

PARA U18/21 Chair Report

2022-23 Season

Rudi Riet, U18/21 Age Chair

PA Cup Series

- Despite weather challenges, PA Cup went well with no delay or relocation of events.
- 2x SL at Seven Springs, 2xGS and 1x SL at Blue Mountain, 2xGS and 1xSL at Elk Mountain
- Both Seven Springs and Blue Mountain opened their race to a small number of U16 athletes using non-standardized criteria that should be addressed moving forward; Per the discretion of their race organization, Elk was strictly U18/21 only.

PA Cup Champions

- One unified cup open to all current High School students simplified the award process.
- Close competition all season kept the Cup standings tight until the end.
- Van Glantz (TMART) won men
- Grayson Honig (WPRC) won women

U18/21 Eastern Finals

- 18 athletes attended (8 women, 14 men)
 - o Spring sports and family travel scheduling conflicts interfered with many qualifiers' ability to attend due to late dates of the Eastern U18/21 Finals event.
- Super G was cancelled due to inclement weather (fog and rain).
- PARA had good performances overall in the GS and SL:
 - o Grayson Honig 18th in SL, 14th in GS
 - o Abigail Miller 13th in SL
 - o Van Glantz 14th in SL, 15th in GS
 - o Shayan Gupta 8th in SL, 17th in GS
- Coaches: Rudi Riet, Brian Eardley, Brennan Glatz, Byron Parizek (with help from Lisa Keithley and Jason Sebelin who assisted but were not part of the official PARA coaching contingent)

Okemo Speed Camp

- Speed camp held at Okemo, VT, from January 21-24, with coaching by American Downhill project coaches (Marco Sullivan, Andrew Weibrecht, Dane Spencer, Scott Veenis, Keely Kelleher, and Chelsea Marshall).
- 83 PARA athletes and 14 PARA coaches attended the event. Coaches assisted American Downhill staff.
- OMS and OCC staff also helped with venue prep and staging of scored SG race on January 24.

- Essentially unanimous praise for the event: athletes and coaches came away with new skills and better understanding of speed technique, tactics, and racing.
- Hopefully will be continued in 2023-24 with a wider representation of PARA teams. Also would like to extend an offer to SARA to have a limited number of athletes and coaches attend this workshop next season.

FIS Racing

- PARA has 2 male, 2 female quota spots
- PARA athletes attended FIS events this season, though frequent schedule changes due to lack of snow hindered more regular attendance.

Looking toward 2023-24

- Make one of the Blue Mountain PA Cup events a Super G. The U18/21 athletes should have the opportunity to continue development of speed skills as it is part of all postseason schedules and also has the added benefit of skills development in GS – i.e. knowing what speed is and how to handle it properly.
- Possibly schedule U16 Cup and PA Cup races on the same weekend to prevent inconsistent U16 athlete allowance into events. Either that or create a scored series each for men and women, U16/18/21, that allows all USSS points-eligible athletes to ski scored events. PA Governor's Cup can still be scored for all High School students with such a system.
- Possibly look into PARA coaching budget used to send PARA coach to out-of-PARA events (e.g. FIS races, scored races with open quotas to non-region athletes) to prevent the scramble to find coaching support out of area
- I encourage all PARA members attending USSS Spring Congress to encourage scheduling of Eastern U18/21 Finals at an earlier date that doesn't overlap with spring sports and Spring Break schedules in the Mid Atlantic and Southern regions.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudi Riet
PARA U18/21 Age Chair