



American SkiBike Association

Ski/Snow Bike Guidelines v1.0

Background: In many markets where alternate snow sports products such as ski/snow bikes exist, their use represents one of the fastest growing segments within the industry. There has been significant development and evolution of purpose-built equipment and a wide variety of equipment styles are now available to consumers globally.

While many resorts already do a great job of accommodating alternate snow sports products such as ski/snow bikes, many more either simply don't or struggle with the concept through misconceptions or a lack of information and resource on the topic.

This document is intended as a tool box resource for resorts to better understand and manage considerations around the introduction of a 'safe use policy' for alternate snow sports platforms namely ski/snow bike equipment.

Purpose: To provide ski resorts and ski/snow bike riders and equipment minimum standards for the introduction of a 'safe use policy' for ski/snow bikes.

Application: The ski/snow bike guidelines and standards are meant to provide practical and broad terms of reference allowing them to be adopted by resorts within the wider market that wish to better manage alternate snow sports activities.

These standards will be at a minimum equal to the common European and North American standards and endorsed by the American SkiBike Association. It is intended that these standards would be the same minimum standards recognized globally at resorts where similar alternate snow sport activities are accommodated.

Types of Devices: Various types of equipment exist and can be accommodated within the guidelines.

- **Ski/Snow Bikes** with two or more skis (i.e. ski bobs, 2-ski pegger-style bikes, 3-ski bikes).
- **Board Bikes** with one or more boards (i.e. Snowscoot, Snowmoto).
- **Snow Skates** with single ski boards (i.e. a skateboard for snow)
- Any other devices nominated by the resort excluding specialized Adaptive Snow Sports equipment, Skis and Snowboards.

Scope: To broadly cover three main areas of consideration supporting safe use for resorts, riders and the general public.

- **Safe Equipment**
- **Rider Skills**
- **Rider Knowledge**



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Safe Equipment: Equipment used will be designed for and fit for the intended purpose and present no additional or unnecessary hazards.

- Equipment should be designed for or fit for use by people on the snow.
- Skis or boards must have appropriate construction including metal edges.
- Attachments, pivots, connections must all be engineered solutions.
- An anti-runaway device or restraint attached between the device and the rider (either with a break away link or removable when on chair lifts) must be present where applicable (i.e. where the device can stay upright and continue to slide unattended).
- An anti-drop device or restraint attached between the device and the chairlift (not attached to the rider) must be present for use on chairlifts where applicable (i.e. where the device can physically become separated from the rider and the chair and potentially be dropped).
- No sharp edges or unnecessary protrusions can exist (i.e. cut off skis with exposed square edges, unfinished fabrication etc.).
- The device design should accommodate an acceptable rider solution for use on common ski lift types without impeding on the normal operation of the facility (i.e. self-loading and unloading, slide on/off for high speed facilities or within foot traffic limitations for manual loading/unloading).
- The device must not be motorized for use with traditional ski/snowboard users.

Rider Skills: The rider will have or be able to demonstrate reasonable control skills for riding (i.e. speed control, turning and stopping) as well as be able to demonstrate an acceptable method and ability to load and unload ski lifts.

- The rider must have the ability to control the speed of their descent.
- The rider must have the ability to turn to control direction.
- The rider must be able to stop at will or within a reasonable distance for their speed.
- The rider must be able to demonstrate a safe and acceptable solution for ski lift loading and unloading that is within the parameters of the ski lift design and operating standards which does not impede on other users.

Rider Knowledge: The rider will have or be able to demonstrate knowledge of the resorts normal safe skiing/riding policy as well as any additional requirements or restrictions for ski/snow bike use specific to the resort.

- The rider must understand the resorts usual safe skiing and riding policy.
- The rider must understand any additional restrictions or limitations set by the resort for ski/snow bike use on facilities and/or courses.
- The rider must know any safe use requirements specific to their equipment.
- The rider should demonstrate safe riding practices and awareness of other mountain users in their immediate vicinity at all times.



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Practical Implementation: The Ski/Snow Bike Guidelines may be adopted at a variety of levels depending on the situation or desired level of management required for the resort. Participation in these guidelines also has tangible benefits for riders of alternate snow sports equipment.

For Riders: Under these guidelines, all riders of applicable alternate snow sports devices (predominantly ski/snow bikes and board bikes) will be required to use only appropriate and safe equipment, to have a minimum skill level for safe riding and to demonstrate an acceptable level of knowledge and duty of care for others at all times.

Riders may be required to hold a current ski/snow bike license, if so the license purpose is to verify a formal process has been undertaken between the rider and the resort which meet the minimum risk management requirements for the state/country, resort and also their insurers.

For Resorts: Under these guidelines, resorts wishing to accommodate alternate snow sports customers can do so in a manner that would meet their required minimum risk management responsibilities. Resorts will also have the option to adopt the appropriate level of control for their specific situation.

Resorts have a number of ways these guidelines or minimum standards could be adopted:

- **Compulsory**
- **Optional**
- **Educational**
- **Restricted**

Compulsory: Resorts requiring the highest level of management will have a system where licenses would be issued to riders wanting to use the resorts facilities for alternate snow sports devices. The system should consist of one or more suitably experienced or qualified personal who will manage the verification and issuing of a ski/snow bike license at regular or pre-arranged times. Standard license cards should be used and license holder and resort details should be added. Resorts which run structured programs may decide that on the initial visit or upon equipment rental, riders must attend a lesson which covers all the license requirements, as well as the issuing of a ski/snow bike license at completion.

Resorts that have no structured programs may decide that riders arrange a time to be verified by a suitably experienced or qualified person and issued a resort license. Resorts would be encouraged to take a reasonable cost recovery approach to licencing fees, bearing in mind the benefit is primarily to the resort.



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Optional: Resorts may alternatively decide to recognize but not enforce the guidelines and standards', meaning it is simply a best practice tool. Resorts can be assured that new riders presenting or holding licenses will safely and responsibly utilize facilities at their resort. Customers holding and presenting a Ski/Snow Bike License from another resort would be accommodated at the resort.

Educational: Resorts may initially decide that it is simply a good practice that riders of alternate snow sports equipment are aware of what the resorts expectations are for safe equipment and safe use. Hand-outs should be made available for riders to familiarize themselves with resort expectations and to implement as they see fit.

Restricted: Resorts may decide to only accommodate alternate snow sports equipment on certain facilities/courses or to restrict them all together.

If no considerations are in effect for ski/snow bike use it would be preferred that at least an 'Educational' approach is adopted as this will foster best practice and improved knowledge of the sport and has no negative sides for users or resorts.

Updates: The ASA reserves the right to update this document from time to time following submissions from within the industry and by due consideration by the board. While the 'Standards and Guidelines' are not legally binding content they represent the combined experience and knowledge of major global manufacturers, resort operations experts, retailers and riders from within the greater ski/snow biking industry.