



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

ALPINE LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Updated September 2019

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

Alp 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

PSIA Alpine Level 3 Modules:

*the 4 modules may be completed in any order, the following order is suggested

1. Children’s Specialist 2 (CS2)
2. MA/Technical Assessment
3. Teaching Assessment
4. Skiing Assessment
 - The skiing assessment is broken into three sections –
 - Highlighted Skills Tasks
 - Basic Blended Skills Tasks
 - Applied Skill Tasks
 - Each section is a stand alone. When each section is passed, the pass remains for three seasons. If all three sections are not completed in a three season window, the pass will expire and candidates will need to attend and pass the section again.

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 if candidate remains a current PSIA RM member.
- Approximately 4 modules of each MA, Teaching, and Skiing are conducted per year.
- 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
- Scorecards and IDP's can be found on the PSIA-RM website

Skiing Exam Module specifics

- The skiing module is broken into three sections.
 - Highlighted Skills Tasks
 - Basic Blended Skills Tasks
 - Applied Skills Tasks
- Each section is “stand alone” and all three sections must be completed within a three-season time frame to successfully complete the skiing module.

Important Components of the Rocky Mountain Examination Process

- Exam Candidates are evaluated by a pool of specially trained and qualified Level 3 Examiners.
- Feedback is consistent with National and RM Divisional support materials.
- Specific sections in the skiing exam 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 describers in the IDP.

Movement Analysis / Technical Exam Module

Through On-snow and Video Analysis, Candidates will demonstrate their ability to:

- Prioritize 2 skill pools to Analyze.
- Compare / Differentiate Skis & Body Performances for each chosen skill through all phases using D.I.R.T.
- Construct Body Performance / Skis Performance Cause & Effect Relationships for each chosen skill, from 1 phase to another.
- Construct Skill to Skill Cause & Effect Relationship for the chosen skills, from 1 phase to another.
- Compare current to more ideal Skis & Body Performances for the chosen skills. (Prescription for Change)

7:30 AM – Examiner Meeting

- Review conditions of the day. Discuss MA terrain & task, lifts, grooming, etc.
- Pair Examiners – Pairs will 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 - Pass out MA Filters

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
- Results will be available to those who wish for a limited time at the end of the day.
- 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 will be awarded, and scorecards will be handed out to those who will not be attending any other day of the exam.
- Results will be available to those who wish for them during the specified time.

Teaching Exam Module

Candidates will 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 Model.

Two Examiners will work with a group of 7 Candidates for the entire day. The Examiners will make one group of 4 and one group of 3. 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 will have the opportunity to 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 will lead their smaller group for up to 30 minutes (not including the initial lift ride). They may choose the type of skiing and the setting for their lesson to enhance the precision, versatility, and/or adaptability of the other Candidate's skiing.
3. **Interviews:** Each Candidate will have an assigned part of the Teaching Cycle, GCT, CAP, 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 Candidate's about their observations and opinions about 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 will come to consensus on scores 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 that would like them at the end of the day.
- Results for each day will only be available during the allotted time

8:00 AM – Candidates Check In

8:15 AM – Meet Candidates Indoors

- Develop rapport with group.
- Results will be available to those who wish to know them daily.
- Results will only be available from 4:30 – 5:00 PM (designate meeting area).
- Cover potential performance issues that might arise from knowing results daily.
- 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.
- Candidates will be broken 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.

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

- Examiners will lead groups through a warm up that consists of a Highlighted Task, a Basic Blended Task, and an Application Task (groomed or un-groomed). Tasks are **NOT** scored.
- Candidates will observe the other members of their smaller group and collect information for their lessons.
- Candidates will 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. A "Strength-Based Learning" focus is encouraged.

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

- Candidates will have 30 minutes to teach the other members in their smaller groups. A presentation must start every 40 minutes.
- Candidate should present relevant goal statement.
- Candidate should demonstrate to the group a logical progression of activities that demonstrate the ability to connect two skills and/or tactic in at least one turn phase.
- Candidates should be encouraged to move the group through the chosen activities relevant to his or her goal statement.
- Examiner may gather or clarify information during presentation especially as it relates to the Goal Statement. Allow candidate at least 10 to 15 minutes of presentation time before questioning. (Keep them on track if necessary).

Ongoing-Interviews

- Examiners will have a private interview with each Candidate regarding their observations of how other Candidates used their assigned teaching/learning model. 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

- Score should be determined prior to returning indoors. Examiners will transfer their notes and scores to Candidate's official scoresheet.

4:30 – 5:00 Results

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

Skiing Exam 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 tasks, basic blended skiing and applied skiing.

7:30 AM – Examiner Meeting

- Review conditions of the day. Discuss skiing terrain, lifts, grooming, etc.
- Pair Examiners and review logistics.
- Set timing and location for switching groups, exchange contact info.
- Review criteria for each section.
- Set tasks and terrain.
- Review coaching and use of the IDP.
- Review group and individual coaching.
- Review feedback and results process.
- Candidates will receive performance-specific feedback through the course of the day.
- Candidates will not receive pass/fail results until the 5:00 Results Presentation.
 - Exception - Candidates who are present for morning section(s) only may receive results at the end of that section(s).
- Scores should be completed on the hill
- Examiner pairs will be on the lift with groups by 9:00am.
- Tips for Time Management
 - Allow the entire group to perform the task and then provide feedback
 - Keep the feedback consistent exam. Candidates may need to keep the same focus as tasks change.
 - Look for opportunities to provide similar feedback to multiple Candidates at the same time.
 - Look for opportunities to provide feedback regarding the D.I.R.T. of a skill.
 - Look for opportunities to provide feedback relative to ski performance or tactics

8:00 AM – Candidates Check-In

8:15 AM – Welcome Meeting with Candidates Indoors

- Develop rapport with group.
- Discuss Logistics of day.
 - Explain timing of each section.
 - Present the location and timing for switching groups.
 - The order and exact timing of sections may vary due to weather, terrain, daily conditions, and/or resort logistics

- Provide overview of each section.
 - Highlighted Skills Tasks: Demonstrating individually highlighted Rotary, Edge, and Pressure Control skills.
 - Basic Blended Skills Tasks: Demonstrating complimentary skill-to-skill relationships at low speeds on green and blue terrain.
 - Applied Skills Tasks: Demonstrating the ability to create complimentary skill-to-skill relationships using appropriate tactics for higher speed skiing on and off-piste.
 - Candidates receive descriptions and demonstrations for each task
 - Candidates will have the opportunity to perform each task at least 2 and up to 3 times
 - Tasks may be varied individually or as a group to better demonstrate skills/abilities
- For specific tasks and performance describers, 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.
 - Candidates who are present for morning section(s) only may receive results at the end of that section(s).
- Introduce the Examiner pairs.

Sample Timing

9:00-10:30: Highlighted Skills Tasks

- Candidates ski 3 Highlighted Tasks (1 for each skill), chosen the morning of the exam.

10:30-10:45: Quick bio break if needed

10:45-12:15: Basic Blended Skills Tasks

- Group skis through a minimum of 3 Basic Blended Tasks, chosen the morning of the exam

12:15-12:45: Lunch

12:45: Meet new group.

12:45-3:30: Applied Skills Tasks

- Group skis through Bumps, Variable, Short Radius Turns, & Medium Radius Turns.

3:30 PM – Examiners Return to Meeting Room Indoors

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

5:00 PM – Results Presentation

- Full Pass Certificates and Pins are awarded.
- Examiners are available to provide feedback.