



Agreement of Understanding Between Kennett High School and the Mount Washington Valley Ski Team

Preface:

The goal of this program is to offer ski training and racing which would enable our Mount Washington Valley skiers to compete at the highest level of skiing and to encourage academic excellence.

It is hoped and expected that by offering training, racing, and academics that are equal or better than what ski academies offer our young skiers will chose to stay home. We think there is much to be gained by having our children mature in their own homes, being raised by their parents, rather than by coaches and teachers.

The following is an agreement for coordinated effort in a Kennett High School (KHS)/Mount Washington Valley Ski Team (MWVST) School Release Program. Athletes who are members of the MWVST attending KHS will be participating in the School Release Program only if they elect to do so and meet set requirement that's will be established and contractually agreed upon by all parties.

The primary reason for the School Release Program is to show sincere desire to cooperate and work within the school system. This type of arrangement will take the unnecessary pressure off the student athlete, alleviate pressures on teachers for make-up work, etc. and ensure that excellence in academics is maintained as well as excellence in skiing.

This agreement will serve as the basis for a contract which will be signed by school officials, parents, and the student athlete.

I. The School Release Program Concept

- a. **Time:** The School Release Program is to begin at the start of the second quarter of the school year and terminate with the end of the third quarter of that same school year.
- b. **Scheduling:** Every possible effort will be made to schedule these students' academic classes before the last period (or two periods) of each day. In this way, it is hoped that no one would need more than one subject tutored, except under specific circumstances.
- c. **Tutoring:** Tutors will be arranged as needed by the athlete and their parents. Tutors will be compensated by the parents of the

athlete. KHS may provide assistance in finding an appropriate tutor.

- d. **Student Logistics:** During periods missed from school, direct instructional and physical training supervision is provided. In addition, proctored study time is mandatory at any out of area events including both racing and training.
- e. **Transportation:** Upon dismissal from school, transportation responsibilities lie with the individual parent/guardian.

II. **Weekly Schedule**

- a. Monday: Student attends KHS all day. Student should begin the week and lesson plan with all the students. Monday is a day off from ski training. Time after school will be made available to confer with teachers. The only exceptions to this schedule would be when there is a race or training camp schedule; if this is the case another day will be taken off in the week.
- b. Tuesday – Friday: Students attend KHS until their designated release time, when they will leave to attend training with MWVST. If needed, any of these days may be used by the student to remain in school all day.

III. **Daily Schedule**

- a. Monday: Athlete is in school all day
- b. Tuesday – Friday: Students attend school until their designated release time, not before 12:00, depending on class schedule. Scheduled, organized and supervised training from 12:30 – 4:00.
- c. Flexibility: If weather conditions are extreme or training is cancelled, the student may remain in school for the entire day.

IV. **Race Travel Logistics**

- a. **Prearranged Absences:** When athletes must miss school for an extended period for racing or training camps, MWVST athletes will make early arrangements whenever possible to acquire work in all of their academic classes. These absences can be dealt with as prearranged absences and students will have their class work complete upon their return. Approved activities that may cause a student to miss school are categorized as field trips. These events will not be considered absences for the purposes of the attendance policy, but must be approved prior to the event. Students seeking absence approval for an MWV Ski Team activity must fill out a notification, or field trip form. The field trip form must be submitted for approval to teachers one week prior to the absence and returned to MWV Ski Team or the responsible coach. Parent/Guardian permission is also required.
- b. **Study Time:** For any race or training camp trips, MWVST, USSA Eastern Division, and the United States Ski Team will have study time scheduled.
- c. **Teacher Relations:** Every effort will be made by the athletes to cooperate with the KHS staff. MWVST recognizes that the amount of school the athletes must sometimes miss may be a burden on the

teachers; however, our goal is to minimize disruption. Already established lines of communication will facilitate this and no teacher is expected or asked to dedicate any of his/her own time, unless he/she desires, to the student athlete.

V. Requirements and Standards

- a. **Contract:** Every student will be required to sign a contract that stipulates the program standards and their agreement to adhere to the standards. This is similar to the KHS Athletic Code concerning drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
- b. **Grades:** Our students must maintain their performance in all courses. There are no set grade cutoffs. Performance is reviewed, for instance, if an "A" student starts doing "C" work, or if a "C" student starts doing "D" work, or if a student does not hand his/her work in on time, etc. The decision to either suspend temporarily or permanently an athlete's training is made on an individual basis by the teacher, guidance counselor, the athlete's parents, and the coaching staff. The athlete may be required to use the afternoon training time during the week to make up work or to receive additional help until the problem has been resolved. Constant monitoring is a key to the success for such a program. Weekly or bi-monthly reports can be established if necessary.
- c. **MWVST Commitment:** The program can only work if consistent emphasis is placed on the importance of academics and education. School will have priority over ski training. The school will be able to communicate, at any time, with the MWVST about academic or disciplinary problems that may arise.
- d. **Physical Education Credit:** MWVST/KHS athletes will receive 1.5 Physical Education credit. This credit will be awarded one time only.

VI. Conclusion:

The agreement for the Academic-School Release Program is not cast in stone, but is very important for the MWVST, the athletes, the parents, and KHS personnel to consider carefully while maintaining flexibility. The student athlete will greatly benefit from having the opportunity to excel in a supportive academic atmosphere while working hard to excel in a healthy and positive environment such as ski racing.

KHS is located in the heart of ski country and the essence of our community is strongly dependent on skiing and its related activities. It is anticipated that this equitable program will be worked out to allow the exceptional student athlete to participate in a program that due to its uniqueness, does not fit into any standard mold.

This agreement seems to be a very fair approach that allows a student to pursue his or her career goals, bears no additional cost to the tax payer, and should be acceptable to all parties.

The coordination of the schedules, the finding of tutors, the interactions between teachers, students, and tutors, etc. all seem to be hurdles that can be overcome in order for this program to function during the next academic year and in the future. If there is anything that MWVST can do to assist the student or the parent direction, we remain anxious to help coordinate this program.

