

# Application for Authorisation for Snowsports (Skiing and Snow Boarding)



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This factsheet provides the information required for an applicant seeking Authorisation to lead or lead and supervise snowsports activities with Members of The Scout Association.

Further editions will be published in the light of experience. The publication of future editions will be notified in SCOUTING Magazine, Talking Points and the Activities Newsletter.

## Why an Authorisation Scheme?

The rules of the Scout Association relating to snowsports are contained in *Policy, Organisation and Rules*. The benefit of the Authorisation Scheme is that it assists District Commissioners to ensure that those leading or supervising snowsports have demonstrated to a County/Area Snowsports Assessor that they have the technical competence necessary to undertake the activity safely with young people in the area to be visited. It shows clearly to parents that those who introduce young people to these activities have been authorised by The Scout Association and that their sons'/daughters' training will be guided by an authorised person.

It must be stressed that this Authorisation Scheme is for the safe encouragement of all snowsports activities, within the overall context of the development of young people, by means of Scout training. It is not a qualification for use outside The Scout Association.

## What Authorisations are Required?

When taking part in on-piste snowsports, only a snowsports authorisation is required. This is because pistes are controlled areas with designated routes and severity, closed by the resort when there are dangers from weather or avalanche.

Furthermore, emergency response, first aid and medical facilities are typically resourced and experienced to deal with the large volumes of people taking part and the severity of possible injuries.

Off-piste snowsport activity requires both the appropriate snowsport authorisation and a winter hill walking authorisation for the terrain in which it takes place. This is because leading off-piste activity requires navigational, weather awareness and avalanche risk assessment abilities inherent in the winter hill walking authorisation in addition to the skills/experience necessary for a snowsport authorisation. This will usually require liaison between snowsports and hill walking assessors. See POR 9.29 and 9.30 for Terrain definitions.

## Clarification of Terms

To be given an Authorisation to **lead a party** means that the authorised person must be with, or in close proximity to, the party at all times - so that although young people should be given the chance to "lead", the party leader can take direct responsibility at any moment. The party leader must be in a position to make all the safety related decisions first hand.

It is not possible to be given an authorisation to **lead and supervise parties** in off-piste areas.

## The Scout Association

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To be given an Authorisation to **lead and supervise (up to 3) parties** in on-piste areas means that the authorised person firstly meets the criteria to lead a party. Secondly, their skills are such that the responsibility for leading a party can safely be delegated to a designated leader. The authorised person must, however, be in the locality of the activity *i.e.* in a position to supervise effectively, albeit from a distance (no more than 3 kilometres away and within the resort).

When the leader who is authorised to lead and supervise is not with the party then a **designated leader** for the party must be appointed. This designated leader will be in a position to make all decisions first hand in accordance with the briefing provided by the leader who has been authorised to lead and supervise. The designated leader does not require a separate Authorisation. A person cannot be a designated leader of an off-piste party.

There are no age limitations on those seeking Authorisation but some constraints may be necessary on those under 18 years of age. A young person - with appropriate training and experience - can be the authorised or designated leader.

### Party Size

Proper tuition is a valuable tool in learning to ski or snow board. Many ski schools have classes of up to 15. Therefore in on-piste areas the party size may be up to this number. Off-piste in areas requiring authorisation, POR 9.32 must be followed: No one party must be greater than seven or less than four in number - at least one authorised/designated leader and a maximum of six others. If a group has more than seven members in the area then separate parties must be formed (exceptionally, where a party contains two authorised leaders, the total party size maybe increased to eight). They must move either on different routes or, if on the same route, with a clear time and distance separation between them. This time and distance separation is defined as four to five minutes. The minimum size of party is

four except under the very limited circumstances of POR 9.32 (f).

### When is Authorisation NOT Required?

Authorisation is not required on artificial or dry ski slopes, nor is it required when skiing or snow boarding in Terrain Zero.

Terrain Zero is defined as terrain which meets **ALL** the following criteria, which are based on the Regulations made under the Activity Centres (Young Persons Safety) Act 1995:

1. Below 500 metres above sea-level.
2. Within 30 minutes travelling time of a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as a farm) or another means of summoning help (such as a telephone box).

This is to allow skiing and snowboarding to take place on, for example, a farmer's field, on the edge of a town or village or in a local park.

NOTE however that the requirement of Rule 9.1 still applies, and your District Commissioner's explicit approval is required.

### When is Authorisation Required?

A leader does require authorisation for snowsports in all other areas and conditions.

### Competence in Snowsports

Competence in snowsports will be assessed by the County/Area Snowsports Assessor, who will take into account documentary evidence. In almost every case, a practical assessment will be required.

### Emergency Aid Training

Applicants, including young people, applying for on-piste Authorisation must have completed The Scout and Guide Associations' First Response Course within the three-year period prior to the

application. Holders of a valid First Aid Qualification, where the syllabus equals or exceeds that of a First Response Course, especially in respect of hypothermia and hyperthermia, meet this requirement.

Applicants applying for off-piste Authorisation must hold a valid First Aid Qualification as accepted by any of the Mountain Training Boards as one of the requirements prior to assessment for the Mountain Leader Award. It must be valid at the time of their assessment.

### **Applying for Authorisation**

In completing the attached application form you are openly and honestly stating your background knowledge, experience and recent activity. You will be aware of the importance of party leadership when with young people and the areas of responsibility as a leader or supervisor of any particular snowsports activity.

You should complete the attached form providing as much detail as possible. Please use additional sheets of paper if space on the form is inadequate and if you wish to add information not covered in any of the spaces available.

Attach to the application form copies of the following:

- Certificate of Attendance at a First Response Course or the appropriate First Aid qualification.
- Any formal skiing or snow boarding qualifications.
- A log of your skiing and snow boarding activities for the past three years. An example of a suitable log sheet is included in this Factsheet.

### **What Happens Next?**

Once the form has been signed by yourself (and, if appropriate, the Group Scout Leader), it should

be forwarded to the District Commissioner or other responsible Commissioner.

The District Commissioner will signify that they are satisfied as to your suitability as a leader responsible for the welfare of young people. This especially refers to your maturity or ability to lead and/or supervise them.

The application form will then be passed to the appropriate County/Area Snowsports Assessor (either directly or through a County/Area Adviser, Registrar or Co-ordinator). It is probable that the Assessor will contact you initially to find out any additional information that may be required. If a practical assessment is required - and it usually will be - the Assessor will make the necessary arrangements and outline what will be looked for.

If you have heard nothing within one month of submitting your application to the relevant Commissioner, you should first contact them for advice on who it was forwarded to so you can follow this through.

After the practical assessment the County/Area Snowsports Assessor will make a recommendation to your District Commissioner. This will be based not only on the terrain you seek Authorisation for, but on your competence shown during the assessment. The District Commissioner issues the Authorisation based on the recommendation made by the Assessor. An assessor will take special note of your knowledge of group control and safety procedures. He will normally make a recommendation one grade lower than you can comfortably ski.

All authorisations will be time limited, and have a maximum validity of five years. This does not stop you from seeking a re-Authorisation before the expiry date if you have further experience so that your competence can be re assessed.

## **Publications Cross Reference**

The current editions of:

*Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association*

*Risk Assessment*

FS120000

*Authorisations - A District Commissioner's and Group Scout Leader's Guide*

FS120002

*Mountaineering with Scouts - The Vital Culture*

FS120415

*Application for Authorisation for Hill Walking*

FS120416

*Mountain Advisers and Assessors*

FS120417

*The Scout Association's Authorisation schemes for activities in Moors Hills and mountains*

FS120418

## APPLICATION FOR ACTIVITY AUTHORISATION – SNOWSPORTS

Please complete this form adding any additional information on a separate sheet of paper:

### PERSONAL DETAILS

First Name(s)

Surname

Title

Date of Birth

Maiden Name  
*(if applicable)*

Address

Telephone

Day

Evening

Mobile

Fax

e-mail

Health Factors

*(things that may affect  
the activity eg  
diabetes, asthma)*

Please give details  
of membership of  
any (relevant) club  
or society

### SCOUTING DETAILS

Current Scouting  
appointment  
*(if any)*

Group

District

County

Previous Scouting experience  
*(if any)*

## EMERGENCY AID TRAINING

Please indicate if you have attended a First Response Course or hold a First Aid Certificate - see next section *(and attach a photocopy of the relevant paperwork)*:

Course /  
Certificate

Date

## ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH AUTHORISATION IS SOUGHT

In which geographical location(s) do you want to carry out these activities?

What hill walking authorisation, if any, do you hold?

*Attach a photocopy of the assessors recommendation and DC's authorisation.*

Under what conditions will these activities be carried out? On-piste  Off-piste  *(tick box(es))*

Skiing

Snowboarding

Is your role to be:

Leading

Leading and Supervising

*(tick box)*

Is this your first application for authorisation? If **NO** please give details of previous applications.

How many years experience have you relevant to these activities?

*Please give a log of your activities during the past three years; a suitable form is provided with this Factsheet - or attach a copy of your logbook.*

Please give details of relevant training courses attended:

*Please attach photocopies of all relevant documents including logbook and qualification certificate (if appropriate).*

### APPLICANT'S DECLARATION

I have read and understood POR - Activity Rules. I am familiar with the Factsheets: *The Vital Culture*, *Risk Assessment* and *Application for Authorisation*.

Applicant's Signature

Date

### GSL'S AND DC'S COUNTER SIGNATURES

I am satisfied as to the maturity, ability to lead and supervise young people and the general suitability of the applicant (and confirm that a Confidential Enquiry has been completed).

GSL's  
Signature

Print  
Name

Date

DC's  
Signature

Print  
Name

Date

### ASSESSOR'S RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that authorisation be given within the following limits:

Assessor's  
Signature

Print  
Name

Date

## DC'S AUTHORISATION

Name

Group  
*(if applicable)*

I hereby grant authorisation to the above within the following limits:

Valid until:  
*(not more than 5 years from date of issue)*

DC's Signature

Date

**NOTE:** Details contained in this form may be held on a computer database - for record purposes only - by the relevant County / Area / District.

## SKIING AND SNOW BOARDING EXPERIENCE

Date	Resort / Area	Role	Relevant Comments [weather, group details, notable events]

Date	Resort / Area	Role	Relevant Comments [weather, group details, notable events]

Date	Resort / Area	Role	Relevant Comments [weather, group details, notable events]

Date	Resort / Area	Role	Relevant Comments [weather, group details, notable events]