



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

ALPINE LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Updated February 2020

PSIA Alpine Level 3 Certification involves the completion of two elements:

- Level 3 Prerequisites
- Level 3 Modules

PSIA Alpine Level 3 Prerequisites:

- PSIA Level 2 Certified or foreign equivalent
- Complete 2 of the Level 3 Prerequisite Elective Courses.
- Complete the Level 3 Proficiency Log
- Pass the Online Written Exam

Level 3 Prerequisite Elective Courses:

- *All prerequisite courses must be taken after passing the Level 2 exam
- *CS2 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 301
Children's Specialist 2
(CS2) Cert. in Secondary
Discipline

Technical Courses

Boot Balancing &
Alignment 301
Movement Analysis
Indoor
301 Movement Analysis
On-Snow Technical
Foundations Clinic

Skiing Courses

Precision Skiing 301
Alp Freestyle Specialist (any)
USSA Coaches Qualification

Alpine Level 3 Modules:

- *The 4 modules may be completed in any order, although the following order is suggested:
 1. Children's Specialist 2 (CS2)
 2. Movement Analysis (MA) and Technical Assessment
 3. Teaching Assessment
 4. Skiing Assessment

PSIA Alpine Level 3 Considerations

Modular System

- Attaining PSIA Alpine Level 3 in PSIA-RM constitutes passing each of the modules
- Passed modules do not expire as long as Candidate remains a current PSIA-RM member
- CS2 is offered at various times through the season

Exam Criteria & Scoring

- Exam criteria are described in the Skiing, Teaching and MA Instructor Development Pathways (IDP)
- Scored elements for Teaching and MA can be found on the PSIA-RM Scorecards
- 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 and the on-line Skiing IDP
- Scorecards and IDP's can be found on the PSIA-RM website

New Skiing Exam Process for the 2019/20 season

- Candidates ski with the same group throughout all three sections of the exam in one day. The group will be examined by the same examining pair in all sections. Terrain and tasks for each section will be determined by the exam manager and/or examining group at or before the morning meeting. The exact order of tasks in each skiing module may vary from group to group and from exam to exam and will be at the discretion of the examining pair
- Partial Passes (PPs) are no longer awarded
 - All new L3 candidates or those whose PPs have expired will enter the new single-day format
- Process for people with current partial passes:
 - Those members who enter the 2019/20 season with remaining PPs banked will retain their PPs until they expire or they pass the skiing day. When their PPs expire, they will enter the new process and will be required to pass the entire ski day
- Requirements for passing:
 - Applied (must pass) - Average a score of four for the section with no score below a three
 - Basic blended (must pass) - Average a score of four for the section with no score below a three
 - Highlighted (must pass) - Average a score of four for the section

Important Components of the Rocky Mountain Examination Process

- Exam Candidates are evaluated by specially trained and qualified Level 3 Examiners
- Feedback is consistent with National and Rocky Mountain divisional support materials
- Sections of the skiing exam highlight specific skills or blends of skills
- Feedback is provided within each module. It is specific to each Candidate and is based on the descriptors in the IDPs

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.

Terrain Selection:

Trail difficulty may vary due to snow conditions improving or deteriorating throughout the day. The exam manager will determine if the local trail designations (I.E. green, blue, black) and conditions adequately reflect the stated national standard concerning terrain. If necessary, trails or sections of trails will be selected to keep exams consistent across the division and the country.

Movement Analysis / Technical Assessment Module

Through on-snow and video analysis, Candidates demonstrate their ability to:

- Prioritize and analyze 2 skill pools.
- Describe the performance of the skis through each phase of the turn using D.I.R.T.
- Describe the movements of the body for each phase of the turn using D.I.R.T.
- Describe how body performance affects ski performance
- Describe how 1 skill effects a second skill, from 1 phase to the next phase
- Compare current to more ideal Skis & Body Performances for the chosen skills

7:30 AM – Examiner Meeting

- Review conditions of the day. Discuss MA terrain & task, lifts, grooming, etc.
- Pair Examiners – Pairs switch groups for afternoon. 7 candidates / 1 examiner.
- Each Candidate's interview - 20 minutes total time includes:
 - 15 minutes of interview
 - 5 minutes of Examiner note taking
- Set meeting places/times for on-hill and indoor evaluations, exchange contact info
- Review daily results, time, and place
 - Results will be available to those Candidates that would like them for a limited time at the end of the day
 - Those not interested in knowing their results daily can find out their results on the last day of the exam
- Results for each day will only be available during the allotted time

8:00 AM – Candidates Check In

8:15 AM – Meet Candidates Indoors

- Announce groups and introduce Examiners. 7 Candidates / 1 Examiner
- Meet groups in examining pairs, develop rapport, outline the day
- Assign Candidates times for morning and afternoon sessions
- Outline the daily results procedure – 4:15 – 4:45
- Cover potential performance issues that might arise from receiving daily results

9:00 AM – Meet Candidates On Snow

- All Candidates will observe peers skiing basic blended tasks on groomed terrain
- Find safe and effective place for observation on mountain
- Keep 2 Candidates - send rest of group around for a run
- The rest of the group stays together and makes laps skiing through the MA station area
- 20 minutes total time includes:
 - 15 minutes of interview
 - 5 minutes of Examiner note taking

11:45 AM - Lunch

12:30-2:50 PM – Meet Candidates in Meeting Room for Video Analysis

- Meet in combined groups with Examiner pairs
- Assign Candidates numbers/times to watch video
- Set meeting place and time for results after video
- Play video – Examiner 1-on-1 with Candidate
- Rotate video of public skiing level 8 and 9 terrain
- Evaluate the same elements as the On-Snow portion of exam

4:15-4:45 PM – Results

- Full pass certificates are awarded, and scorecards are handed out to those who are not attending any other day of the exam
- Results are available to those who want them during the specified time

Teaching Assessment Module

Candidates have the opportunity to interact with the group and demonstrate their ability to:

- Demonstrate a pattern which creates a safe learning environment
- Verify student's movements, understanding, and motivations
- Develop a Relevant Goal Statement which contains:
 - The current ski and body performance of the student
 - A more ideal ski and body performance of the student
 - The student's current understanding of their skiing
 - What the student needs to change in their understanding of their skiing
 - The relevance of the changes to the student's motivational needs
- Present clear and concise information relative to the desired skill and/or tactical development
- Demonstrate the desired actions of the body and skis
- Guide practice using a variety of tasks and/or tactics specific to the students
- Provide specific and accurate feedback
- Determine the degree of learning by checking for understanding
- Adjust teaching styles based on the students' needs and lesson content
- Focus on the precision or versatility and application of students' skiing
- Engage participants with 2-way interaction
- Demonstrate an overall competence with assigned Teaching/Learning Cycle

Two Examiners work with a group of 7 Candidates for the entire day. They create one group of 4 and one group of 3 Candidates. The presenting Candidate will only present to the other Candidates in his/her smaller group of 3 or 4. The other 2 or 3 will observe the presentation without participating directly. The day has three distinct parts:

1. **Observation:** Candidates observe the other members of their smaller groups during several specified skiing tasks. Information gathered should be used to create the presentation for the next section
2. **Presentations:** Each Candidate leads their smaller group for up to 30 minutes (not including the initial lift ride). They choose the type of skiing and the setting for their lesson to enhance the precision, versatility, and/or adaptability of the other Candidates' skiing
3. **Interviews:** Each Candidate is given an assigned part of the Teaching/Learning Cycle, Cognitive, Affective, and Psychomotor (CAP) model, or other model common to Level 3 Certification to observe in the presentations of group members from the other small group. The Examiners will ask the Candidates about their observations and opinions on their assignment during a private interview

7:30 AM – Examiner Meeting

- Review conditions of the day. Discuss teaching terrain, lift, grooming, etc.
- Pair Examiners, they will work as a pair for entire day
- Examiner pairs agree on scores while on the hill
- Review format and timing for the day
- Choose topic/teaching element for Candidates to observe during teaching presentations
- Results will be available to those Candidates who would like them at the end of the day
- Results for each day are available only during the allotted time

8:00 AM – Candidates Check In

8:15 AM – Meet Candidates Indoors

- Develop rapport with group
- Outline the format and timing for the day
- Announce groups and introduce Examiners. 7 Candidates / 2 Examiners
- Meet in combined groups with Examiner pairs
- Assign each Candidate a topic/teaching element to observe and discuss during the final section
- Divide Candidates into two groups of 3 or 4. All 7 will stay together for the entire day
- Candidates may choose the order in which they present
- Results are available to those Candidates who want them
- Results are only available from 4:30–5:00 PM (designate meeting area)
- Cover potential performance issues that might arise from knowing results daily

9:00 – 10:00 AM On-Hill Warm-Up and Observation

- Examiners lead groups through a warm-up that consists of a Highlighted Task, a Basic Blended Task, and an Applied Task (groomed or un-groomed). These tasks are not scored
- Candidates observe the other members of their smaller group and collect information for their lessons
- Candidates ride the lift with other members of their smaller groups to gather information about the other Candidates' understandings, opinions, and/or skiing focuses. Candidates can use this information for their lessons. When working with peers, Candidates should celebrate strengths vs. weaknesses in front of their peers and examiners

10:00 AM – 3:10 PM Teaching Presentations and Lunch

- Candidates have 30 minutes to teach the other members in their smaller groups. A presentation must start every 40 minutes
- Candidates may choose to use or modify an IDP task
- Candidates will:
 - present a goal statement
 - address skill to skill relationships and tactical considerations (line choice, turn size, etc.) one phase at a time
 - provide defined outcomes for skill to skill and tactical foci
 - improve peers' skiing in a holistic manner
 - move the group
- Examiners may gather or clarify information during presentations especially as it relates to the goal statement. Allow Candidates at least 10 to 15 minutes of presentation time before questioning them. (Keep them on track if necessary)

Ongoing Interviews

- Examiners have a private interview with each Candidate regarding their observations of how other Candidates used their assigned phase of the Teaching/Learning Cycle. Interviews can be held on lift rides, during lunch, and any time before 3:30. Interviews may be conducted by one or both Examiners

3:30 PM Examiners Indoors for Scoring

- Determine scores prior to returning indoors. Transfer notes and scores to Candidates' official scoresheets

4:30 – 5:00 PM Results

- Full pass certificates are awarded, and scorecards are handed out to those Candidates who are not attending any other day of the exam
- Results are available during the specified time for Candidates who want them

Skiing Assessment Module

Examiners 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 Skills, Basic Blended Skills and Applied Skills

7:30 AM – Examiner Meeting

- Review conditions of the day: weather, terrain, lifts, grooming, etc.
- Pair Examiners, review logistics, exchange contact info
- Set tasks, terrain and review criteria
- Review feedback and results process
 - Candidates will receive performance-specific feedback through the course of the day relative to ski performance, body performance and/or tactics
 - Candidates will not receive pass/fail results until the 5:00 Results Presentation
- Examiner and candidates load the lift by 9:00 AM
- Tips for Time Management:
 - Complete scores on the hill
 - Allow the entire group to perform the task and then provide feedback
 - Keep the feedback consistent as tasks change throughout exam
 - Look for opportunities to provide similar feedback
 - to multiple Candidates at the same time
 - regarding the D.I.R.T. of a skill

8:00 AM – Candidates Check-In

8:15 AM – Welcome Meeting with Candidates Indoors

- Develop rapport with group
- Discuss Logistics of day
 - Impact of weather, terrain, daily conditions, and/or resort logistics
- Provide an overview
 - Highlighted Skills: focus on Rotational-, Edge-, and Pressure Control-skills separately
 - Basic Blended Skills: demonstrate complementary skill-to-skill relationships at low speeds on green and blue terrain
 - Applied Skills: demonstrate the ability to create complementary skill-to-skill relationships using appropriate tactics for higher-speed skiing on- and off-piste
 - Examiners will demonstrate each task before describing
 - Candidates have the opportunity to perform each task at least 2 and up to 3 times
 - Tasks may vary individually or for a group to better demonstrate skills/abilities
- For specific tasks and performance descriptors, refer to the skiing IDP and online videos
- Discuss feedback and monitoring personal performance
 - Feedback will be given for each task
 - Feedback will be directed to either individuals or the group as appropriate
- Explain that results will be presented at the end of the day
- Introduce the Examiner pairs

Sample Timing (may vary due to conditions of the day: weather, terrain, lifts, grooming, etc.)

- 9:00-12:15: Highlighted and Basic Blended tasks
 - Candidates ski 3 Highlighted Tasks (1 for each skill) and a minimum of 3 Basic Blended tasks, chosen the morning of the exam
- 12:15-12:45: Lunch
- 12:45-3:30: Applied Skill tasks
 - Group skis through Bumps, Variable Terrain, Dynamic Short Radius Turns, & Dynamic Medium Radius Turns

3:30 PM – Examiners Return to Meeting Room Indoors

- In Examiner Pairs:
 - Transfer scores to scorecard
 - Discuss and transfer written feedback
- In group format (all Examiners) will:
 - Review scorecards for accuracy
 - Input scores to master sheet

5:00 PM – Awards Presentation

- Award full pass certificates and pins
- Examiners are available to provide feedback