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PHOTO CAPTION: Simsbury High School Coach Michael Cohen is a finalist for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association national coach of the year. PHOTO CREDIT: School photography by Avon MotoPhoto



SHS's Coach Cohen Is Finalist for National Coach of the Year

The National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) announces the advancement of **Michael Cohen** from **Simsbury High School**, Simsbury, CT, as a finalist for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association national coach of the year in the sport of Boys Cross Country.

Coach Cohen is one of eight finalists from across the nation and will be honored during The National Coach of the Year Awards Banquet which will take place at the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's national convention at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria, IL on the evening of June 21, 2017. The highlight of the banquet will be the naming of the NHSACA national coach of the year in nineteen recognized sports categories.

Coach Cohen was selected for this national honor by his state's high school coaches' association. He was then selected as the nominee from District I comprised of the New England states and New York. This selection was based on longevity, service to high school athletics, honors, championship years, and winning percentage. The nominees and finalists are evaluated by experts in the field of coaching using a sport-specific rubric to assign points in each category. The National High School Athletic Coaches Association is the oldest coaches association in the nation formed by coaches, for coaches, and has been recognizing national coaches of the year since 1978.

Coach Cohen has coached both boys and girls Cross Country, coed Cross Country Ski, coed Indoor Track and Field as well as Outdoor Track and Field at Simsbury High School. He has been coaching for over 30 years. Presently, he is the Head Coach of the Boys Cross Country, the Coed Indoor Track and Field team and the Boys Outdoor Track and Field team. His Cross Country teams have won 4 state championships and amassed a record of 1056 wins and 255 losses. Presently, he serves as the State Chair of the CT High School Coaches Association Boys Cross Country Committee and has just completed 24 years as the Chair of Boys Cross Country for the Central CT Conference. Coach Cohen taught biological sciences at Simsbury High School for 35 years before retiring from the classroom. Additionally, Coach Cohen serves as the Director of the Green Mountain Running Camp, a NIKE Sports Camp, located in Meriden, NH. This camp is designed for high school boys and girls to educate and help prepare them to participate in their school's cross country programs.