

J4/J5 Derbies Frequently Ask Question

A common question that some of you might be asking... What is the J4/J5 Derby? To state it simply it is the 12 & Under, PA (and MD) State Championships for skiing. There are 100 boys and 80 girls invited to attend this race at a pre-selected mountain usually around the beginning of March for 2 days of competition (SL & GS races). Each division in PARA is awards slots based on the number of registered PARA (not USSA) members. We are in the central division and in 2009 this division had 20 slots for boys and 11 slots for girls.

So how are the slots chosen? There are 12 races/runs that are qualifiers for Derbies. A racer must complete 7 of the 12 to be qualified (no DNF/DSQ on that run). Then for each run the same scoring system that is used for the World Cup skiing is implemented. All the J4, J5 and 2nd year J6s by gender are ranked together by time for each run. Then points are awarded to the top 30 finishers: 100 points to the winner, 80 for second, 60 for third, winding down to 1 point for 30th place.

The 12 runs are as follows:

- 1/17 at Tussey SL (2 runs)
- 1/18 at Tussey SL (2 runs)
- 1/25 at Liberty GS (3 runs)
- 1/31 at Whitetail GS (3 runs)
- 2/1 at Roundtop SL (2 runs)

So how do you determine who is selected to attend the J4/J5 Derby? This done by using the best 7 finishes per each racer out of the 12 runs. Then the points are totaled for those races. The list is then sorted and then ranked from highest point total to least points. The racer with the most points is ranked 1st and the next is 2nd and this is done for all qualified racers. Everyone that is at the quota number (20 for boys, 11 for girls) or less is invited to attend the Derby. Also if someone is unable to attend the next person on this list is invited so even if you're not in you might still be asked to attend.

The list of invited racers is published the week after the last qualifier and I you have a week to make a decision about going to the race. This year the Derby is at Roundtop on February 28 & March 1 with some on hill training the on February 27th. The cost is usually about \$100 for the race but it includes a nice goody bag, raffle and your race bib.