

Dear Development Program families,

We hope you've had a great summer! Winter will be here before you know it! As you are looking to sign up your kids for winter programming, we would like to take an opportunity to tell you a little bit more about the Development Programs, how we operate, some of our goals, and some of the exciting new hires and initiatives we have on the docket for this year.

Traditionally, the winter sports activities at Killington were run by the Resort. That changed in 2008, when Killington gave ownership of the youth development programs to the Killington Mountain School. KMS has run the programs ever since, and we've seen them grow and expand under the school's leadership. However, this only tells a piece of the story. In truth, these programs were and are and will remain a true partnership between Killington, KMS and the Killington Ski Club, with each playing a pivotal role.

When KMS took over the programs from Killington, the school and the club collaborated to form an Oversight Committee made up of three directors from the ski club, as well as three trustees from KMS. The intent was that this committee would provide voice and oversight over budget, pricing, and overarching goals, while KMS would remain the proprietor of the athletic programs themselves.

This partnership has worked well and has led the programs to great success: strong enrollment; USSA Gold Club Certification; outstanding competition results; and a strong reputation regionally and nationally. Building on this recent success, the school and the club have come to the decision to strengthen our partnership by separating the business model from the Killington Mountain School operating budget, creating a stand-alone entity. KMS will continue to provide professional direction, staffing, management and day-to-day operational support for the programs, but the oversight committee (made up of KMS and KSC directors) will now have full oversight of budget, pricing, performance goals and outcomes. Additionally, the Development Program Director will now report directly to the Oversight Committee. Program and event coaches and staff will remain employees of the Killington Mountain School and under the human resources department policies and practices of KMS, and the KMS program directors will be responsible for oversight and execution of programming and athlete development.

Both entities feel these changes will better position the programs for current and future success by creating a more inclusive oversight and operational structure for the youth development programs at Killington. As the Board of Directors of the Killington Ski Club and the Board of Trustees of KMS, we are excited about these changes because we truly believe this will enable our youth competition programs to achieve the goal of being the best club development program experience in the country.

What does this mean to you? On a day-to-day basis, Chuck, Alexis, Johnny O. and Janet will still work collaboratively to support kids and parents, and we will continue to use Admin Sports this year for program enrollment. Parents are encouraged to continue to work primarily with their child's coach and Chuck Hughes, but in the event that an issue arises that needs further intervention, a special sub-committee from the oversight committee will deal with the few athlete issues or parent concerns that can't find resolution at the coach or director level. For the most part, the only change we expect you to see is an improvement in programming and an increase in professionalism and oversight of the coaching staff.

What does it mean to be best club experience in the country? We will focus on performance, communication, results, and customer satisfaction. Each and every child in our programs deserves the best that we can offer; KMS and KSC pride ourselves on providing an optimal customer experience --from enrollment and drop off on day one, to the end of the season. We are a program that's geared toward youth sports; therefore, competition is a big part of what we do. However, many of our participants will never go on to championship events or win a medal, so their experience is of equal importance. We are trying to create athletes who are future Olympians, National Champions, NCAA competitors, etc., but we also want to teach them what it is to be an athlete for life. By giving our children unique skills, experiencing the thrills of winter activities and the close relationships that are formed with coaches and friends, we are helping our program participants realize the dedication and commitment that is required to be successful in any endeavor and wherever life will take them.

To help serve as a useful guide, this summer our directors created a parent and athlete handbook for you to have as a resource and information tool throughout the season. In addition to outlining policies and highlighting best practices, it contains information about the program specific to alpine, freestyle, snowboard, and freeski disciplines. It also contains our philosophy on working with young athletes as they progress through the program. The handbook will be available on the KSC/KMS website this year.

Here are some of the new faces you are going to see this year:

Kris Pepe is our new KMS Freestyle Mogul Program Director and head coach. From 2008-2014, Kris was the head mogul FIS/Nor-Am coach at Telluride, and served most recently as the head Freestyle coach at Aspen. Kris began his freestyle career as a competitive athlete out of Hunter Mountain, NY. Kris got his start in coaching at Park City, before moving on to Telluride where he was instrumental in developing one of the most highly successful FIS programs in the country.

Some of the highlights from Kris's coaching career include:

- In 2014, 10 NorAm podiums, 4 athletes named to US Development Group, 2 athlete named to US Freestyle Ski Team, 2 Podium at US National Championships

- 2013 Top Results include Lake Placid World Cup: 2 top 15 finishes; NorAm Tour: 7 podiums; Jr. World Championships: 3 gold medals in single and dual moguls
- 60 Podium Finishes at FIS Level Competitions
- 15 Athletes named to the U.S. Development Team
- 5 Athletes named to the U.S. National Team

Most recently, at Aspen, Kris had been tasked with building a grassroots Freestyle mogul program. He has been developing training plans, athlete development models, and appropriate coaching plans from the ground up, focusing on what each athlete needs at each stage of development from U8's through U21's.

Nori Pepe has joined us to manage the B Freestyle Program, and to assist help with the Freestyle A Development Program, as well as helping to coordinate our Freestyle Events. This is very exciting news and a huge positive step for us.

Nori was a US Ski Team member from 1997-2001, and three time Junior National Champion in Freestyle Aerials and combined. Nori's career stats include: two time National Champion; two time NorAm Grand Prix Champion; Jr. World Championship Bronze Medalist; the Ski Magazine Cup Award 1996; and the recipient of the Hart Cup Award 1996.

Nori was the Junior Mogul Team Coordinator and head coach at Telluride from 2008-2014, and most recently was the Freestyle Devo 2 Coordinator and head coach at Aspen. Before moving west in 2008, Nori was the Development Program Director and head development Freestyle coach at Waterville Valley.

Gareth Trayner has been named Director of Athlete Development. This is a position that KSC/KMS and KMS has been searching for over the past several years. Gar will spend a majority of his time on hill and working with our Development athletes and coaches. Gar will be responsible for all aspects of athlete development for all disciplines and all ages in the Development Programs. Gar will oversee the performance and advancement of youth and development programs, programming, implementing best practices, overseeing the way we train to help increase performance across the board, and will serve as director of summer youth development camps. Next summer we will be offering ramp, tramp, cycling, and youth dryland camps. Gar will oversee the management, marketing, and implementation of these exciting programs.

As a former Olympian and National Team level coach, Gar brings his Olympic and World Cup experience to Killington, as well as many years of Junior Development Coaching experience at the International level. He has coached both at the NCAA (alpine skiing) and World Cup (ski cross) levels. This is an outstanding opportunity for our children and coaches, and we are excited to welcome Gar to Killington.

Neil Barkel -- Neil has joined KMS as the Alpine U19/U21 women's coach. Neil moved from Alaska with his wife Lacie. Neil has been coaching for many years, and was the head coach at the National Sports Academy in Lake Placid two years ago before returning to Alaska last year. He brings a wealth of knowledge and great enthusiasm to his new role at KMS.

Devon Gulick - Devon is the new full time Slopestyle coach at KMS. Devon's professional background consists of four years of coaching for the competition team at Loon Mountain, and more recently, he worked as the Head Freestyle coach for the Holderness School. Devon has coached athletes at the USASA nationals for the past five seasons. He has participated in various, small competitions since high school, and recently competed in the Eastern Boarders "Last Call" event at Loon Mountain.

Along with these coaches, we have also strengthened our staff with some new faces. In the Freestyle world we have Peter DaMore, Frank Marinella, Guy Keefe, Rich Snedaker, and Kevin Osinski, among others, joining our current coaching staff. For Alpine, Meghan Cleason will be joining the coaching ranks to help with the local mid-week after-school program, as well as working with the U12 development groups. We are continuing to meet with potential coaches throughout the fall, and we will be adding to our outstanding coach roster as we get closer to the season. We will have more updates to follow.

Along with all these positive changes, we have also reevaluated our program pricing for the upcoming season. Although you may see a slight price increase, you are still receiving a tremendous value. With an average program price of \$1790 for the season, and forty and a half days on snow, the daily cost of the program works out to less than \$45 per day. The intent behind the increase is to improve our coaches' compensation, education opportunities and equipment, as will serve as an investment in them and in their future retention with the program.

We are excited to open up registration on Tuesday, September 15th. You can visit the website for updated program information for the 2015-2016 season at: <http://www.killingtonmountainschool.org/ksckms>. Once again, we will be using AdminSports as our registration program, and for further information on the registration process, you can visit the KSC/KMS Registration webpage at: <http://www.killingtonmountainschool.org/ksckms/registration>. You can also log on to the main KMS website, www.killingtonmountainschool.org, at any time for updated program information for the season.

All registrations for the upcoming season must be processed online. If you have used AdminSports in the past you will just need to update and check your family profile before selecting your athlete's programs. If you are new to AdminSports, you must create a family profile that is saved for future registration seasons. Alexis Voutas is always available to answer questions and provide help. Her email is avoutas@killingtonmountainschool.org.

We hope to continue monthly emails with all of you throughout the fall. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Looking forward to snow,

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