

Maine Principals' Association Ski Committee

Attn. Ted Hall and Mike Burnham

From: The undersigned KVAC Nordic Ski Coaches

The Maine Principals' Association has broached the topic of whether it is feasible for The M.P.A. to recognize the Skimeisters at the High School State ski competitions. The M.P.A. cites low numbers as evidence for eliminating the program.

While it is true the numbers have been low, the interest and desire in the athletes who come to us coaches and ask for our help to assist them in attaining their goals doesn't seem to be going away. At some smaller schools, the presence of Skimeisters often makes a team eligible for scoring. Not recognizing Skimeisters may shift athletes' focus toward one specialty or the other, leaving some teams short in scoring numbers. Please keep this under consideration when you have your discussions.

There are issues surrounding the scheduling and locations of the state meets and skimeisters. Planning on four events over two days assumes that everything goes according to plan. Even without delays caused by weather any incident in the Alpine events, such as an accident or injury, is likely to force a delay in the Nordic events. Last year the Alpine events were a week after the Nordic events, but this schedule was not popular with some school administrators due to lost school time. It is possible to schedule both the Nordic and Alpine events during vacation week, but on different days, say Alpine on Monday and Tuesday with the Nordic events on Thursday and Friday. This would allow greater flexibility for the Nordic site since it would not need to be in close proximity to the Alpine venue.

A philosophy of the M.P.A. and of High School Coaches has always been to recognize as many athletes as we can who go above and beyond. Skimeisters are a perfect example. These kids sometimes attend dual practices and meets, meet with coaches to communicate weekly schedules, do a lot of traveling, and spend a lot of money on ski equipment. These kids are physically, mentally, emotionally and socially challenged all season long. They are driven individuals with eclectic personalities, endless energy - not to mention they are excellent time managers. These well-rounded individuals deserve our attention. Let us do our thing as coaches and administrators to coach them score them and recognize them - and we will let them do their thing as competitors. The undersigned KVAC Nordic ski

coaches will continue to recognize skimeisters as we value their dedication, commitment and participation.

Not everyone can be a Nordic or Alpine champion; some of those who do not make podium could be recognized as Skimeisters. Don't take that away. They earned it and they deserve it.

Thank you for your time on our concern.

Buzz Davis, Mt. Blue High School

Steve DeAngelis, Maranacook High School

Jane DiPompo, Spruce Mountain High School

Chris Easton, Oxford Hills High School

Richard Stetson, Camden Hills High School

Dustin Williamson, Leavitt High School