

Outline of MMART

Revised May 14th, 2018

The Mohawk Mountain Alpine Race Team (MMART) is a Mohawk Mountain Snowsports Discovery Center Program that provides coaching and racing in the USSA U10-U19 categories. We race in CYSL (Connecticut Youth Ski League) and Tristate as a part of the USSA Eastern Division.

Our goal is to provide a skiing experience that encourages the development of our athletes both on and off the snow. We believe that the MMART is more than just great skiing, it is being a part of a great team. Each racer both supports and is supported by their MMART teammates and coaches. Whether Mohawk Mountain racers end up on the World Cup circuit or never race competitively again, our goal is to instill and nurture a love of skiing that will become a lifelong passion.

What the program provides: Coaching and Hill Space

Coaching: Mohawk Mountain hires trains and develops coaches to provide the highest possible level of coaching for our athletes. All of our coaches are encouraged to pursue relevant certifications and attend training events that help to improve their own skiing and coaching abilities. Mohawk Mountain is also committed to providing in house training for both our current and prospective coaches through guest trainers, in house USSA/PSIA events, and regular coach's sessions among the existing staff. Periodically throughout the season, practices will end early to allow for coaches training time.

Coaching will be provided for athletes on site during training, off site for special travel days, and during both away and home races. The programed training days consist of Saturdays and Sundays starting on December 15th (as snow permits) through to the end of the regular race season (CYSL and TriState) and Thursday night practices will begin on January 3rd. During the post season coaching will be provided with the staffing of post season events depending on the number of racers attending. Coaches assigned to away races will be provided a travel stipend in addition to regular pay. Coaches will also receive a travel stipend if assigned to an away practice (such as a trip to a large northern mountain). The final weekend of coaching will be March 16th and 17th with a fun event planned to mark the end of the racing season. Mohawk Mountain has scheduled a winter break camp for December 26th, 27th & 28th. This camp is not included in the program fee and is at an additional cost.

Hill Space: In order to provide the best possible training environment while balancing the needs of other programs and the everyday skier, the MMART program will have clear and defined zones in which to set gates and drills for practice. These areas will include space on Arrowhead, Exhibition and Timber trails and one or two may be used on any regular practice day. Some restrictions may occur in relation to mountain conditions, race days or special circumstances, but these will be communicated ahead of time if they impact training.

Mohawk Mountain Alpine Race Team Structure: athletes and coaches

Athletes: The Alpine Race Team is broken in to the USSA U10-U19 categories. Each age group, while part of the whole, should operate with the needs of that group in mind. As such each age group will operate somewhat independently to provide the most effective practice possible. The Coaches will be asked to provide an evaluation of each athlete; their commitment and attendance, ability (skill development), and attitude. Based on this evaluation and alongside the yearly open tryouts, the make-up of each age group will be decided for the following year. It is expected that most athletes on the team will already continue to the next age group, but in cases where the desire, time commitment, or ability has changed that spot will go to a qualified new racer hoping to join the team. With the addition of the U19 program, this process will be especially important to maintain workable numbers in each age group. Team and age group size are based on hill space and coaching availability.

Coaches: The general coaching staff's first priority is to the on hill experience of the MMART racers. Each coach is responsible for the development of their athletes and providing the best coaching possible with the resources provided. On race days at Mohawk Mountain, coaching staff will assist (along with volunteers and relevant appointed personnel) the set-up and break down of the race environment. However, the coaches responsibility remains focused on the racers. On a day to day basis, coaches will need to work together to ensure effective and efficient use of training environments. Some coaches may be asked to take on specific additional responsibilities (commensurate with their skills and abilities) in order to provide a greater level of communication and/or organization.

While great communication between the coaches and the parents of athletes is integral to any ski/snowboard program, and valued highly by our families, it is not expected that coaches provide personal emails/phones to families and communicate extensively off site. Mohawk has set up email addresses for the head coach at each age group and this will be the channel of communication between coaches and parents. If individual Mohawk email addresses for coaches are needed this will be set up. Each age group will have a lead coach who will help guide the age group during the day as well as be the point person for communicating with team leadership and planning age group specific training.

To improve communication across the entire program Mohawk Mountain has created an administrative position, whose role supports communication for the team. Tim Ruh serves as Communications Coordinator, providing regular updates to athletes, parents and coaches. This position works closely with the Snowsports Director to form the leadership of the MMART.

While this leadership is in place to help facilitate communication and organization, all coaches are part of the team and will need to work together. Just as important is that all coaches should feel free at any time to communicate with or express ideas, concerns, comments or any other feedback with anyone in the SDC including the Director. Any team structure is designed to facilitate communication, not stifle it.