



2018/2019 President’s Report

PRESEASON

U.S. Ski and Snowboard continued to put a heavy emphasis on SafeSport training and Background checks. Those individuals with a direct Club involvement and those with a direct interaction with minors are required to fulfill the training as part of the Membership requirements.

Eastern offered several Preseason workshops.

- There was a Pennsylvania Youth Symposium held in early November at Blue Mountain which was led by Kathy Okoniewski, Diann Roffe, and Sally U. ***This was a first in a long time for PA and should be scheduled as a regular event if possible.*** Possibility of including One Love Foundation information/speaker as well as SafeSport.
- There was an Eastern Regional Workshop focused in-depth on Timing and Calculation as well as other AO topics. This workshop was led by Dan Chayes, Sam Ganow, and Matt Howard. ***Again, a very well received event which should be a part of PA’s regular preseason workshops.***

Four preseason PARA Alpine Official updates were provided across the state covering East/NorthEast, Central, and Western. These valuable sessions provide up-to-date information covering USSA 2016/2017 updates. Additionally, several clubs provided updates to their contingents and were primarily educating the racer’s parents on the basic rules of Alpine ski racing.

MEMBERSHIP

The overall PARA Membership level saw another increase in the 2018/19 season. The increase is primarily represented by the new USSA Category “Alpine General” and an increase in U10.

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
1215	1183	1197	1218	1345	1378	1444	1514

- Alpine General shows significant growth. ***With the increased demand for more competition certifications, PARA and the clubs need to provide educational opportunities to the AG group as a progression towards AO.***
- 70% of our competitors are in the U14 and younger categories. The U16+ Age Categories appear to have stabilized from a competitor field-size perspective. The actions PARA has taken over the past few years to provide additional competitive opportunities for U16s are taking hold allowing for better points. One of PARA’s primary focuses should continue to be on U16+ competitions, ***however it is time to align PARA’s focus on U14 and younger. U10 continues to grow and PARA should investigate the best balance between training and competing for this group.***

ALPINE OFFICIALS

During the 2018-19 season, there were 347 Alpine Officials in PARA. This is an increase of ten Alpine Officials in PARA from the previous 2017-18 year. At least 204 had attained at least one AO certification; which is a decrease of five from the 2017-2018 year. Fourteen alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications. This is the same number as last year. There are 14 active certified Technical Delegates in PARA. Of the 14 certified Technical Delegates, 13 TD’s (two more than last year) officiated the PARA’s race calendar as Technical Delegates. ***Based on the number of PARA events, it is imperative that PARA accelerate an increase in the TD population.***



SEASON

Killington World Cup

The Killington World Cup event invited other Eastern Athletes (not just VARA) to participate in the “Parade of Ski Clubs” before the start of Sunday’s competition. Representatives from NY, Tri-State, SARA, and PARA all participated. PARA had approximately 20 athletes/chaperones attend. PARA had a banner made which was carried by members. The organization for this has been primarily word-of-mouth and via website announcements.

Events

The weather was reluctant at the beginning of this season. The training was delayed by a week or so for the clubs.

PARA hosted forty-four (44) U10 – U21, Master, Senior, (Men & Women) Races, training days and 1 Super G camp that was 2-days in length. This year, no race or training days were canceled. Six race days were rescheduled.

The weather in mid-late Feb/early March did not cause the amount of havoc as had occurred for the 2017/2018 PARA Championship events. However, there were weather issues at the Championship events and the hosting sites did an outstanding job communicating any changes to the scheduled events.

PARA will be implementing a Championship Kick-off Call at 2 weeks and 1 week prior to the events so that the ROC, Age Chair, Derby Chair, and Executive Board have a consensus statement concerning the events. This allows for clear communication to the PARA population as to any last-minute updates or changes associated with the event.

Our racers enjoyed success at the Post Season event they attended, and we had some outstanding results. Our programs are gaining respect from around the region and the efforts of our clubs to improve training and increase the skill of our racers seem to be paying off.

Weather not only hits the PARA events. Events were modified to accommodate changing weather conditions. SG training was held Thursday morning followed by the SG race Thursday afternoon due to the weather forecast for Friday. SL and GS events were flipped with SL run on Saturday and GS on Sunday.

PARA does have an issue with athletes attending Post Season Events. We were able to fill quota spots with alternate athletes but the scheduling, spring break, and time commitments to school and other sports’ training is causing PARA some issues. Recognizing our PARA athletes at post season events continues to be something that we should be supporting and have not addressed. Providing access to a “TEAM” garment would be 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. Thanks to Dan Chayes and Curt Schramm for setting up a PARA Gear online ordering site for athletes to buy PARA gear. We should consider establishing this as an ongoing method for this cool swag.

Competitor Focuses

As previously indicated, ***PARA and its member clubs need to find innovative ways to make U12 and younger athlete population focus more on making the process important vs making the actual competition the focus.*** How does PARA encourage more continued participation at the younger levels? What can PARA provide which helps the clubs provide a fundamental change in the way the younger age groups are addressed? How do we make competitions fun and hold the attention? Coaches education; Divisional visit by the Eastern Youth Team; Team events/Dual-events; Events with other affiliated states?

Finally, the issue surrounding what constitutes athlete qualifications for consideration towards quotas for post-season events needs to be clarified. These qualifications should reflect the numbers of athletes committed in participating in



most season events. ***Some percentage of athletes still do NOT compete in any PARA event prior to the quotas being finalized.***

COMMUNICATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA

#1 – thank you to all the PARA correspondents for providing write-ups, pics, and pushing comradery amongst our athletes. The twitter account (@pa_alpineracing) and Instagram account (@pa_alpineracing) continue to be used to help with both inward and outward promotion of PARA athletes and events.

The www.paracing.org website continues to be the primary vehicle for general news, announcements, and updates associated with the organization. As an organization, we should be providing short event articles with pictures stating the key accomplishments and results from all the Cup and Regional events. Promotion of our accomplishments continues to be worked. We need ROCs or club to provide a few pictures and a summary write-up of the event/awards so that we can continue feeding the promotional machine. By using our website, we should be marketing our racers' results within state and post-season.

The website continues to be maintained via our webmaster Carrie Scheetz. Thanks Carrie for keeping all the information up-to-date. There will be continued efforts over the next months to clean-up older information (FAQ) and provide more relevant information and links.

A PARA Facebook page (pennsylvaniaalpineracing) and group continue to be used to push an additional communication path. There have been some good questions generated via this mechanism and PARA will continue to use it as a communication vehicle.



LOOKING FORWARD

PARA must continue to look at promoting and providing educational needs of its membership

I attended the Pre-Congress Teleconference 2019

Key US Ski and Snowboard Changes

- Membership
 - General and short-term memberships are now restricted to those ages 17 and under
 - Non-Scored Athlete
 - Replaces Non-Scored Student and Rookie (available in non-nordic sports)
 - Age restrictions vary by sport
 - Short Term Foreign
 - Not available online
 - Contact Member Services directly to purchase
 - Minimum of 48 hours prior to event
 - Available to those 18 and over
 - Combined U10 and U12 categories in Alpine, Cross Country and Jumping Nordic Combined
 - Return of adaptive athlete memberships for Alpine and Cross Country
- SafeSport Training Requirements
 - All members turning 18 years of age and older during the season are required to complete SafeSport training through the U.S. Center for SafeSport (substitutions are not permitted). *Some alpine masters excluded per member club authorization
 - Membership cards will only display those memberships for which all requirements have been met
 - Those with incomplete requirements will remain on pending status
 - Members on pending status are not eligible to participate in U.S. Ski & Snowboard events until requirements are met
- Background Screening Requirement
 - **All adult members, with the exception of some alpine masters and short-term members, are required to undergo background screening**
 - Membership cards will only display those memberships for which all requirements have been met
 - Those with incomplete requirements will remain on pending status
 - **Members on pending status are not eligible to participate in U.S. Ski & Snowboard events until requirements are met**
 - **Please allow several weeks for screening process to be completed. Individual screening times will vary. Foreign screenings may take a month or more**

Key US Ski and Snowboard Communications

- Beginning May Member Services will reach out to all clubs and members on the following topics
 - We cannot put a price on Athlete safety!
 - All U.S. Ski & Snowboard club coaches are required to hold a membership at the Volunteer level or higher to ensure SafeSport training and background screening
 - U.S. Ski & Snowboard member club staff, administrators and board members are required to hold a membership at the Volunteer level or higher to ensure SafeSport training and background screening

- SafeSport training requirement for all those turning 18 (and older) during the 2019-20 season (includes athletes)
- Background screening requirement for those 18 and over to register early (includes athletes)
- **The days of last-minute registration are over**
- **Plan ahead and register early!**

New website Public Tools and Design look



Discussion in-progress requiring all event coaching to be at least a Level 100 Coach. Within a period of time, event coaches will have to be more than “Fast Coaching” level



COACH EDUCATION PATHWAY



U.S

PARA Items for Consideration and Enforcement

- Team Captains Meetings
 - A Team Captains Meeting is required ACR216. It is an “inseparable part of the competition and is important for communication of jury instructions, support of the OC, OC requests and information as well as a critical element for risk management and liability related matters.”
- Course Inspection by Team Captains
 - Not only is it the responsibility of the Officials to inspect the course, Team Captains are afforded the right to inspect the course with the Jury. Providing access is necessary to meet this right
- Jury Advisors



- The duties of the Start Referee are set forth in ACR U601.3.3. A Start Referee “must remain at the start from the beginning of the official inspection time until the end of an ... event.” ACR U601.3.3 (emphasis added). Most member areas do not provide Jury Advisors which meet this time commitment and, as a result, there is no control over competitor course access (particularly the Start Area) at most races.
- Course Setter Interference/Course Changes After Course Approval
 - The Course Setter’s duties and authority are set forth in ACR 603.7.5. Course setting is a task of the course setter alone. ACR 607.7.6. He (or she) is responsible for adhering to the rules of the ACR and is supervised by the Jury. Under no circumstance should a course be changed by any person from the host mountain without discussing it with the course setter.
 - ACR 603.7.4 directs that the course is to be set and ready in time so that competitors are not disturbed during course inspection. Nobody except for the Jury is permitted to change gates. ACR 614.1.4. Only if minor necessary changes are made to the course set is a second inspection not required. ACR 614.1.5. Changing the course set during inspection is occurring must cease.
- Gate Keepers & Race Volunteering
 - The lack of quality of gate keepers and race volunteers continues to be a burden upon the Jury, Coaches and the athletes themselves. Efforts to bolster the education, certification and quality of gate keepers and race volunteers should continue to be a priority of PARA and each host mountain’s ROC.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Bond
President – Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association