Welcome to PARA

Ski racing around the world is governed by the *Federation International de Ski (FIS*), with each country having its own national governing body, which in the United States is the *U.S. Ski and Snowboard (USSS).* Within U.S. Ski & Snowboard are Regional and State organizations like the *Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association (PARA*). The State organizations serve as administrative arms of the National Association. They are responsible for organizing races with the State and implementing rules set by U.S. Ski & Snowboard in accordance with FIS standards.

In most cases, the rules under which we hold races in Pennsylvania are the same as those used by World Cup racers. There are specific exceptions made for lower level races and some that are unique to U.S. Ski & Snowboard but by and large, they are the same. These rules include everything from how many and at what distance gates are set, to timing and scoring requirements, and numerous procedural and operational requirements. For example, age classification and equipment rules are usually set by FIS and later adopted by U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Once adopted by U.S. Ski & Snowboard, all states must operate by the same rules. These rules may be viewed at usskiandsnowboard.org***. To race, athletes must join U.S. Ski & Snowboard and their State organization, which should be done by October 15 to avoid substantial late fees.***

PARA is responsible for scheduling and conducting races within the State to select and qualify our best racers to attend Regional Championship events at the end of the season. PARA administers four state championships (formerly called Derbies); the U12 State Championships for racers aged 10 and 11, the U14 State Championships for racers aged 12 and 13, the U16 State Championship for racers aged 14 and 15, and the PA Cup Series for U18 and U21 racers. Eligibility to the U12-16 State Championships is earned by competing in the racer's PARA region's qualifying races. The State Championships and the P.A. Cups are the stepping stones to eligibility for State Teams who proceed to Eastern U.S. Ski & Snowboard regional competitions and development camps.

PARA also provides coaching support to selected regional events at no additional cost to state team members. PARA also trains and tests officials under U.S. Ski & Snowboard guidelines. Testing is standardized across the country, and advancement standards are also uniform. Coaches are licensed and certified by U.S. Ski & Snowboard and may reach higher levels of certification through continued training and experience.

A Board of Directors governs PARA. The Board is composed of at least one member from each member club. Directors are selected by their respective Clubs. The Board meets at least annually to discuss operations during the preceding year and to address changes and issues that may be encountered during the next season. At this meeting, the schedule for the next season is developed and discussed between member clubs.

The schedule is final in the fall when the U.S. Ski & Snowboard receives confirmed contracts from clubs for each race. The schedule is usually final in November of each season. The races will be posted on the PARA website as they are confirmed.

RACES IN PARA ARE ONLY POSSIBLE WITH THE COOPERATION OF MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO PERFORM THE VARIOUS JOBS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT A RACE SUCCESSFULLY. While several jobs performed during a race require specific license and certification requirements, many do not and require only that you volunteer your time and perform your assigned duties. One important position that always needs to be filled is that of Gate Judges, who stand on the race hill and watch each racer progress through the gates to judge whether they have successfully completed passage.
When you join a Race Club, you will join an organization of experienced volunteers who share your love of ski racing. They will also be able to direct you to the appropriate contacts for questions. To get the most out of the experience, get involved in club activities and volunteer for whatever you feel comfortable doing. Take advantage of all opportunities within the club to learn more about the sport and understand the process your athlete is going through. Feel free to contact your Club representatives, directors, or any of the PARA Chairs listed on the website to answer your questions. Given the volunteer nature of our sport, we are all involved because we love the sport, and we will be happy and anxious to help you in any way we can.

Memberships

U.S. Ski & Snowboard- U.S. Ski & Snowboard is the primary governing body of alpine ski and snowboard racing in the United States. U.S. Ski & Snowboard comprises four geographical regions, with PARA being one of the eight divisions in the Eastern U.S. region. U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership is required to gain entry into any U.S. Ski & Snowboard-sanctioned event. Most, if not all, races held in Pennsylvania are U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events.
Upon registering in U.S. Ski & Snowboard, membership in a state association is required, and a competitor may only belong to one state association. A racer shall race for the State and U.S. Ski & Snowboard region in which they reside or in which they attend school and/or training on a long-term basis. The choice of which state

association to belong to must be made at the start of the season and should be based on where the racer spends most of their ski season. The U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership year begins on July 1 and finishes on June 30 of the following year.

PARA– Registration for PARA is selected at the time when a member registers with U.S. Ski & Snowboard. A member will also choose their club association. U.S. Ski & Snowboard provides a monthly file of all registrations to PARA and immediately updates a member's status on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard website. A member's club association determines the Region (Northeast, East, Central, and West) within PARA that a racer shall compete. Racers with no club association or desire for an exception to the regional assignment must communicate to the PARA membership chair about their desired Region at the time of their U.S. Ski & Snowboard registration.

PARA membership is required to gain entry into PARA State Championship events. Only PARA members in good standing will be awarded an invitation, based on qualifying race results, to participate in these events.
PARA records are protected to maintain the privacy of membership data regardless of any request.

CLUBS– U.S. Ski & Snowboard administers the requirements and process by which club licensing is granted. A Club license requires an annual renewal. Additionally, PARA club membership is defined as a 1) U.S. Ski & Snowboard registered club, 2) comprised of PARA members, and 3) payment of $25 dues by October 15. A club can be removed for cause with 30 days' notice.

FIS– FIS registration is required to enter FIS-level races and certain post-season U18 and U21 championship events classified as FIS-level races. Please consult your club's program director, coach, or the PARA U18-U21 Age Chair for more information and to determine if this level of competition is appropriate for you. Athletes must obtain their FIS registration before January 15 to be eligible to attend the Eastern Jr FIS Championships and the Eastern Alpine Championships.

PARA Races

Each PARA region is responsible for coordinating and establishing a calendar of races to be held within the Region to promote a competitive environment for developing experienced and competent racers. Certain races are designated as "Qualifiers" by each Region, with the results used to earn advancement by each Region's members to state championship events.

ROC FEES: A Race Organizing Committee is responsible for paying a $100 per

calendar day race fee for non-State championship U12-16 races, payable to the PARA Treasurer on or before April 15. The respective Race Organizing Committees of the U12, U14, and U16 State Championships, and all PA Cup Series Races are responsible for paying a $9 head tax per racer per day to the PARA Treasurer on or before April 15. The race secretary of each race shall send official race results to US SKI & SNOWBOARD, the PARA AO Chair, the appropriate PARA Age Chair, and the appropriate PARA Regional Chair.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS:

A Race Organizing Committee (ROC) may solicit in advance for staffing help from other clubs. The ROC may not fine or disqualify a racer if a parent/worker is unavailable or does not volunteer. Staffing assignments lists will be posted three days before an event**.**

RACE ENTRIES:

According to U.S. Ski & Snowboard Alpine Competition Guide Section 215. The Race Organizing Committee must have all entries 24 hours before the Draw takes place, and rule 621.6 requires the Draw to take place the day before the race. Therefore, it was agreed by the Regional Directors to close races 48 hours before the race to meet the U.S. Ski & Snowboard requirements.

PARA Statewide Event BID PROCESS

PA Cups:

P.A. Cup assignments (Race #1 and #2 S.L. only) for Western and Central sites will be based on Western having the right of first refusal to host up to a limit of 3 years in a row. An interested venue that can host the designated dates must contact the Executive committee by March 31 of the prior season. By voting in the case of competing bids for a specified date, selection occurs at the Spring meeting by the PARA Board of Directors. The Executive Committee must inform the PARA Board of proposals under consideration for the Spring Meeting.

State Championships:

The deadline to submit a bid to host the U12, U14, or U16 State Championships is two years in advance to permit a new host to assemble the infrastructure needed for the event and to observe the prior host's events and activities. The bid is awarded for two consecutive years.

U12 - U16 Regional Qualifying races:

Qualifying races are self-determined by each Region. Proposals should be prepared in consultation with the race organizing committee from the host mountain and submitted through the host mountain's PARA Director at the Spring Meeting during regional breakouts.

PARA State Championship

Championship Quotas:

The PARA Membership Chair calculates the Championship Quotas based on U.S. Ski & Snowboard/PARA memberships paid by the *PARA Membership Cutoff Date* of January 31. The quota is based on a percentage of the total number of competitor memberships by Age, Category, Gender, and PARA Regional affiliation, and this calculation determines the Regional Championship Quotas.

Qualification Procedures:

Eligible competitors can qualify for PARA State Championship events by entering designated qualifier races held within the State Region with which the athlete is affiliated. Each Region has different but similar qualifying procedures, as described below. The quantity of invitations awarded by each Region to participate in the state championship events will be based on quotas established and determined by the PARA Quota Chair. Quotas will be based on pro rata share of age, gender, and Region. Racers must be a member of PARA to be eligible for any post-season race invitation or award. If a racer qualifies to compete in a PARA State Championship event, based on race results and/or regional qualifying procedures, but is not a member of PARA before the *PARA Membership Cutoff Date*; the racer may join PARA by paying a $100 penalty plus the regular membership dues and late fee, thereby earning eligibility.
All U10 racers and younger are ineligible for the U12 Derby, effective with the 2010-11 season.
All U18 and U21 racers can enter any or all of the P.A. Cup Championship races, including the Finals. There are no qualifying procedures or restrictions to participate at Finals other than US SKI & SNOWBOARD membership and field size limits imposed by the event organizers. However, to be eligible for State Team honors, awards, and quota spots to attend US SKI & SNOWBOARD Eastern post-season events, a racer must be a member of PARA.

PA Cup participation by U16 athletes– ROCs will publish in their race announcements the criteria (if any) used for U16s for participating in P.A. Cup races 1-5. The racer will not be able to accumulate P.A. Cup points. Each PA Cup race venue may

limit the number of U16 athlete participants to maintain a manageable field size. Criteria may be a number limit or an athlete qualification: e.g., 2nd year U16 or 1st year that was a prior season U14 State Team member. Criteria must be listed in the race announcement or online race registration.

Central– The Central PARA Region Chair will compile the results from the qualifier races held in the Region.

2026 Central U12 & U14 ranking for selection to State Championships:

World Cup points will be awarded based on individual run results, using the 100 point World Cup scale. Athletes will be ranked in descending order of World Cup points earned in one more than half of the total number of runs held. In addition, the racer must successfully complete forty percent, 40%, of the races held.

The qualifying races used for scorning will be the Whitetail GS, Roundtop SL, Liberty GS and two SL races at Tussey.

All ties will be broken using the “inside/out method” (see page 10 for method details)

2026 Central U16 ranking for selection to State Championships:

World Cup points will be awarded based on both race results and individual runs, using the 100 point World Cup scale. Athletes will be ranked in descending order of World Cup points earned in one more than half the total number runs and races held. If all 6 races are held there will be 18 scores, of which the athletes best 10 will be used for ranking.

The qualifying races used for scoring will be Dual Paneled SL at Roundtop, two GS races at Elk and three SL races at Tussey.

All ties will be broken using the “inside/out method” (see page 10 for details). If a tie still exists the athlete with the lowest U.S. Ski and Snowboard race point result in any of the qualifying races would be selected.

Eastern - Qualification to the U12 and U14 Championship events will be based on the ranking of each athlete's TOTAL World Cup Points earned as a result of ALL RACE RUNS contested in the Region (s). Runs resulting in a 'Did Not Finish' (DNF), 'Disqualified' (DSQ), or 'Did Not Start' (DNS) will be valued as a 0 for scoring purposes.

Qualifications for U16 will be based on the ranking of each athlete who will be scored by using World Cup points to score ALL runs and TOTAL races (12 possible scores).
The BEST 7 runs/race totals will be used to qualify races for state finals. The 4 regional races will equal 12 possible scores selecting 7 will be 1 more than half.The respective regional chairperson (or their designee) will compile the results from the qualifier races held within the respective Region for posting on the PARA website.

Northeastern- Qualification to the U12, U14, and U16 Championship events will be based on the ranking of each athlete's TOTAL World Cup Points earned as a result of ALL RACE RUNS contested in the Region (s). Runs resulting in a 'Did Not Finish' (DNF), 'Disqualified' (DSQ), or 'Did Not Start' (DNS) will be valued as a 0 for scoring purposes. The respective regional chairperson (or their designee) will compile the results from the qualifier races held within the respective Region for posting on the PARA website.

Western– Qualification to PARA State Championship events will be based on Place Points earned in the racer's best of one less than half of the individual runs held from regional qualifier races.Non-results (e.g. DNS, DNF , DSQ, or NPS) will result in a Place Point value of 50, if the region's population for the age and gender group is less than or equal to 40 at the time of the first regional qualifier. Otherwise, the non-result Place Point value will be 100. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / OutMethod". The Western PARA Region Chair will compile the results from the qualifier races held in the region.

Selection Procedures for PARA State Championship Events

The PARA Regional Chairs compile the results from their regional qualifying races and calculate the final standings for all age and gender groups based on the race finish requirements. Using the Regional Championship Quotas established by the PARA Membership Chair, the Regional Chair identifies the athletes in each age and gender group eligible to advance to the PARA State Championship events.
The RegionalChairs prepare their Region's list of qualified competitors for each championship event by confirming membership status and contacting each eligible athlete about their ability and interest to attend.
The Regional Chair determines when a vacancy is offered to a next-in-line qualified candidate.

The lists are forwarded to the applicable PARA Age Chair and Derby Chair, along with any requests for discretionary quota slots. Discretionary slots may be requested by an athlete's coach due to extenuating circumstances that affected an athlete from

otherwise earning a position. The process for requesting a discretionary place at a PARA Championship event is initiated by an athlete's coach who contacts the respective regional chairperson. The Regional Chairperson will contact the Age Chair for the respective age division to present the request where it will be evaluated.The PARA

Age Chair makes discretionary quota selections based on their best judgment after reviewing and evaluating all requests submitted before the entry deadline. Competitor lists from each are compiled by the PARA Age Chair and Derby Chair to determine each event's final list of competitors. Official invitations and event information packets are posted for access by each competitor by the event organizing Committee.

PARA U18/U21 State Championships

The final rankings of the PA Cup Championship Series will be used to determine the PA Cup Champion, PARA U18/U21 State Team, and for the award of post-season invitations. The PA Cup Championship Series is a total of eight (8) races that include five (5) preliminary races (1 GS, 1 SG, and 3 SL) and conclude with three (3) races (2 GS and 1 SL) at the Finals.

Each race will be scored based on U.S. Ski & Snowboard official procedures. Rankings will be based on the number of races equal to one less than the total number of races contested, with World Cup Points awarded based on the order of finish of eligible participants in each race. For example, should all 8 scheduled races be contested, each athletes' 7 best results will be utilized to tabulate their rank in the cup standings. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method." Weather and unavoidable circumstances may reduce the total number of possible races or the mix of disciplines to determine the final Rankings. One award per gender will be given to the P.A. Cup Champions. The award is for athletes 18 and younger by December 31 of the competition year.

PARA U16 State Championship

The total number of athletes invited to the U16 State Championship would be 50% percent of the PARA membership in the U16 age class, with a minimum of 70 athletes and a maximum of 85 athletes. In addition, there are up to 5 discretionary berths available. The discretionary berths are limited to athletes experiencing extenuating circumstances, and the percentage may be lowered to accommodate the field size.

The U16 State Championship Derby will consist of 1 SG run, 1 GS race, and 1 SL race. Each event will be a Scored USSS race, with the event result deciding the discipline champion for that event. The overall champions and state team selection will be decided by the cumulative total of each individual run across all 3 events using New World Cup points. That will be 5 total runs, or the total runs actually held if any runs are canceled due to force majeure. Tie breaks follow the “Inside / Out Method”.

The first run of each event will be seeded using each athletes’ USSS points for the corresponding discipline based on the latest USSS points list published prior to the State Championship race. Athletes will be seeded in descending points order, with a randomized “first seed” of 15 and randomized unseeded (999) athletes at the end for first runs. Second runs for each discipline will use a standard “flip 30” seeding based on the first run results, with non-finishers (DNF, DSQ, and DNS) seeded at the end of the category. Alternatively flip 15 may be used depending on conditions and per a vote at the Team Captains meeting. All non-finishers will be allowed to start the second run.

PARA U14 State Championships

The total number of athletes invited to the U14 Derby would be 40% percent of the PARA membership in the U14 age class, with a minimum of 70 athletes and a maximum of 85 athletes. In addition, there are up to 5 discretionary berths available. The discretionary berths are limited to athletes experiencing extenuating circumstances, and the percentage may be lowered to accommodate the field size.

The U14 State Championship will consist of 3 runs of slalom and three runs of Giant Slalom. World Cup points would be assigned for each run, and State Team and post-season event selection would be based on total World Cup Points from the six runs. Discipline awards will also be given for slalom and GS champions based on World Cup Points from all three runs of each discipline. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method."

Start orders will rotate within the sub-seed groups in such fashion – run 1 A, B, C; run 2 B, C, A; run 3 C, A, B, etc. and random within the sub-seed
Weather and unavoidable circumstances may reduce the total number or mix of possible runs to determine the final rankings.
The U14 State Championships will use finish results from all runs held during the championship event to determine the PARA U14 State Champion and PARA U14 State Team and for the award of post- season invitations.

PARA U12 State Championships

The total number of athletes invited to the U12 Derby would be 40% percent of the PARA membership in the U12 age class, with a minimum of 70 athletes and a maximum of 85 athletes. In addition, there are up to 5 discretionary berths available. The discretionary berths are limited to athletes experiencing extenuating circumstances, and the percentage may be lowered to accommodate the field size.
The U12 State Championship will be used to select athletes to fill quota slots for the award of post- season invitations and select athletes for the State Team. It would consist of 3 runs of slalom and three runs of GS World Cup points would be assigned for each run, and State Team & post-season event selection would be based on total World Cup Points from the six runs. Discipline awards would also be given for slalom and GS champions based on total World Cup Points from all three runs of each discipline. Tie breaks follow the "Inside / Out Method." Eligibility for the Derby is limited to U12 racers.

Start orders will rotate within the sub-seed groups in such fashion – run1 A, B, C; run2 B, C, A; run 3 C, A, B, etc. and random within the sub-seed
Weather and unavoidable circumstances may reduce the total number or mix of possible runs to determine the final rankings.
The U12 State Championships will use finish results from all runs held during the championship event to determine the PARA U12 State Champion and PARA U12 State Team and for the award of post- season invitations.

Tie-Breaker Procedure ("Inside / Out Method")

In the event of a tie, when tabulating the final championship results, the following procedure will be used. The worst race/run result will be dropped for the competitors in question, and the point total will be recalculated for comparison. The competitor with the highest remaining points will be awarded the higher-place finish. If a tie still exists, additional runs will be dropped, and the point total will be recalculated until the link is broken.

Selection Procedures for U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eastern Region Invitational Projects, Series, and Postseason Events.U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eastern Region Invitational Projects (pre-season or in-season)

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eastern has identified State/Affiliation quotas for these Invitational Projects. PARA athletes are selected objectively based on results from the

past season or current season of P.A. State Championships. In some cases, there may be more boys than girls or more girls than boys selected to attend.
PARA will strive to select athletes for participation in these projects, which have shown a high quality of performance and work ethic combined with mental and physical preparedness.

The PARA Selection Committee (PARA Age Group Chair, the PARA ACC/ECC representative, and the PARA President) may jointly approve subjective selections in the case of athletes that are no longer injured or current hard-charging athletes up to 2 athletes per project after nominations are considered. The nomination must be communicated to the Age Group Chair in writing and come from the athlete's PARA program head coach, or the nomination can originate from the PARA Selection Committee. The PARA Selection Committee may choose not to fill all quota spots at U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eastern Projects.

FIS and Development:

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

Athletes desiring to attend these events should contact the head coach for their home program, who will then contact the U18-U21 Chair.
Intent to compete in these events MUST be made 30+ days before the event. There are no guarantees that you will be entered. Entry is based on US SKI & SNOWBOARD/FIS Points.
This is a US SKI & SNOWBOARD/FIS-sanctioned event; therefore, all athletes must have a FIS registration number. FIS equipment regulations apply to all events.

U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eastern Region Postseason Events

The exact number of competitors invited to attend U.S. Ski & Snowboard Development Projects, Championship, Series, and Post Season Events is determined by state quotas established by the US SKI & SNOWBOARD Eastern Region Office. The PARA Age Chairs will be notified by the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eastern Region Office of the state quota allocations, entry procedures, and entry deadline before each of the PARA State Championship events. A racer's attendance is subject to U.S. Ski & Snowboard approval.

Athletes must come to the PARA State Championship prepared to commit to a post-season event if an invitation is extended. The invitations will be made after the awards ceremony held after the final day of the competition. Invitations must be accepted or rejected at that time. Racers may be required to pre-pay the entry fee for the event at the time of acceptance; this entry fee is not refundable.

U18 and U21 Athletes

Using the PA Cup final rankings, teams will be selected to compete in the:
Eastern High School Championships & the Eastern US SKI & SNOWBOARD Finals.
These events may include SG training, SG, and/or a SC race, which includes a DH component.

PARA U18/U21 Postseason Speed Eligibility Criteria:

An athlete's participation in speed events (SG and D.H.) is at the discretion of the PARA coach representing the team at the event. Furthermore, the athlete must meet one of the following criteria to be considered eligible to participate in any post-season speed event:
(1) The athlete directly qualified for the post-season event based on their performance in the P.A. Cup Series (i.e., was not an alternate selection);
(2) Female athletes must have less than or equal to 175 GS points, and male athletes must have less than or equal to 150 GS points (based on the latest US SKI & SNOWBOARD Points List issued before the event), or
(3) The athlete must have less than or equal to 250 SG or D.H. points (based on the latest US SKI & SNOWBOARD Points List issued before the event).

Eastern High School Championship Event (EHSC):

This two (2) day U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned event will consist of a SL and GS race. Public, private, and home-schooled high school students who reside in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. are eligible to be selected. New Jersey and New York high school students who do not have a high school team and are in good standing as a PARA member may be eligible for this event. PARA assigns coaches to attend this event to represent the team and provide technical support. See the below for team selection mechanisms.

PARA will field a single team composed of up to 10 male and 10 female athletes. This event will serve as the primary postseason event to which the top eligible U18/21 state team members will be offered invitations. The top 9 male and female athletes in the final PA Cup standings will be awarded spots to the EHSC event. The PARA EHSC team

shall have 1 spot per gender reserved for the U16 Chairperson to award at their discretion to a U16 State team member.

Should one or more of the top 9 U18/21 athletes be ineligible for the EHSC due to high school enrollment status, or otherwise decline their spot at the EHSC, the U18/21 Chairperson shall utilize the PA Cup standings to attempt to fill the vacancy.

Eastern U.S. Ski & Snowboard Finals:

The Eastern U.S. Ski & Snowboard Finals divisional quotas will be posted on the Eastern Region website. PARA's quotas will be posted on the Eastern Region website around December 1. PARA assigns coaches to attend this event to represent the team and provides technical support. This event includes SG training and SG and GS races. SG skis are required for SG training and the SG race. SG is a speed event, and an athlete must meet PARA eligibility requirements to participate in speed events. (Please refer to the PARA speed event eligibility requirements above). This event is a US SKI & SNOWBOARD sanctioned event and does not require a FIS registration number. Please see below for selection mechanisms to this event.

The USSS Eastern 18/21 Finals shall serve as the secondary post-season event for PARA U18/21 athletes. PARA has an athlete quota to this event as determined each season by the Eastern Region of USSS. The U18/21 Chairperson will utilize the final PA Cup standings to fill the PARA roster for this event. Priority for filling PARA's quota to this event will be given to athletes that did not qualify for, and are not attending the EHSC. Should roster vacancies exist after offering spots to athletes based on PA Cup standings position, the U18/21 Chairperson may exercise their discretion to attempt to fill the roster spots. This discretion includes but is not limited to continuing further down the PA Cup standings and/or offering spots to athletes that have attended the EHSC.

U16 Athletes

U16 Eastern Championships:

Using the final rankings from the U16 State Championships, the PARA quota (determined by U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eastern Region around December 1) will be selected to compete in the U16 Eastern Championships.

The U16 Eastern Finals:

Using the final rankings from the U16 State Championships, the PARA quota (determined by U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eastern Region around December 1) will be selected to compete. This scored event usually consists of an SG, GS, and S.L., with

a mandatory SG training day held before the SG race

U14 Athletes

Using the final rankings, teams will be selected to compete in the U14 Eastern Championships and the Francis Piche Invitational for the current year.

The U14 Eastern Championships

Using the final rankings from the U14 State Championships, the PARA quota (determined by U.S. Ski & Snowboard Eastern Region around December 1) will be selected to compete in the U14 Eastern Championships. This non-scored event will consist of a GS, SL, SG, and SkillsQuest.

Francis Piche Invitational

Using the final rankings from the U14 State Championships, the team will fill quota spots to compete at Gunstock, NH.

U14 Eastern Finals

U14 Eastern Finals is an open event held in Mid-March for all interested U14 athletes that did not qualify for U14 Eastern Championships. The event comprises Slalom and Giant Slalom races, as well as a parallel SL event.

U12 Athletes

Francis Piche Invitational

Using the final rankings from the U12 State Championships, the team will fill quota spots to compete at Gunstock, NH.

NYSSRA U12 Festival

In some seasons PARA receives invitations from NYSSRA (NY State Ski Racing Association) for a U12 event they are hosting. The event generally focuses on fun racing and skill development. Should PARA be offered spots in the 25-26 season, the team will fill quota spots to compete at the NYSSRA event using the final rankings from the PARA U12 State Championships.

PARA Awards

State Team

U12 and U14

The PARA State Team will consist of 10 athletes per gender who officially qualify based on championship race results. This does not include athletes selected as an alternate to fill out the state quota allocation should a higher-ranked athlete decline an invitation.

U16

The total number of athletes named to the U16 PARA State Team shall be equal to the total quota spots allocated to PARA by the Eastern USSS office for the Ronnie Berlack Grand Prix Eastern USSS U16 Eastern Championship and the Eastern U16 Finals. Athlete selections to the U16 PARA State Team is based on the results of the PARA U16 state championship events, and will only include athletes that directly qualify to the above named postseason events. Athletes who attend the postseason event as an alternate will not be included. Should the total quota size for a respective gender within an age group drop below 10, the PARA State Team size for that age group/gender will be set to 10.

U18/21

While the EHSC shall serve as the official and primary postseason event for U18/21 athletes, the U18/21 state team size shall be determined by the total official quota to the Eastern USSS U18/21 Finals. For example, if PARA is given a quota of 14 female athletes for USSS Eastern Finals, then PARA will award sweatshirts to the top 14 female athletes in the final PA Cup standings. Athletes who attend the postseason event as an alternate will not be included. Should the total quota size for a respective gender within an age group drop below 10 the PARA State Team size for that age group/gender will be set to 10.

PA Cup Champion

One award per gender will be given for the P.A. Cup Champions. The award is for athletes 18 and younger by December 31 of the competition year. The PA Cup series would be open to all U18s and U21s.

Frank Sheibley Memorial – Most Dedicated Athlete Award

The Frank Sheibley Memorial Award will be presented to the U18/U21 PARA male or female athlete, as determined by the PARA Executive Board, who exhibits and/or demonstrates the qualities of character and dedication to the sport of alpine ski racing in PARA. Written nominations will be accepted for consideration by the PARA Executive Board by February 15, and the award will be presented at the closing ceremonies of the P.A. Cup Finals.

PARA Coach of the Year Award

Nominations for the PARA Coach of the Year award should be directed to the Coach's Chair by April 1. The award will include $500 towards the awardees coaching educational goals, and the Executive Committee will make the final selection.

PARA Alpine Official of the Year Award

The Alpine Official of the Year nominations should be directed to the A.O. Chair by April 1. The final recipients for A.O. will be submitted to the Eastern Alpine office for consideration at their annual meeting. The Executive Committee will make the final Selection.

Alpines Official's Appeals Process

Any person who has standing (See U.S. Ski & Snowboard-ACR 645) may appeal any decision and/or the results (see U.S. Ski & Snowboard ACR 647.1.1) of an alpine ski race sanctioned by U.S. Ski & Snowboard and PARA. This appeal must be received within the timeframe consistent with U.S. Ski & Snowboard -ACR 647.1.1 and 647.1.2. Communication of the appeal request must be in writing (see U.S. Ski & Snowboard -ACR 647.3). The appeals request may be transmitted via email, fax, or mail to any officer of the PARA executive committee, any PARA director, or the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson.

Once the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson receives the request, they will convene the PARA Alpine Appeals Committee (see U.S. Ski & Snowboard -ACR 647.1.4). This committee, chaired by the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson, will consist of at least four (4) PARA Alpine Officials (level 3 or higher) plus the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson. The PARA Alpine Officials chairperson shall choose the committee members in consultation with the PARA president. These members shall serve at the discretion of the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson. In the case of an appeal request related to a member(s) of the Alpine Appeals Committee, those member(s) will recuse themselves.

If a quorum is not met, the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson may choose a substitute committee member(s).

In the case of an appeal request related to the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson, they will recuse themselves. The PARA president shall appoint a committee member to Chair the appeal process and choose a substitute committee member(s) to serve on the committee consistent with the makeup specified elsewhere in this document.

A fee of $50.00 and/or $100.00 consistent with U.S. Ski & Snowboard -ACR 644.4 is required with any appeal request. This fee will be refunded if the PARA Alpine Appeals Committee upholds the appeal request.

A decision by the PARA Alpines Official's committee will be made within 15 days of receiving the written appeal request by the PARA Alpine Officials chairperson.
This decision will be deemed final by PARA. However, any person with standing may appeal the decision made by the PARA Alpines Official's committee to U.S. Ski & Snowboard.

Code of Conduct, Camps & Training:

To ensure that all athletes within PARA are in compliance with the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Code of Conduct and that it is understood that the Code applies to any events where their activities could be perceived as representing U.S. Ski & Snowboard, the following shall be required for all activities conducted by a PARA Member Club: All athletes shall be required to sign as a condition of participation a contract stipulating that they will not be in possession of or consume any alcoholic beverage or illegal or banned drugs no matter where the activity takes place. This requirement shall apply to pre-season training and summer camps even though they may take place outside the USA.