



**SKI &
SNOWBOARD**
MIDWEST DIVISION
CENTRAL CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Date: October 1, 2022

Re: MNSCA proposal to shift the MSHSL Nordic Skiing Season

To: Whom it may concern

We are writing on behalf of Central Cross Country Skiing (CXC Skiing) and the Midwest Division Junior Subcommittee. We are in support of shifting the MSHSL Nordic Skiing Season back a period of time if consideration is given to the US Junior National Cross Country Championships Calendar, which sets the National Championships as starting on the first Monday after a Friday in March, and requires travel on the Friday before the championships.

The Midwest Junior National Cross Country Ski Team is traditionally made up of as many as 50 or more HS student athletes (25 girls and 25 boys) who compete at the MSHSL Nordic Skiing State Championship meet. Collaborating to mesh the MSHSL and Junior National schedules together with as little overlap as possible, especially when considering Section and State Championship Meets and Junior National Qualifiers (CXC Cup Races, which may include NCAA racing and SuperTour Racing, along with JNQs that expose the athletes to possible next steps with their pursuit of skiing), serves the group of student athletes striving to do well in both events best, so they are not challenged by being pulled in conflicting directions.

An important goal for all HS and Junior ski coaches is encouraging a lifelong active lifestyle that involves skiing both recreationally and racing. A collaborative schedule would allow JNQs to provide an opportunity for more HS athletes to experience skiing at new events and encourage a love of sport. If HS athletes want to do citizen races post high school, experiencing a JNQ is a great start to seeing other venues and having a different type of racing experience meeting athletes from different areas. In Minnesota, we have many athletes who do the JNQs, don't make a team, but come back year after year to compete in the JNQs for the general racing experience and the environment they offer. Those who experience the excitement of JNQ racing would hate to miss these racing experiences. Productive collaboration of scheduling instead of the JNQ and high school seasons working around each other serves to benefit all the athletes and encourage more participation in ski racing to instill the lifelong active values which all ski coaches are striving for.

If the MSHSL schedule were to shift later, Team Midwest Junior National Qualifying could shift to finishing the weekend before the current post state meet President's day weekend, with Sections starting after the president's day weekend/holiday and the State Meet starting the last Tuesday of February (to avoid finishing the State Meet and then having no recovery before traveling to Junior Nationals), a comprehensive schedule could be put together to benefit the student athletes.

We thank you for your consideration of our support and concerns.

Julia Curry

Julia Curry
Midwest Division
Junior National Team
Trip Leader

Joe Haggemiller

Joe Haggemiller
Midwest Division
Junior National Team
Head Coach

Yuriy Gusev

Yuriy Gusev
Executive Director
CXC Skiing
yuriy.gusev@cxcskiing.org