



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Professional Ski Instructors of America

American Association of Snowboard Instructors

ALPINE LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Updated January 2021

PSIA Alpine Level 2 Certification involves the completion of two elements:

- Level 2 Prerequisites
- Level 2 Modules

PSIA Alpine Level 2 Prerequisites:

- PSIA Level 1 Certification (or foreign equivalent) or PSIA Level 2 Certification in Telemark, Snowboard or Adaptive
- Complete 2 of the Level 2 Prerequisite Elective Courses
- Complete the Level 2 Proficiency Log
- Pass the Online Written Exam

Notes regarding Level 2 Prerequisite Elective Courses:

- All prerequisite courses must be taken after passing the Level 1 exam.
- CS1 can be used as both a prerequisite and as the required module
- USAA Coaches qualification must be submitted as a Non-PSIA Clinic Credit to the PSIA-RM Office*

Teaching Courses

Alpine Teaching Prep 201
 Children's Specialist One (CS1)
 Certification in 2nd Discipline

Technical Courses

Boot Balancing & Alignment
 201 MA Indoor
 201 MA On Snow
 Technical Foundations Clinic
 *USSA Coaches Qualification

Skiing Courses

Precision Skiing 201
 Alpine Freestyle Specialist

PSIA Alpine Level 2 Modules:

The four modules may be completed in any order, the following order is suggested:

1. Children's Specialist 1 (CS1)
2. Technical Assessment
3. Teaching Assessment
4. Skiing Assessment

PSIA Alpine Level 2 Considerations

Modular System

- Attaining PSIA Alpine Level 2 in PSIA-RM constitutes passing each of the modules
- Passed modules do not expire as long as candidate remains a current PSIA RM member

Assessment Criteria & Scoring

- Assessment criteria are described in the Skiing, Teaching and MA Instructor Development Pathways (IDP)
- Teaching interviews can be found on the PSIA-RM website
- Skiing tasks and terrain are chosen on the exam day from the Skiing IDP
- Skiing task videos can be found on The Snow Pros' [The Matrix](#).
- Assessment forms and IDP's can be found on the PSIA-RM website

Skiing Module specifics

- The skiing module is broken into three sections:
 - Highlighted Tasks
 - Basic Blended Tasks
 - Applied Tasks
- Candidates must pass each section on the same day to successfully complete the module
- Trail difficulty may vary due to changes in snow conditions throughout any given day. The event manager will determine if the local trail designations (I.E., green, blue, black) and conditions adequately reflect the stated national standard concerning terrain. The priority of terrain choice is to keep assessments consistent across the division and the country. The event manager reserves the right to change designated runs based on daily snow and weather conditions

Important Components of the Rocky Mountain (RM) Assessment Process

- Feedback is specific to each Candidate and is consistent with National and RM support materials
- Feedback will be provided within each module. Feedback is specific to each Candidate and is based on the descriptors in the Instructor Development Pathway (IDP)

Professionalism at the Exam:

- Candidates will receive a pass or fail professionalism score at the exam. Examples of unacceptable behavior are – but not limited to: drug and/or alcohol use, consistent lateness, violation of the Responsibility Code, disregarding directions from examiner, any physical or verbal abuse. Examiners will model the professional behavior expected of a PSIA certified instructor during the exam. All scores are reviewed by the exam manager and RM office staff.

New for the 2020/21 season:

- To keep our membership and staff safe, adhere to the individual state, county, and local COVID – 19 restrictions, and to honor individual ski area protocols, there will be no indoor sessions for any exam
- The Movement Analysis Module will be conducted remotely with individual on-line sessions. Please see Movement Analysis module for details
- Check in and meeting locations will be outside. Event updates will come from the RM Office.
- Results will be distributed via email by 5pm to those retaking the assessment
- Examiners will be available for a limited time for one-on-one feedback after results have been emailed to all candidates
- Indoor seating at the resorts will be limited. Expect to bring your own lunch and snacks

Movement Analysis / Technical Module

- The Movement Analysis Module will be conducted online on the day of the assessment.
- Each candidate will have a scheduled MA session in addition to the morning's "meet and greet". These sessions will run throughout the day and be scheduled ahead of time
- Two examiners will be on the call with each candidate. There may also be an auditor on the call
- Videos for analysis will be sent at the start of their assessment
 - (Each candidate will be responsible for adequate connection capabilities)

Each candidate will have up to 30 minutes to analyze video of two intermediate skiers. Each of the four performances will include viewing of the video, analysis, and examiner questions.

Examiners will evaluate each candidate's ability to:

- Describe ski performance through a minimum of two turn phases using D.I.R.T. focusing on one fundamental at a time
- Describe body performance through a minimum of two turn phases using D.I.R.T. focusing on one fundamental at a time
- Describe how body performance affects ski performance
- Describe more ideal ski and body performance
- Track, on a basic level, pressure control (fore/aft or ski/ski, magnitude) while analyzing rotational control or edge control

Prior to Assessments – Examiner Meeting (Zoom)

- Review above process
- Review candidate schedule
- Review process for results and feedback
- Verify the candidate's video and audio connections and the candidate is alone.
- Online sessions may be recorded.

Sample morning of a half-day time frame (7 candidates):

8:15	Meet and greet with the group online
8:30	First MA session begins with another session starting every 40 minutes
1:20	Results

First video

Candidates will:

- Watch a video of one skier 2-3 times and analyze both rotational and edge control, in any order.
- Track one pressure control fundamental during one of the two assessments.

Second video

Candidates will:

- Watch a video of one skier 2-3 times and assess two of the pressure control fundamentals as the primary focus
- Track rotational or edge control on one of the two assessments

Post Assessment – Complete electronic assessment forms

- Examiners create a final composite score based on four presentations
- Email results
- Schedule Feedback

Teaching Module

The Event manager will email candidates a link to four interviews at least 24 hours before the module begins. Candidates choose one to create the lesson plan. Candidates highlight one fundamental in their presentation.

Candidates can interact with the group and demonstrate their ability to:

- Demonstrate a pattern which creates a safe learning environment
- Welcome students and introduce the lesson
- Assess students
- Determine goals and plan experiences
- Create experiences for learning
- Guide practice
- Review the lesson

Examiner Meeting

- Review process for the day
- Review conditions of the day: terrain, lifts, grooming, etc.
- Pair Examiners
- Max of seven candidates per group
- Record scores on snow at the time of the performance
- Set lunch place and time
- Confirm 4:00 meet time for scoring and 5:00 result email

8:45 – Examiners meet with their groups at the designated location

- Outline the format of the day
- Remind candidates that they are teaching students at levels 5, 6, and 7. Examples of teaching settings can include introduction to bumps, variable snow, carving, black groomed, parallel on blue terrain. Encourage them to move the group
- Outline the daily results procedure
- Create two groups, one group of four and one group of three.
- Assign each candidate a portion of the Teaching/Learning Cycle to observe during the other candidates' presentations. They will be asked some questions about their observations at the end of the day
 - This is a starting point for conversation and may involve other aspects of the Teaching/Learning Cycle
- Review the format of the day and its three parts. Each part will cover sections of the Teaching/Learning Cycle, and final scores are compiled from these three parts

9:00 - 10:00 – Introduction, Pre-Learning, and Assessment

- Each candidate leads the group for 5 minutes using a show and tell process or through role play

- Candidates demonstrate how they:
 - Welcome students, introduce the lesson, and establish trust and rapport
 - Discover student motivations, current performance and understanding to direct learning activities
 - Assess students' skiing (current body movements and action of skis)
 - Collaborate with students to determine clear direction and focus (body movements and action of skis at end of lesson)
- Candidates present a first draft of their goal statement at the completion of this segment
 - Why the outcome is important to the student
 - Describe current ski and body performance
 - Describe final ski and body performance

10:00 - 2:45 – Presentation of Lesson on-hill with a 45-minute lunch break

- Candidates demonstrate what they did or would do in this section through a show and tell process or through role play
- A new presentation must start every 30 minutes, *including* chair rides
- Each Candidate is given up to 20 minutes to:
 - Tell the group the goal statement
 - Manage information, activities, terrain selection, and pacing
 - Promote play, experimentation, and exploration
 - Facilitate the learner's ability to reflect upon experiences and sensations
 - Manage emotional and physical risk
 - Review, preview, and invite students to return

2:45 – 4:00 – Candidate reflects on lesson, student-learning, and knowledge of Teaching/Learning Cycle

Examiners will interview each candidate in private for 7-10 minutes and ask candidates the following questions to begin a conversation about teaching and to help assess their depth of knowledge relative to teaching skiing

- Having had some time to reflect on your presentations, is there anything that you would do differently?
- What were some indicators that learning took place and it was time for the next step in your presentation?
- What did you observe about your assigned part of the Teaching/Learning Cycle during the other candidates' presentations?

4:00 Begin completing assessment forms

5:00 Results are emailed to candidates. Examiners will be available to give one-on-one feedback to candidates until 5:45 PM.

Skiing Module

Examiners will evaluate the candidates' ability to:

- Ski/demonstrate a variety of tasks outlined on the PSIA-RM Skiing IDP

Examiner Meeting

- Time management is crucial for a successful day
- Review conditions of the day. Discuss skiing terrain, lifts, grooming, etc.
- Pair Examiners
- Up to 8 candidates and group scores should be written at the time of the performance

8:45 AM – Examiners meet the candidates at the designated location

- Build rapport with group
- Identify tasks with group

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM – On-hill with a 45-minute lunch

- Demonstrate each task for candidates
- Allow three attempts when possible. First: coaching/feedback. Second: coaching/feedback. Third (final): scored
- Watch all attempts. Score "ownership" of the task
- Keep feedback consistent throughout exam. By doing this, candidate keeps the same focus as tasks change and tasks become progressively less time consuming

3:30 PM Begin completing assessment forms

5:00 Results are emailed to the candidates. Examiners will be available to give one-on-one feedback until 5:45 PM.