



Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2022-2023 Report

April 13, 2023

Submitted by Rob Lipton, PARA Alpine Officials Chair

Ski Racing Season Highlights:

This year's report will mark the 21st year I served as the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson. With Covid no longer a health issue, the 2022-23 race season has finally returned to normal. With guidance from U.S. Ski & Snowboard, the competition season commenced with guidelines, procedures, and protocols designed to mitigate any issues associated with Safe Sport.

Pennsylvania's weather was extremely uncooperative this season, forcing an abbreviated training and race season. During the competition season, we had several cancellations and changes in venue.

The U16 open race series was well attended; the number of eligible athletes (approximately 230) was larger than the host venues might be able to handle if all registered for the races.

The number of active Technical Delegates continues to decline; however, with help from the PARA Alpine racing community, PARA's Alpine Officials staffed all calendered races.

I am proud to represent this group of dedicated volunteers who selflessly give our athletes their time and effort to provide quality race experiences. I am proud of them as they perform their race official's duties regardless of weather, temperature, adverse circumstances, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Alpine Officials by the Numbers:

During the 2022-23 season, there were three hundred ninety-five (395) Alpine Officials in PARA. This is an increase of eighteen **Alpine Officials** in PARA from the previous 2022-23 season. Eleven (11) Alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications (six are currently active T.D.s), representing one more A.O. than last year.

Twenty-one (21) Alpine officials have a T.D. license, and nine are retired (Level 5). There are eleven (11) active Technical Delegates in PARA, and PARA has one FIS TD Level 6 (Dan Chayes).



Eight (8) **PARA TDs officiated races this year**. One out-of-state (MARA) T.D. helped officiate races. Two active TDs, Scott Stewart and Erik Backlund, did not officiate in PARA. We gained one new TD, Tom Yen.

224 total Alpine officials with an **official competition certification** (+3, 21-22)

125 total Alpine officials with a **referee certification** (-2, 21-22)

127 total Alpine officials with a **jury advisor certification** (-9, 21-22)

36 total Alpine officials with a **chief of course certification** (0, 21-22)

33 total Alpine officials with a **chief of race certification** (0, 21-22)

38 total Alpine officials with a **race administrator certification** (0, 21-22)

46 total Alpine officials with **timing and calculation certification** (-3, 21-22)

Educational Opportunities:

PARA calendered three general Alpine Officials workshops to update A.O.s on Alpine rule changes and new/revised procedures and offered a general refresher of the Alpine ski racing rules. 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.

Three general alpine officials' update clinics were held on the following dates (listed below). Each workshop was three hours in length, and Rob Lipton facilitated all workshops

7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday, November 22, 2022

7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday, December 7, 2022

7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday, December 13, 2022

PARA Alpine Officials Clinics trained 157 Officials for the 2022-2023 Season.

There continues to be a reduction in the number of A.O. exams this year. Again, this was due to most A.O.s attending virtual workshops and not wanting to travel to take an exam in person. There was a 90% pass rate. In addition to the listed physical exam dates (December 2022), I provided exam opportunities the entire ski season for any official who wanted to take an exam and was willing to travel to Blue Mountain.

Currently, there are two online certification exams; (Referee - (RF) and Competition Official -(CO) exam

A fourth workshop, limited only to PARA Technical Delegates, was held on November 9 and 16. Both sessions were approximately three and one-half hours each.

A PARA TD debrief meeting was held in March to discuss the previous race season. A lively discussion ensued, and all in attendance agreed that the meeting was worthwhile. A fall PARA TD meeting will be



held before issuing the official A.O. educational update materials. The exact date and time will be determined

All these workshops held in PARA satisfy the requirements for Alpine Officials to receive continuing education. [\(See Below\)](#)

"Alpine Official Continuing Education (Update) Status: Using the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website, and except for the Technical Delegate, the Race Administrator must verify that the Chief of Race, Referee, Assistant Referee (if required), Chief of Course, Course Setters, Chief of Timing & Calculations, and Race Administrator have attended the required bi-seasonal Continuing Education Clinic. (For Season 2023, the allowed minimum is Season 2022 attendance.) Unless excused, Technical Delegates are required to attend a Technical Delegate Workshop every season."

These workshops were held to satisfy the new rule change, which states, "*In addition to applicable certification and current U.S. 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 U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events.*"

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

The T.D. assignment race schedule for the current year is posted on the [PARA website](#). I also have our PARA webmaster (Carrie Scheetz) post all relevant documents to the PARA website. All pertinent A.O. information or links to that information can be found on the [Para Website](#)

Alpine Ski Race Statistics:

Thirty-eight (37) USSS-sanctioned **races-days** were completed (four > 21-22). Several races had a change of venue or date changed due to the lack of snow. Four races were ultimately canceled

Month & Year		Number of Race Days Men's and Women's events counted as one race
January	2023	13
February	2023	21
March	2023	3



Thirty-Seven (37) Scored/Non-Scored Races:

15 - Scored
22 - Non-scored

For the 2022-2023 Ski Season, PARA has nine (9) active Technical Delegates who worked at least two or more race days.

2 T.D. Officiated 6 races	2 T.D.s Officiated 3 races
3 T.D. Officiated 5 races	2 TD*s Officiated 2 races

*1 Out of State T.D.

Upgrades and Promotions:

PARA AO Level 3 and Level 4 upgrades were granted - As of April 13, 2023, there were no PARA-qualified requests for Level 3, Level 4

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As of the date of this report, no information has been disseminated for the next competition season. USSS National meetings will be held in the middle of May, and I will be in attendance and bring back all relevant material for the PARA AO community.

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Respectfully Submitted - April 13, 2023
Rob Lipton
Pennsylvania US SKI & SNOWBOARD- Alpine Officials Chairman
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