

PARA U19-U21 Chair Report

2015-2016 Season

PA Cup Series and State Team

This season 35 female and 50 male athletes competed in the PA Cup Series.

Races were hosted by Seven Springs(2SL), Blue Mountain(2GS, 1SL) and Elk Mountain(2GS, 1SL)

At the conclusion of the final PA Cup race at Elk Mountain the PARA State Team was named, the PA Cup and Overall Champions were crowned.

The 2016 PARA State Team was comprised of the top 7 ranked female and the top 10 ranked male athletes based on the final PA Cup results at the conclusion of PA Cup 8.

2016 PARA State Team U19-U21

Kinjal Ruecker	LMRT	1999
Kyra Long	SRRC	1998
Caroline Smith	WPRC	1999
Angelin Lucas	WPRC	1998
Erin Joyce	WPRC	1999
Tess Beinhaur	SRRC	1997
Heather Macewen	PASEF	1997

Carson Twiford	SRRC	1997
Aaron Jacobson	LMRT	1996
Andrew Stewart	SRRC	1997
Stephen Combs	BMSC	1997
William Ryley	BMSC	1998
Justin Bergen	BMSC	1998
Devon Schaeffer	WTSEF	1998
Jack Dailey	SRRC	1998
Ryan Rogalli	SRRC	1998
Ty Newman	EMSC	1998

Post Season Events

USSA Eastern Finals were held at Gore, NY from March 11th through March 14th.

PARA sent 10 male and 7 female athletes to this event which included SL Training, GS and two SL competitions. Originally the event was to hold a SG Training day, a Super G, a GS and a SL. Due to the unseasonal warm temperatures and snow conditions, those events were reassigned with three races still being held, one GS and two SL's and a SL Training day on Friday.

Athletes attending were: Kinjal Ruecker, Kyra Long, Caroline Smith, Angelin Lucas, Erin Joyce, Tess Beinhaur, Heather Macewen, Carson Twiford, Aaron Jacobson, Andrew Stewart, Stephen Combs, William Ryley, Justin Bergen, Jack Dailey, Ryan Rogalli, Ty Newman and Matt Sadler.

We had some very good results in **GS**, with Caroline Smith, fastest woman on the first run and finishing (4th) for the women with Aaron Jacobson (9th) and William Ryley (10th) for the men.

Two more men finished in the **GS** top 20 with Andrew Stewart (16th) and Carson Twiford (18th).

The **first day** of **SL** results showed that the course was challenging for a number of our athletes.

Best result for the women was Kyra Long finishing 24th followed by Heather Macewen in 28th

Two top Ten results were posted for the men by Andrew Stewart (7th) and William Ryley (10th) followed by Jack Dailey (20th) and Stephen Combs (21st).

The **second day** of **SL** results were a little more challenging to achieve due to rain and less than perfect conditions. For the women, Kinjal Ruecker finished 6th after posting the fastest second run time. She was followed by Caroline Smith (12th), Kyra Long (22nd), Heather Macewen (25th) and Tess Beinhaur (28th). On the mens side results were tough to come by. Our best results were Carson Twiford (18th), Matt Sadler (21st), Aaron Jacobson (25th) and Andrew Stewart (27th).

USSA Penalty for these events were as follows:

GS- 88.06 (M) 133.86(W)

SL #1- 83.98 (M) 114.22(W)

SL #2- 89.19 (M) 120.87(W)

Eastern High School Championships were again hosted by Attitash, NH on March 4-6, 2016.

The event included one training day, followed by GS and SL races.

PARA sent a team consisting of 10 male and 9 female athletes as well as a COMPOSITE team of 7 male and 8 female athletes that compete as PARA athletes, but attend high school in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland or D.C.

This is a large event with **over 110 male and 100 female athletes** in the field for each discipline. In **GS** we had a one male, Matt Sadler(30th) reached the top 30. Haley Schierwagen was our top female at 40th.

In **SL** Nathan LeBauer(19th) posted the best result for the men followed by Justin Bergen (29th).

For the women Haley Schierwagen(36th) was again our top finisher followed by Heather Macewen(41st).

USSA Penalty for these events were as follows:

SL- 96.04 (M) 84.31(W)

GS- 94.54 (M) 108.97(W)

As you can see, this is a good points event for those looking to establish or improve on their point profile.

Eastern FIS Championships – Stowe VT, March 14-18, 2016

No athletes from PARA attended this FIS sanctioned event. FIS license is required

FIS and Development

PARA does have Development (DEVO) opportunities available at a limited number of races throughout the season in Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire. Athletes looking to develop or improve on an FIS point profile may be able to attend some of these events.

Athletes desiring to attend these events should first contact the head coach for their home program, who will then contact the U19-U21 Chair.

Intent to compete in these events **MUST** be made +30 days in advance of the event.

PARA does **NOT** provide coaching staff for athletes attending these events. Other arrangements for representation at these events must be made prior to attending.

Summary

-As we all know, this was by far one of the most challenging seasons that we have ever experienced. Weather remained a factor from beginning to end, first with no snow or cold temperatures to a weekend with too much snow and a Presidents' weekend that was the coldest weekend of the season.

-Most post season events took place as scheduled, barely, and in some cases events were changed to accommodate weather and remaining snow conditions.

-Overall we rescheduled, moved and got it done. It was no easy task and all of the ROC's should be commended for their efforts.

-In my opinion, our overall results were not that bad considering most of our athletes missed 3 - 4 weeks of on-snow training time going into the actual competition season. Whether that translates into 5 days or 25 days, it shows when we don't get enough training time.

-One item that needs addressed is the U19-21 State team size in relation to the amount of quota spots allotted for PARA to post season events. We are actually allotted more spots than we could possibly use to the Eastern FIS Championships(5m – 5W). Those spots are rarely (almost never) used by PARA athletes and cannot be traded for quota spots at another event. We then come up short for spots at the USSA Eastern Championships (12 total allotted). With 17 athletes (10M – 7W) on the State Team, we have to request additional quota spots each year to that event. There is no guarantee that we will continue to be allotted the 5 additional slots.

-Another small challenge was the age group change from U18 to U19. In the long run I think this will be better for us in terms of retention of athletes. A transition year like this year always has its own set of problems/issues that need worked through.

-Thank You to all ROC's, officials, coaches, parents, volunteers and especially the athletes for making this season happen...even if it didn't want to.

Submitted 5/04/2016

Curt Schramm
U19-U21 Age Chair