

**PARA U12 Chair Report  
(2019-2020 Season)  
Tim Brown, U12 Age Chair**

**U12 Derby –**

The event took place February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>. The field consisted of a total 90 racers, 51 boys and 39 girls.

The event consisted of three runs of GS on Friday, a Team Competition/Skills event and slalom training on Saturday, followed by three runs of Slalom on Sunday. The Team Competition event included an obstacle course which brought many smiles and laughs not just from the racers but from parents and coaches as well.

Saturday afternoon/evening consisted of a zip line event, banquet and a raffle, all held at the mountain. Sunday afternoon consisted of an awards ceremony.

As both the age chair and a coach I had the opportunity to spend the majority of my time on the slope. I was very impressed with the behavior and sportsmanship exhibited by all the racers. Congratulations to all the racers who attended. I found that the quality/level of the field to be representative of what I would expect at a state championship event. Laughs, fun, camaraderie, building life-long friendships and life lessons is what it is all about at this age.

Special thanks to Ben Shirk and his staff, as well as Sandy Stefanic who acted as the derby chair again. Sandy retired after this year's event and will be replaced by Alice Anderson. Alice was on hand all weekend, so the transition should be seamless. Special thanks to Joe Bender for all his help with the World Cup calculations, despite him not being able to be at the mountain. I would also like to thank all the coaches and parents for all their help, both on and off the hill. Special thanks to Sam Ganow for being the TD.

The PARA State Team consisted of 10 boys and 10 girls.

The following racers qualified for the PARA State Team based on their results at the derby.

**Boys**

- |                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. Curt Friedrich      | BMR   |
| 2. Collin Schreiber    | BMR   |
| 3. Junchao Wallace     | LMRT  |
| 4. Luke Hodgkinson     | WTSEF |
| 5. Nevyn Best-McIntyre | BMR   |
| 6. Forest Barnes       | WTSEF |
| 7. Charlie Neel        | BMR   |
| 8. Joshua Burstein     | WTSEF |
| 9. Timothy Brands      | DCWSC |

10. Mark Driker JFBB

#### Girls

1. Johanna Cook	BMR
2. Ava Heidenreich	WPRC
3. Tara Pak	LMRT
4. Talia Keithley	SRRC
5. Harper Pallman	EMSC
6. Cameron Starner	SRRC
7. Jennifer Ma	BMR
8. Drue Lincoln	TMART
9. Lauren Waskowitz	WPRC
10. Blair Kennedy	WTSEF

#### **Francis Piche Invitational –**

The Francis Piche Invitational was to be held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. The event was cancelled after the first two training days. This year's PARA quota originally consisted of a total of 40 racers. This year's quota was allocated as 11 U12 boys, 11 U12 girls, 9 U14 boys and 9 U14 girls.

PARA was to send a total of 24 U12 racers after the quota was expanded. The team consisted of the 20 state team members along with two additional girls and two additional boys. The event was to consist of two optional training days on Wednesday and Thursday, a Dual Slalom/Team event on Friday, GS race on Saturday and a slalom race on Sunday.

Special thanks to the PARA coaches, as well as TD Rob Lipton for their efforts prior to the event being cancelled.

#### **Future Stars Festival –**

NYSSRA was going to hold two-day event at Gore Mountain, NY. The event, which was skills based, was open to a total of 100 athletes from NYSSRA, SARA, Tri-State, NJSRA and PARA. Prior to the event being cancelled PARA had commitments from 19 racers.

The quota was initially open to state team members but opened to all U12 racers after many state team members declined. Racers were offered slots based on overall derby results.

I received, for the most part, positive feedback the last three years about this event from both parents and racers. However, fielding a team continues to be somewhat of a challenge for various reasons including the event date (late season).

## Eastern Region U12 Skills & Duals Project

The U12 Project was held at NWAC on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The intent of the project is to bring U12 racers from the northeast together for a camp focused on skill development, tactics and technique. The camp consists of training courses and dual slalom and GS courses. PARA sent a total of 18 racers.

The following coaches report is from Jim Pottinger, who along with Ty Newman, represented PARA.

<b>Coaches summary of the event:</b>
The project was very successful! With 60 eastern athletes from NYSSRA, Tri-State, PARA, & NJSRA. We had an all-star staff to run the project. <u>Kathy O &amp; Fred Turton</u> , shared more effective ways to communicate with children, to set effective environments, and identify fundamental skills needed for success. <del>.....</del> Schone & Derek and the NWAC Staff worked behind the scenes to set the stage for us. The surface was World Cup hard! It was a great experience for the kids to feel that! Sochi Olympic athlete, Julia Ford brought a unique experience to the project. Her exuberance for life and the sport, her willingness to share and engage, her hard work, energy, and smile was so inspiring and infectious! The kids loved her! Lastly, Eastern Staff, Sam Damon & Nate, (who had tons of work elsewhere) came to help.
The environments (over 15 different ones) provided the athletes an opportunity to focus on discipline specific goals like pole planting, transition, <del>.....</del> pressure in the fall line, edge angles, clean carving, to name a few.
Wednesday was dedicated to SL. Thursday was dedicated to GS.
Each afternoon session, the athletes got to go head to head in a pro style dual with a jump! PARA was well represented!
I highly recommend PARA continue to support these events. Our athletes get to ski and train with some of the best athletes in the east and <del>recieve</del> outstanding coaching and exposure!

As the age chair I have received a lot of positive feedback about this event and hope PARA will continue to support it go forward by sending, and supporting, at least two PARA coaches.