Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2012-2013 Report

April 8, 2013

Submitted by Rob Lipton, Alpine Officials Chair

Ski Racing Season Highlights:

The 2012-2013 Alpine Ski racing season in PA was one of monumental change. Some of this year's changes include; the age classification changes, a variety of new rules, new course setting procedures, renewed emphasis on security of the competitor and a very compressed race schedule, due to a late start; dictated by the weather. However, once the season did start, at least the weather cooperated.

Many changes kept this year's racing season interesting. The Interdiction rule was the topic of many pre-race gatherings. The long and short of it was… "the rule is hard to explain"; but, "you know it when you see it!" Our certified gatekeeper program, championed by Bill Filling, prepared the gate keepers for this rule change as well as single gate GS. PARA's certified gatekeeping program has continued to grow; and has helped to bring consistency to this very important and fundamental task in alpine ski racing. All ROC's have increasingly made use of these certified gatekeepers providing them with the added incentive of an extra lift ticket for their gate judging service. This incentive of an additional lift ticket has been extended to Jury advisors at many of the races held this year; especially at the state-wide races.

PARA also choose to enforce the Interdiction rule for all USSA races (scored & un-scored) to simplify the gate-keepers duties and to alleviate the ambiguity of when U16's could hike in GS and when they couldn't. A vote and passage of the PARA BOD prior to the first AO updates was conducted, and then the racing community was notified and updated on this exception to the USSA adopted rule. A concerted effort to fully educate and communicate this change **worked well** with no negative consequences regarding the PARA decision to enforce the Interdiction rule for all USSA races.

In general, all of this year's AO updates included an in depth discussion of the Interdiction rule and what constitutes a legal pass in a single gate/pole race course. The renewed emphasis on the provisional rerun procedure was yet another avenue for discussion.

Changes in The USSA age classifications and the renaming of these race classifications using a "U" designation with an associated age also took some time to become familiar with. It took half the year for most of us to make the shift from using the "J" designation to the "U" designation without thinking about it.

 This year's USSA course setting guidelines for un-scored competitors no longer allows for an ROC to run scored and un-scored competitors on the same course. This added to the complexity of running events. The fencing requirements especially at the GS venues for security of the competitors continue to grow exponentially. No

longer do Juries rely on the homologation report to satisfy this security of the competitor; we are moving toward fencing and in some cases double fencing most, if not all, of the course. The good-news is that it has significantly cut-down on athlete injuries. Equipment rules that changed in mid-season (exp. Helmets) also kept our Alpine officials on their toes. The concussion protocol and associated competitor listing instituted last year by USSA continue to have growing-pains… I could go on and on but as usual the PARA alpine officials were up to the task and performed their usual exemplary work.

Once again, the ranks of Active PARA's Technical Delegates have decreased. Currently, we have 14 active TD's. There are 123 certified jury advisors/referees in PARA. Our overall number of Alpine Officials in PARA total - 299; most of these AO's have at least 1 certification and 14 alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications.

Yes I will say it once again… We have a dedicated alpine official community in Pennsylvania, and I am very proud and honored to represent them. Thank you and know this that without you, there would be no ski racing in PARA.

Educational Opportunities:

PARA provided four general Alpine Officials workshops, geographically dispersed throughout the state. They were held at Roundtop, Wisp, Jack Frost, and Tussey Mountain (79 participants attended). One of the workshops was sponsored by the Eastern Alpine Official's (EAO) organization and Dirk Gowens presented the workshop. John McGregor and I jointly performed the AO update at Jack Frost. John also conducted a workshop at Wisp and I performed the Tussey Mountain workshop.

I continue to host the PARA AO Website http://scis.nova.edu/~rlipton/para/default.htm. The Alpine Officials community uses this website to retrieve the most recent versions of all USSA forms and documents and to find out about other pertinent updates, rule changes, clarifications and other timely information useful to our AO community. I continue to use a Google doc to schedule the Technical Delegates and Referees for this year's races. TD's have editing rights and everyone else has Read access to the schedule.   You can review the document at
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Atl1DGe5JRA1dEJJcnNvQWtseENPZVFwc2IxbExidEE#gid=0

Ski Racing Statistics:

PARA Calendared Thirty-Eight (38) U8 – U21, Master, Senior, (Men & Women) Races. All were run but 3 venues were switched due to weather and other reasons. One race date was changed

Month & Year	Number of Races Men and Women events counted as one race
December 2012	2
January 2013	12
February 2013	19
March 2013	5

Races Continued:

      10 - Scored
      23 - Non-scored
       5 - Both

For the 12-13 Ski Season, PARA has 14 Active Technical Delegates who worked at <u>least one race</u>.

1 TD's Officiated 6 races
1 TD's Officiated 4 races
7 TD's Officiated 3 races
2 TD's Officiated 2 races
3 TD Officiated 1 race

Upgrades and Promotions *(By the Numbers)*

299 Alpine Officials Registered in PA **(Decrease of 15 over last year and <u>35 over two years)</u>**
19 Exams Administered
      13 Referee (1 failed)
      3 Chief of Race
      1 Chief of Course
      1 Race Administrator
      1 Technical Delegates level 3

There are 40 PARA Alpine Officials recommended for promotion to a level 1 or 2 for 2012-2013 year

Classification	Number of Requests
CC : CHIEF OF COURSE	1
CO : COMPETITION OFFICIAL	28
CR : CHIEF OF RACE	3
DM : DATA MANAGEMENT	6
JA : JURY ADVISOR	15
RA : RACE ADMINISTRATOR	2
RF : REFEREE	10
TC : TIMING AND CALCULATIONS	1
TD : TECHNICAL DELEGATE	
Total	**66**

Level 3 or 4 PARA AO Upgrades Requested 2012-2013

Classification	Number of Requests
CO : COMPETITION OFFICIAL	**1**
TD : TECHNICAL DELEGATE	**1**

Issues and Concerns - on the Horizon

- **TD Shortage on the horizon**
- **Impact of race fees**
- **ROC's escalating costs to prepare the venue**
- **Proposed equipment changes**
- **Federal and State laws/statutes for special needs athletes (IDEA)**

Respectfully Submitted - April 11, 2013
Rob Lipton
Pennsylvania USSA- Alpine Officials Chairman
USSA # 5413679

USSA ID	Official Name	CC	CO	CR	DM	JA	RA	RF	TC	TD
4569463	John Anderson		1							
4817045	Andrew Backlund		2							
5124482	Jeffrey Beinhaur		3							
4441440	Todd Bigatel		1			1		1		
5846530	Sarah Culver		1			1		1		
5079678	James Davenport									5
5351283	Corey Dein		1							
5270897	John Delong		2	1						
5856711	Heather Derr		1			1		1		
6051148	Tish Derr					2				
5312541	George Drummond		1							
5962121	J William Filling									3
5529011	Timothy Flynn		1			1		1		
5855465	Lewis Fowler							2		
5783196	Elizabeth Ginexi					1				
5450200	Julia Glover		1							
5253190	Paige Havens		2							
6308289	William Hosie		1							
6369723	Richard Kinnard		1			1		1		
4781340	Timothy Kunkel	1		1	1					
6464346	Robin Lallement		1			1				
5247218	Ralph Manson		1							
6073167	Madison Matthews		1			1		1		
4998274	Reece McGregor				1					
5870456	Mirra Morris		1				1			
5410949	M Eugene Pavitt				2					
4562336	Matthew Pettit		2							
5550736	Andrea Prokop		1			1				
6266345	Paul Refice		1							
5167176	Benjamin Roth							2		
6129274	Askold Sandursky		1							
4895165	Peter Scheetz			1					2	
6464082	Chuck Seighman		1			1		1		
5062302	Susan Steinbach				1					
5092820	Jason Stetson		1			1		1		
6339831	Rick Stone		2			2				
6001812	Anthony Sulpizio					2				
5614508	Joseph Sulpizio		1							
6286883	Gary Wilhelm		1		1					
6375161	Thomas Yen		1		1	1	1			
4927794	Kara Zavilla		1							