

PARA U19-U21 Chair Report

2016-2017 Season

PA Cup Series and State Team

This season 31 female (down 4) and 48 male (down 2) U19 athletes competed in the PA Cup Series. The PA Cup Series also had a fair number of U16 athletes in the field in addition to the above numbers.

Races were hosted by Seven Springs (2SL), Blue Mountain (2GS, 1SL) and Elk Mountain (2GS, 1SL)

The 2017 PARA State Team was comprised of the top 5 ranked female and the top 8 ranked male athletes based on the final PA Cup results at the conclusion of PA Cup 8. The number for the state team was reduced from 18 in previous years to 13. This was done to match the number of quota spots allotted to PARA for the USSA Eastern Finals at Gore Mountain. PARA was able to send 2 additional athletes, per gender, to the USSA Eastern Finals by acquiring additional unused quota spots prior to the event.

2017 PARA State Team U19-U21

Caroline Smith	WPRC	1999
Haley Schierwagen	BMSC	1998
Kinjal Ruecker	LMRT	1999
Erin Joyce**	WPRC	1999
Ustyna Danylovyh	BMSC	2000
*Megan Flack	BMSC	1998
*Michela Colavita	BMSC	1999
*Anika Furrer	SRRC	2000
Connor Newman	EMSC	2000
Wyatt Kowalchuk	BMSC	1998
Jack Dailey	SRRC	1998
Joey Cichon	PASEF	2000
Dalton Miles	SRRC	2000
Van Alarcon	WPRC	2000
Harrison Combs**	BMSC	2000
Ty Newman	EMSC	1998
*Mitchell Pan	WTSEF	1999
*Jackson Mansfield	BMSC	1999
*Shaun Clem	WTSEF	2000

*Alternates competing at post season events as members of PARA State Team

**Did not attend post season event

Post Season Events

USSA Eastern Finals were held at Gore, NY from March 17th through March 20th.

PARA sent 10 male and 7 female athletes to this event. Additional quota spots were released and that allowed us to send two more athletes per gender to the event. A major winter storm three days prior to the event caused the schedule to be modified slightly. Originally the event was to hold a SG Training day, a Super G, a GS and a SL. Due to the storm and softer snow conditions, the SG Training day was modified to a free ski of the race hill in the morning on SG skis and free skiing the rest of the mountain in the afternoon. The remainder of the races were held as scheduled.

Athletes attending were: Caroline Smith, Kinjal Ruecker, Haley Schierwagen, Ustyna Danylovyh, Megan Flack, Michela Colavita, Anika Furrer, Connor Newman, Wyatt Kowalchuk, Jack Dailey, Joey Cichon, Dalton Miles, Van Alarcon, Ty Newman, Mitchell Pan, Jackson Mansfield and Shawn Clem.

State Team members Erin Joyce and Harrison Combs did not attend.

We had some great results in **SL**, with Kinjal Ruecker, placing **FIRST** for the women, followed by Ustyna Danylovyh (13th) and Caroline Smith (15th). For the men, we placed four in the top 20 and could have placed more except for a few DSQ's and DNF's. Jack Dailey was our fastest male in SL, placing 9th, followed by Joey Cichon (11th), Connor Newman (15th) and Jackson Mansfield (16th)

In **GS**, we scored another outstanding result with Caroline Smith placing **SECOND** for the women followed by Haley Schierwagen (15th) and Kinjal Ruecker (17th). For the men, the day was also productive with Jackson Mansfield (10th) and Jack Dailey (11th).

Jackson Mansfield also led the charge for us in **SG**, finishing 11th and Caroline Smith coming in at 19th for the women.

USSA Penalty for these events were as follows:

SG- 171.44 (M) 233.07 (W)

GS- 85.71 (M) 137.92(W)

SL- 88.99 (M) 114.22(W)

Eastern High School Championships were again hosted by Attitash, NH on March 10-12, 2017.

The event included one training day- SL & GS, followed by GS and SL races.

PARA sent a team consisting of 7 male and 7 female athletes as well as a COMPOSITE team of 9 male and 5 female athletes that compete as PARA athletes, but attend high school in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland or D.C.

This is a large event with **over 100 male and 100 female athletes** in the field for each discipline.

USSA Penalty for these events were as follows:

SL- 81.75 (M) 115.19(W)

GS- 88.10 (M) 135.89(W)

As you can see, this is a good points event for those looking to establish or improve on their point profile

FIS and Development

PARA does have Development (DEVO) opportunities available at a limited number of races throughout the season in Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire. Athletes looking to develop or improve on an FIS point profile may be able to attend some of these events.

Athletes desiring to attend these events should first contact the head coach for their home program, who will then contact the U19-U21 Chair.

Intent to compete in these events MUST be made +30 days in advance of the event. There are no guarantees that you will be entered. Entry to these events is based on USSA/FIS points.

PARA does NOT provide coaching staff for athletes attending these events. Other arrangements for representation at these events must be made prior to attending.

Summary

-The PA Cup races were complimented this year by having many U16 athletes competing and starting to establish their USSA point profiles. Not only did they “add” to the competition, they posted some really great results! I would welcome adding the U16’s to the PA Cup series to help further develop the level of future competition.

-There were some equipment issues that had to be addressed and resolved during the course of the season. Athletes, parents, officials and coaches all made sacrifices to work through each event. Know that we were not the only “region” to have equipment compliance issues. They also surfaced at the USSA Eastern Finals as well.

-One item that was addressed is the U19-21 State team size in relation to the amount of quota spots allotted for PARA to post season events. We reduced our state team size to match the number of quota spots to the USSA Eastern Finals (13 combined gender). We then requested additional quota spots that were being released by other states/regions. PARA was allotted 4 additional spots allowing the alternates to attend the event and bringing our team size to 17. There is no guarantee that we will be allotted any additional slots and it becomes a very tight timeline for both athletes and parents to make arrangements to attend. A side note - we no longer qualify athletes to attend FIS Eastern Championships through our PARA PA Cup races.

-Attendance for the High School Championships has declined on our end and we have a problem filling the 48 spots for the event. I will continue to work on who, how and when we sign up athletes for this event to try and fill the quotas. It is a challenging event with low points that is also great exposure for younger U16 athletes. Look for new sign up info **PRIOR** to the first PARA races of the season.

-Thank You to all ROC’s, officials, coaches, parents, volunteers and especially the athletes for making this season happen...we couldn’t do it without all of you!

Submitted 4/28/2017

Curt Schramm
U19-U21 Age Chair