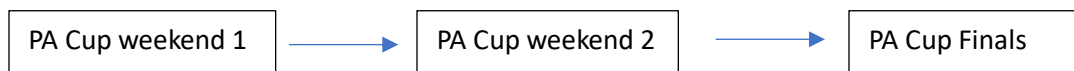


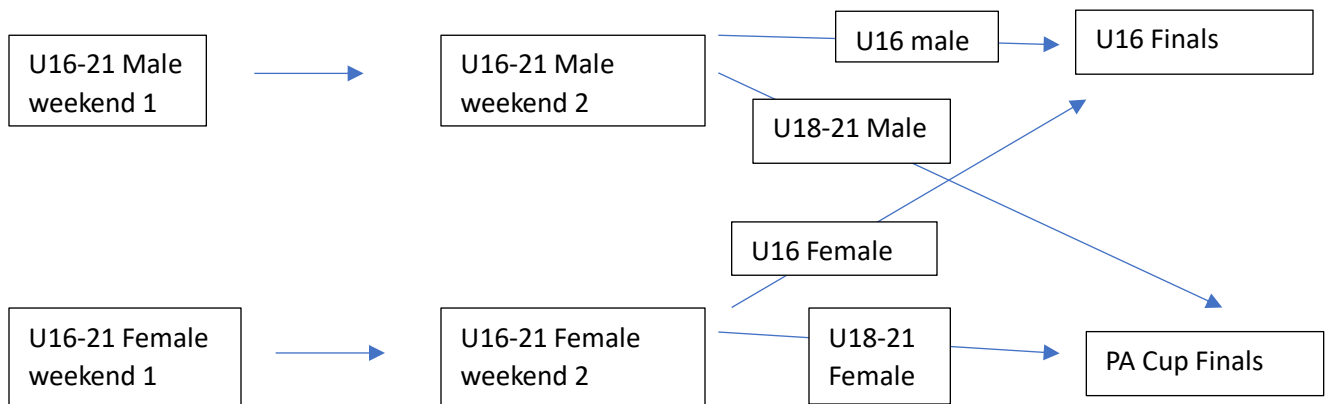
## Group Cup Series Athletes by GENDER THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TWO WEEKENDS OF RACES (U16 & U18/21)

**Introduced by:** Patrick Wende, Northeast Chair (Elk)

**Current State:** Respective Cup series races run by age class for entire season.



**Proposed Future State:**



Part 1: For the first two weekends of the respective series, the fields would be grouped by gender instead of the current age class grouping. All male u16-21 would race together at one site and all female u16-21 would race together at another site. The same venues currently utilized for the respective series would host races on the same weekends as they proposed.

Part 2 (tentative pending Elk mgmt. final approval)- Add a 3<sup>rd</sup> race to the early-mid February weekend that for the past 2 seasons has hosted u16 GS at Elk, so both male and female would have a total of 8 races.

This motion would not change anything about either the U16 Finals or the PA Cup Finals. Proposals regarding limiting field size at u16 finals would be brought separately.

Below is an example of what this proposal could look like based on the proposed state series race dates.

<b>Dates:</b>	<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Events:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
1/13-14/24	Seven Springs	Men Cups 1 & 2 SL (U16 & U18/21)	
1/20-21/24	Open	None	
1/27-28/24	Tussey	Women Cups 1 & 2 SL (U16 & U18/21)	
2/2-4/24	Blue Mtn	Men Cups 3-5 GS, GS, SL (U16 & U18/21)	
2/9-11/24	Elk	Women Cups 3-5 GS, GS, SL (U16 & U18/21)	
2/17-18/24	None		
2/23-25/24	None		U12 & U14 Derbies
3/1-3/24	Blue Mtn	U16 Cup Finals: SG, GS, SL	
	Elk	U18/21 PA Cup Finals: GS, GS, SL	

The genders could alternate between the venues ever year. In the example above, the males go to Seven Springs and then Blue for the first 2 weekends of racing, while the females race at Tussey and Elk. The next year, the female could go to Seven Springs and then Blue, with the males racing at Tussey and Elk.

**Rationale:**

This proposal would create a hybrid between a gender-based system and the current age class based system. PARA would retain the benefits of the comradery that exists between the genders at the Finals weekends and would not require any additional venues than the current system.

U16 athletes would gain regular points exposure without having to develop criteria for them to be entered into PA Cup races. Under the current system there is inconsistent criteria for u16s to enter PA Cup races. U16s that enter the U18/21 PA Cups end up with fewer training opportunities in our very short season. This proposal would eliminate the need for the top U16s to enter both series.

While the initial impetus for this proposal was to examine mechanisms to relieve pressure on the u16 Cup field sizes, current projections on membership for the 23-24 season trend more towards relatively balanced field sizes for the proposed respective male and female races.

This proposal would not require additional coaches from clubs to support these events. The only thing changing would be the mix of athletes at the respective events.

While the potential for a family with multiple athletes to be split remains, the challenge is not in any way magnified through this proposal.