

P A R A Quotas

In order to fairly determine which racers are to be invited to post season events, the best racers are assembled for one weekend of races per age group. These races are known as the Derbies. The Derbies are invitational races where the racers with the best results from each of the four regions of PARA compete in a series of races over one weekend to win the right to represent PARA in post season events (Junior Olympics, Finals, Piche, etc.).

Since the Derbies are by invitation only, how does a person get invited? The field size for the Derbies is set by a number of factors: Number of racers in that age group in PARA, Number of racers that can be accommodated at the venue (the size of the field at the JIII Derbies is limited to the number of racers that can be accommodated in the Super G), a desire to insure that only the most accomplished racers from each age group attend and to make qualifying for Derby a goal for a racer to aspire to throughout the season.

For each Derby there are two kinds of invitations, those earned by race results and discretionary slots. Discretionary slots may be used by the age group chairpersons to provide opportunities for those people who were not able to qualify by results due to injury, illness or inability to compete in enough qualifying races due to extenuating circumstances to earn a regular slot.

Each region in PARA has qualification rules for the slots that are awarded by performance. The number of slots that are available to each region is determined by the percentage of the PARA membership for the age group and gender in question determined by counting those PARA applications postmarked as of January 15th. Upon registering as a PARA member, a J3 - J5 racer selects the region in which he or she intends to compete for the purposes of earning qualification to the invitational events for their age class. The PARA member must select a region that is within a geographic vicinity of either their residence or the club in which they train. Regional selection is not applicable to J1/2 racers as statewide PA Cup rankings determine invitational eligibility and the Derby is an open race to all J1/2 members.

A member may select to race as an independent or as a member of a specified club. If a member selects to affiliate themselves as a member of a club, the club's status within the PARA organization does not affect the eligibility of the racer to compete or qualify for invitational events. For the purpose of quota calculations, his or her membership is included within the population of racers for the selected region, regardless if that member is independent, or affiliated with a club that has or does not have PARA recognition. Eligibility for invitational events is the same for independent and club affiliated members.

First the ration of male to female racers for the age group is calculated. For example in a recent year there were 137 JIII racers in PARA; 47 girls and 90 boys. Currently there are 65 JIII Derby slots available 5 of which are discretionary. The percentage female in this case is 34.30% and the percentage male is 65.69%.

Applying these results to the number of non-discretionary slots available gives us: $60 \times .3430 = 20.58$ slots for girls and $60 \times .6569 = 39.41$ slots for boys. Since a fraction of a racer does not exist, the slots are rounded to 21 girls and 39 boys. The number of racers per region/gender varies. In our example year, considering JIII females only, there were: 12 Central girls, 14 Eastern girls, 10 Northeast girls and 11 Western girls; for a total of 47 JIII girls in PARA.

This results in Central getting 26% (12/47) of the 21 female Derby slots or 5.3617, Eastern getting 30% (14/47) or 6.2553 slots, Northeastern getting 21% (10/47) or 4.4680 and Western getting 23% (11/47) or 4.9148. After rounding the result is 5 Central, 6 Eastern, 4 Northeastern and 5 Western. That totals 20 slots leaving one slot unallocated. Consequently, the decimal remainders are considered next: Central 5.3617 slots, Eastern 6.2553 slots, Northeast 4.4680 slots and Western 4.91489 slots. Northeast would receive the extra slot, giving it 5, since rounding on the other regions occurred first as they were closer to a whole number. NOTE: Western, Northeast and Central got the same number of slots even though the percentage of the number of JIII girls in PARA varied from 21% Northeast, 23% Western and 26% Central.

This type of calculation would be performed for each age/group/gender combination and the slots apportioned accordingly.

The following table shows the total breakdown for the example year only:

Age Group	Number of Racers	Total Slots	Discretionary	Male	Female
JIII	138	65	5	39	21
JIV-JV	346	100	5	57	38

The breakdown of slots by gender will vary depending on the percentages of PARA members per gender in each age bracket and cannot be determined until all applications postmarked 1/15 or before are processed. The total number of slots remains constant until modified by the PARA board. JV racers must be a minimum age of 8 years old to compete in Derbies which may result in a racer that is otherwise qualified not being extended an invitation.