

PARA Annual Spring Meeting – Saturday May 7, 2016 - 9:30a.m.

Ski Roundtop Mountain Resort, Ski Patrol Building

1. Meeting called to order
2. Roll call of voting members
3. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Review and Approval of Minutes
 - b. President’s Report
 - c. Treasurer’s Report
 - d. Membership and Quotas Report
 - e. Alpine Officials Report
 - f. Gate Judge Report
 - g. Coaching Report
 - h. ACC Report
 - i. ECC Report
 - j. USSA Affiliation Agreement – NEW BY-LAWS
 - k. Age Chair Reports
 - l. PARA B-Netting Grant
 - m. Web Site Report
4. NEW BUSINESS & Discussion:

Item	Description		
a.	<p><u>Change from the current Quota method used to determine championship field to an approved percentage of racers in each division.</u> – Mike Jacobson</p> <p>For the last couple of year there had been a lot of issues (and stress) with the publishing of a quota list (based on various issues). The last couple of years the PARA Board has reviewed/approved the percent of racers for each championship/derby in the Spring. The current numbers for these championship events are U12 (40%), U14 (40%) and U16 (50%). I propose that each Region Chair uses these percentages on their age group standings (defined as active racers, registered in PARA, assigned to team in that region) to determine the number of athletes allowed to attend derbies. This will remove the need for a separate quote "system". NOTE: I think we should round up the selections but this in the implementation.</p> <p>Ex1. 37 boys U12 = 37 * 40% = Round(14.8) = 15 Ex2. 22 girls U16 = 23 * 50% = Round(11.5) = 12</p>		
b.	<p><u>Recognize athletes who qualified for Piche at the U14 and U12 PARA Derbies as members of the State Team.</u> – Mike Jacobson</p> <p>We have not really looked at this since the J to U age classes. Below is the current data on the percent of State Team members and the athletes in each age group (data of the derby quotas).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U19&U21 - 85 Athletes - 17 State Team = 20% • U16 - 147 Athletes - 24 State Team = 16% • U14 - 192 Athletes - 10 State Team = 5% • U12 - 169 Athletes - 12 State Team = 7% <p>As can be seen this percent is VERY low for the U14s and U12s compared to the U16 and higher. If we included all the Piche athletes in U12 and U14 as qualified as PARA Derbies then the new percentages are seen below:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U14 - 192 Athletes - 27 State Team = 14% • U12 - 169 Athletes - 20 State Team = 12% <p>The only “cost” to PARA is sweatshirts for an additional 25 racers as we are already sending coaches to the post season events.</p>		
c.	<p><u>NYSSRA Future Star Festival</u> – Tim Brown NYSSRA had planned a two day event to be held at Windham Mountain, NY. The event, which was to be skills based, was open to a total of 100 athletes from NYSSRA, SARA, Tri-State, NJSRA and PARA. Details of the event and curriculum were not provided prior the event being cancelled due to weather/snow condition. PARA was to be allotted 20 quota slots. Does PARA want to support with coaches?</p>		
d.	<p><u>U14 and U16 State Team Training Camp Projects (GS and SL)</u> – Bruce Bedell - I would like to propose in-season PARA State Team SL and GS projects next season for the U14 and U16 State Teams. U14 Eastern Championship quotas are based 50% on population and 50% on performance and will be reviewed every three years. In order to maintain our quotas moving forward, performance will have to improve, particularly with the men. We need to be proactive in working as a State to assure our athletes are as prepared to the highest level they can be for Eastern Champs and Finals events. The U16 Eastern Championship quotas are under similar performance based scrutiny. I would propose a SL camp and a GS camp be held this season. This could be a U14 and U16 combined camp or separate age group camps. I also propose these camps be integrated into existing host program training but supported by two additional non-host program coaches. I also propose there be no registration fee for these camps and lift tickets be priced at race prices. Any incremental costs can be passed onto the participants if necessary (i.e. meeting space rental, materials production). But, this is about getting State Team peers together with on and off-snow programs over a weekend and there will be little to no impact to the host program's regular training program other than the positive impact of State Team peers training together and upleveling the skiing of all athletes on the hill those days. We had a number of visiting State Team athletes train at Roundtop two years ago to prep for post-season championship events and it was a great experience for all. I would also propose the GS camps happen at Blue or Elk as they have appropriate GS hills. The SL camps can happen at almost any other venue.</p>		
e.	<p><u>PARA to identify early season races for scored State Team Members and send Coaches as a way to inject points into PA Cup and U16 PARA events</u> – Mike Jacobson This sometimes happens on a per club basis but we could lower our base points for all of our races if we worked together. I propose we invite our best scored racers (State Team Members) to a few selected races in NH/VT with PARA represented coaches, similar to what we do for post season races. This should lower the points for these racers and therefore the calculated racer penalty. Also we should include U14 State Team+Piche that aged into U16s for these preseason races.</p>		
f.	<p><u>Implement a scored U16 race circuit similar to PA Cup (or use it) that is used to qualify for the U16 Derby</u> – Mike Jacobson We are really doing a disservice to this age group by not requiring specific U16 races. Many of the qualifying events are running on U12 or U14 race course. Given the size of these racers and their equipment it would be preferable to have specific races just for this age group. Currently Elk, Jack Frost and Blue have U16 only races. I hope other mountains would support these athletes and a separate race circuit. I propose that we form a committee to work on this series.</p>		
g.	<p><u>Seeding competitors at the U16 State Championship races</u> – Rob Lipton PARA should revise the scoring to reflect the competitors race points when being seeded in GS and SL. The SG seeding can still use the existing seeding method or some other method decided by the PARA directors.</p>		
h.	<p><u>Awards at all the PA Cup races are for the combined U21/U19 age group. In addition, there should only be one PA Cup (overall) award for the U21/U19 for men and women</u></p>		

	<p><u>and no separate one for U19 only.</u> – Mike Jacobson</p> <p>At last year’s Spring Board Meeting there was a discussion that the U21s never hang around for the awards and there are not many of them either, so some are getting awards for just staying on their feet. Some of the race host then stated they weren’t giving awards to the U21s (it turned out they all did that this season). Next thing that happened was that the U18 age group was raised to the U19. This means that there were even less U21s, only 1 versus 14, if we had stayed with the U18 age group. Since these athletes weren’t recognized at the awards ceremony, some thought they should be excluded from the PA Cup standings but this would go against the “PARA Rules, Procedures and Qualifying Criteria” Nov 2014. Also this document needs to be updated for the U19 age group. Note that 6 of the 17 state team members would have been U21s if the U18 age group was not changed. If we remove the U21s from this standing it will drive them not to attend our races. As they are the probably the better lower point racers this has a impact on the overall race points too.</p>		
i.	<p><u>Add a scored SG race to PA Cup Circuit and/or Speed Camp</u> – Mike Jacobson</p> <p>PARA has done a lot to introduce SG events into the U14 and U16 age groups but nothing is being done at the U19. As a result, many of our State Team members go to post season SG races with 999.99 points (late starts) and little to no experience as we don’t have a Speed Camp or race for them in PARA. For the U19s State Team men 6 out of 9 had 999.99 SG points and women had 6 out of 7 with 999.99 SG points. There are 5 male racers with under 225 points.</p>		
j.	<p><u>Reduce U21-19 State Team size to 12</u> – Curt Schramm</p> <p>The thinking behind this is that it would be a precise fit to the post season event (USSA Eastern Finals) that most of our athletes opt to attend. If we had an exceptional athlete or two that chooses to attend the FIS Finals we would still be able to send a full quota(12) to the USSA Eastern Finals by simply going to the next "alternates" from the results of the PA Cup Series. Athletes attending the FIS event must have an FIS license and are NOT permitted to do both events.</p> <p>Reducing the U21-19 State team size to 12 also reduces the % of athletes from the age group actually making the state team from 20% down to 14%.</p>		
k.	<p><u>Coordinate / oversee entry of PARA athletes to Eastern events during the early /regular season.</u> – Curt Schramm</p> <p>Eastern events usually have quotas that we need to address and most athletes attending these events are selected based on their USSA or FIS point profile. Athletes may also attend as a "Development" athlete and PARA usually has spots available at some of these events for athletes looking to establish or improve on an FIS point profile.</p>		

5. Reviewed Derby/Championships –

a. Voting on Championship locations for 2017 and 2018

- i. U12 – Tussey
- ii. U14 – Seven Springs
- iii. U16 – Blue Mountain

a. Field Size – Currently

- i. U16 – 50% of population, with minimum field size of 70 and maximum field size of 90. This includes 5 discretionary athletes.

- ii. U14 – 40% of population, with minimum field size of 70 and maximum field size of 90. This includes 5 discretionary athletes.
- iii. U12 – 40% of population, with minimum field size of 70 and maximum field size of 90. This includes 5 discretionary athletes.

b. Scoring format changes?

6. Speed Camp –

c. U16 Speed Camp – ?

d. U14 Speed Camp – ?

7. Regional Breakout Sessions - (Request for regions to explore qualifying procedure for Championships)

8. Coach of the Year

9. Alpine Official of the Year

10. Budget

11. Election of Officers

e. President

f. Treasurer