



2019/2020 President’s Report

Uncertainty, Adaptability, Safety

PRESEASON

COVID-19 created havoc. Ski area operations was still an unknown through October/November 2020. If in operation, it was certainly unclear what the areas would accommodate regarding race training or race events. The state of PA had limitations for several activities and interstate travel restrictions. Since many PARA racers come from surrounding states, this caused concern.

PARA had regular online discussions amongst the PARA BoD openly discussing the situation. USSS-Eastern cancelled any post season events in general.

The PARA regions made decisions for the competition season based on the USSS event COVID limitations. There were a few factors surrounding those regional decisions:

- Event venue availability due to ski area operational procedures
- Residence of participating racers and interstate limitations
- Suggested limitations on overnight stays

MEMBERSHIP

The overall PARA Membership level saw a decrease in the 2020/2021 season. This isn’t surprising due to the preseason uncertainty. This represents a 4% decrease which appears to be trivial based on initial preseason uncertainty. It is suspected that families were eager to get back to some normalcy. Being outside while masked in smaller groups and health checks, made families feel more comfortable. However, if you look at the details, it shows that PARA needs put focus on capturing younger competitors.

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
1215	1183	1197	1218	1345	1378	1444	1514	1531	1458

- A ~ 20% decrease in U10/U12 age categories
- Alpine General growth of 32%. Was the u10/u12 decrease absorbed in AG due to the uncertainty in u10/u12 event availability?? Cheaper membership for the season??
- U14/U16/U19/U21 had minimal changes

ALPINE OFFICIALS

COVID restricted the process of certifying race officials (no certification exams). How can PARA work with USSS-Eastern on creative opportunities for online examination? Society has been working online for the past 14 months and found ways to get work done. This leads to finding ways to make the exam process more efficient and effective.

It is imperative that PARA accelerate an increase in the TD population.



SEASON

Events

Events were only scheduled in Eastern, Western, and Northeastern. Central decided to suspend race events this season.

The race events which the regions did host were restricted by USSS operating procedures and ski area procedures. Some positive outcomes from the procedures:

- Pre-event online coaches meeting; allowing for more coaching time on race day
- Team coach registration/bib distribution; alleviating race day chaos in racer registration
- Electronic/Online/SMS communications between ROC, Official, and Coaches; better and more efficient communication before, during, between, and post runs; Usage of WhatsApp as used by other USSS-Eastern regions may be a consistent and beneficial communication mechanism.

PARA held a mid-January online session to determine PARA State Championship. Cancellation of the events was voted upon unanimously.

Eastern Projects

Projects were suspended in 2020/2021.

Late in the season, USSS-Eastern did create a limited end-of-season project. Interested racers had to send in a video resume for selection purposes. Feedback from the Sugarloaf Women's Project was the event was very worthwhile with 4 days of skiing/drilling and guest speakers each night.

Competitor Focuses

It was a good year to just ski.

Many racers had remote learning over the season and as such they lived at their mountain homes. Many would spend the day remote learning and then take some runs after school. Coaching wise, areas followed protocols limiting the athlete to coach ratio. This limitation gave more coach to racer interaction. It also allowed for more station-type teaching opportunities where the athletes could focus on particular skills.

Going Forward - PARA and its member clubs need to find innovative ways to make U14 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?

COMMUNICATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA

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.

A PARA Facebook page ([pennsylvaniaalpineracing](https://www.facebook.com/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

Educational Opportunities

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

Investigate focused training per season. Example – T&C, RA, Chief of Race, etc.

US Ski and Snowboard – Eastern

- 2020 - Voted upon and approved – U14 State Championship events are mandated to be open events. Re-evaluate for PARA - Will PARA address this mandate?
- Each region run a test event at the U16 level where the entire field is flipped for the second run, in order to level the playing field at this development age.
 - Flip the start order; or,
 - Flip the first run results.

US Ski and Snowboard

- Health of the Sport Task Force
 - Equality across PARA regions; consistent objective on number of events, etc.
 - Alpine Regional Subcommittee – Cost of Ski Racing
 - How do we make ski racing more affordable and what is the right price? – Survey PARA constituents?
- Coaching Requirements
 - Currently, the requirement is listed that all coaches in every sport will be required to have a minimum level 100 certification to coach at any sanctioned U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition/Event by Spring of 2022. So going into 2022-23 season all coaches must meet this requirement. This does not apply to volunteer coaches that do not coach at sanctioned events, though it is a best practice that all U.S. Ski & Snowboard Clubs have all their staff coaches certified at a minimum level 100.

Respectfully Submitted,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bond". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray background.

David Bond
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