



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

ALPINE LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Updated January 2021

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

Notes regarding 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
- USSA 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
- Certification in a secondary discipline

- **Technical Courses**

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

- **Skiing Courses**

- Precision Skiing 301
- Alpine Freestyle Specialist (any)
- *USSA Coaches Qualification

PSIA Alpine Level 3 Modules:

The 4 modules may be completed in any order, although the following order is suggested:

1. Children's Specialist 2
2. 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 if the candidate remains a current PSIA-RM member

Assessment Criteria & Scoring

- Assessment 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
- Candidates with Freestyle Specialist 1 will receive an additional score of 5 in the Basic Blended section
- Videos of skiing tasks can be found on The Snow Pros' [The Matrix](#) website
- 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 describers 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 assessment
- 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
- 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
- Link(s) to video for analysis will be sent at the start of their assessment
 - Each candidate is responsible for adequate connection capabilities

Each candidate will have 30 minutes to analyze 2 advanced level skiers. (15 minutes per skier)

- One skier in a performance skiing situation
(groomed or ungroomed, black or double black terrain)
- One skier in a basic blended situation
(wedge turns, wedge christie, basic turns in bumps, etc.)

Examiners will evaluate each candidate's ability to:

- Prioritize and analyze 2 skill pools for a specific skiing application
- Describe how 1 skill effects a second skill, from 1 phase to another though turns
- Describe how body performance affects ski performance
- 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.
- Compare current to more ideal performances for the chosen fundamentals

Prior to Assessments – Examiner Meeting (Zoom)

- Review process
- Review candidate schedule
- Review process for results and feedback

Sample of a morning 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

Post Assessment – Complete assessment forms

- Examiners create a final composite score based on 2 presentations
- Email Results
- Schedule Feedback

Teaching Module

Candidates can 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
- Check for understanding to determine the degree of learning
- 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

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 interview 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 assigned part of a model common to Level 3 Certification (I.E. The Teaching/Learning Cycle, Cognitive, Affective, and Psychomotor (CAP) model) to observe in the presentations of group members from the other small group. Each candidate will highlight strengths and contrast differences in observed lessons relative to their assigned topic during a short, private interview

Two Examiners will work with a group of up to 7 Candidates for the entire day.

Candidates will be divided into 2 smaller groups. Candidates will only present a lesson to their small group. Candidates not in the lesson group will observe the presentations and discuss.

Examiner Meeting

- Review conditions of the day. Discuss teaching terrain, lift, grooming, etc.
- Paired examiners work together for entire day
- Record scores on snow at the time of the performance
- Review format and timing for the day
- Choose topic/teaching element for candidates to observe during teaching presentations

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

- 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 will be emailed to those candidates who want them
 - 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, Basic Blended, and Applied Task (groomed or un-groomed). These tasks are not scored
- Candidates observe the other members of their smaller group to 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 foci. Candidates can use this information for their lessons. When working with peers, candidates should celebrate strengths vs. pointing out weaknesses in front of their peers and examiners

10:00 AM – 3:30 Teaching Presentations with a 45-minute 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
 - provide defined outcomes for skill-to-skill relationships and tactical considerations (line choice, turn size, speed, etc.)
 - improve peers' skiing in a holistic manner
 - provide ample practice time
- 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, to finish by 3:20
- Interviews may be conducted by one or both examiners

3:20 Begin completing assessment forms.

Create a final composite score based on both indoor and outdoor presentations.

5:00 Email results 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 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

Ski Day Partial Passes

- For those beginning the assessment in the 2020-21 season, no partial passes will be awarded. The entire ski day must be passed.
- For those with remaining partial passes, you may continue to accrue partial passes through the end of the 2020-21 season. At the end of the 2020-21 season, all partial passes will expire.

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.
- 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 fundamental

8:45 AM – Welcome Meeting with Candidates at the designated location

- Develop rapport with group
- Discuss Logistics of day
 - Impact of weather, terrain, daily conditions, and/or resort logistics
- Provide an overview of each section
 - Highlighted: focus on distinct fundamentals
 - Basic Blended: demonstrate blended fundamentals at low speed on green and blue terrain
 - Applied: demonstrate blended fundamentals and 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
- Discuss feedback and monitoring personal performance
 - Feedback will be given for each task

- Feedback will be directed to either individuals and/or the group as appropriate
- Explain that results will be presented at the end of the day

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

9:00-12:15 - Highlighted and Basic Blended tasks

- Three Highlighted Tasks (1 for each fundamental) and a minimum of 3 Basic Blended tasks, chosen the morning of the exam

12:15-12:45 – Lunch

12:45-3:30 - Applied tasks

- Bumps, Variable Terrain, Dynamic Short Radius Turns, & Dynamic Medium Radius Turns

3:30 PM – Begin completing assessment forms.

5:00 Email results. Examiners will be available to give one-on-one feedback to candidates until 5:45 PM.