

PARA U19 Age Chair Report

2019-2020 Season

PA Cup Series and State Team

This season 42 female (up 8) and 57 male (down 6) U19 athletes competed in the PA Cup Series.

Overall **field size** for the PA Cups 1 thru 5 **including U16's** – Men 78(low) to 88(high) Average 83.

-Women 63(low) to 72(high) Average 68.

Allowing U16's to compete in the PA Cup series will continue to allow U16's to establish and develop a point profile earlier. Long term, this helps the overall point profile of PARA athletes. Lower point profiles help our athletes going to post season events or events outside of PARA, to get more competitive start positions.

PA Cup races were hosted by Seven Springs (2SL), Blue Mountain (2GS, SL Cancelled weather) and Elk Mountain (2GS, 1SL). Both Blue Mountain PA Cup GS's were also used as GS qualifiers for the Central U16 athletes. PA Cup 6 GS at Elk had the smallest field size of all of the PA Cup races most likely due to it being a Friday event with additional post season schedule dates for athletes to miss school.

From the start of the PA Cup season at Seven Springs through the last races at Elk, penalty points for the series continued to decline in both SL and GS disciplines for both women and men.

The 2020 PARA U19 State Team was comprised of the top 6 ranked female and the top 8 ranked male athletes based on the final PA Cup results at the conclusion of PA Cup 6, 7 and 8 at Elk Mountain. The number for the state team increased by one, to 14, from the previous year at 13.

2020 PARA State Team U19

Anna McDermott	EMSC
Alexandra Howard	2002
Isabel Keating	WTSEF
Riley Pottinger	2002
Elena Carlson	EMSC
Eliza Dewey	2001
	WPRC
	2002 WPRC
	2003
	WTSEF
	2001

Omar Boukhriss	SRRC	2001
Mark Matusinsky	BMRA	2001
Tyler Yost	SRRC	2002
Aiden Gonder	SRRC	2002
Owen Van Der Zwan	BMRA	2001
Weston Greloch	BMRA	2002
Zach Bonner	SRRC	2001
Eric Mole	WPRC	2001

Post Season Events

US Ski and Snowboard U19 Eastern Finals were to be held at Gore, NY from March 19th through March 22th.

Unfortunately due to the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 virus, all competition from the World Cup through our Eastern Region events were cancelled

Our PARA quota for this event was 26 spots.

Eastern High School Championships were hosted by Mittersill NH on March 6-8, 2020.

As usual we sent two teams of athletes to represent PARA.

This is a large event with **over 125 male and 120 female athletes** in the field for each discipline.

USSA Penalty for these events were as follows:

SL- 71.10 (M) 98.48(W)

GS- 97.41 (M) 118.01(W)

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

A spreadsheet with results including team results can be found at the following link:

https://mountainfolk.net/eastern_champs/results2020_corrected3/rankings.php

This year again, we allowed our PARA athletes to sign up for High School Championships in advance rather than wait for results from the PA Cup Finals and the U16 State Championships.

Again this improved attendance of our PARA athletes and helped parents making travel plans for post season events. Time off school for post season events remains a factor with some athletes, after taking time off to compete during the regular season.

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 MUST first contact the program director/head coach from their home program, who will then contact the U19-U21 Chair.

DEVO spots are awarded by lowest points(per discipline) for athletes on the PARA FIS DEVO list. PARA has three spots for each gender.

There are very limited opportunities to attend "OPEN" FIS races also. Entry to these events is based on USSA/FIS points. These guidelines may be subject to change.

This season there were two FIS events in our "local" region. NWAC in New Jersey hosted two days of FIS SL racing and Blue Mountain hosted two days of FIS GS racing immediately after the NWAC event. Both events were well attended and will most likely return to the schedule for next season as well.

If an athlete is considering racing at the FIS level, please have a discussion between the head coach, athlete and parents. There is a considerable amount of time commitment and travel over and above the "normal" PARA competition season.

Please be aware of requirements for FIS level racing as they are in many ways different from USSS racing.

FIS requires a separate license from your USSS license to compete.

Equipment rules are different for ski length and radius.

PARA does NOT provide coaching staff for athletes attending these events. Other arrangements for representation at these events MUST be made prior to attending an FIS event.

Program Directors / Head Coaches MUST notify the U19/21 Age Chair if they have an athlete that wants to attend an FIS event. If we don't utilize our quota spots at an event, It is important for us to let the race organizer know so those unused spots may be released to be filled by other athletes.

Summary

-The PA Cup races were again complimented this year by having many U16 athletes competing and starting to establish their USSA point profiles.

-Attendance for the High School Championships continues to be a challenge due to the timing of the event. This year there were only four days between our last PA Cup races until the start of the event. This left little time for athletes to make a commitment to the event if they had not already signed up.

Again, we did "open" sign-ups to attend HSC, prior to our PARA final events. Sign-up documents were posted on the PARA website, which allowed for some early commitments to the event. Plans are to continue this with an earlier release of the sign-up forms allowing more time for athletes to make commitments and travel plans.

HSC is a challenging and well run event with low points. It is also great exposure for younger U16 athletes or any high school athlete looking for some great competition. Students from the Mid-west as well as New England region provide some fantastic teams to this event.

-Unfortunately there was no post season to speak of this year due to the COVID pandemic. Hopefully we can all get through this worldwide event safely and remain healthy to come back next year ready to go!

-Recognizing our PARA athletes at post season events continues to be something that we should be supporting and have started to address. Providing access to a "TEAM" garment is a nice addition for the athletes at any post season event. It is the one thing that most post season athletes would like to have

and have repeatedly asked for. An “online” store was up for a short time again this season again and we will work to make this site accessible again for next season. Please check the PARA website for that information.

-Thank You to all ROC's, officials, coaches, parents, volunteers and especially the athletes for making this season happen...we couldn't do it without all of you!

Submitted 4/28/2020

Curt Schramm
U19 Age Chair