



Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2017-2018 Report

April 21, 2018

Submitted by Rob Lipton, PARA Alpine Officials Chair

Ski Racing Season Highlights:

This year's report will mark my 15th year in which I have had the privilege of serving as the PARA Alpine Officials chair-person.

This year's weather was "at least for the most part" was great for ski racing. We in PARA had great snow conditions from Christmas to Easter. There was a bit of a rough patch from mid-February to the end of that month that made some ski-races difficult to run as calendared, but as usual, the ROC's were up to the task. Yes, there were some race cancelations and venue changes to accommodate the ever-changing weather conditions. Nevertheless, our entire PARA alpine racing community should be commended for their efforts to hold quality events. Once again, our Alpine Official's community working in tandem with the ROC's provided fair and safe events no matter the challenges brought by mother-nature.

One of our ROC's (Roundtop) calendared a dual slalom race; by all accounts, it was very successful. Perhaps PARA will decide to calendar more of these in the future.

With US Ski and Snowboard organization's announcement of new ski-equipment specifications/requirements greatly eased the equipment issues experienced in previous seasons Thus there were no issues with athletes competing on non-compliant equipment.

This year brought new Alpine Official certification requirements. They are listed below.

- a. Referee, Assistant Referee and Course Setter must be certified Referees in order to officiate in the respective capacities at all U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned events.
- b. Chief of Timing & Calculations and Race Administrator must be appropriately certified in the respective categories at all U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned events.
- c. Chief-of-Course must be a certified Chief-of-Course, Chief- of-Race, Referee or Technical Delegate.
- d. Jury Advisor (Start/Finish Referee) must be a certified Jury Advisor, a certified Referee or a certified Chief of Race.
- e. All of the above officials must have attended a Continuing Education Clinic (Update) within the last two (2) seasons in order to serve in any of the above capacities.



Once again, we had a choice of two different timing software programs; valid for alpine ski racing. Both VOLA and Split Second were used in PARA. Various race administrators and timing and calculation alpine-officials have reported minimal problems with either timing program. There were some changes to how the calculation of a Replacement Time (Equivalent Electronic Time – EET) is now performed. During this year’s Alpine Official’s clinics, the new process was presented.

[Admin SkiRacing](#) was used again this year to register competitors by the PARA race venues. There were no reports of problems. The ROCs have indicated confidence in the vendor and will most likely be used in the future.

Our PARA’s Alpine Officials, with help from the PARA alpine racing community, performed exceptionally well. I am proud to be part of a group of dedicated volunteers who give freely of their time and effort to our athletes. I am truly appreciative of each and every one of you who perform their Alpine Official duties no matter the weather, temperature, negative circumstances, etc.

Alpine Officials by the Numbers:

During the 2017-18 season, there were **337** Alpine Officials in PARA. This is exactly the same number of **Alpine Officials** in PARA from the 2016-17 year. At least **209** had attained at least one AO certification; up from 14 in 2016-2017. fourteen alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications. This a reduction of 8 AOs from the previous year. There are 13 active certified Technical Delegates in PARA. Of the 13 certified Technical Delegates, **11 TD’s** (*the same number as last year*) officiated the PARA’s race calendar as Technical Delegates.

There are: **(As of 4/12/2018)**

213 (+24) alpine officials with a **competition official certification**,

134 (+2) alpine officials with a **referee certification**,

158 (+4) alpine officials with a **jury advisor certification**,

38 (-3) alpine officials with a **chief of course certification**,

38 (-3) alpine officials with a **chief of race certification**,

30 (+8) alpine officials with a **race administrator** certification

46 (+4) alpine officials with a **timing and calculation** certification.

Again... we have a dedicated alpine official community in Pennsylvania, and I am very proud and honored to represent them. Thank you for everything you do for alpine ski racing ... without you, there would be no ski racing in PARA.



Educational Opportunities:

PARA provided four general Alpine Officials workshops, geographically dispersed throughout the state*. They were held at Jack Frost (East, North East) Seven Springs (Western), Tussey (Central) and at Roundtop (Central). There was a total of 113 participants (33.5% of current PARA AO members) who attended these four Alpine Official workshops. These fours AO workshops were held throughout the state and were facilitated by Sam Ganow and myself.

An emphasis on the US SKI & SNOWBOARD 2017-18 Alpine Officials Fall Update document was presented; highlighting those rules specific and common to alpine ski racing in PARA. Other current and relevant information on the upcoming US SKI & SNOWBOARD ski racing season were also covered in these sessions. Alpine Official Exams were offered to those who requested them.

There were also club level workshops *provided throughout the state. Note: these workshop participants were not counted in the 113 who attended PARA AO divisional workshops.* These workshops were designed to educate the parents of the racers on the basic rules of Alpine ski racing. The Competition Officials exam document was covered and a CO designation was awarded to all current US Ski & Snowboard members who attended these clinics.

I have continued to host the PARA AO Website <http://scis.nova.edu/~rlipton/para/default.htm>. The Alpine Officials community uses this website to retrieve the most recent versions of all US Ski & Snowboard forms and documents and to find out about other pertinent updates, rule changes, clarifications and other timely information useful to our AO community. The revised race schedule for the past year is posted on the first page of the website. I also have our PARA webmaster (Carrie Scheetz) post all relevant documents to the PARA website. All pertinent AO information or links to that information can be found on the [Para Website](#)

Ski Race Statistics:

PARA hosted forty-one (41) U10 – U21, Master, Senior, (Men & Women) Races, training days and 1 Super G camp that was 2-days in length.

Four race days and two training days were canceled. Three race days were rescheduled.

Total of 41 race/sanctioned training days (5 less than last year) were completed

Month & Year	Number of Race Days Men and Women events counted as one race
December 2017	1
January 2018	13
February 2018	17 +2 days (SG Camp)
March 2018	8



Forty-one (41) Scored – Non-Scored Races:

- 18 - Scored
- 14 - Non-scored/training
- 9 - Both

For the 2017-2018 Ski Season, PARA has 11 Active Technical Delegates who worked at least one race.

2 TD	Officiated 6 races
3 TD	Officiated 5 races
3 TD	Officiated 3 races
2 TDs	Officiated 2 races
1 TDs	Officiated 1 races

Upgrades and Promotions:

337 Alpine Officials Registered in PA

54 Exams Administered (some exam takers were not members of PARA)

7 – Failed = 87% pass rate!

- 21 Referee
- 14 Jury Advisor
- 10 Timing and Calculation Exam
- 1 Chief of Race
- 6 Race Administrator
- 2 Technical Delegate

There are 82 PARA Alpine Officials recommended for promotion to a level 1 or 2 for 2017-2018 year

Classification	Number of Requests
CC : CHIEF OF COURSE	0
CO : COMPETITION OFFICIAL	23
CR : CHIEF OF RACE	1
DM : DATA MANAGEMENT	6
JA : JURY ADVISOR	15
RA : RACE ADMINISTRATOR	7
RF : REFEREE	19
TC : TIMING AND CALCULATIONS	11
TD : TECHNICAL DELEGATE	2
Total	84



There are four Level 3 PARA AO Upgrades Requested 2017-2018

Classification	Number of Requests
Competition Official – Level 3 5882584 E U 4271342 C D 6110993 S Y	3
Chief of Race - Level 3 4719993 J D	1
Total	4

Issues and Concerns - on the Horizon (many of the same issues as previous years)

- **TD Recruitment – A perpetual issue not only in PARA but throughout all US SKI & SNOWBOARD regions. ... two TD candidates currently**
- **Increasing complexity of the rules of US SKI & SNOWBOARD alpine officiating**
- **Escalating direct and indirect costs by US SKI & SNOWBOARD and PARA being passed on to the ROC for hosting races;**
 - **Includes the costs to prepare the venue for security of the competitor and appropriateness of the race venue, new equipment for timing, and ever-increasing head taxes.**
- **Staffing of races with qualified(certified) personnel (becoming a critical issue for some ROC's)**
- **Costs associated with athlete's training/competing in Alpine Ski Racing**

Respectfully Submitted - April 21, 2018

Rob Lipton

Pennsylvania US SKI & SNOWBOARD- Alpine Officials Chairman

US SKI & SNOWBOARD # 5413679