

2024 Eastern Children's Committee (ECC) Summary

- Spring meeting held via Zoom on April 19, 2024
- Report from Scott Graham, Eastern Development Coach
 - o His role focused more on U16+ this season and will likely continue to do so going forward.
 - o Successful early season U14 project at Sunday River, multiple PARA attendees.
 - o Share the drill with up and coming coaches. Develop depth among course setters.
 - o Noted an array of podium and top 10 results of Eastern athletes at high level U16+ events and attributed those results to athlete development at youth levels.
- Report from Sam Damon, Eastern Region Director
 - o East region developing depth in skier fundamental quality and pace. Noticeable at the grassroot level, not just academies.
 - o Major contributor to this growth in depth due to collaboration between clubs/divisions. Highlighted Okemo's willingness to make venue available for outside clubs/divisions to host speed development events. Noted PARA events w/ American Downhill.
 - o Regional level resource utilization (regional coaches, project development) will remain weighted to the U16+ age categories. Youth development needs to be driven by divisions.
 - o Highlighted error in course dying near finish in GS at U14 Championship that lead to DNF/DSQs. Noted need for consistency in course dying so as not to mislead athletes.
- U14 Eastern Championships
 - o Viewed as success despite weather challenges.
 - o SG cancelled due to weather.
 - o Some pushback from committee reps on effect from butterfly start list approach.
 - Due to the degrading race surface, especially noted in SL, athletes in back 1/3 of start list didn't have much chance to be competitive on the respective run.
 - Scott Graham, Diann Roffe advocated for the continued utilization of the butterfly approach and stressed the need for ROC to work towards maintaining the best surface possible.
 - o 2025 event to be held at Whiteface.
- U14 Finals
 - o Originally planned for Catamount, weather forced move to Berkshire East.
 - o Low attendance (~50 athletes)
 - Early March weather accelerating southern division athletes transition to spring sports.
 - Registration announced/opened late.
 - Divisions need to better market event.
 - o One suggestion was potentially utilizing a more well-known resort (for example Stratton, Killington) as venue so families may view as opportunity for vacation.

- Eastern leadership desires to persist with the event into next season with annual review.
- Due to ability to host event on such short notice this season and geographical location event likely to be at Berkshire East in 2025.
- Division Reports
 - Focus from several divisions on division-level GS and SL 'projects'.
 - Bring together athletes outside of formal competitive environment.
- New Business/Open Discussion
 - No new major proposals/policies coming from the committee.
 - High value to inter-club training sessions.
 - Paneled SL viewed as valuable format for U10/12 events.
 - Important to not train to a race schedule at youth levels. Train with seasonal development plan and attend races as they fall on the schedule.
 - Discussion on USSS Western Region club proposal to be presented at USSS Congress to potentially adjust vertical drop limits for U10 racers. Limits would be adjusted to mirror U12 limits. Link to proposal : [U10 Vertical Drop Proposal - USSS Congress](#)
 - Committee did not envision passage of proposal at Congress.
 - Develop Eastern Region specific development best practices similar to USSS ATS.
 - Need to not be redundant, be continually updated, distributed to right people, and reflect all divisions in Eastern Region. More to come.
 - Committee considering developing SG/GS Kombi course setting guidelines.
 - Discussed new USSS Coach Education Platform regarding cost/value.
 - Thought was that more to come especially after Congress.
 - Nothing written in stone just yet.

Patrick Wende
 PARA ECC Representative