

Senior Alpine Program

Core Skill Requirements and Electives

Core components required for the senior alpine patroller are:

- Alpine Toboggan Handling
- Alpine skills-Skiing/Snowboarding
- Emergency Management

Each core component is evaluated and graded separately. As an example a candidate need not pass skiing in order to pass toboggan handling. There is no mandatory time constraint regarding when each core component must be completed. Once a candidate passes each component he or she need not take that component again. It is highly recommended that all core skill requirements be completed within 3 years. The candidate is strongly encouraged to continue to participate in clinics during the time when he or she is attempting to successfully complete the core components.

In addition to the core requirements the alpine senior candidate must complete a minimum of three electives. Refer to the current NSP National Policies and Procedures, chapter 17, for the accepted list of electives.

Alpine Candidate Skill Development

The senior candidate is responsible for his or her own training and abiding by any guidelines established by the region senior program administrator. Tracking skill development during training is critical for success in the alpine program. Senior Alpine Skill sign-off (appendix I) can be utilized to track training progress and must be completed in order to participate in the senior alpine evaluation. Alpine skiing/boarding skills must be checked off by a minimum level II PSIA instructor or the RD and the toboggan skills sign-off is to be completed by a NSP Alpine Toboggan Instructor. The completed skills sign-off is to be presented to the region administration in accordance to region specific protocol.

A region may use a pre-evaluation clinic prior to the final evaluation. The pre-evaluation clinic can be used to prepare both the candidates and examiners. This clinic can be at the same area as the final evaluation or on local terrain. The objective of the pre-evaluation clinic is to introduce the candidate to the evaluation format and to provide them with constructive feedback to help them refine their skills. This is not an evaluation but a teaching environment. The use of scorecards (appendix II) is encouraged for feedback and as a teaching tool. The pre-evaluation clinic is to be held far enough in advance so the candidate has time to utilize the feedback in preparation for the final evaluation.

Candidate preparation for the senior evaluation may also be done under the guidance of a mentor or “candidate coach.” The candidate coach must be familiar with the senior program content and evaluation format. The candidate coach is a skills coach and provides emotional support for the candidate. The candidate coach may be an examiner at the senior evaluation but will not evaluate their designated candidate/s. Information regarding mentoring a candidate can be found in appendix III.

Examiner Development

Examiners at the senior alpine evaluation must be at least a senior level patroller. Senior examiners must have excellent communication skills and be able to demonstrate senior level skiing/boarding skills and/or toboggan handling skills. The senior examiner must be able to evaluate and provide feedback to the candidate in a positive and constructive manner. Regions will be responsible for developing and supporting a strong cadre of examiners. In order to remain current regarding the alpine programs each season the regions are expected to send appropriate representation to the division sponsored Ski/Snowboard Trainers Workshop (STW). The information obtained at the division STW will then be passed on to the other trainers and examiners at region sponsored STWs.

It is recommended that an apprentice program be used for examiner development. During this time the examiner apprentice is refining their movement analysis skills and examining skills with the assistance of other experienced examiners.

An example of an alpine toboggan examiner apprentice program

To become an alpine toboggan examiner the apprentice should:

- Complete the NSP Instructor Development course.
- Complete the alpine toboggan instructor certification by participating in the NSP Alpine Toboggan Mentoring program.
- Become an active trainer at the local patrol.
- Attend a region Ski and Toboggan Trainers Workshop and express an interest in becoming an examiner.
- Maintain a log of training, continuing education and evaluation activities.
- Complete and maintain region-specific examiner requirements.

Once the alpine toboggan examiner apprentice has participated in an evaluation as an observer for at least one season, continues to actively participate in training candidates, and continues to attend region clinics the examiner's name may be added to the list of active region examiners at the discretion of the region administrator.

Terrain Requirements

Every effort must be made to meet the national criteria of terrain requirements of a slope average of 22 degrees and 800 feet. If the slope does not meet the 800 ft. minimum, then a sufficient number of runs must be made so all the skills criteria can be demonstrated. Terrain should be both smooth and moguled. On occasion moguls may be unavailable due to grooming but every effort must be made to incorporate them into the evaluation.

Evaluation Format

The senior candidate should be able to demonstrate strong management of alpine skills on advanced terrain and the evaluation format is the method for this. The candidate must be given every chance reasonable to demonstrate proficiency in the alpine skills. Some feedback regarding specific skill objectives may be provided but there should be minimal teaching. The evaluation is a confirmation of skills that should already be mastered by the candidate prior to the event.

The evaluation is used to judge the candidate's alpine skiing/snowboarding skills and toboggan handling skills in a variety of terrain and snow conditions. Examiners will work as a team with the candidates on groomed, steep and moguled terrain.

Both tobogganing and skiing/boarding skill objectives must be clearly communicated to the candidates. Toboggan demos may be requested by the candidates. The toboggan demos can be done at the beginning of the evaluation with all the teams observing or ongoing within the teams during the evaluation. The ski/board evaluation is a ski-along format and the examiners will demo the skills throughout the evaluation.

During the lead with tail rope operator portion of the toboggan evaluation all attempts should be made to have a proficient toboggan handler on one end of the toboggan. If at all possible there should not be two candidates evaluated on the same toboggan at the same time. In order to provide consistency within the group the proficient toboggan handler should remain with the same team throughout the evaluation. The proficient toboggan handler may also be an examiner at the discretion of the region.

Evaluation Scoring for Alpine Skills

The candidate should show senior level proficiency in alpine and toboggan handling skills. The overall rating score on the card determines if a candidate passes or fails an evaluation. After a group discussion the evaluation team must come to an agreement for either passing or failing a candidate. A senior candidate can pass or fail one or both components of the evaluation, either alpine skiing/boarding skills or toboggan handling. A candidate that fails one component only needs to retest on that component. The scorecards used for the evaluation will be the same for all regions (appendix II). There are two different styles of scorecards available, a group format card or individual format card. Either card can be used during the evaluation as long as the same card is used by all the examining teams.

Candidate Advocates

The use of an advocate during the evaluation is encouraged. The advocate must be familiar with the region's current training and evaluation programs. The advocate is assigned to each senior candidate team for the day. The advocate accompanies the assigned group through the entire day's activity. This individual serves as an advocate for the team to ensure the evaluation is a positive experience. The advocate's role is to help the senior candidates by:

- Clarifying any questions the senior candidates may have regarding the evaluation.
- On-the-hill organizing, maintaining the time schedule and ensuring the group of candidates is at the right place at the right time.
- Following the evaluation the advocate will also complete the Senior Alpine Evaluation Candidate Feedback form (Appendix IV).

Senior Alpine Skills Evaluation

Alpine Toboggan Handling

Risk Management

Instructors and candidates will communicate any concerns regarding risk management. Strict efforts must be made to ensure the safety of all participants.

Only patrollers (including candidates) will ride in or operate the toboggans during training, clinics, and evaluations.

A *secondary brake* will be available during all loaded toboggan maneuvers. The secondary brake will be either in the form of a tail rope operator, chain brake, or other device as found in the NSP Ski and Toboggan Training Manual. Use of a nonfunctional or "*ghost tail*" is discouraged both as a risk management concern and a poor visual demonstration. In order to ensure the safety of the rider/"injured guest", lead toboggan handler, and the public the tail rope operator will always handle the tail rope in the proper manner.

Patrollers riding as "injured guests" should remove their patrol pack, lay down in the toboggan face up, feet downhill, and not strapped in. Transporting equipment in the toboggan with the rider is strongly discouraged, especially during highly technical maneuvers in the steeps and bumps.

Equipment carry is not part of the evaluation but should be used during the transportation of the loaded toboggan down the hill. Equipment will be held under the arm in a manner such that it can be readily tossed aside should the skier/boarder lose control. Equipment will not be carried over the shoulder.

It is expected that patrollers operating the lead of the toboggan will remove their patrol fanny packs or backpacks and place them in the toboggan. This will minimize any possibility of the equipment snagging in the handles.

Alpine Toboggan Evaluation Maneuvers

These evaluation maneuvers are used to demonstrate skill proficiency in toboggan handling.

Unloaded Toboggan Front, Loaded Toboggan Front-smooth steep terrain

- **Stationing:**

The toboggan operator will start at the top of the hill, the rider is stationed off to the side of the hill approximately 1/3 the way down.

- **Unloaded Approach:**

The toboggan operator will use a variety of skiing skills including parallel turns, sideslips, and *transitions*. The speed and expedient maneuvers demonstrated may be dictated by terrain and slope conditions.

- **Loading:**

The toboggan operator will position the toboggan in a manner allowing for safe loading of the patient, either in or across the *fall line*. The candidate should be familiar with the different ways of securing the toboggan as described in the NSP Ski and Toboggan Training Manual. The candidate must be able to describe some of the methods to the examiners. The chain brake or other secondary braking device will be applied, the handles locked, and the patient loaded.

- **Loaded:**

The toboggan operator will then proceed down the fall line and demonstrate the ability to complete one transition in each direction.

- **Controlled Power Stop:**

During the run the lead toboggan handler may be called upon to stop the toboggan in a controlled *power stop* using gentle pressure on the handles to engage the braking device.

Loaded Toboggan Front-moguls

- **Unloaded Approach:**

The toboggan operator will start with the unloaded toboggan at the top of the moguled run and use a variety of skiing/boarding skills to bring the toboggan to the rider/"injured guest". The rider /"injured guest" is stationed in a safe loading area part of the way down the mogul field.

- **Loading:**

The toboggan will be secured in a manner to allow safe loading of the rider/"injured guest". This will be dictated by the terrain and snow conditions. The chain brake or other secondary braking device will be applied, the handles locked, and the rider/"injured guest" loaded.

- **Loaded Route Selection:**

The toboggan operator will transport the toboggan in a controlled manner in the moguls negotiating an expedient route through and out of the mogul field. The smoothest and preferred route for the toboggan is in the troughs. There may be occasion to travel over the top of the moguls. Smooth and consistent speed must be maintained during the run. Falling leaf and sideslip maneuvers are used to control the progress of the toboggan.

- **Toboggan Operation:**

The toboggan operator may operate the toboggan either inside or outside the handles. Outside the handles may not be specifically permitted by local area protocols. The senior evaluation administrator must verify the local area protocol regarding operation outside the handles. Fall line routes may utilize operation outside of the handles whereas routes with straight *traverses* are more easily negotiated inside the handles. There may be local area protocols that dictate whether a toboggan is to be operated inside or outside the handles.

- **Secondary Brake Use:**

Tail rope handling is not evaluated in the bumps. The chain brake, webbing, tail rope, or other mechanical braking device as described in the Ski and Toboggan Training Manual will be utilized as the secondary brake.

Team Toboggan Handling-Lead Toboggan Operator with Tail Rope Operator

Examiners, candidates, and toboggan handlers must be cautious of traffic on the hill during these maneuvers.

The change of direction when operating the toboggan with a lead operator and tail rope operator is a coordinated maneuver of sideslips, transitions and traverses. These maneuvers are sequential where the tail rope operator will follow the direction change of the lead operator. This is a safe and preferred means of direction change on steep groomed terrain. Direction change on long, flat, and gentle terrain can be described as a gliding direction change using medium radius turns. This is a simultaneous maneuver where the tail rope operator performs the turn at the same time as the lead operator. Candidates should be reminded the most expedient way to transport a patient is straight down the fall line out of the flow of traffic.

The means of either verbal or nonverbal communication between the lead operator and tail rope operator is imperative and must be clarified prior to the maneuver. Communication is initiated by the lead operator.

Loaded Toboggan-Lead with Tail Rope Operator

The primary responsibilities of the toboggan operator in the lead are:

1. Route selection
2. Primary braking
3. Initiate change in speed and direction
4. Monitor uphill and passing traffic
5. Communicate change in speed and direction to tail rope operator

The objective is to perform coordinated direction changes using a series of transitions, traverses, and sideslips on steep smooth terrain. A minimum of two direction changes must be demonstrated.

Two variations of team toboggan direction change on steep smooth terrain are described below.

Team Toboggan Direction change on steep smooth terrain-variation 1

- **Initiation of Direction Change by the Lead Operator:**

The lead operator will initiate the direction change with a sideslip down the hill. The tail rope operator must be in a *stable sideslip position*, in the fall line above the tail of the toboggan, and ready for the next maneuver.

- **Traverse and Sideslip:**

The lead operator will do an edge set to begin the traverse across the hill. Once reaching a point on the other side of the hill the lead operator will prepare for the transition. The lead operator will release the edge set and start the sideslip in order to position the toboggan and tail rope in the fall line. Falling leaf and edging skills can be used to maneuver the toboggan into the fall line.

- **Transition and Sideslip:**

Once the toboggan and tail rope are in the fall line the lead operator will do a transition and then continue to sideslip. The lead operator will hold the sideslip until the tail rope operator completes their transition and enters a stable sideslip position.

- **Sequence:**

The tail rope operator must wait for the lead operator to complete the transition and is in a stable sideslip position before initiating a transition. The maneuver is sequential, first the lead and then the tail.

- **Traverse:**

After a quick visual check and communication to verify tail rope operator position and uphill traffic the lead operator will do an edge set and proceed to traverse across the hill. The lead operator must be aware of uphill traffic at all times during the traverse across the fall line.

Team Toboggan Direction change on steep smooth terrain-variation 2

This variation allows for a very quick direction change for the team. The maneuver allows the transition to be done without the full weight of the loaded toboggan in the fall line.

- **Initiation of Direction Change by Lead Operator:**

To prepare for the direction change the lead operator will do a transition while the toboggan is in the traverse and prior to entering the fall line. The lead operator will then sideslip down the fall line in a stable sideslip position. Falling leaf and edging skills can be used to maneuver the toboggan into the fall line.

- **Transition and Sideslip by the Tail Rope Operator:**

Once the toboggan and tail rope are in the fall line the tail rope operator will do a transition and then sideslip. The lead operator will hold the sideslip until the tail rope operator completes their transition and enters a stable sideslip position.

- Sequence:

The tail rope operator must wait for the lead operator to complete the transition and is in a stable sideslip position before initiating a transition.

- Sideslip and Traverse:

Once the toboggan and tail rope are positioned in the fall line, and the tail rope operator is in a stable sideslip position, the lead operator will do an edge set to begin the traverse across the hill.

Loaded Toboggan-Rear

The primary responsibilities of the tail rope operator are:

1. Provide overall safety during the operation of the toboggan with proper position of the tail rope in the fall line.
2. Provide a secondary braking if necessary.
3. Monitor patient condition and assess the effects of the ride during transport.
4. Monitor uphill and passing traffic
5. Ensure the “*reserve braking rule*” is in place at all times.

“Reserve Braking Rule”

The speed of the toboggan is maintained at a pace such that there is always braking power in reserve to safely stop the toboggan in an emergency. The speed may vary due to skill, slope conditions, terrain conditions and condition of the patient. If the speed is too fast to maintain a braking reserve the tail rope operator must communicate to the lead toboggan operator the need to adjust the speed and then assist in safely stopping or slowing the progress of the toboggan.

Tail rope operation during team toboggan direction change on steep smooth terrain

- **Direction Change Sequence:**

A sequence of sideslip-transition-sideslip-traverse maneuvers will be done on the hill and the tail rope operator will demonstrate control and balance in a stable sideslip position when toboggan comes to a stop.

- **Tail Rope Management:**

The rope is held in a manner that will ensure safe handling of the toboggan by using edging and pressure skills. There can be many variations as long as the proper athletic skiing/boarding stance maintained. The rope must be in the fall line and the tension in the rope should not impede the progress of the toboggan down the hill.

- **Tail Rope Tension:**

Proper tension in the rope will be maintained throughout the maneuvers. There should not be excessive slack in the tail rope and all effort should be made to avoid the rope touching the snow.

- **Follow the Leader:**

The tail rope operator will be prepared to follow the lead operator. When the toboggan is traversing the tail rope will be positioned parallel to the fall line and above the rear of the toboggan. Edging skills should be used to maintain the proper rope position and tension.

- **Initiation of Direction Change:**

The tail rope operator will release their edges and drop into a sideslip after the lead has begun to sideslip. Falling leaf and other sideslip skills can be used to maneuver and maintain the tail rope in the fall line.

- Transition and Sideslip:

Once the lead operator has completed the transition and is in a stable sideslip position with the toboggan and tail rope in the fall line the tail rope operator will then begin and complete their transition and enter a stable sideslip position. This is a sequential maneuver. Snowboarders do not do transitions when operating a tail rope.

- Traverse:

After communication verifying it is safe to proceed across the hill the tail rope operator will begin to traverse when the lead operator begins to traverse.

Alpine Skiing and Snowboarding

Performance objectives for both alpine skiing and snowboarding are identical. Confidence and control with good technical skills are the primary objective in the alpine skiing/boarding evaluation. All attempts should be made to include appropriate terrain in the evaluation. The senior candidate is expected to demonstrate control and confidence on the most difficult hills within their region or at the evaluation.

All alpine skills are evaluated as a “ski along.” The candidates and examiners will ski together and the evaluation will be ongoing. During the evaluation the candidate should be encouraged and given every opportunity to demonstrate their skills to the best of their ability.

If candidates are using telemark skis or snowboards every attempt must be made to have an examiner on the same equipment. This is important both for visual demos and evaluation feedback.

Examining teams during the alpine skiing/snowboard evaluation will be made up of NSP members of whom 2 are current PSIA or AASI Certified Level 1 or higher, and have at least one NSP member who is PSIA/AASI Certified Level 2 or 3. If requested by the region, the NSP-C Ski School will provide evaluators who are current PSIA/AASI Certified Level 2 or 3. The goal is to implement this requirement no later than exams scheduled in 2010. (S08 P001)

Risk Management

Instructors and candidates will communicate any concerns regarding risk management. Strict efforts must be made to ensure the safety of all participants.

Alpine Skills Dynamics

The ability to effectively ski/board down a hill is a dynamic blend of several skills. The skills can be broken down into movement of the body, ski performance and terrain demands. All these different skills come into play when performing senior level alpine maneuvers.

Movement of the body during alpine skiing/boarding

This can be described in four different categories and may be present in a combination of proportions.

- **Balancing Movements:**

While in motion the ability to maintain balance and adjust to variations in snow and terrain conditions is accomplished by using the feet and hips to adjust the center of mass over the ski or board.

- Edging Movements:

Used to adjust the edge angle of the ski/board in relation to the snow. This involves the use of ankles, knees and hips to develop angles that allow for the change in the amount of edging. Edge control movements begin by tipping the ski or twisting the board (torsional flex) from uphill edges to downhill edges during turn initiation. The amount of degrees between the base of the ski/board and the snow is dictated by terrain, equipment and turn radius. *Angulation* is especially prevalent in short and medium radius turns. Longer radius turns use some angulation but is primarily controlled with *inclination* or tipping.

- Rotary Movements:

These are turning or twisting movements in the body used to guide the ski/board and shape the turn. Rotary movements involve rotating one part of the body in relation to the other. In higher level skiing/boarding these movements are subtle and originate from the lower body.

- Pressure Control Movements:

Managing pressure control involves a combination of movements that can be subtle all the way to dynamic and powerful. These movements can originate from foot to foot, along the length of the ski/board and between the ski/board and snow. Flexion and extension effectively aid in speed control, ski/board performance and skill blending used in aggressive balance adjustments that keep the ski/board in contact with the snow.

Alpine Skiing/Snowboarding Evaluation Maneuvers (2009)

Alpine Skiing/Snowboarding Evaluation Maneuvers

Slope selection should be more/to most difficult terrain based on evaluation day conditions and be appropriate for the skills being evaluated.

Criteria

Groomed Slope-Skiing

Demonstrate rounded turn shape (medium's are bigger than the short and the long's are bigger than the medium. Mediums are approximately 45 feet in width. Some drifting vs skidding is acceptable in medium and short turns).

Demonstrate efficient mix of short, medium and long radius turns. (Show us what you got.)

Perform open parallel turns on skis using simultaneous foot steering.

The skier/rider is relaxed and maintains balance throughout the runs.

Performs run in a series of turns as connected arcs.(no traverse)

Demonstrates an adaptive balance to terrain changes throughout the run.

Steep Slope-Skiing

Performs a fall line descent maintaining upper body/center of mass moving down the fall line.

Performs a range of turn size, shapes and techniques.

Performs short turns where of skidding is allowed.

Maintains consistent, controlled speed.

Maintains active balance, with both feet steering through the turn and the center of mass moving down the fall line

Simultaneous vs sequential foot movement is expected.

Moqui Skiing

The descent should be a series of turns where traverses and side slips are only used for the candidate to demonstrate effective control and select a route down the fall line. Traverse, turn, traverse is not acceptable performance. Shows a competent technique to negotiate terrain.

Performs consistent turns while maintaining a constant speed of descent

Performs controlled direction changes, use of edges and pressure to complete the turns

Demonstrate balance, stability and control

Senior Alpine Continuing Education

Once achieving senior status the patroller must maintain that skill level in order to maintain the senior classification. This will be accomplished every season at the local on-hill alpine skills refresher. The refreshers are not pass/fail performance evaluations. They will be a clinic format with sufficient feedback and skill enhancement provided in order for the patroller to maintain senior level alpine skills.

Appendix I

Senior Alpine Candidate Skills Sign-off

Senior Alpine Candidate Skills Sign-off

In order to participate in the senior alpine evaluation the candidate must demonstrate competency in both alpine and toboggan handling skills. Alpine skiing/boarding skills must be checked off by a minimum level II PSIA instructor or the RD and the toboggan skills sign-off must be completed by a NSP Alpine Toboggan Instructor. The instructor's signature below testifies satisfactory demonstration of the skills by the candidate. This document must be presented to the region administrator responsible for the evaluation within region specified guidelines.

Completion of this form is not an evaluation or certification of senior level proficiency

Candidate name:

Email:

Address:

City:

Zip code:

Phone:

NSP Registration number:

Skill Performance	Date	Instructor Name Printed	Instructor Signature
-------------------	------	-------------------------	----------------------

Alpine Skills

Long Radius Turns:			
Medium Radius Turns:			

- Balanced dynamic stance, adjusts to terrain change
- Consistent speed and size of rounded turn
- Ability to effectively edge ski/board with minimal skidding
- Early edge engagement at the start of the turn
- Effectively guides both feet thru the entire turn w/minimal traverse
- Initiates turn from feet up
- Effective use of flexion and extension to maintain snow contact

Short Radius Turns, Smooth and Moguled:			
--	--	--	--

- Balanced dynamic stance, adjusts to terrain change
- Consistent speed and size of rounded turn
- Ability to effectively edge ski/board with minimal skidding
- Early edge engagement at the start of the turn
- Effectively guides both feet thru the entire turn w/minimal traverse
- Initiates turn from feet up
- Effective use of flexion and extension to maintain snow contact
- Smooth adsorption of moguls

Unpacked Snow:			
-----------------------	--	--	--

- Continually adjusts to terrain change and snow conditions
- Demonstrates versatility in edging and rotary skills
- Controls speed and turn size throughout the run
- Effective use of flexion and extension to maintain snow contact

Written Questions: <i>Toboggan Handling</i>
--

List the 5 primary roles of the lead operator:

List the 5 primary roles of the tail rope operator:

Define the *braking reserve rule*:

Skill Performance	Date	Instructor Name Printed	Instructor Signature
-------------------	------	-------------------------	----------------------

Alpine Toboggan Handling

Unloaded Toboggan Lead:			
--------------------------------	--	--	--

- Appropriate route selection and approach to the scene
- Safe, expedient, controlled and consistent speed
- Smooth rounded turns
- Balanced, stable and proper position
- Effective transitions
- Minimal slipping and bouncing of the toboggan
- Effective recovery technique if needed

Loaded Toboggan Lead Alone-Smooth:			
---	--	--	--

- Appropriate route selection and safe departure
- Ride is smooth and comfortable
- Safe, expedient, controlled and consistent speed
- Balanced, stable and proper position in the handles
- Demonstrates secondary braking with proper use of the chain brake
- Executes transitions with stability and control
- Brakes toboggan as needed

Loaded Toboggan Lead Alone-Moguled:			
--	--	--	--

- Appropriate route selection and safe departure
- Ride is smooth and comfortable
- Safe, expedient, controlled and consistent speed
- Balanced, stable and proper position in the handles
- Demonstrates secondary braking with proper use of the chain brake
- Controls descent with sideslip and using edging skills
- Controls direction with falling leaf and side slipping skills

Loaded Toboggan Lead with Tail Rope Operator:			
--	--	--	--

- Controls speed to ensure reserve braking if needed from tail rope operator
- Appropriate route selection and safe departure
- Ride is smooth and comfortable
- Safe, expedient, controlled and consistent speed
- Balanced, stable and proper position in the handles
- Controls descent with sideslip and using edging skills
- Controls direction with falling leaf and side slipping skills
- Demonstrates and understands coordinated direction change with the tail rope operator
- Controls edges during traverses with minimal sideslip
- Performs transitions in the fall line with stability and control
- Effective communication with tail rope operator
- Demonstrates appropriate use of chain brake if needed

Loaded Toboggan Rear:			
------------------------------	--	--	--

- Assists with braking as needed using edge and pressure control skills
- Traverses left and right with minimal slippage of toboggan
- Safe, expedient, controlled and consistent speed
- Smooth and controlled turns and transitions
- Demonstrates and understands coordinated direction change with lead operator
- Controls rope in fall line from a stable position
- Adapts to terrain and condition changes
- Controls edges during traverses with minimal sideslip
- Performs transitions in the fall line with stability and control
- Maintains safe distance from the toboggan

Appendix II

Senior Alpine Evaluation Scorecards

Appendix III

“The Candidate Coach” Mentoring the Senior Candidate

Senior Candidate Coaching

Each region is encouraged to establish a coaching program for their senior candidates. Many patrols have had excellent results when senior candidates have been paired up with a coach.

Coaching is service that will assist the candidate to achieve his or her objective of passing the senior On-The-Hill evaluation.

Coaching is structured so that the candidate takes ownership of the tasks that need to be done to accomplish the objective.

Coaching is a guide to what programs are available to enhance the skills required.

Coaching can be limited to weekly conversations to follow-up with the candidate to check on status of tasks assigned.

Coaching forces reflection and thinking when often people don't get that done for themselves.

Coaching is a supportive relationship when candidate have a sense that they are going it alone.

What are the qualifications of a candidate coach?

The coach should be:

1. A senior or certified patroller.
2. Someone who is familiar with the content of the region's current training and evaluation programs.
3. Someone who is willing to spend the necessary time:
 - a. to listen to the concerns of the candidate
 - b. to encourage the candidate when they become discouraged
 - c. to follow-up with the candidate and the other trainers who may be working with the candidates to determine skills improvement progress
 - d. to be knowledgeable of the region's skills enhancement clinics and other patrols skills enhancement programs
 - e. to organize a team of qualified instructors/trainers to support the skiing or toboggan handling skills enhancement goals of the candidate.
4. Being a coach for a candidate is a big responsibility. You want your friend to succeed and he/she is counting on you help them. That puts the pressure on but it makes it all the more rewarding when they are successful.

How will the coaching work?

1. A candidate requests the services of a coach by contacting the region's Proficiency Advisor or local Ski Patrol director.
2. The coach contacts the candidate
3. The coach and the candidate discuss the areas that the candidate thinks they need improvement.
4. The candidate and coach develop a plan to address the need(s). This requires the coach to know of all of the resources that are available (i.e. region clinics, local instructors who are willing to work with candidates, other hill training schedules and availability).
5. The coach and candidate agree to meet on a regular basis to discuss progress.
6. The coaching process could include face to face instructions on the hill, but is not required.
7. Coaching is not a replacement for candidate participation in the region clinics and other enhancement programs.
8. It is encouraged but not required to have the coach attend the evaluation.

Appendix IV

Senior Evaluation Quality Assurance Feedback (To be completed by visiting division staff)

Central Division Quality Assurance Feedback for Senior Alpine Evaluation

Visiting Division Staff Completing Form:

Region:

Date:

Location:

Region Alpine Evaluation Administrator:

Participants

Number of Examiners:

Number of Candidates:

Number of Support Staff:

Ratio of examiners/candidates:

- Did the event appear organized and start on time?
 - Was the division release form used?
 - Was there registration prior to the evaluation?

- Which Central Division Alpine Evaluation Scorecards were used? Individual or Group?

- Were all events on the Toboggan Scorecard evaluated?
 - If not, why?

- Were all events on the Skiing/Boarding Scorecard evaluated?
 - If not, why?

- Were level I, level II, or level III PSIA certified examiners used?

- Were adequate pre and post demonstrations done?
 - If not, why?

- Who did the demos?

- Were non-candidate drivers used in the toboggan evaluation?
 - If yes, who?
 - If no, why not?

- Did the candidates have ample opportunity to demonstrate their skills?

- Was the terrain adequate for the evaluation?
 - What hills were used?

- Were the candidates well prepared?

- Did the candidates participate in region sponsored SES or TES clinics?
- Is there a region pre-test clinic? If yes, is this clinic mandatory?

- Did the region use the candidate skills sign-off sheet?

- Were the examiners calibrated?
 - How are the examiners calibrated?

- How were the final results tallied and then presented to the candidates?
 - Was there an examiner consensus on all the scores?
 - When and how was the feedback presented to the candidates?
 - Was there adequate information provided for continued skill enhancement?

- What was the pass/fail ratio of the candidates?

- Was there recognition for candidates successfully completing the evaluation and for new seniors?
 - Was the region director or other dignitary present?

- Was the *Evaluation Feedback* form available to the candidates?
 - If not, why not?

- Did the event satisfactorily meet all requirements for the senior alpine evaluation as outlined on the scorecards?
 - If not, what was missing?

General comments of the evaluation:

What did you like about this event?

Any recommendations to improve this event?

Send copies to:

Division Senior Program Supervisor

Region Senior Program Administrator

Region Director

Senior Alpine Glossary

Angulation: In skiing angulation involves the formation of angles between body segments using hips, knees and ankles. Angulation also involves flexing and extending on a diagonal and/or lateral plane.

Fall Line: The path of least resistance down the hill. The fall line is the path a ball would take if you let it roll down a slope. In skiing the fall line is the place where skis are pointing straight downhill, or the fastest accelerating part of a turn.

Ghost Tail: When the tail rope operator is handling the rope with excessive slack and coiling.

Inclination: Defined in skiing as tipping of a body part relative to the slope. Edging movements involve inclination of several body parts: feet/ankles, lower legs/knees, upper legs/hips, lower spine and the whole body.

Power Stop: Utilizing edging skills and a balanced stable sideslip position to bring the toboggan to a controlled stop as soon as possible. In order to maintain control it is important to maintain the toboggan in the fall line.

Secondary Brake: In toboggan handling it is the tail rope operator or a mechanical device (such as the chain brake or webbing) used to assist the lead toboggan operator in slowing or stopping the toboggan.

Stable Sideslip Position: When handling the tail rope of the toboggan it is a flexed and stable stance that is maintained to avoid being pulled off balance should the lead operator need assistance in slowing or stopping the toboggan.

Transition: A maneuver used to change the direction the toboggan operator is facing in preparation for a change in the direction of travel.

Traverse: The route of travel on the hill that is across the fall line.

References

- Central Division Board of Directors. *Central Division Current Policies and Procedures*.
- Harvey, M., Professional Ski Instructors of America. 2002. *Alpine Technical Manual, Skiing and Teaching Skills*. Professional Ski Instructors of America Education Foundation, Lakewood CO.
- Loring, M., Professional Ski Instructors of America. 2001. *Core Concepts for Snowsports Instructors*. Professional Ski Instructors of America Education Foundation, Lakewood CO.
- National Ski Patrol Board of Directors, National Program Directors and Coordinators. *Current National Policies and Procedures*. National Ski Patrol System Inc., Lakewood CO.
- National Ski Patrol National Ski and Toboggan Committee. 1994. *Ski and Toboggan Training Manual*. National Ski Patrol System Inc., Lakewood CO.
- National Ski Patrol National Tasks Committee, National Ski Patrol National Transportation Committee. 2005. *Outdoor Emergency Transportation, Principles of Toboggan Handling*. National Ski Patrol System Inc., Lakewood CO.
- National Ski Patrol System Inc. 1997. *The Ski Patroller's Manual*. 14th ed. Lakewood CO.
- National Ski Patrol System Inc. 1998. *Outdoor Emergency Care Instructor's Manual*, 3rd ed. Lakewood CO.
- Spear, B. and Burt, N., American Association of Snowboard Instructors. 1998. *Snowboard Manual*. Professional Ski Instructors of America Education Foundation, Lakewood CO.

Acknowledgements for the Central Division Senior Program Manual Alpine Section

Central Division Skills Development Team:

Chris Moe	Central Division Senior Program Supervisor
Linda Barthel	Central Division Skills Development Supervisor
Linda Murphy-Jacobs	Assistant Central Division Director

The Central Division Skills Development team has spent many hours of research and information gathering with the desire to generate a premier manual for the patrollers in Central Division. Many individuals played a significant role in the generation of this document.

Jim Woodrum	Central Division Director
Chuck Martschinke	Past Central Division Director, current Central Division MSAA Liaison

Brian Cobble	Assistant Central Division Director
--------------	-------------------------------------

Dan Somalski	Central Division Toboggan Supervisor
Tom Anderson	Central Division NSP-C Ski School Director
Jay Zedak	Central Division NSP-C Ski School Alpine

Don Close	North Central Region
Ron Frank	South Central Region
Mike Longfellow-Jones	Northern Michigan Region
Bob Meyers	North Central Region

All region directors and their staff contributed a significant portion of the information found in the Central Division Alpine Senior Program Manual. The Skills Development team expresses a deep gratitude to all the region directors and their administrators for their support and input during the development of this document. We apologize for anyone we may have missed.

Eastern Michigan Region

Chuck Povlitz-Region Director, Staff: Ty Damon, Gunther Dieterle, Chris Sutton, and Mike Taylor

North Central Region

David Dahl-Region Director, Staff: Leon Abel and Don Close

Northern Michigan Region

Joel Epstein-Region Director, Staff: Aren Fairchild, Galen Fairchild, and Hank Herlick

Ohio Region

Chris Raudabaugh-Region Director, Staff: Jim Burns, Dale Grugle, and Jeffery Stender

South Central Region

Dick Dowdell-Region Director, Staff: Ronald Frank, and Dale Stephens,

Southern Region

Ken Meldahl-Region Director, Staff: John Beldin, Leonard Davidson, Mike Fetzer, Joe Keller, Eric Roush, and Mike Uribe

Southwestern Region

Mindy Mitchell-Region Director, Staff: Mike Eastman, and Jeff Hanley

Western Region

Tom Gray-Region Director, Staff: Jeff Gullickson, Tim Elness, and Jane Mausser

Western Michigan Region

John Jenkins-Region Director, Staff: Gregg Hoppe and Brian Klebba,

