



B-NETTING MATCHING GRANT CHAIR REPORT 2022-2023 Season

Two clubs applied for PARA matching funds to purchase B-nets in the 2022-23 season, WPRC & Montage, and the Executive Committee awarded grants to both totaling roughly \$2,500. The Kelley Brush Foundation (KBF) awarded both clubs matching grants totaling another \$5,000.

Clubs purchased a total of \$10,000 in B-nets using the \$2,500 total awarded by PARA this year – a 4x leveraging of PARA funds.

This was the 8th year of the PARA Ski Racing Safety Matching Grants Initiative, and the program has been very successful. To date, PARA spent just over \$16,000 over 8 years and which has resulted in roughly \$50,000 in B-netting purchased – a roughly 3x leveraging of PARA funds.

The program further leverages club and PARA resources, as clubs are eligible for special discounted KBF pricing on the nets when they are awarded a KBF grant. Seven of the nine times PARA awarded a club a grant, that club also applied for and won KBF funds.

The current maximum PARA Matching Grant amount is \$2,000. The Chair recommends that maximum be increased to \$2,500, and that the program be amended to specifically state that no PARA club in good standing awarded a KBF grant shall be denied a PARA matching grant regardless of the total amount budgeted. PARA has budgeted \$6,000 per year, and greatest total amount of matching funds awarded by PARA in any one year to date is \$4,000.

Results to Date:

Year:	Club:	Club Funds:	PARA Match:	KBF Match:	Total Purchase:
2022	WPRC	\$1,995	\$1,995	\$3,989	\$7,978
2022	Montage	\$515	\$515	\$1,030	\$2,060
2019	Montage	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,500
2017	Tussey	\$1930	\$1930	\$3,860	\$7,820
2016	SRRC	\$1442	\$1442	\$0	\$2,884
2015	WPRC	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000
2015	Elk	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$6,000
2015	SRRC	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$1,000
2014	PARA*	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$12,000
Totals To Date:		\$10,382	\$16,382	\$22,379	\$49,143

Background:

- In 2015, PARA implemented a grant program to provide matching funds for ski racing safety equipment (i.e. B-nets, etc.) for clubs who apply to the program and meet specific funding criteria. Grants are paid directly to the vendor supplying the nets after the club pays its portion of the funds (following the KBF model).
- In 2019, PARA amended the program to align the PARA application process with KBF's new Spring application deadline, and to automatically award PARA matching funds to clubs that are awarded KBF grants.
- Clubs are encouraged to apply to KBF first, and state on their KBF applications that PARA will match the club's funds (up to the maximum PARA match of \$2,000). If awarded a KBF grant, clubs only need to provide PARA with the KBF award letter and a vendor invoice showing the already club paid its portion of the total netting purchase.
- In 2014, PARA was awarded a \$6,000 KBF matching grant to support net purchases for PA Cup events. This original KBF matching grant and the resulting doubling of PARA funds led to the creation of the current PARA matching grant program.*
- Prior to 2014, PARA supported clubs' B-Netting needs through a combination of directly purchasing nets on behalf of clubs, and facilitating group-rate purchases with vendors. Clubs retained possession of the nets purchased by PARA, and questions were raised about transparency and equity regarding the net distribution across PARA.
- The Matching Grant Initiative created in 2015 provides transparency and fairness, and an outstanding leveraging of PARA resources to be benefit of its member clubs and athletes.
- The Netting Chair can also provide clubs seeking a KBF grant with successful examples of KBF grants the chair has written on behalf of PARA, etc. to help improve the club's chances of being awarded a KBF grant.

Recommended Next Steps:

The Chair recommends that the maximum award amount be increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500 to keep up with inflation, but that we not increase the budgeted amount from the current \$6,000. (In 2015, \$8,000 in a combination of club, PARA and KBF funds, would purchase 25 B-net systems at KBF pricing. At last season's KBF pricing, that same amount would purchase only 20 B-net systems.)



The Chair also recommends the program be amended to specifically state that no PARA club in good standing awarded a KBF grant shall be denied a PARA matching grant even in the unlikely event that the budgeted amount for this program has been exceeded for that particular year.

The greatest total amount spent on this program in any one year only been \$4,500. The average amount spent each year is closer to only \$2,000.

A program description is now PARA website which mentions the Spring KBF deadline and that PARA matching funds are automatically awarded when the club receives a KBF grant. Thank you to Carrie Scheetz for making that happen. <https://paracing.org/para-ski-racing-safety-matching-grants-initiative>

Thank you to all of those who have taken the time to apply for KBF grants to make PARA resources go further and increase ski racing safety in the state. For more information about the program see the PARA website, and feel free to contact the Netting Chair directly if you have any questions or would like examples of successful KBF applications.

Sincerely,

Kurt Zwally
B-Netting Grants Chair, 2015 to present
Vice President, 2009 to present
vicepresident@paracing.org

Proposed Motion: The maximum PARA grant award amount is increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500 per club, per year, while keeping the amount PARA budgets for this program at the current level of \$6,000 per year.

No PARA club in good standing awarded a KBF grant shall be denied a PARA matching grant even in the unlikely event that the budgeted amount for this program has been exceeded for that particular year.