



January, 2020

Dear School Advisor,

One of your student athletes will be participating in the NYSSRA Empire State Winter Games in Lake Placid, NY on January 30 – February 2, 2020. New York State Ski Racing Association is dedicated to promoting development opportunities for our athletes.

This race series is an important step in the development of young athletes. The Empire State Winter Games is now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year and assembles the best ski racers in NY state for three days of competition on the same trails used for the 1980 Olympic Winter Games. Much dedication, time and effort is invested to achieve a high level of proficiency in the sport of Alpine Ski Racing. Unlike other sports, ski racing must be performed in mountain settings. The race and training schedule must also be conducive to the host mountain's schedule, many times requiring missed days from school. Although this is not our intent, it does happen, and we hope their school and teachers will work with this student athlete, so they can continue to pursue their goals.

At NYSSRA, we take academics and athletics very seriously. When possible, we schedule extra time for homework during training sessions, and offer assistance when needed. Any special arrangements you might make to help this athlete reach his/her academic and ski-racing goals will be very much appreciated by the student, their family and our State Association. If you have further questions or want additional information, I will be happy to provide it.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dirk Gouwens", written in a cursive style.

Dirk Gouwens  
Executive Director



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