



Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2021-2022 Report

April 25, 2022

Submitted by Rob Lipton, PARA Alpine Officials Chair

Ski Racing Season Highlights:

This year's report will mark the 20th year I served as the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson. The 2021-22 alpine ski race season began with the uncertainty of the Covid 19 pandemic still active in our state. With guidance from US Ski & Snowboard, the competition season commenced with guidelines, procedures, and protocols designed to mitigate the pandemic. Using the best practices from last season, the alpine ski racing community had a successful race calendar.

Pennsylvania's weather was uncooperative at the beginning of the season, forcing most programs to start several weeks later than usual. However, after the slow start, the remainder of the competition season went off without any cancellations.

The U16 open race series was well attended, and the athletes and coaches enjoyed the new format.

As usual, our PARA's Alpine Officials performed exceptionally well with help from the PARA alpine racing community. I am proud to be part of a group of dedicated volunteers who freely give our athletes their time and effort. I genuinely appreciate everyone who performs their Official Alpine duties regardless of weather, temperature, adverse circumstances, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

I expect the upcoming race season (22-23) will be normal and not dictated by a worldwide pandemic.

Alpine Officials by the Numbers:

During the 2021-23 season, there were three hundred seventy-seven (377) Alpine Officials in PARA. This is an increase of thirty-one **Alpine Officials** in PARA from the previous 2021-22 season. Nine (9) alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications (four are currently active TDs), representing one more AO than last year.

Twenty-two (22) Alpine officials have a TD license, and nine of them are in a retired status (Level 5). There are thirteen (13) active Technical Delegates in PARA, and PARA has one FIS TD Level 6 (Dan Chayes).

Eleven (11) **PARA TDs officiated races this year**. One out-of-state (MARA) TD helped officiate races. We lost 2 Senior TDs, Gus Picariello and Fred Craft, and gained one new TD Doug Houston-Ludlam



There are: (As of 4/24/2022)

221 total alpine officials with a **competition official certification**,

127 total alpine officials with a **referee certification**,

136 total alpine officials with a **jury advisor certification**,

36 total alpine officials with a **chief of course certification**,

33 total alpine officials with a **chief of race certification**,

38 total alpine officials with a **race administrator certification**

49 total alpine officials with **timing and calculation certification**.

Educational Opportunities:

PARA calendered three general Alpine Officials workshops to update AOs on Alpine rule changes and new/revised procedures and offered a general refresher of the Alpine ski racing rules. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshops were delivered using a virtual meeting format, and Zoom (a virtual meeting software) was used to present all of this year's workshop educational updates. There was no cost for these workshops.

Three general alpine officials update clinics were held on the following dates (listed below). Each workshop was three hours in length, and all workshops were facilitated by Sam Ganow, Dan Chayes, and myself.

7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday, November 3, 2021

7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday, November 10, 2021

7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday, December 3, 2021

There was a significant reduction in the number of AO exams given this year, and this was due to most AOs attending virtual workshops and not wanting to travel to take an exam in person. There was an 80% pass rate.

The creation of more online certification exams is being discussed at the national level to augment the Referee and Competition Official's exam currently in place.

A fourth workshop, limited only to Technical Delegates, was also held over two sessions (six hours). This workshop was held to satisfy the new rule change, which states, "*In addition to applicable certification and current US Ski & Snowboard membership, a Technical Delegate must attend a seasonal workshop approved for the continuing education of Technical Delegates prior to serving as a Technical Delegate at US Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events.*"



The first TD workshop session was held on November 15; the second session was conducted on November 29. The national Alpine Officials Working Group developed the TD workshop. The Technical Delegate Workshop Video Presentation was facilitated by myself and others well-received by all TDs.

Paul VanSlyke, FIS TD Commissioner, presented the Clean Hill Initiative. The entire AO community benefited from his excellent presentation.

The PARA AO Website Paraao.org continues to be used by the Alpine Officials' community to retrieve the most recent versions of all US Ski & Snowboard forms and documents. Alpine Officials also access it to find out about pertinent updates, rule changes, clarifications, and additionally timely information useful to our AO community.

The TD assignment race schedule for the current year is posted on 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](#)

Alpine Ski Race Statistics:

Forty-one (41) USSS sanctioned races were held. Ten more races than last season.

A total of 30 race/sanctioned training days (*fourteen less than last year*) was completed

Month & Year	Number of Race Days Men and Women events counted as one race
December 2021	0
January 2022	11
February 2022	25
March 2022	5

Forty-four (44) Scored/Non-Scored Races:

- 16 - Scored
- 21 - Non-scored
- 4- Both



For the 2021-2022 Ski Season, PARA has 10 Active Technical Delegates who worked at least two races.

1 TD Officiated 6 races	4 TDs Officiated 3 races
1 TD Officiated 5 races	4 TD*s Officiated 2 races
2 TDs Officiated 4 races	

*1 Out of State TD

Upgrades and Promotions:

PARA AO Level 3 and Level 4 upgrades were granted

PARA

Bruce Wickersham	5940747	CO 4, JA 4
Dan Ord	4984969	REF 3
James DiBiase	4719993	CC 3, JA 3, REF 3, CO 4, CR 4
Sam Ganow	5224803	CO 4

Changes to the Alpine Officials Certification matrix are being discussed in the national meetings. The proposed result is to increase professionalism in the Alpine officiating ranks. Coaches may be required to attain a referee AO license as part of the coaching certification process. One of my primary goals as the PARA representative to the " US Ski & Snowboard Organization" is to leverage my understanding of twenty-first-century learning technologies and learning theory for Alpine Officials' education

Respectfully Submitted - April 24, 2024

Rob Lipton

Pennsylvania US SKI & SNOWBOARD- Alpine Officials Chairman

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