

PARA
[Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association](#)

PARA Rules, Procedures and Qualifying Criteria

(updated November 2014)

Welcome to PARA

Ski racing around the world is governed by the *Federation International de Ski (FIS)* with each country having its own national governing body which in the United States is the *US Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA)*. Within USSA there are Regional and State organizations like the *Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association (PARA)*. The State organizations serve as administrative arms of the National Association and are responsible for organizing races with the State and implementing rules set by USSA in accordance with FIS standards.

In most cases the rules under which we hold races in Pennsylvania are no different than the rules used by World Cup racers. There are specific exceptions made for lower level races and some that are unique to USSA but by and large they are the same. These rules include everything from how many and at what distance gates are set to timing and scoring requirements as well as numerous procedural and operational requirements. PARA does not set rules other than those related to its qualifying procedures and administrative processes. Age classification and equipment rules, for example, are usually set by FIS and later adopted by USSA. Once adopted by USSA all states must operate by the same rules. These [rules](#) may be viewed at [USSA.org](#). ***In order to race, athletes must join USSA and their State organization, which should be done by Oct. 15 to avoid substantial late fees.***

PARA is responsible for scheduling and conducting races within the state to select and qualify our best racers to attend Regional Championship events at the end of the season. PARA administers four state championships; the U12 Derby for racers aged 10 and 11, the U14 Derby for racers aged 12 and 13, the U16 Derby for racers aged 14 and 15, and the PA Cup Series for U18 and U21 racers. Eligibility to the Derbies are earned by competing in the racer's PARA region's qualifying races. The Derbies and the PA Cups are the stepping stones to eligibility for State Teams who proceed to Eastern USSA regional competitions and development camps.

The PA Cup Series consists of eight races. This series will be used to fill quota spots for U18 and U21 Eastern Regional USSA events. This series would include a 3-day Finals weekend consisting of two GS races and one slalom to be held February 20-22, 2015 at Elk Mountain. State Team and post-season event selection would be based on total World Cup points for the entire eight race series.

PARA also provides coaching support to selected regional events at no additional cost to state team members. PARA is also responsible for training and testing officials under USSA guidelines. Testing is standardized across the country and advancement standards are uniform as well. Coaches are licensed and certified by USSA and may reach higher levels of certification through continued training and experience.

PARA is governed by a Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of at least one member from each member club. Directors are selected by their respective Clubs. The Board meets at least annually to discuss operations during the preceding year and to address changes and issues that may be encountered during the next season. It is at this meeting where the schedule for the next season is developed and

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discussed between member clubs. The schedule is not final until the fall when USSA receives confirmed contracts from clubs for each race. The schedule is usually not final until November of each season. The races will be posted on the PARA website as they are confirmed.

RACES IN PARA ARE ONLY POSSIBLE WITH THE COOPERATION OF MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO PERFORM THE VARIOUS JOBS NECESSARY TO SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCT A RACE. While several of the jobs performed during a race require specific license and certification requirements many do not and require only that you volunteer your time and perform your assigned duties. **THERE ARE NO PAID WORKERS AT RACES.** One important position that always needs to be filled is that of Gate Judges who stand on the race hill and watch each racers progress through the gates to judge whether they have successfully completed passage. While not required, PARA has an [online program](#) to train and certify Gate Judges at no cost. Certified Gate Judges may receive certain benefits when volunteering at PARA races. If you are interested in training and becoming a Certified Gate Judge please read the details of the program on the PARA website [paracing.org](#).

When you join a Race Club you will be joining an organization of experienced volunteers who share your love of ski racing. They will also be able to direct you to the appropriate contacts for questions. To get the most out of the experience, get involved in club activities and volunteer for whatever you feel comfortable doing. Take advantage of all opportunities within the club to learn more about the sport and understand the process your athlete is going through. Feel free to contact your Club representatives, directors or any of the PARA Chairs listed on the website to answer your questions. Given the volunteer nature of our sport we are all involved because we love the sport and we will be happy and anxious to help you in any way we can.

Memberships

USSA - USSA is the primary governing body of alpine ski and snowboard racing in the United States. USSA is composed of four geographical regions, with PARA being one of the eight divisions in the Eastern U.S. region. USSA membership is required to gain entry into any USSA sanctioned event. Most if not all races held in Pennsylvania are USSA sanctioned events.

Upon registering in USSA, membership in a state association is required, and a competitor may only belong to one state association. A racer shall race for the state and USSA region in which he/she resides or in which he/she is attending school and/or training on a long-term basis. The choice of which state association to belong, must be made at the start of the season and should be based on where the racer spends the greatest part of his/her ski season. The USSA membership year begins on July 1 and finishes on June 30 of the following year.

PARA – Registration for PARA is selected at the time when a member registers with USSA. A member will also select his/her club association. USSA provides a monthly file of all registrations to PARA as well as immediately updating a member's status to the USSA website. A member's club association determines the region (Northeast, East, Central, and West) within PARA that a racer shall compete. Racers who have no club association or desire an exception to the regional assignment must communicate to the PARA membership chair as to their desired region at the time of their USSA registration.

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PARA membership is required to gain entry into PARA State Championship events. Only PARA members, in good standing as of January 15th of the current season, will be awarded an invitation, based on qualifying race results, to participate in these events.

PARA records are protected to maintain the privacy of membership data regardless of any request.

CLUBS – USSA administers the requirements and process by which club licensing is granted. A Club license requires an annual renewal. Additionally, PARA club membership is defined as a 1) USSA registered club, 2) comprised of PARA members, and 3) payment of \$25 dues by each October 15th. A club can be removed for cause with 30 days notice.

FIS – FIS registration is required to gain entry into FIS level races and certain post season U18 and U21 championship events that are classified as FIS level races. Please consult your clubs program director, coach or the PARA U18-U21 Age Chair for more information and to determine if this level of competition is appropriate for you. Athletes must obtain their FIS registration before January 15th to be eligible to attend the Eastern Jr FIS Championships and the Eastern Alpine Championships.

PARA Races

Each PARA region is responsible to coordinate and establish a calendar of races to be held within the region to promote a competitive environment for the development of experienced and competent racers. Certain races are designated as “Qualifiers” by each Region with the results used to earn advancement by each region’s members to state championship events.

ROC FEES: A Race Organizing Committee is responsible for paying a \$100 per calendar day race fee for non-State events for U16, U14, and U12 races, payable to the PARA Treasurer on or before December 15th. The Race Organizing Committee of the U16 Derby, U14 Derby, U12 Derby, and all PA Cup Series Races, is responsible for paying a \$9 head tax per racer per day to the PARA Treasurer on or before April 15th. The race secretary of each race shall send official race results to USSA, the PARA AO Chair, the appropriate PARA Age Chair, and the appropriate PARA Regional Chair.

MANDATORY VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS: ROC’s are encouraged to utilize the process and rosters of the volunteer gatekeeping program.

- PA Cups: A Race Organizing Committee may solicit in advance for staffing help from other clubs. The ROC may not fine or disqualify a racer if a parent/worker is not available or does not volunteer. Staffing assignments lists will be posted three days prior to an event.
- For all other events: Fines and Disqualification may not be levied by a Race Organizing Committee for lack of a parent-worker that is not present for an athlete.

LATE ENTRIES: Late Entries must be accepted at any regional qualifying event prior to the race day registration period and are subject to 150% penalty of the race fee amount.

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BID PROCESS

- PA Cups: PA Cup assignments (Race #1 and #2 SL only) for Western and Central sites will be based on Western having the first right of refusal to host, up to a limit of 3 years in a row. The Western region was awarded PA Cups under this guideline in 2010, 2011, and 2012. .

An interested venue which can host the designated dates must contact the Executive committee by March 31 of the prior season. Selection, by voting in the case of competing bids for a designated date, occurs at the Spring meeting by the PARA Board of Directors. The Executive Committee must inform the PARA Board of bids under consideration for the Spring Meeting.

- State Championships:

The U12, U14, and U16 Derby bid deadline is two years in advance to permit a new host to assemble the infrastructure needed for the event and to observe the prior host's event and activities. The bid is awarded for two consecutive years. The next cycle will be awarded at the 2015 Spring Meeting for the 2017 and 2018 Derby.

The 2014 Spring Meeting did not have a bidder for the U12 Derby. Clubs were asked to submit bids to the Executive Committee for selection. Tussey Mountain was selected as the U12 Derby host for 2015 and 2016.

The 2014 Spring Meeting selected Seven Springs for the U14 Derby in 2015 and 2016.

The 2014 Spring Meeting selected Blue Mountain for the U16 Derby in 2015 and 2016.

- U12, U14 and U16 Regional Qualifying races:

Qualifying races are self-determined by each region. Proposals should be prepared in consultation with the race organizing committee from the host mountain and submitted through a host mountain's PARA Director at the Spring Meeting during regional breakouts.

PARA State Championship Qualification Procedures:

Eligible competitors can qualify for PARA State Championship events by entering designated qualifier races held within the State Region that the athlete is affiliated with. Each region has different but similar qualifying procedures, as described below. The quantity of invitations awarded by each region, to participate in the state championship events, will be based on quotas established and determined by the PARA Quota Chair. Quotas will be based on pro rata share of age, gender and region. New for the 2015 season, the membership for U12/14/16 will be based on competitors that have raced at least 1 USSA sanctioned race start in the current season by the first Monday in February. Regional Chairs will provide the number of starting racers to the membership chair by the first Monday in February.

Racers must be a member of PARA to be eligible for any post season race invitation or award. If a racer qualifies to compete in a PARA State Championship event, based on race results and/or regional

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qualifying procedures, but is not a member of PARA before the January 15th membership cut-off date; the racer may join PARA by paying a \$100 penalty plus the regular membership dues and late fee, thereby earning eligibility.

All U10 racers and younger are ineligible for the U12 derby, effective with the 2010-11 season.

All U18 and U21 racers are eligible to enter any or all of the PA Cup Championship races, including Finals. There are no qualifying procedures or restrictions to participate at Finals, other than USSA membership and field size limits imposed by the event organizers. However, to be eligible for State Team honors, awards and quota spots to attend USSA Eastern post-season events, a racer must be a member of PARA.

PA Cup participation - 2nd year U16s with coach's approval are permitted to race in PA Cup races 1-5. 1st year U16 who were on the previous year's U14 State Team with coach's approval are permitted to race in PA Cup races 1-5. The racer will not be able to accumulate PA Cup points.

Central – The Central PARA Region Chair will compile the results from the qualifier races held in the region. For the U12 and U14 Derby, qualifying will use 1 more than half of all qualified runs or 6 best results with 2 complete races. New World Cup Points will be used for scoring derby qualification results. U16 Age Class will use 2 GS runs(Blue Mtn) and 4 SL runs(Tussey) for qualification purposes, 6 total.

Eastern - Qualification to the U12, U14 and U16 Championship events will be based on combined New World Cup Points earned in the racer's best seven (7) of twelve (12) results of individual run and finish places held at the four (4) regional qualifier races. The PARA Eastern Region Chair (or his/her designee) will compile the results from the qualifier races held within the region for posting on the PARA website.

Northeastern - Qualification to the U12, U14 and U16 Championship events will be based on combined New World Cup Points earned in the racer's best seven (7) of twelve (12) results of individual run and finish places held at the four (4) regional qualifier races. The PARA NE Region Chair (or his/her designee) will compile the results from the qualifier races held within the region for posting on the PARA website.

Western – Qualification to U12, U14 and U16 Championship events will be based on Place Points earned in the racer's best of one less than half of the individual runs held from regional qualifier races. The Western PARA Region Chair will compile the results from the qualifier races held in the region.

Selection Procedures for PARA State Championship Events

The PARA Regional Chairs compile the results from their regional qualifying races and calculate the final standings for all age and gender groups based on the race finish requirements. Using the regional championship quotas, as established by the PARA Quota Chair, the Regional Chair identifies the athletes in each age and gender group, who are eligible to advance to the PARA State Championship events. The Regional Chairs prepare their region's list of eligible competitors for each championship event, by confirming membership status and then contacting each eligible athlete about their ability and

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interest to attend. The Regional Chair determines when a vacancy is offered to a next-in-line eligible candidate. The lists are forwarded to the applicable PARA Age Chair and Derby Chair along with any requests for discretionary quota slots. Discretionary slots may be requested by an athlete's coach due to extenuating circumstances that affected an athlete from otherwise earning a position.

The PARA Age Chair makes discretionary quota selections based on their best judgment after review and evaluation of all requests submitted prior to the entry deadline. Competitor lists from each are compiled by the PARA Age Chair and Derby Chair to determine the final list of competitors for each event. Official invitations and event information packets are posted for access by each competitor by the event organizing committee.

Selection Procedures for USSA Eastern Developmental Camps, Series and Post Season Events.

The exact number of competitors invited to attend USSA Championship, Post Season Events, and developmental camps and series is determined by state quotas established by the USSA Eastern Region Office. The PARA Age Chairs will be notified by the USSA Eastern Region Office of the state quota allocations, entry procedures and entry deadline prior to each of the PARA State Championship events. A racer's attendance is subject to USSA approval.

PARA's age chairs initially determine the number of quotas per each gender per age class based on the previous year's membership ratio. Subsequent to the final publication of membership data following the January 15th membership deadline, minor revisions may occur if the male/female ratio changes significantly enough to shift quota slot(s) from one gender to another in any particular age class.

Athletes must come to the PARA State Championship prepared to commit to a post season event if an invitation is extended to them. The invitations will be made after the awards ceremony held at the conclusion of the final day of competition. Invitations must be accepted or rejected at that time. Racers may be required to pre-pay the entry fee for the event at the time of acceptance; this entry fee is not refundable.

Athlete Grant Fund - Athletes who are unable to attend a regional opportunity earned by a state team honor, may be eligible for an award from PARA's athlete grant. See the Awards section following this section.

Tie-Breaker Procedure ("Inside / Out Method") – In the event of a tie, when tabulating the final championship results, the following procedure will be used. For the competitors in question, the worst race/run result will be dropped and the point total recalculated for comparison. The competitor with the highest total remaining points will be awarded the higher place finish. If a tie still exists, additional runs will be dropped and the point total recalculated until the tie is broken.

U18 and U21 Athletes – The PA Cup Championship will use the finish results from all races in the series, including Finals, to determine the PA Cup Champion, PARA U18 and U21 State Team and for award of post season invitations. The PA Cup Championship Series is a total of eight (8) races that includes five (5) preliminary races (2 GS and 3 SL) and conclude with three (3) races (2 GS and 1 SL) at the Finals which will be held at Elk Mountain.

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1st year U16s that qualified for the U16 PARA Championships and all 2nd year U16 may compete in the PA Cup finals with head coach approval. These athletes are not eligible for PA Cup points.

Each race will be scored based on USSA official procedures. Rankings will be based on the finish results of all races in the series with New World Cup Points awarded based on order of finish in each race. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method". Weather and unavoidable circumstances may reduce the total number of possible races or the mix of disciplines for use in determining the final rankings.

Two awards per gender would be given for two PA Cup Champions - a U18 and an overall (U18 and U21 combined). The trophies for each Champion, U18 and Overall, will be identical.

Using the final rankings, teams will be selected to compete in the Eastern USSA Finals, the Eastern Junior Finals (FIS) and the Eastern High School Championships. These events may include SG training, SG and/or a SC race, which includes a DH component.

PARA Speed Event Eligibility Criteria: An athlete's participation in speed events (SG and DH) is at the discretion of the PARA coach representing the team at the event. Furthermore, the athlete must meet one of the following criteria to be considered eligible to participate in any post season speed event: (1) The athlete directly qualified for the post season event based on their performance in the PA Cup Series (i.e. was not an alternate selection); (2) Female athletes must have less than or equal to 175 GS points and male athletes must have less than or equal to 150 GS points (based on the latest USSA Points List issued prior to the event), or (3) The athlete must have less than or equal to 250 SG or DH points (based on the latest USSA Points List issued prior to the event). Athletes who do not meet one or more of the speed eligibility requirements may only participate in the technical events (SL and GS).

2015 Eastern USSA Finals :

The Eastern USSA Finals will be held at Gore, NY on March 14 through 17, 2015. The PARA has a quota of 12 racers for this event. The gender ratio is not available at this time. PARA assigns coaches to attend this event to represent the team and provides technical support.

This event includes SG training, and SG and GS races. SG skis are required for SG training and the SG race. SG is a speed event and an athlete must meet PARA eligibility requirements to participate in speed events. (Please refer to the PARA speed event eligibility requirements above.).

This event is a USSA sanctioned event and does not require a FIS registration number.

2015 Eastern FIS Junior Finals (FIS):

The Eastern Junior Finals (FIS) will be held at Okemo Mt, Vt on Mar. 8 through 12, 2015. PARA has a quota of 5 racers per gender for this event. PARA assigns coaches to attend this event to represent the team and provide technical support.

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This event includes GS, SL, and 2 SG races. SG skis are required for the SG races. SG is a speed event and an athlete must meet PARA eligibility requirements to participate in speed events. (Please refer to the PARA speed event eligibility requirements on previous page).

This is a USSA/FIS sanctioned event; therefore all athletes must have a FIS registration number. FIS equipment regulations apply for all events

Athletes in Grade 9 – 12: High School Championship Event - This event is open to all students in grades 9-12. This two (2) day event will consist of a SL and GS race. Public, private and home schooled high school students who reside in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and DC are eligible to participate. New Jersey and New York high school students, who do not have a high school team and who are in good standing as a PARA member, may be eligible for this event.

The Eastern High School Championships will be held at Cannon Mountain in Franconia, NH on March 6 through 8, 2015. This event includes a day of training followed by a GS and SL race. This event is also open to U16 athletes who are High School students.

PARA has a quota of 10 male and 10 female athletes on each state (PA, MD, VA) team entered in this race. Participants must be High School students (grades 9 thru 12). PARA assigns coaches to attend this event to represent the team and provide technical support.

This is a USSA sanctioned event; a FIS license is not required. If a racer is selected to attend one of the other post season championship events, the racer is eligible to participate in this event, also.

U16 Athletes – The U16 Derby will use finish results from all runs held during the championship event to determine the PARA U16 State Champion, PARA U16 State Team and for award of post season invitations. This event will be held February 27 to March 1, 2015 at Blue Mountain.

The total number of athletes invited to the U16 Derby will be 50% percent of the PARA membership in the U16 age class, with a minimum of 65 athletes plus 5 discretionary and a maximum 85 plus 5 discretionary.

The U16 Derby will consist of 1 SG run on Friday, 1 slalom race on Saturday, and GS held on Sunday. Each event will be a Scored USSA race (SG pending USSA approval) with the event result deciding the discipline champion. The overall champions and state team selection will be decided by the cumulative total of each run (5) using New World Cup points. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method". Seeding will be by Council ranking - East, West, Central, and Northeast for 2015 and redrawn every spring meeting (based on USSA approval). Individual Council ranking will be based on Council qualification order. Tie Breaker will be the Inside/out method. Weather and unavoidable circumstances may reduce the total number of possible runs or for use in determining the final rankings.

The U16 Eastern Championships: Using the final rankings from the U16 Derby the PARA quota (determined by USSA East around December 1st) will be selected to compete in the U16 Eastern Championships on March 16-20, 2015 at Whiteface Mt, NY. This USSA scored event consists of: 2SG, GS, SL. Boys and Girls GS races will be held on separate days. There is no SG training scheduled for

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this event. Overall champions will be named by adding the New World Cup points from the first SG, GS and SL.

The U16 Eastern Finals are: Using the final rankings from the U16 Derby, the PARA quota (determined by USSA East around December 1st) will be selected to compete on March 12-15, 2015 at Sunday River, ME. This scored event will consist of a SG, GS, and SL with a mandatory SG training day held prior to the SG race.

U14 Athletes – The U14 Derby would consist of 3 runs of slalom and 3 runs of GS, and an optional SG skills day on Friday. New World Cup points would be assigned for each run and State Team and post-season event selection would be based on total New World Cup Points from the six runs. Discipline awards will also be given for slalom and GS champions based on total New World Cup Points from all three runs of each discipline. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method". This event will be held on February 20 – 22, 2015 at Seven Springs.

The total number of athletes invited to the U14 Derby would be 35% percent of the PARA membership in the U14 age class, with a minimum of 65 athletes plus 5 discretionary and a maximum 85 plus 5 discretionary.

Start orders will rotate within the sub- seed groups in such fashion – run1 A,B,C; run2 B,C,A; run3 C,A,B etc. and random within the sub-seed

Weather and unavoidable circumstances may reduce the total number or mix of possible runs for use in determining the final rankings.

Using the final rankings, teams will be selected to compete in the U14 Eastern Championships and the Francis Piche Invitational for the current year and the U14 East Fundamentals Camp in the following season.

The U14 Eastern Championships: Using the final rankings from the U16 Derby the PARA quota (determined by USSA East around December 1st) will be selected to compete in the U16 Eastern Championships on March 13-16, 2015 at Stowe, VT. This non-scored event will consist of a GS, SL, SG and SkillsQuest.

Francis Piche Invitational - Using the final rankings from the U14 Derby, the team will fill quota spots to compete at Gunstock, NH.

U14 East Fundamentals Camp – The PARA U14 Age Chair will make the selection of athletes who will be invited to participate in this preseason camp. Qualification is based upon the previous year's derby results. The top 2 boys and 3 girls, who return as U14 in the following season, are selected. The camp is held at Sunday River. For this season, the event will be held December 12-14, 2014.

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U12 Athletes – The U12 Derby would be used to select athletes to fill quota slots for the Piche’s Invitational and select athletes for the State Team. It would consist of 3 runs of slalom, 3 runs of GS, plus an optional skills challenge day on Friday. New World Cup points would be assigned for each run and State Team & post-season event selection would be based on total New World Cup Points from the six runs. Discipline awards would also be given for slalom and GS champions based on total New World Cup Points from all three runs of each discipline. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method". This event would be held February 27-March 1, 2015 at Tussey Mountain. Eligibility for the derby is limited to U12 racers.

The total number of athletes invited to the U12 Derby would be 35% percent of the PARA membership in the U12 age class, with a minimum of 65 athletes plus 5 discretionary and a maximum 85 plus 5 discretionary.

Start orders will rotate within the sub- seed groups in such fashion – run1 A,B,C; run2 B,C,A; run3 C,A,B etc. and random within the sub-seed

Weather and unavoidable circumstances may reduce the total number or mix of possible runs for use in determining the final rankings.

Francis Piche Invitational - Using the final rankings from the U14 Derby, the team will fill quota spots to compete at Gunstock, NH.

PARA Awards

Athletic Grant -

State Team – The PARA State Team will be made up of the group of athletes who officially qualify, based on championship race results, to fill the state quota to USSA Eastern Region Post Season Championship Events. This does not include athletes selected as an alternate to fill out the state quota allocation, should a higher ranked athlete decline an invitation.

PA Cup Champion – Two awards per gender will be given for two PA Cup Champions - a U18 and an overall (U18 and U21 combined). The trophies for each Champion, U18 and Overall, would be identical. The PA Cup series would be open to all U18s and U21s..

Frank Sheibley Memorial – Most Dedicated Athlete Award – The Frank Sheibley Memorial Award will be presented to the U18/U21 PARA male or female athlete, as determined by the PARA Executive Board, who exhibits and/or demonstrates the qualities of character and dedication to the sport of alpine ski racing in PARA. Written nominations will be accepted for consideration by the PARA Executive Board by February 15th and the award will be presented at the closing ceremonies of the PA Cup Finals.

PARA Coach of the Year Award – Nominations for the PARA Coach of the Year award should be directed to the Coaches Chair by April 1. The award will include a \$500 towards the awardees coaching educational goals. The final selection will be made by the Executive Committee.

PARA AO of the Year Award – Nominations for the AO Coach of the Year should be directed to the AO Chair by April 1. The final recipients for AO will be submitted to the Eastern Alpine office for

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consideration at their annual meeting. The final selection will be made by Executive Committee.

PARA Gate Judge Education, Recruiting & Incentive Program

Educating and recruiting gate judges for your races can be a daunting challenge. At the 2010 Spring Meeting, PARA voted to adopt a proposal that is designed to

- (1) Create incentives for volunteers to become educated, confident gate judges
- (2) Improve the knowledge and performance of Chief Gate Judges
- (3) Encourage and help ROCs fill gate judge positions prior to race day.

This program does not place any additional requirements on ROCs nor change their existing procedures: but it does set up a mechanism that can help a club meet the goals stated above when it is having difficulty meeting them.

If a club has done an acceptable job in educating and recruiting gate judges, it might not need the recruiting mechanisms established by this program; however, all clubs benefit by utilizing the educational materials. Documents for this program are available from links on the PARA website and [here](#). We encourage clubs to aggressively promote this program to its members.

Each of the educational programs takes about an hour to complete. The exams take about 30 minutes. If your club wants to offer a gate judge clinic for your members or if you have questions about this program, please contact the PARA gate judge coordinator at gatejudge@paracing.org.

GATE JUDGE PROGRAM DETAILS

Assumptions:

- 1) The quality of gate judging has a direct effect on the fairness of races.
- 2) It is the ROC's responsibility to enlist a sufficient number of qualified gate judges from willing volunteers prior to the start of the gate judge meeting.
- 3) USSA/ PARA races benefit by having an effective system in place for gate judge education or recruiting prior to race day.

Explanation of Program:

PARA Responsibilities:

- 1) PARA will enable all clubs to educate their members in gate judging by creating an educational page accessible from the PARA website.
- 2) The educational documents will include self-study materials and certification exams for gate judges and chief gate judges. Volunteers who choose the option of becoming certified may take the exam(s) at their convenience.
- 3) PARA will provide an outline of the gate judge educational documents that can be used to conduct clinics for your members. Clubs are encouraged to offer a gate judge clinic and promote the online documents to its members.

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ROC's Responsibilities:

4) ROCs should establish a goal of having all gate judge positions filled prior to race day. If the ROC can fill these positions without PARA's assistance, they may establish their own procedures for providing incentives to volunteers (such as a free lift ticket for the gate judge).

5) ROCs may request PARA's help to assist in recruiting gate judges. Upon request, the ROC has the right to accept or reject any volunteers who sign up as a result of PARA's help. However, upon selection of a certified judge, the ROC must offer an additional incentive to the certified volunteer. The incentive is:

- a) two complimentary one day lift tickets or
- b) one day lift ticket and a refund of one day race registration fee,

at the ROC's discretion. In both cases, one of the lift tickets must be used by the gate judge.

6) It is strongly recommended that ROCs use only certified Chief Gate Judges and always offer the additional incentive to Chief Gate Judges who are not members of the ROC.

7) If the ROC has not filled all gate judge positions by race day, it is recommended that they attempt to recruit qualified volunteers at race registration, and that they offer one of the additional incentives explained above to certified gate judges at that time. Gate judges who are not certified are not eligible for the additional incentive.

Gate Judge Coordinator Responsibilities:

8) The gate judge coordinator will provide access to an annual list of certified gate judges and chief gate judges so they can verify who is certified.

9) Candidates who pass a certification exam will receive a certification card supplied by the gate judge coordinator.

10) The PARA gate judge coordinator will monitor and rate each club's gate judge education efforts and success in recruiting qualified gate judges. These ratings will be considered when evaluating bids for races and in the continuing certification of gate judges.

11) The gate judge coordinator shall provide notice of revoked certifications based on Chief Gate Judge evaluations.

Chief Gate Judge Volunteer Responsibilities:

12) Chief gate judges will evaluate the performance of certified gate judges and the ROC's recruiting efforts. Gate Judge certification may be revoked based upon evaluation of Chief Gate Judge evaluations.

Gate Judge Volunteer Responsibilities:

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13) Certified volunteers have an obligation to their own club to volunteer at home races, and are not eligible to receive any additional incentives for volunteering at a race hosted by their own club.

14) If the incentive by a host club includes two lift tickets, the second one must be used by his/her spouse, child, or athlete on the day of the race, and has no cash refund value.

15) Certified volunteers who fail to fulfill their responsibilities are not eligible for the additional incentives.

Alpines Official's Appeals Process

Any person who has standing (See USSA-ACR 645) may appeal any decision and/or the results (see USSA ACR 647.1.1) of an alpine ski race sanctioned by USSA and PARA. This appeal must be received within the timeframe consistent with USSA-ACR 647.1.1 and 647.1.2.

Communication of the appeal request must be in writing (see USSA-ACR 647.3). The appeals request may be transmitted via email, fax, or mail to any officer of the PARA executive committee, any PARA director, or the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson.

Once the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson received the request, he/she will convene the PARA Alpine Appeals Committee (see USSA-ACR 647.1.4). This committee, chaired by PARA Alpine Officials chairperson, will consist of at least four (4) PARA Alpine Officials (level 3 or higher) plus the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson.

The PARA Alpine Officials chairperson in consultation with the PARA president shall choose the committee members. These members shall serve at the discretion of the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson.

In the case of an appeal request that is related with a member(s) of the Alpine Appeals Committee those member(s) will reclude themselves. If a quorum is not then possible the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson shall choose a substitute committee member(s).

In the case of an appeal request that is related with the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson he/she will reclude themselves. The PARA president shall appoint a member of the committee to chair the appeal process and shall choose a substitute committee member(s) to serve on the committee consistent with the makeup specified elsewhere in this document.

A fee of \$50.00 and/or \$100.00 consistent with USSA-ACR 644.4 is required with any appeal request. This fee will be refunded if the appeal request is upheld by the PARA Alpine Appeals Committee.

A decision by the PARA Alpines Official's committee will be made within 15 days of the receiving the written appeal request by the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson.

This decision will be deemed final by PARA. However any person with standing may appeal the decision made by the PARA Alpines Official's committee to USSA.

Code of Conduct, Camps & Trainings:

PARA
Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association

In order to insure that all athletes within PARA are in compliance with USSA Code of Conduct, and that it is understood that the Code applies to any events where their activities could be perceived as representing USSA the following shall be required for all activities conducted by a PARA Member Club: All athletes shall be required to sign as a condition of participation a contract stipulating that they will not be in possession of or consume any alcoholic beverage or illegal or banned drugs no matter where the activity takes place. This requirement shall apply to pre-season training and summer camps even though they may take place outside the USA.

B-Net:

Distribution of b-net is according to geographic locations. Each Regional director is responsible for decisions regarding b-net storage and movement.

End