

## PROPOSAL TO ADJUST THE U16 & U18/21 STATE TEAMS TO FIT THE POST-SEASON EVENT QUOTAS

**Proposal:** The State Teams for the U16 and U18/21 age classes shall be the size of the quotas allocated by the Eastern Region USSS to the two highest post-season events (e.g. U16 Championships and U16 Finals), or a minimum of 10 athletes per gender, whichever is greater.

The State Team for the U14 and U12 age classes would remain at a minimum of 10 athletes per Gender until the Eastern Office returns to a quota based system for Eastern U14 Finals.

PARA State Team sweatshirts would only be awarded to the athletes that qualified for U16 or U18/21 quota spots outright. Alternates invited to the event because a higher ranked athlete declined the invitation shall not be awarded a sweatshirt.

**Background:** At the 2022 Annual Meeting, motion was made to make the size of all PARA State Teams be 10 athletes per gender regardless of the quotas. That motion passed by a majority of votes.

One of the rationales cited for the motion was the fact that Eastern U14 Finals became an open event. Thus the only quotas allocated to PARA for Eastern U14 events are the 6 females & 7 males invited to U14 Championships. The U12s do not have post-season events organized by the Eastern Region of USSS.

Another rationale cited for the 10 per gender for each age, is that quotas have changed over the years, and athletes and parents have asked questions regarding the differences across age classes and from year-to-year.

Currently the quotas for the U16s and the U18/21s for Eastern Championships and Eastern Finals are larger than 10 per gender. As a result, some of the athletes who qualify for Eastern Regional USSS events get sweatshirts, and others who qualify for the same events do not.

PARA QUOTAS TO EASTERN REGIONAL USSS EVENTS			
Age Class	Events:	Females	Males
U18/21	Finals	12	14
U16s	Championships	6	6
	Finals	8	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
U14s	Championships	6	7
	Finals	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
U12s	None	0	0

Directors of various ages can point to different periods in PARA's history where the State Team was set using different methods including: the quota for the top event only, the quota for the top two events, or set at an arbitrary number like 10. So historical precedent does not provide a clear answer.

However, most Coaches and Directors will agree that qualifying for Eastern Finals - being ranked 12<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> in the State – is an accomplishment worthy of recognition. Also, excluding roughly half of the athletes who qualify for Eastern Finals from getting a sweatshirt can send a negative signal to athletes and parents and discourage participation in the sport.

With regard to alternates, the State Team memorabilia is not a uniform. It is in effect the trophy, the award for the athletic achievement of being ranked high enough relative to one's peers to qualify for an elite Eastern event. Therefore, the PARA Board has traditionally not approved issuing of PARA state team sweatshirts (or hats back in the old days) to alternates who did not qualify outright.

Submitted by:

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