

Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2024-2025 Report

April 8, 2025

Submitted by Rob Lipton, PARA Alpine Officials Chair

Executive Summary

Changes Implemented - This Year

- On-Demand Exam opportunities
- On-Demand AO updates
- Referee & JA recruitment initiative
- Scheduling & disseminating USSS Coaches' education and exams

Challenges & Issues

- Lack of AO volunteers (See Report for Detail)
- Navigating the complexities of USSS rule changes
- Recruitment of TDs
- **Significant time associated with the record keeping, education, and information dissemination... complexity is now 10 times more difficult than when I started this position 24 years ago**

Recommended Changes for Next Year

- Each Club Director must identify & recruit AO candidates for alpine officiating to perpetuate the ROC organization in their clubs
- Continuing with AO education that best serves all clubs in PARA

Board Approvals

Proposed Rules & Procedures changes

- None required

Budget Requests

\$10,500 - 2025- 2026 (Last Season Budgeted - \$9500 includes all AO activities)

Note: Revenue from training of \$1,500 to \$3,000 based on current AO membership

Required Events:

- Alpine Officials education workshops, seminars, and meetings.
- Eastern AO Meeting
- Technical Delegate rule update and seminar
- USSS Regional meetings
- Alpine update workshops & AO Exams

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Ski Racing Season Highlights:

This year's report will mark the 24th year I have served as chairperson of the PARA Alpine Officials. With guidance from U.S. Ski & Snowboard, the competition season commenced with guidelines, procedures, and protocols designed to mitigate any issues associated with Safe Sport. USSS continues to emphasize strengthening coaches' education by providing a higher and more consistent level of professionalism in its certification training.

The weather in PA (for a change) was cold, with some natural snow suitable for training and racing this ski season. During the competition season, there were a few cancellations and changes in the venue, allowing our ROCs hosting races a smooth race season.

The number of active Technical Delegates has been holding steady. John DeLong is taking the season off, but Mitch Schacher is our newest Technical Delegate

Once again, I am proud to represent this group of dedicated Alpine Officials who tirelessly provide their time and energy to provide quality race experiences, regardless of whether it's weather, temperature, adverse circumstances, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Alpine Officials by the Numbers:

During the 2024-25 season, there were three hundred fifty-nine (359) Alpine Officials in PARA. This decreased eight (8) Alpine Officials in PARA from the previous 2023-24 season.

Note: The USSS has changed the method of searching on key fields in the AO database. The "PARA" field parsed as a "Division" identifier within the Eastern region is no longer available. You can only search by "State," which does not display all PARA members. I was provided with a comprehensive report on the AO database, from which I extracted the data for this report.

Six (6) Alpine officials hold all nine specialty certifications, with five currently active T.D.s, representing one more A.O. than last year.

Nineteen (16) Alpine officials have a T.D. license, and six (6) are retired (Level 5). There are ten (10) active Technical Delegates in PARA, including one FIS TD Level 6 (Dan Chayes).

With help from two (2) out-of-state (MARA) & (NJSRA), eight (8) active PARA Technical Delegates officiated thirty-nine (39) races this year. One new TD is in the pipeline, and two more are interested in becoming TDs.

199 total Alpine officials with an **official competition certification** (-3, from the 2023-2024 Season)

112 total Alpine officials with a **referee certification** (+ 13, from the 2023-2024 Season)

88 total Alpine officials with a **jury advisor certification** (-17, from the 2023-2024 Season)

33 total Alpine officials with a **chief of course certification** (-2, from the 2023-2024 Season)

29 total Alpine officials with a **chief of race certification** (- 4, from the 2023-2024 Season)

32 total Alpine officials with a **race administrator certification** -4, from the 2023-2024 Season)

39 total Alpine officials with **timing and calculation certification** (-10, from the 2023-2024 Season)

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AO Educational Opportunities:

PARA calendared **Sixteen (16) Alpine Officials workshops & exams** to update A.O.s on Alpine rule changes and new/revised procedures and offered a general refresher of the Alpine ski racing rules. The workshops were delivered in a hybrid format, combining virtual and in-person meetings, to present all this year's educational updates for the workshops.

Course Conductors for these workshops include Dan Chayes, John Reihner, and Rob Lipton.

General AO Update	7:00 to 10:00 PM Wednesday,	November 20, 2024
General AO Update	7:00 to 10:00 PM Tuesday,	November 26, 2024
General AO Update	7:00 to 10:00 PM Wednesday,	December 4, 2024
TD AO Workshop	7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday,	November 6, 2024
TD AO Workshop	7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday,	November 13, 2024
RA AO Workshop	7:00 to 10:30 PM Tuesday,	November 19, 2024
Ref/JA Workshop	9:00 to 4:00 PM Saturday,	November 16, 2024
Ref/JA Workshop	9:00 to 4:00 PM Saturday,	December 7, 2024
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Saturday,	December 14, 2024
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Saturday,	December 14, 2024
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Sunday,	December 15, 2024
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Sunday,	December 15, 2024
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Saturday,	December 21, 2024
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Sunday,	December 22, 2024
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Saturday,	January 4, 2025
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Saturday,	January 4, 2025

Note: Provided on on-demand exams at Blue Mountain and while traveling to other Ski Resorts

PARA Alpine Officials Clinics trained and administered exams to 156 Officials for the 2024-2025 Season.

More Alpine Officials took and passed exams this year than in the past three years. Unfortunately, the number of newly certified officials is not keeping pace with the number of those who no longer participate in the sport. Those who were taking the exams were well-prepared. There was a 98% pass rate by exam test takers.

Attending virtual workshops has been one strategy to limit attrition of the existing PARA AO community. It would be preferable to allow exams to be taken online, as our AOs, who are volunteers, do not want to travel to take an exam in person. *Note: Currently, there is only one online certification exam: Competition Official -(CO) exam*

A fall PARA Technical Delegate meeting will be held prior to the official A.O. educational update materials being distributed via the [paraao.org website](http://paraao.org). The exact date and time will be determined



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All these workshops held in PARA satisfy the requirements for Alpine Officials to receive continuing education. **(See Below)**

"Alpine Official Continuing Education (Update) Status: Using the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website, and except for the Technical Delegate, the Race Administrator must verify that the Chief of Race, Referee, Assistant Referee (if required), Chief of Course, and Chief of Timing & Calculations, must have attended the required bi-seasonal Continuing Education Clinic. (For Season 2024, the allowed minimum is Season 2023 attendance.) Unless excused, Technical Delegates and Race Administrators must attend a Technical Delegate or Race Administrator Workshop every season."

These workshops were held to satisfy the new rule change, which states, "In addition to applicable certification and current U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership, a Technical Delegate must attend a seasonal workshop approved for the continuing education of Technical Delegates before serving as a Technical Delegate at U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned events."

The PARA AO Website Paraao.org continues to be widely used by the Alpine Officials' community to retrieve the most recent versions of all U.S. Ski and snowboard forms and documents. This website mirrors the USSS Website, with over 3300 clicks recorded during the 2024-2025 competition season. PARA Alpine Officials also access this website to learn about pertinent updates, rule changes, clarifications, and timely information useful to our A.O. community.

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

Alpine Ski Race Statistics:

Thirty-nine (39) USSS-sanctioned race and event days were calendared. A few races had a change of date or venue moved due to the lack of snow. **One** (1) event was ultimately canceled

Month & Year	<u>Completed</u> "Number" of Men's and Women's events counted as one race.
January 2025	9
February 2024	26
March 2024	4
Total Events Completed	39

Thirty Nine (39) Scored/Non-Scored Races:

- 18 - Scored
- 21 - Non-Scored



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For the 2024-2025 Ski Season, PARA has eight (8) active Technical Delegates who have worked at least two or more race days. (Note 2 TDs Out of State in total)

2 TDs* Officiated six races	2 TDs Officiated three races
3 TDs Officiated five races	2 TDs* Officiated two races

* Out of State T.D.

Upgrades and Promotions:

PARA AO Level 3 and Level 4 upgrades were granted - As of April 13, 2025, there was one PARA-qualified request for Level 3, Level 4

As of the date of this report, no information has been disseminated for the next competition season. USSS National meetings will be held in the middle of May, and I will be in attendance and bring back all relevant material for the PARA AO community.

Respectfully Submitted – April 8, 2025

Rob Lipton

Pennsylvania US SKI & SNOWBOARD - Alpine Officials
Chairman US SKI & SNOWBOARD # 5413679