

Skiing



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Introduction

This factsheet looks to give the facts a person would need to know to run skiing for a group of young people, or to do it for themselves if they are a young person. It should be read in conjunction with the factsheet FS120084 Scout Led Activities Index, and Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association.

What is skiing?

Skiing includes all snowsports on two skis or blades. It can take place on snow slopes or artificial slopes.

Downhill skiing (also known as alpine skiing) is the most common form of recreational skiing. A downhill skiing permit covers all downhill skiing using alpine, telemark or touring skiing equipment.

Cross country skiing (also known as langlauf or nordic skiing) is the travel over snowy terrain, including flat and uphill terrain. It uses different equipment and techniques to downhill skiing. A cross country skiing permit covers all cross country skiing using nordic skiing equipment.

What is a skiing permit?

The adventurous activity permit scheme is designed to ensure that only people with the relevant skills and experience lead adventurous activities for the young people. Therefore all activities classed as adventurous can only be led by someone holding the appropriate permit. Additionally young people (under 18) can take part in adventurous activities for themselves with personal activity permits.

A skiing permit is required for all skiing activities that take place in terrain 1 or terrain 2, except those that take place on artificial slopes or nursery slopes. Definitions of terrains and nursery slopes can be found in POR (details can be found in [FS120084](#) Scout Led Activities Index). Skiing activities in terrain 0 do not require a skiing permit.

Levels of permit

There are four types of permit available for skiing. These are:

- On Piste Downhill
- On Piste Cross Country
- Off Piste Terrain 1
- Off Piste Terrain 2

Definitions of on and off piste can be found in POR.

Additionally, each of these permits can be further restricted (such as through geographical locations, ski run grade etc) to end up with an individual permit to the level of the competence and requirements of any person.

Types of permit

There are three types of permit available for skiing. These are:

- **Personal** – Allows a young person (under 18) to take part in skiing with others with a personal skiing or snowboarding permit.
- **Leadership** – Allows the permit holder to lead skiing or snowboarding for a single group.

- **Supervisory** – Allows the permit holder to remotely supervise more than one skiing or snowboarding group.

Permit limitations

- **Personal** – If you hold a personal skiing permit you can go skiing with others who hold a personal skiing or snowboarding permit. It does not allow you to go skiing with anyone not holding a skiing or snowboarding permit.
- **Leadership** – If you have a permit to lead skiing then you will need to be with your group at all times. Details of group sizes for skiing can be found in POR and can be made up of skiers and/or snowboarders, but as the permit holder you will need to be on skis.
- **Supervisory** – If you hold a permit to supervise skiing then you can supervise up to three groups remotely. This should be from no further away than 3km. You should also ensure that adequate systems have been set up to monitor and communicate with the groups. You remain responsible for all the groups you are supervising, but designate someone with the appropriate skills to be the leader of each group.

Designations

When remotely supervising groups the holder of a skiing supervisor permit needs to designate a leader for each group. This designation lasts only for the current activity while the permit holder is supervising.

People designated as group leaders should hold the skills and be responsible enough to lead a group safely in the terrain in which they are. There is no problem with making young people group leaders if they are up to the role, and it can be used as a useful development tool.

Further definitions

Permit exemptions – As described in POR, it is possible to get short term personal permit exemptions. These are designed for use while on snowsports holidays and getting instruction from professional instructors, to allow personal practice at a suitable level while away from the instructors

(i.e. instruction every morning, personal practice every afternoon).

They can only be given for on piste - personal, not leading or supervising, and last for the length of the holiday (maximum of one week).

Exemption can only be given with agreement from both a ski instructor (minimum qualification BASI Level 2 Instructor in the appropriate discipline, equivalent or higher) and the young person's responsible leader. It must limit the level to which the young person can ski based on the technical input of the instructor and a personal suitability check by the Leader.

Useful links

[FS120084](#) Scout Led Activities Index
(References relevant Rules and guidance)

[FS120086](#) Commercially Led Activities Index

[FS120100](#) Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme