: CHIEF OF RACE	3
JA: JURY ADVISOR	7
RA: RACE ADMINISTRATOR	4
RF: REFEREE	3
TC: TIMING AND CALCULATIONS	2
TD: TECHNICAL DELEGATE	1
Total	49

There was (1) Level 3 PARA AO Upgrades Requested 2020-2021

Classification	Number of Requests
RA Level 3 6375161 Tom Yen	1
Total	1

Respectfully Submitted - April 24, 2021

Rob Lipton

Pennsylvania US SKI & SNOWBOARD- Alpine Officials Chairman

US SKI & SNOWBOARD # 5413679