

# MSHSNSCA 2023-2024

Minnesota State High School Nordic Ski Coaches Association  
State Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Volunteer of the 2023-2024 Season

# State and Section 6 Boys Head Coach Brett Schulze -Hopkins

Brett was introduced to cross country skiing by her parents in junior high and has never stopped. Eventually she started racing in Minnesota and Wisconsin. During her teaching career at Hopkins High School, she worked as an assistant Nordic Coach (with then head Coach Brad Nuorala) but eventually stopped to focus on her own training and family. A few years before her retirement from teaching, she knew that she wanted to coach again because she enjoys working with kids who ski. She has been with the Hopkins Nordic Team for the past 6 years- first couple of years as assistant coach and then as Head Coach. She enjoys working with skiers to help them develop, improve and reach their goals. She also enjoys working with the community of people who help to make her team a success. This past season, her boys team was 3rd overall at the state meet and Logan Drevlow was the pursuit champion. She also had 3 girls qualify. It was a super fun year despite the lack of snow.



Ralph has been working with our program since his son was on the team over 15 years ago. His specialty is helping our beginner skiers. He takes brand new roller skiers out for the first time in the summer and teaches them the basics, such as rolling into the grass when necessary. Ralph likes to organize fun events for our JV. They play rubber chicken, which is similar to ultimate, but with a rubber chicken. They have dryland Olympics, they do Parkour, etc. In this crazy year, he helped keep our JV interested. Ralph is also a team photographer and posts a ton of pictures throughout the year. He brings a fun perspective and is essential to keeping the program running.



## **State and Section 4 Girls Assistant Coach Ralph Hapness – Stillwater**

# State and Section 8 Girls Head Coach Chris Hanson, Brainerd

Nordic racing in high school (back when boys raced 10 km and skating was a new thing) provided an opportunity for Chris to experience the fantastic sport of Nordic skiing.

"This sport has been a blessing in many ways! It taught me the joy to be found in Minnesota winters, gave me the opportunity to coach super kids with outstanding coaches, and provided the opportunity for me to meet my then-future wife (skiing the Birkie rollerski classic in the '80s!). After college on the edge of the Great Plains where ski trails were hard to find, I returned to Nordic racing and coaching as an assistant to the Brainerd program in 1996. Since then it has been a wild ride with life and skiing. For 24 years (4 as assistant and 20 as head and co-head coach) Brainerd has always put an athlete or team into the State meet. 30 years of coaching CC running, track, Nordic skiing, and even chess has taught me a lot and given me a special position to recruit kids to lifelong activities that I strongly believe make us stronger, more resilient, healthier, and happier people. The coaches, parents, and school athletes make this wonderful activity even more special. My passion for outdoor silent sports continues with supporting local races, the ski club, and citizen racing."

Look for Chris setting up courses, chatting with old-timers at start and finish lines, and trying to keep up with young kids on the trails!



# State and Section 7 Boys Assistant



## Tyler Fish-Ely

Tyler has proved himself to be an asset to Section 7. He is a positive presence to be around. He is always willing to lend a hand, including when he helped haul an injured skier to safety. He was caring and supportive during a stressful situation. He also helped lead the way for the Ely boys this year!

# State and Section 7 Volunteer



## Siiri Morse-Spirit Mountain Coordinator

Siiri is willing to go above and beyond to make a great experience for everyone, coaches and skiers alike. She is positive, cheerful and hard-working. Her dedication to the sport shines through everything she does. Thanks to Siiri, section 7 was able to have a great year of racing, which would not have been possible without her.