



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION
Professional Ski Instructors of America
American Association of Snowboard Instructors

ALPINE LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Updated October 2020

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
- 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

**Movement Analysis

PSIA Alpine Level 2 Modules:

The 4 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.
- Modules can be completed in any order.
- Approximately 5-6 modules of each Movement Analysis/Technical (MA/Tech), Teaching, and Skiing are conducted per year.

- CS1 is offered at various times through the season.

Assessment Criteria & Scoring

- Assessment criteria are described in the Skiing, Teaching and MA Instructor Development Pathways (IDP)
- Scored elements for Teaching and Technical can be found on the PSIA-RM Scorecards
- 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 PSIA-RM website
- Scorecards 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 first 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 Assessment Process

- Candidates are evaluated by a pool of specially trained and qualified Level 2 & 3 Examiners.
- Feedback is consistent with National and RM Divisional support materials.
- Specific sections in the skiing module highlight specific skills or blends of skills.
- 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:

- Check in and meeting locations may be outside. Event updates will come from the RM Office.
- Results will be distributed via email by 5pm to those retaking the exam or requesting results.
- Examiners will be available for a limited time for one-on-one feedback after results have been emailed to all candidates
- Indoor seating will be limited. Expect to bring your own (BYO) lunch and snacks

MA/Tech Module

Examiners will evaluate each candidate's ability to:

- In one fundamental, describe ski performance through each phase of the turn using D.I.R.T.
- In one fundamental, describe body performance through each phase of the turn using D.I.R.T.
- Describe how body performance affected 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

7:30 - Examiner Meeting

- Review morning process. Designate the indoor meeting/video space
- Review conditions of the day. Discuss terrain, lift, grooming, etc.
- Pair examiners – pairs switch groups for the afternoon
- Max of 7 candidates / group
- Scores recorded at the time of the performance
- Set lunch place and time, exchange contact info
- Results emailed by 5:00PM

8:30 AM – Check in Candidates.

- The RM Office will email outside meeting location and time 48 hours in advance

8:45 – Meet Candidates

- Outline format of the day and establish the order of the morning
- Outline the daily results procedure
 - Determine who wants results emailed at the end of the day
 - Examiners will be available for a limited amount of time at the end of the day (specify time and place)
 - Cover potential Day Two and Three performance issues that might arise from knowledge of results
 - Designate the time and meeting location to meet new examiner for afternoon session

9:00 – 9:30 Examiner and group go to an indoor space to review video.

- Develop rapport with group
- Demonstrate a sample performance

9:45 -12:30 - Examiner meets with candidates individually.

Candidates will:

- Watch one ski video several times and assess Rotational Control and Edge Control. Candidate may choose
- Track a pressure control fundamental on one of the two assessments. Candidates may

choose

- Describe ski performance through at least two phases of the turn using D.I.R.T
- Describe body performance through at least two phases of the turn using D.I.R.T
- Describe how body performance affect ski performance (through the same phases)
- Describe more ideal ski and body performance (through the same phases)
- Candidates will have a maximum of 10 minutes for the entire assessment.

12:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00 – Candidates meet afternoon examiner on snow

- Find a safe and effective place for observation on mountain
- Candidate with the Examiner one-at-a-time
- Keep 2 Candidates – send group around for a run, provide the candidates a place to wait their turn
- Each Candidate watches 2 skiers, 20 minutes total time per candidate

1:15 – First Candidate starts analysis

Skier 1 - Pressure Control

1. Candidates choose between fore/aft, ski/ski or magnitude as the primary focus
 - Examiner chooses a Level 5 to 7 skier (possibly using a parallel entry, showing various turn size on blue terrain)
2. Describe ski performance through at least two phases using D.I.R.T.
3. Describe body performance through at least two phases using D.I.R.T.
4. Describe how body performance affected ski performance (through the same phases)
5. Describe a more ideal ski and body performance (through the same phases)

Skier 2 – Rotational Control or Edge Control (tracking Pressure Control)

1. The Candidates choose rotational control or edging control as a primary focus. They will also track fore/aft, ski/ski or magnitude pressure control
 - a. Examiner chooses the skier
2. Describe ski performance through at least two phases using D.I.R.T.
3. Describe body performance through at least two phases using D.I.R.T.
4. Describe how body performance affected ski performance (through the same phases)
5. Describe a more ideal ski and body performance (through the same phases)
6. Track and describe current and more ideal fore/aft, ski/ski or magnitude pressure control (through the same phases)

3:45 – Return to meeting room and complete assessment forms

- Examiners create a final composite score based on both indoor and outdoor presentations

5:00 Results emailed to those retaking the exam or requesting results. Examiners will be available to give one on one feedback to candidates until 5:45 PM.

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

7:30 - 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

The RM Office will email candidates 48 hours with the meeting location and time

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
 - Results will be available for a limited time at the end of the day (confirm location)
 - Mention potential performance issues that might arise from knowing results daily
- 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 (Outside)

- 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 - 2:30 – Presentation of Lesson on-hill with ½ hour lunch

- 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

2:30 - 3:45 – Candidate reflects on lesson, student-learning, and knowledge of Teaching/Learning Cycle (Indoors)

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 – Return to meeting room and complete assessment forms

5:00 Results emailed to those retaking the exam or requesting results. 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
- Tasks are divided into 3 groups; highlighted, basic blended and applied

7:30 AM – Examiner Meeting

- Time management is crucial for a successful day
- Review conditions of the day. Discuss skiing terrain, lifts, grooming, etc.
- Pair Examiners
- Exam tasks will be selected from IDP
- Up to 9 candidates / group Scores should be written at the time of the performance
- Results by 4:30

The RM Office will email candidates 48 hours with the meeting location and time.

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 30-minute lunch

- Demonstrate each task for candidates
- Allow three attempts when possible. First: practice. 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 – Return to meeting room and complete assessment forms

5:00 Results emailed to those retaking the exam or requesting results. Examiners will be available to give one on one feedback to candidates until 5:45 PM.