

PARA U14 Chair Report  
2021-2022 Season  
Michael Clarke  
U14 Age Chair

### **U14 State Championship**

The event took place February 18th - 20th at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. The field consisted of a total 85 athletes, 44 male and 41 female. The event included Super G training on Friday, three runs of Slalom on Saturday and three runs of GS on Sunday. 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.

After the cancellation of the U14 State Championships and all post season events last year it was nice to get back to a normal competition year and allow the athletes to be rewarded for their hard work throughout the season. 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. I would also like to recognize the effort of 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.

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. Curt Freidrich    | BMRA |
| 2. Collin Schreiberi | BMRA |
| 3. Becket Pottinger  | HVRC |
| 4. Junchao Wallace   | LMRT |
| 5. Zachary Burstein  | SRRC |
| 6. Joshua Burstein   | SRRC |

#### Female:

- |                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. Johanna Cook     | BMRA |
| 2. Cameron Starnier | SRRC |
| 3. Tara Pak         | SRRC |
| 4. Ava Heidenreich  | WPRC |
| 5. Audrey Stambaugh | SRRC |
| 6. Reese Ryan       | SRRC |

### **Post Season Events**

#### U14 Eastern Championships

The USSA U14 Eastern Championships were held at Sugarbush Mountain on March 19th through 22nd. Twelve athletes were selected to represent PARA at the event. Ben Shirk, Douglas Hudland, Jason Farda and Jim Pottinger were selected as coaches to represent the PARA athletes. The event included a SL race and apres-ski party on Saturday, GS race and awards on Sunday, SG training and SkillsQuest on Monday, and SG race followed by awards on Tuesday.

#### PARA Athlete Representatives

##### Male

- Curt Freidrich
- Collin Schreiber
- Becket Pottinger
- Junchao Wallace
- Zachary Burstein
- Joshua Burstein

##### Female

- Johanna Cook
- Cameron Stamer
- Tara Pak
- Ava Heidenreich
- Audrey Stambaugh
- Reese Ryan

#### U14 Eastern Finals

The USSA U14 Eastern Finals were held at West Mountain on March 25th through 27th. Instead of issuing quota spots for Eastern Finals, USSS made the event open to all Eastern region athletes. Twenty one (21) PARA athletes registered for the event. Darryl Uhler and Jason Farda were selected as coaches to represent the PARA athletes. The event included an optional Dual SL Fun Day on Friday, GS race and BBQ on Saturday, and SL race followed by awards on Sunday.

## PARA Athlete Representatives

### Male

- Anders Ryan
- John Michael Stantley
- William Wilson
- Warren Hilbert-Graham
- Justice Cook
- Sean Petaja
- Ryan Steinman
- Desmo Treiber
- Quinn King
- Luke O'Callaghan
- Eli Sanford
- Richard Binder

### Female

- Hollis Tracy
- Madeline Mafodda
- Elle Awanohara
- Sienna Gala
- Mirta Bianco
- Efemia Britt
- Elisabeth Binder
- Samantha Yothers
- Blair Kennedy

## Francis Piche Invitational

The Francis Piche Invitational was held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 16th through the 20th. Thirteen athletes accepted invitations to represent PARA at the event. Josh Lincoln was selected as the coach to represent the PARA athletes. The event included an optional 2 days of SL and GS training, a Dual SL and Team race Friday, a GS race Saturday, and a SL race on Sunday.

## PARA Athlete Representatives

### Male

- Alexander Sarkisov
- Rocco Lorence
- Landon Wagner
- Anders Ryon
- Burke Donovan
- John Stanley
- Jonathan Andrews

- Eli Sanford

Female

- Blair Kennedy
- Devon Geist
- Drue Lincoln
- Cayden Hodge
- Hollis Tracy

### **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 2019-2020 U14 State Championship results due to the fact that there were no qualifying events during the 2020-2021 race season due to COVID.

This year there was only 1 Eastern Project for the U14 age group with quota spots allocated

1. Tech Project

Male: Stratton, VT - Feb 8th – 9th (Quota 2, Sent 2)

Curt Friedrich - BMRC

Collin Schreiber - BMRC

Female: Stratton, VT - Feb 8th - 9th (Quota 2, Sent 2)

Johanna Cook - BMRC

Ava Heidenrich - WPRC

### **Notes:**

- One of the changes this year with post season events is that the Eastern Finals was changed to an open event to all athletes that did not qualify for the Eastern Championships. It is unclear if this open format will continue moving forward, but PARA will need to plan to provide additional coaching support for this event as a large number of PARA athletes could potentially register for this event.
- There was some discussion this year around which athletes from the U14 PARA State Championships make up the state team. At this point there is no formal written policy for this distinction. I propose that it be stated that the number of PARA athletes that qualify for the State Team be determined based on the number of quota spots allocated to PARA for the U14 Eastern Championships. The athletes will be ranked based on race and designated to the State Team based on the quota allocation. These athletes will be awarded sweatshirts and will make up the State Team regardless if that athlete accepts their invitation to the U14 Eastern Championships. If an athlete makes the State Team and declines their spot to U14 Eastern Championships, the next athlete on the list will be offered the opportunity to attend the U14 Eastern Championships but will not be provided a sweatshirt or the distinction of making the State Team.

- One other issue revolves around Piches. Each year PARA is allocated quota spots for this event but the decision was made at the U14 age group to not provide coaching support for this event. The event is supported by PARA at the U12 age group and this causes some confusion. Since PARA has decided not to support the event at the U14 age group the question that needs to be answered is does PARA continue to send athletes to this event? We could notify the race organizers that as an organization PARA will no longer be sending athletes from the U14 age group and that way they could allocate the quota spots to other regions. If that is the decision made, it should be stated early in the season that PARA will not be sending athletes to this event.