

OFFSITE RISK ASSESSMENT – SKIING & SNOWBOARDING

Next Gen Alternative
Provision

ACTIVITY: Offsite Visits – Skiing / Snowboarding		Visit Leader:		
Visit Details:				Date of Visit:
Assessment by:		Date:	Target Date for review:	
Approved by:		Position:		Date:
Significant Hazards and Associated Risks Those hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people	Those who might be harmed Persons at risk from the significant hazards identified	Control Measures (CM's): Controls, including relevant sources of guidance (e.g. Generic Risk Assessments, Guidance from Provider, etc.). Specific CM's not included in the generic RA (e.g. briefings, actions by leaders / participants, qualifications / experience of supervisors)	Additional CM's required? If existing CM's cannot be met or circumstances have changed	Residual Risk Rating (H / M / L)
All accidents	All group members, including leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This generic risk assessment will be read in addition to the generic risk assessment "General Considerations" All participants and staff should wear properly fitted helmets whilst skiing and snowboarding 	Generic risk assessment, "Indirect or Remote Supervision" may also apply	
Inappropriate leadership	Group members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least one of the leaders will be an employed member of staff (e.g. teacher, social / youth worker) with appropriate leadership experience and competence, and knowledge of the group At least one of the leaders will have attended a Snowsports Course Organiser Award (formerly SCO1) training course An appropriate number of other competent leaders will also accompany the group in a supervisory capacity (at least one other adult leader, with appropriate experience, should accompany to deputise in emergency When a group is under the direct supervision and care of ski school instructors, at least one group leader will remain in the immediate vicinity and be available to assist (i.e. with behavioural / pastoral issues) if required, on the ski slope All accompanying staff will remain accessible and available to assist with supervision throughout the taught ski session 		

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		<p>(as required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will have an established emergency procedure in the event of a group member being injured and needing hospitalisation (see below) • Meeting points will be agreed for the start and end of sessions 		
Avalanche danger		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All skiing is supervised by instructors and will be on maintained pistes. 	If avalanche danger is exceptionally high, then, guided by the local instructors, students will be taken to another (safer) resort or will not ski until conditions have improved	
Unusual ski conditions – ice, deep snow		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants warned in advance of conditions. Instructors will adjust pace of group, stop more frequently, check well-being of group. • Participants are aware that they must keep instructors/staff informed as to their mental/physical state. 	If the ski trip leader, guided by the local instructors, deems the conditions to be too challenging then the participants will not ski until conditions have improved or they would be taken to another (safer) resort.	
Poor visibility – mist, fog, blizzards		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students to ski close together and have frequent stops. • Goggles to be worn. • Liaison between staff by walkie-talkies or mobile phone. 	If conditions persist lesson may be stopped and participants to stop at mountain restaurant or similar or taken back to hotel with staff.	
Bright sunshine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants must wear sunglasses or goggles. • Students to inform staff/instructor if having problems. 	Useful for staff to have a spare pair.	
Strong sunshine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunblock to be applied at least twice a day before morning skiing and at lunchtime (Staff to carry spares) 	'Aftersun' can be applied in the evening. Staff to check participants for signs of sunburn.	

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Sunstroke		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants must ski in hat/headgear; Participants to inform staff or instructors if feeling unwell. Staff to make participants aware of risk on a sunny day. 		
Dehydration		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluids to be drunk with breakfast and with lunch. Participants encouraged to carry water in a rucksack, shared between 2-3. 	Staff to carry water for use by participants if necessary.	
Very cold temperatures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to wear layers that can be taken off. Warm drink stops on very cold days. Participants to inform staff/instructors if feeling cold/unwell. 	Clothing check by staff every morning. Clothing check carried out for evening activities.	
Out of control skiing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors and staff inform participants of the 'Skiway Code' beforehand, whilst on the slopes and during evening briefings if necessary. Ski groups can be changed so that participants are skiing in their ability group. 	Persistent offenders can be dropped a group or, in extreme cases, taken off the slopes.	
Steep ground		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual can be coaxed down either by slow traversing with staff/instructor in close attendance or take off skis and walk down at the side of the piste. Students will be skiing on slopes appropriate to their level – mostly blues and reds, with the occasional black run at the end of the week for intermediates and advanced skiers. 		
Ski bindings failing to release		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained ski technicians set bindings. The settings are checked and recorded by a member of staff. Students with own skis should also have bindings set by the same technicians 		

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<p>Individual lost on slopes – detached from group</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students and staff are given a piste map and an identification card with the hotel address. • Meeting points (lift stations or restaurants) in case of emergency to be identified and agreed beforehand • Wait for 15-20 minutes (depending on weather conditions) to see if instructor/staff return. If not make way back to agreed meeting place and wait until staff/instructor to return. • Refer to emergency procedure checklist on personal identification tag, where applicable 		
<p>Ski boot irritating skin on foot</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to brief participants on this common problem. • Participants must inform staff as soon as they experience any irritation. • Staff to put suitable dressing on affected area, enter details in medical log and observe in case of infection for rest of the trip. 	<p>Change of ski boot may be required if the problem persists.</p>	

Emergency procedure for staff accompanying student(s) who can no longer ski:

- The ski party leader (SPL) will brief all staff about emergency procedures before their first day of skiing.
- Stay calm.
- SPL to be informed as soon as possible by means of walkie-talkie or mobile 'phone. SPL to advise ski tour operator representative
- The instructor may for three sets of skis to be used to mark out a warning triangle up-slope. Students can help with this task.
- Leave first aid to the instructor, as s/he will be first-aid trained. If available, use a survival blanket to keep the injured student warm. Keep students warm (stationary exercises) whilst the instructor deals with the incident. This may take some time.
- If further help is required, select two 'sensible' students to ski to the nearest lift station to inform the officials of the situation. The students will need to have **written** evidence of their location (the piste name e.g. red 4 and the nearest lift stanchion number).
- A member of staff (ideally not the SPL as s/he is responsible for the whole group) **must** accompany the student wherever s/he may have to go e.g. restaurant, doctor's surgery, hospital. The tour operator rep should accompany the member of staff. The rep will keep a record of all procedures (accompanying member of staff must do this if the rep is unavailable) and help with communication.
- Please note that if the injured student has to be stretchered off the slopes staff should not attempt to ski down with them, as they are unlikely to be able to ski fast enough to keep up with them! SPL will make the decision as to who should accompany the student.
- If a member of staff has to go the doctor's surgery or the hospital s/he will need to take the following:
 - o Student EHIC
 - o Student Medicard
 - o Student passport
 - o Contingency money for paying the excess on the insurance and transport costs. The insurance excess should be ZERO if the EHIC is presented at a **public medical facility**. If the injured person is taken to a private facility then an excess will have to be paid. Medical costs may have to be paid at the time and claimed back later. (Check local details beforehand.) An itemised receipt must be requested.
- SPL (or member of staff who has the best knowledge of the incident) will inform parents and the insurance company.
- The ski tour operator's rep usually writes up the incident and measures taken. If not, the SPL is responsible for filling out an 'Accident reporting Sheet'

REVIEWS:		
DATE OF REVIEW:	REVIEWED BY:	COMMENTS:
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