

PARA U14 Chair Report  
2022-2023 Season  
Michael Clarke  
U14 Age Chair

### **U14 State Championship**

The event took place February 25th - 26th at Elk Mountain Ski Resort. This event was originally scheduled to take place at 7 Springs but mother nature did not cooperate and there was not sufficient coverage on the race hill for them to hold the race. Elk Mountain Ski Club stepped in to help pull this event off at the last minute to give the athletes the weekend of racing that they earned throughout the year. The field consisted of a total 81 athletes, 44 male and 37 female. The event included three runs of Slalom on Saturday and three runs of GS on Sunday. After the GS races on Sunday the awards ceremony was held to wrap up the Championship.

Overall this year the weather was not very favorable for our region and yet collectively we were able to pull off a successful season. As both the age chair and a coach I had the opportunity to spend the majority of my time on the slope. While both preparing and watching athletes throughout the course of the weekend I was impressed with the quality of racing as well as the behavior of the athletes. Each athlete should be extremely proud of their accomplishments this season and deserve congratulations. I would also like to recognize the effort of Bruce Newman, Mitchell Shscher, Bree Gillespie and the entire staff of Elk Mount for all their hard work pulling off this event. Special thanks to Rachel Greenier for acting as the U14 State Championship chair and all her help assisting with the awards ceremony and the last minute logistics involved with moving to a new venue at the last minute. I would also like to thank all the coaches and parents for their help, both on and off the hill.

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.

Male:

- |                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. Landon Wagner      | BMRT  |
| 2. Benjamin Kruler    | SMRT  |
| 3. Dominik Zelubowski | BMRT  |
| 4. Richard Binder     | WPRC  |
| 5. Sean Petaja        | JFRT  |
| 6. Liam Anderson      | BMRT  |
| 7. Desmo Treiber      | LMRT  |
| 8. Jacob Pionalto     | WTSEF |
| 9. Quinn King         | PASEF |
| 10. Ty Millett        | EMSC  |

Female:

1. Cayden Hodge	WTSEF
2. Aroma Yagnik	PASEF
3. Reese Ryan	SRRC
4. Madeleine Mafodda	JFRT
5. Clara Drahnak	HVRC
6. Mariella Contini	WPRC
7. Riley Kramer	HVRC
8. Dylan Stadler	WPRC
9. Teagan O'Brien	JFRT
10. Sophia Murray	JFRT

**Post Season Events**

● **U14 Eastern Championships**

The USSA U14 Eastern Championships were held at Whiteface, NY on March 18th through 21st. Thirteen (13) athletes were selected to represent PARA at the event. Jason Farda, Kyle Petaja, and John Anderson were selected as coaches to represent the PARA athletes. The event included SG training and SkillsQuest on Saturday, SG race Sunday, GS race on Monday, and SL race followed by awards on Tuesday.

PARA Athlete Representatives

Male

● Landon Wagner	BMRT
● Benjamin Kruler	SMRT
● Dominik Zelubowski	BMRT
● Richard Binder	WPRC
● Sean Petaja	JFRT
● Liam Anderson	BMRT
● Desmo Treiber	LMRT

Female

● Cayden Hodge	WTSEF
● Aroma Yagnik	PASEF
● Reese Ryan	SRRC
● Madeleine Mafodda	JFRT
● Clara Drahnak	HVRC
● Mariella Contini	WPRC

- **U14 Eastern Finals**

The USSA U14 Eastern Finals were held at West Mountain on March 24th through 26th. Instead of issuing quota spots for Eastern Finals, USSS made the event open to all Eastern region athletes that did not qualify for Eastern Championships. Fourteen (14) PARA athletes registered for the event. Ty Newman and Brigid Baldwin were selected as coaches to represent the PARA athletes. The event included an optional Dual Panel SL Fun Day/Night on Friday, GS race and BBQ on Saturday, and SL race. Awards took place following each event acknowledging the top 10 male and female athletes with medals going to the top 3.

PARA Athlete Representatives

Male

- Benjamin Smith
- Desmo Treiber
- Tyler Kunkel
- Liam Kutchi
- Lucas Kutci
- John Kintzer
- Ty Millett
- Noah Schacher

Female

- Elle Awanohara
- Elena Bui
- Sabrina Gala
- Brynn Hipp
- Jooha Kim
- Addyson Spehar

- **Francis Piche Invitational**

The Francis Piche Invitational was held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 15th through the 19th. Twenty two (22) athletes accepted invitations to represent PARA at the event. Michael Carlozzi and Bri Cioffi offered to represent the PARA athletes. The event included an optional 2 days of SL and GS training, a Dual SL Team race Friday, a SL race Saturday, and a GS race on Sunday.

PARA Athlete Representatives

Male

- Jacob Pianalto
- Quinn King
- Anders Ryon

- Warren Hilbert-Graham
- William Wilson
- Trent Bray
- Ian Frable
- Eli Sanford
- Chase Desjardins
- Asher Eckel
- Jameson Stallkamp
- Charlie Lawson
- Tyler Kunkel
- Liam Kutchi
- Lucas Kutchi

Female

- Teagan O'Brien
- Olivia Yurek
- Elena Bui
- Pernille Holton
- Madylin Carlozzi
- Abigail Gillespie
- Alexandra Mafodda

**Eastern Region Projects**

The goal of the projects is to (1) bring top Eastern athletes together to train different disciplines, (2) create an opportunity for training and peer group pace in a competitive environment and build confidence at elite training venues, and (3) promote camaraderie and regional team culture amongst eastern athletes. The selection criteria was based on the 2020-2021 U14 State Championship results.

This year there was only 1 Eastern Project for the U14 age group with quota spots allocated

1. Tech Project

Male: Sugarbush, VT - Jan 20th – 21st (Quota 3, Sent 2)

Warren Hilbert-Graham - DCWST

Bennett Donovan - SRRC

Female: Sugarbush, VT - Jan 22nd - 23rd (Quota 3, Sent 3)

Reese Ryan - SRRC

Cayden Hodge - WTSEF

Mariella Contine - WPRC

I received some feedback from the parents that attended this event and the overall impressions were not positive. The parents said that the athletes received little coaching and it was pretty unorganized. I forwarded this feedback on to Scott Graham (USSS Eastern Youth Dev. Coach)

**Notes:**

- Due to the overwhelming interest year-over-year perhaps PARA should reconsider providing coaching support for Piches. There is always an overwhelming interest in athletes to attend this event and we sent almost twice as many athletes to Piches as we did to Easter Finals.