



Pennsylvania (PARA) Alpine Officials 2023-2024 Report

April 28, 2024

Submitted by Rob Lipton, PARA Alpine Officials Chair

Ski Racing Season Highlights:

This year's report will mark the 22nd year I served as the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson. With Covid in the rearview mirror, the 2023-2024 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. USSS continues its emphasis on strengthening coaches' education by providing a higher and more consistent level of professionalism in its certification training

The weather in PA (a repeat of last year) was rainy, warm, and generally unsuitable for training and racing this ski season. During the abbreviated competition season, there were many cancellations and changes in venue, creating multiple challenges for our ROCs hosting races.

Climate change in Pennsylvania is causing a condensed race season. Fewer venues can accommodate races, especially on the most crowded weekends. When they can be held, the snow and weather conditions are often marginal.

No region of PARA was spared from race venue changes and cancellations. One race was shortened in the U16 open race series, and multiple venues were changed in the U18 race series.

The number of active Technical Delegates continues to decline. With the untimely passing of Sam Ganow, one of our most senior technical delegates, and another TD (John McGregor) moved to Colorado, PARA TDs were stretched to their limit.

Once again, I am proud to represent this group of dedicated Alpine Officials who tirelessly provide their time and energy to provide quality race experiences, regardless of weather, temperature, adverse circumstances, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Alpine Officials by the Numbers:

During the 2023-24 season, there were three hundred ninety-five (377) Alpine Officials in PARA. This decreased eighteen (18) Alpine Officials in PARA from the previous 2022-23 season.

Note: USSS changed the manner of searching on key fields in the AO database. The "PARA" field parsed as a "Division" identifier within the Eastern region is no longer available. You can only search by "State," which does not adequately show all PARA members.



Ten (10) Alpine officials have all nine specialty certifications (five are currently active T.D.s), representing one more A.O. than last year.

Nineteen (19) Alpine officials have a T.D. license, and eight are retired (Level 5). There are nine (9) 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. One new TD is in the pipeline, and two more are interested in becoming TDs.

201 total Alpine officials with an **official competition certification** (-23, from the 2022-2023 Season)

99 total Alpine officials with a **referee certification** (-26, from the 2022-2023 Season)

105 total Alpine officials with a **jury advisor certification** (-22, from the 2022-2023 Season)

35 total Alpine officials with a **chief of course certification** (-1, from the 2022-2023 Season)

33 total Alpine officials with a **chief of race certification** (No Change from the 2022-2023 Season)

36 total Alpine officials with a **race administrator certification** -2, from the 2022-2023 Season)

49 total Alpine officials with **timing and calculation certification** (+3 from the 2022-2023 Season)

AO Educational Opportunities:

PARA calendered twelve (12) Alpine Officials workshops & exams 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 and in-person meeting format to present all of this year's workshop educational updates.

Course Conductors for these workshops include Dan Chayes, Sam Ganow, and Rob Lipton.

General AO Update	7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday,	November 21, 2023
General AO Update	7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday,	December 6, 2023
General AO Update	7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday,	December 13, 2023
TD AO Workshop -P1	7:00 to 10:30 PM Thursday,	November 9, 2023
TD AO Workshop -P2	7:00 to 10:30 PM Thursday,	November 16, 2023
RA AO Workshop	7:00 to 10:30 PM Wednesday,	November 15, 2023
Ref/JA Focus Workshop	9:00 to 4:00 PM Saturday,	November 25, 2024
T&C Focus Workshop	9:00 to 4:00 PM Saturday,	December 16, 2024
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Saturday,	December 9, 2023
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Sunday,	December 10, 2023
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Saturday,	December 16, 2023
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Sunday,	December 17, 2023
In-person Exams	9:00 to 1:30 PM Sunday,	January 6, 2024



PARA Alpine Officials Clinics trained 143 Officials for the 2023-2024 Season.

There continues to be a reduction in the number of A.O. exams taken 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 an 87% pass rate. In addition to the listed physical exam dates (**December 2023**), exam opportunities were offered to any Alpine Official who requested to take an exam and was willing to travel to Blue Mountain throughout the entire ski season.

Note: Currently, there is now only one online certification exam: Competition Official -(CO) exam.

A fall PARA Technical Delegate meeting will be held before the official A.O. educational update materials are distributed via the [paraa.org website](http://paraa.org) 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, and Chief of Timing & Calculations, must have attended the required bi-seasonal Continuing Education Clinic. (For Season 2024, the allowed minimum is Season 2023 attendance.) Unless excused, Technical Delegates and Race Administrators must attend a Technical Delegate or Race Administrator 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 before serving as a Technical Delegate at U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events."

The PARA AO Website Paraa.org continues to be widely used by the Alpine Officials' community to retrieve the most recent versions of all U.S. Ski and snowboard forms and documents. This website mirrors the USSS Website, with over 2100 clicks recorded during the 2023-2024 competition season. PARA Alpine Officials also access this website 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 and weblinks to that information can be found on the Para Website



Alpine Ski Race Statistics:

Forty-six (46) USSS-sanctioned race and event days were calendered. Several races had a change of venue or date changed due to the lack of snow. **Five** (5) events were ultimately canceled

Month & Year	<u>Completed</u> "Number" of Contests/Camps Men's and Women's events counted as one race.
January 2024	9
February 2024	26
March 2024	6
Total Events Completed	41

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

- 18 - Scored
- 23 - Non-Scored

For the 2023-2024 Ski Season, PARA has eight (8) active Technical Delegates who worked at least two or more race days.

1 TD* Officiated 9 races	2 TDs Officiated 5 races
1 TD Officiated 8 races	2 TDs Officiated 3 races
1 TD Officiated 6 races	1 TD 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 16, 2024, there was one PARA-qualified request for Level 3, Level 4

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.

Respectfully Submitted - April 28, 2024
Rob Lipton
Pennsylvania US SKI & SNOWBOARD - Alpine Officials Chairman
US SKI & SNOWBOARD # 5413679