

LEVEL 1 SNOWBOARD

PROCESS GUIDE



Western Region

Dedicated to Teaching Everyone how to Ski and Snowboard

Requirements - Candidates must:

- **FOLLOW ALL COVID PROTOCOL FROM PSIA/AASI** – Please check www.psia-w.org for the most current protocol.
- Be a Registered Member of PSIA-AASI-W.
- Be at least 16 years old.
- Should have training and actual on-hill experience teaching people in the beginner and novice zones.
- Pass the prerequisite e-Learning modules prior to registering for the exam.
- Register for the event 2 weeks before the event.

PSIA-AASI Western Region Level I Snowboard Process Guide

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the Daily Schedule, Learning Outcomes, and Assessment Activities for the Professional Ski Instructors of America and the American Association of Snowboard Instructors (PSIA-AASI) Level 1 Alpine Certification.

Level 1 is the first level of PSIA-AASI certification.

Candidates are evaluated through a series of tasks that showcase their ability to blend Technical, Teaching, and People Skills Fundamentals. Candidates should have experience teaching at the beginner level and show an introductory level of knowledge of instruction concepts. Successful candidates will apply tactics and fundamentals in tasks, interviews, and scenarios to show their experience teaching and demonstrating for students in beginner and easier intermediate terrain. If you have questions, please contact your Resort Trainer or a member of the PSIA-AASI Western Region Education Staff. Collaborating with fellow instructors to study is a great way to digest the wealth of information presented.

Certification Standards and Resources:

Certification Standards

The Certification Standards help you learn how to apply fundamentals of great skiing and effective teaching so you can become a great instructor. They provide the assessment criteria for creating the skiing, teaching, and professional knowledge outcomes necessary for an instructor to successfully complete a certification. The exam Assessment Form is based off these certification standards.

https://www.thesnowpros.org/download/AASI_Snowboard_Certification_Standards1022_v2.pdf

For a better understanding of how the standards are used in the certification process please refer to the Supporting Information Section, Introduction to the Standards.

Performance Guide

The newly developed Performance Guide provides the details for how to evaluate a candidate's ability to demonstrate the necessary skills to pass an assessment. These activities relate to the assessment criteria of the national standards. The Performance Guide also provides examples of activities that may or may not be assessed during the exam.

https://www.thesnowpros.org/download/SB_snowboard_performance_PG-nov2022.pdf

https://www.thesnowpros.org/download/People.pg_.Peformance.Guide_Oct2022.pdf

<https://www.thesnowpros.org/download/Teaching-PG-oct2022.pdf>

Assessment Form

The Assessment Form used to assess your performance directly refers to the National Standards and Performance Guide. Competence is determined by how well an instructor accomplishes the Learning Outcomes as described by the Assessment Criteria (ACs). Assessment forms may be updating this season so be sure to click on the link to get the most up to date version.

<https://www.thesnowpros.org/download/AASI-Certified-Level-I-Snowboard-Assessment-Form.pdf>

Fundamentals

The link below contains for the fundamentals for People Skills, Teaching Skills, and discipline specific Technical Skills.

https://www.thesnowpros.org/download/LearningConnection_Fundamentals_2021.pdf

e-Learning Prerequisites

e-Learning Courses are to be taken before registering for the Level 1 Alpine Exam. There is an e-Learning Alpine Level 1 course that is free with your PSIA-AASI membership. An additional e-Learning Course that covers technical understanding and equipment is in the works and may be added this year. Please click on the link to get the most up to date information.

<https://lms.thesnowpros.org/product/freestyle-snowboarding-track/>

Recommended Resources

Please refer to the Recommended Certification Resources on “thesnowpros.org” website for a complete list of resources to help you succeed. These publications and documents are meant to be used in harmony with the Certification Standards.

[\(https://www.thesnowpros.org/education/education-products-downloads/](https://www.thesnowpros.org/education/education-products-downloads/)

Children Specialist Standards

Although it is not a requirement for the Level 1 Alpine Certification, the Children’s Specialist Standards contain useful information on how to teach children.

https://www.thesnowpros.org/download/PSIA_Childrens_Specialist_Standards_Final.pdf

Level 1 Outcomes and Assessment Activities

The Level 1 Assessment is designed to be interactive and help you, the candidate, leave with a greater understanding of the industry and personal performance. However, during the assessment you will not be taught how to do any of the items on which you are being assessed. Successful candidates arrive to the assessment having practiced and received feedback on skiing, movement analysis, and teaching. If additional training opportunities are needed, please attend a Level 1 Prep Course, or look for other clinics that will provide the training needed to be prepared.

The PSIA-AASI National Standards establish the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria for Level 1 Certification. The Learning Outcomes for each of the sections are listed below along with Assessment Activities. Refer to the Performance Guide for the Indicators of Success related to each Learning Outcome.

Professionalism and Self-Management elements are assessed each day of the Level 1, from the beginning of the day at check-in to the end of the day when results are announced. Follow-up questions and interviews with Examiners, and observed interactions with other candidates, resort employees, and resort guests are all taken into consideration.

Level 1 Daily Outline:

Day 1:

Candidates will meet at the designated location at 8:30am. This location will be specified in the confirmation email sent to each candidate. Please come to the meeting location ready to ride and with the necessary tools to stay warm and engaged.

9:00 to 12:30

- Warm up
- Riding Activities (Activities include but are not limited to the one listed below. The activities listed * are most common at this event):
 - Dynamic Skidded Turns, most extended, medium radius, closed*
 - Ollies down fall-line*
 - Basic Carved Turns, large radius, closed*
 - Basic Switch Riding*
 - Basic Straight Air
 - Off-piste skidded, variable turn shape, variable turn size
 - 50/50 on a ride on box
 - 360 flat spins on the ground
 - Nose/tail press
 - Basic Switch Riding

1:30 to 3:30

Teaching Beginners and Movement Analysis

You will go to the beginner area, and be asked to teach a segment of a beginner lesson from Never -Ever to linked traverses, after you teach your segment you'll pass the lesson off to another candidate. Each teaching segment will be roughly 10-20min.

In this activity you will be evaluated on your application of the teaching cycle, your technical understanding as it relates to moving from one task to another, and your ability to effectively adapt what you are teaching to all the variables found in a beginner area. Here's a sample of a beginner lesson breakdown:

- Lesson introduction, equipment check, and board orientation (**Examiner will do this**)
- Balancing in a straight line - Skating, gliding, climbing one foot in
- Edging in motion - Traverses, J-Turns, Edge – Release, one foot in
- Using the lift, one foot in
- Beginning two foot balance - traverse, self-arrest, side slip, straight glide
- Controlling Speed - Traverse to a standing stop, floating leaf, Garlands
- Changing Direction – C-Turns, Linked Traverses, S-Turns
- Lesson Conclusion – what was learned, what they will practice, what they will learn next (**Examiner will do this**)

3:30-4:00 Review and Preview

- Your examiner will discuss the day and open up a forum for questions
- You will receive your teaching assignment for the next day
 - Teaching scenarios will take place on green terrain
 - Topics will be based on learning outcomes commonly found in beginner riders
 - You will have 15 - 25 minutes to complete your teach segment
 - You will have the evening to prepare your teaching segment.
- Your examiner will give you feedback to prepare for the next day

Day 2:

Meet the group, at the designated location and time.

9:00-10:45 Focused Riding

- Warm up
- Continued assessment of riding
- Riding Feedback and Follow up

11:00-2:30: Teach Scenarios/Assignments (30 min lunch break)

Here you will be assessed on your ability to teach the group in a prepared teaching scenario. After you complete your teaching scenario you may be asked a variety of follow up questions to understand your Technical Knowledge and your perspective of your lesson.

- Maximum time is 25 min
- Follow up questions will be on the chairlift
- You will be assessed on...
 - The construction of your progression
 - Are the steps of your progression logical?
 - Do you adapt your teaching segment to the needs of your students?
 - Does your progression accomplish the goal?
 - Use of the fundamentals in relation to each other
 - Intro and Summary

3:30 – 4:30 Results

Your examiner will meet with you individually to review your performance as it relates to the level 1 Assessment Criteria. At this time you will receive a final decision as well as actionable feedback to continue your progression. This meeting will be approximately 10min, and you will be emailed a copy of your results after

Supporting Information

Who We Are and What We Do

Who We Are:

The Western Region of PSIA-AASI is one of eight divisions regions that make up the American Snowsports Education Association (ASEA), the national umbrella organization of PSIA-AASI.

PSIA-AASI was founded in 1961 to develop a standardized system for teaching people and to unify instructors throughout the country. Since then, PSIA-AASI has grown to include 32,000 members nationwide. We are a non-profit corporation with a 501 (c) (6) tax-exempt status. The charitable arm of our organization is PSIA_AASI Western Education Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. Our main purpose is to support our members and advance snowsport instruction and education in the disciplines of: Alpine, Nordic Cross Country, Snowboarding, Telemark, Children, and Adaptive.

PSIA-AASI members range from full and part time instructors to “alumni” members, who are retired from teaching. Many of our members come from professional backgrounds such as contractors, small business owners, pilots, doctors, lawyers, and teachers. They all bring a passion for snowsports to share with others.

What We Do:

As an organization, we:

- Promote exceptional standards at all levels and disciplines of snow sport instruction.
- Build leadership in individuals through education, training, and adventure.
- Inspire a lifelong passion for snowsports, adventure, and the mountain experience.
- Connect snowsport instructors of the world together to share, learn and grow.

Education & Certification Opportunities:

We provide training, education, and certification for our members. We offer three levels of certification and specialist programs in freestyle, children, and seniors.

Our educational events range from a variety of clinics on teaching methodology, skiing/riding mechanics, and personal improvement to women specific events, racing, and children’s programs.

No matter how skilled you are, you can always improve. Becoming a member allows you endless opportunities to clinic with some of our country’s top trainers.

Certification Standards and the Learning Connection Model

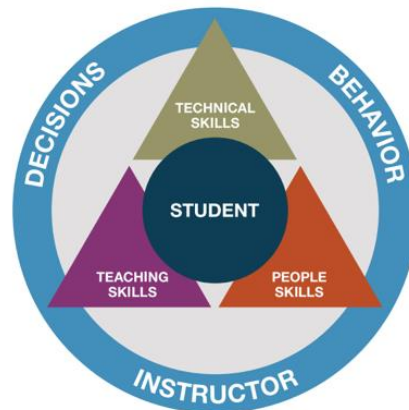
Introduction

The information that is provided to you through “[thesnowpros](#)” website is designed to make the certification standards as transparent as possible. The fundamentals for each of the Learning Connection Skills drive the Learning Outcomes. Learning Outcomes are assessed by performing activities. These activities can be evaluated using assessment criteria to determine if the outcome has been achieved. This process is the foundation of our certification process. If you have questions, please reach out to your trainers or members of our Educational Staff to help you.

Please be aware that the PSIA-AASI National Standards changed in September 2021. The information below provides the new information you must know for your exam.

Learning Connection Model

These standards were built on the Learning ConnectionSM Model which include People Skills, Teaching Skill, and Technical Skills along with overall Instructor Professionalism and Self -management. See figure below:



People Skills and Teaching Skills are the same for all disciplines. Technical Skills are discipline specific.

The Learning Connection Model was inspired by the need to define what makes a great instructor. It's the instructor's ability to blend people, teaching, and technical skills which allows for a deeper connection between the student and instructor.

Each of the Learning Connection Model's three skills have fundamentals that identify what is necessary to apply the skill. These three skills are assessed at each level of certification. As you move through certification the degree of accuracy of the skills increases as well as the level of skier you are teaching.

Learning Outcome Framework

The fundamentals for each skill are at the core of the Learning outcomes. The Learning Outcome Framework is explained on page 5 of the [Certification Standards](#).

The Certification Standards were based on the Learning Outcome Framework. This framework consists of the Learning Outcomes, Learning Experiences, Assessment Activities, and Assessment Criteria. The Learning Outcome clearly states what the instructor can demonstrate upon successful completion of the certification assessment. Assessment Criteria is used to evaluate that the learning outcome has been achieved. The grading is done using a 6-point scale with “4” being at standard for the learning outcome.

Certification Standards Table

As you read the standards, the learning outcomes are at the top of the table. The column on the left describes the learning outcome framework. The Assessment Criteria at the bottom of the table is the same criteria used in the [Assessment Form](#) for your exam.

Performance Guide

Once you become familiar with the Certification Standards, use the [Performance Guide](#) to help you understand what a successful performance contributor would look like verse an unsuccessful performance contributor for a particular assessment. Using this guide with the standards will be a powerful tool to help you prepare for your certification goals.

Other Publications

Other PSIA-AASI publications and resources should be used to complement the standards and the PG. Use The Snowsports Teaching Manual to help with understanding of teaching and people skills. The Alpine technical manual will help with technical understanding.

A Drive for Consistency across Regions

The exam assessment forms for Alpine Skiing are now being used by all PSIA-AASI regions. This is creating a stronger strategic alignment for our organization. There may be a few differences in execution due to varying terrain across our country but an assessment in the West will use the same assessment criteria as an assessment in the East. This is an exciting time to be a part of this national alignment.