

PARA U14 Chair Report
2019-2020 Season
Michael Clarke
U14 Age Chair

U14 State Championship

The event took place February 21st - 23rd at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. The field consisted of a total 85 athletes, 44 male and 41 female. The event was originally scheduled to have Super G training on Friday, three runs of Slalom on Saturday and three runs of GS on Sunday. Due to the unfavorable weather throughout our region for most of the year the Super G training on Friday was canceled due to safety concerns. In lieu of Super G training, an informal training session was held for all athletes consisting of both SL and GS courses. The SL races on Saturday were followed by an athlete banquet and prize drawing in the evening. After the GS races on Sunday a pizza party followed by the awards ceremony were held to wrap up the Championship.

As both the age chair and a coach I had the opportunity to spend the majority of my time on the slope. While both preparing and watching athletes throughout the course of the weekend I was impressed with the quality of racing as well as the behavior of the athletes. Each athlete should be extremely proud of their accomplishments this season and deserve congratulations. Considering the weather in our region during the year and the week leading up to the event credit should be given to Charles Donnellan, TJ Greenier, Jim DiBiase, and the entire staff of Seven Springs for all their hard work pulling off this event. Special thanks to Rachel Greenier for acting as the U14 State Championship chair and all her help assisting with the awards ceremony. I would also like to thank all the coaches and parents for their help, both on and off the hill. Last but not least I would like to thank Kristen Eringer for helping me along the way while taking over this position from her as she embarks on a new chapter of her life in Utah.

The PARA U14 State Team consisted of 6 male and 6 female athletes.

The following athletes qualified for the PARA U14 State Team based on their results at the U14 State Championship.

Male:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1. Louis Freidrich | BMRA |
| 2. Tyler Superczynski | LMRT |
| 3. Van Glantz | TMART |
| 4. Cameron Mehallo | JFRT |
| 5. Luke Watson | JFRT |
| 6. Frederic Patton | BMRA |

Female:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 1. Rebecca Mize | SRRC |
| 2. Kate Yadush | BMRA |
| 3. Sienna Correia | BMRA |
| 4. Alyssa Sarkisov | WTSEF |
| 5. Giuliana Contini | WPRC |
| 6. Micheala Klus | BMRA |

Post Season Events

U14 Eastern Championships

The USSA U14 Eastern Championship was scheduled to be held at Sugarbush Mountain on March 12th through 16th. Twelve athletes were selected to represent PARA at the event. Dan Ord and Eric Backlund were selected as coaches to represent the PARA athletes. The event was to include Skills Quest and Super G training, a Super-G race, GS race, and SL race. Due to the threat of COVID-19 the event was canceled prior to any of the races commencing for the safety of the athletes, families, and organizers.

PARA Athlete Representatives

Male

- Louis Friedrich
- Van Glantz
- Cameron Mehallo
- Jackson Miller
- Tyler Superczynski
- Luke Watson

Female

- Guiliana Contini
- Sienna Correia
- Jamie Hodgkinson
- Michaela Klus
- Rebecca Mize
- Kate Yadush

U14 Eastern Finals

The USSA U14 Eastern Final was scheduled to be held at West Mountain on March 20th through 22nd. Twenty-five athletes accepted invitations to represent PARA at the event. Dan Chayes, Dave Greig, and Ben Shirk were selected as coaches to represent the PARA athletes. The event was to include an optional Dual SL night training, a Dual SL race, and a Dual GS race. Due to the threat of COVID-19 the event was canceled prior to any of the races commencing for the safety of the athletes, families, and organizers.

PARA Athlete Representatives

Male

- Alec Fonash
- James Rost
- Erik Pilisek
- Mattia Bianco
- Owen Burns
- George Coutoulakis
- Christopher Young
- Bolling Shirk
- Seth Beardsley
- Robert Eiswert
- Ian Renquist
- Dylan Sanford

Female

- Alyssa Sarkisov
- Isabella Altman
- Annie Greene
- Addison Winfield
- Morgan Celley
- Julia Freudenberg
- Emma Watson
- Anna Pucilowski
- Kate McEnroe
- Piper Mayes
- Paige Barnes
- Lauren Meneely
- Isabel Dower

Francis Piche Invitational

The Francis Piche Invitational was held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 11th through the 15th. Twenty athletes accepted invitations to represent PARA at the event. Brian Eardley and Douglas Hudlud were selected as coaches to represent the PARA athletes. The event was to include an optional 2 days of SL and GS training, a Dual SL and Team race, GS race, and a SL race. Due to the threat of COVID-19 the event was canceled prior to any of the races commencing for the safety of the athletes, families, and organizers.

PARA Athlete Representatives

Male

- Luke Sarsfield
- Jacob Orenstein
- Daniel Zoubarev
- Nathan Evans
- Aluf Median Tal
- Max Awanohara
- Stuart Reath
- Andrei Nazlymov
- Colton Wanat
- Trenton Wadas

Female

- Catherine Lynn
- Norah Tama
- Bianca Cime
- Maeve O'Driscoll
- Emily Peck
- Tinley Sutch
- Elle Cooper
- Ella Tabish
- Alaina Duncan
- Natalia Connor

Eastern Region Projects

The goal of the projects is to (1) bring top Eastern athletes together to train different disciplines, (2) create an opportunity for training and peer group pace in a competitive environment and build confidence at elite training venues, and (3) promote camaraderie and regional team culture amongst eastern athletes. The selection criteria was based on the prior year U14 State Championship performance.

This year there were 4 Eastern Projects for the U14 age group.

1. SL Project

Male: Mittersill, NH - Dec 15th – 17th (Quota 2, Sent 2)

Louis Friedrich - BMRA

Tyler Superczynski - LMRT

Female: Killington, VT - Dec 4th - 6th (Quota 2, Sent 2)

Kate Yadush - BMRA

Rebecca Mize - SRRC

2. GS Project
Male: Stratton, VT - (Quota 2, Sent 2)
 Louis Friedrich - BMRA
 Tyler Superczynski - LMRT
Female: Waterville, NH - Jan 14th – 16th (Quota 2, Sent 1)
 Madalyn Persing - BMRA

3. SG Project at Sugarbush, VT - Feb 9th - 11th (Quota 4, Sent 3)
 Tyler Superczynski - LMRT
 Luke Watson - JFRT
 Rebecca Mize - SRRC

4. GS & SL Project at NWAC, NJ - Feb 17th - 18th (Quota 6, Sent 5)
 Louis Friedrich - BMRA
 Tyler Superczynski - LMRT
 Rebecca Mize - SRRC
 Kate Yadush - BMRA
 Madalyn Persing - BMRA

Notes:

- This year with the addition of the Eastern Finals there were 3 post season events available to the athletes in PARA. While I am all for athletes getting the chance to compete against other racers and a potentially higher caliber athletic level I feel that 3 events is too many to support for our region. My suggestion would be to drop support for the Francis Piche Invitational and only send athletes to the USSS sponsored Eastern Championships and Eastern Finals events.
- This year I was approached by coaches and parents of athletes regarding the U14 PARA State Team and sweatshirts. Traditionally the athletes who qualified for the Eastern Championships were given sweatshirts to identify them as members of the U14 PARA State Team. This year with the inclusion of the Eastern Finals the question was asked if those athletes that qualified would also be getting sweatshirts. At the U16 age group athletes receive sweatshirts for qualifying for either the Eastern Championships or Eastern Finals. There was an email thread discussing potentially purchasing sweatshirts for the Eastern Finals qualifying athletes but ultimately nothing was finalized. A discussion needs to be had discussing how this will be handled moving forward and should be consistent with other age groups within PARA.
- Recently the USSS announced at the ACC that ECC mandates that all divisions of the Eastern Region implement an all-inclusive divisional U14 Championship during the 2020-2021 season. This will have a major impact on events throughout our region and has the potential to alter how the U14 Championship has been run in the past. This may impact not only the U14 Championship but potentially all races throughout PARA.