



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

## SNOWBOARD CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

### Introduction

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This document outlines PSIA-RM-AASI (RM) Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Assessment prerequisites and details about Assessments. Candidates' assessment experience will be informed by this material. Successful candidates will use this material and the relevant RM and National materials to prepare for assessments.

### Professionalism at the Assessment

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- All candidates earn a professionalism score based on their behavior at the assessment. See the Assessment Form and Performance Guide for the assessment criteria

### Suggested Reference Materials

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- Snowboard Technical Manual found [HERE](#).
- Teaching Snowsports Manual found [HERE](#).
- Assessment Documents found [HERE](#).
- Certification Standards and Performance Guides found [HERE](#).
- Additional resources can be found at [thesnowpros.org](http://thesnowpros.org) or [psia-rm.org](http://psia-rm.org) websites.
- Other resources may include candidates' home area training team and local reference guides.

### Modular System

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- Attaining AASI certification in the Rocky Mountain Region (RM) constitutes passing each of the three modules: Teaching, Technical/Movement Analysis (MA), and Riding.
  - Levels II and III require a Children's Specialist 1 and 2 qualifications, respectively.
- Passed modules do not expire if candidate remains a current RM member and the National Standards are not overhauled.
- Level 1 modules must be completed in the order found in the outline.
- Level 2 and 3 assessments require prerequisites to be completed before attending the on-snow assessment. Please see below for a full list of prerequisites for each certification level.
- Level 2 and 3 modules may be completed in any order, though the following is suggested:
  - Children's Specialist
  - Technical Assessment
  - Teaching Assessment
  - Skiing Assessment
- The event calendar is available at: <http://www.psia-rm.org>

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## Assessment Criteria and Scoring

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- Assessment criteria for Riding, Teaching and MA are described in the Assessment Form and the Performance Guide
- All RM forms may be found here: [PSIA-RM Education Materials](#)
- PSIA Alpine Certification Standards can be found at:  
<https://www.thesnowpros.org/certification/national-certification-standards/>

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## Assessment Groups

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- The RM Office and Exam Manager will lead a scheduled Examiner meeting to determine Examiner pairings, group assignments, terrain, and meeting locations for the event.
- Groups may include an assigned auditor. The Exam Manager pre-assigns all groups and verifies any changes.

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## Riding Evaluations

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During the assessment, candidates will be asked to ride several tasks in all types of terrain and conditions. Refer to the Ride Assessment Overview, Task Chart, and Assessment Form for more details about riding tasks.

Candidates will ride a minimum of two attempts at each task. There will be feedback offered – if it's to the entire group, listen as though it's directed at you. Variations in movements and mechanics may be requested at the discretion of the evaluator. These could include changes in the type of flexion, extension, or rotation mechanics, or in the Timing, Intensity, and Duration of those movements. Evaluators will provide specific descriptions of any task. Demonstrations will consist of a series of turns for a distance that allows adequate performance.

The examiners will be watching candidates' riding at all times during the assessment. Candidates may be given the opportunity to free ride during the assessment; keep in mind this time is also part of the assessment and can be used to demonstrate personal style and terrain preferences. Environmental and snow conditions will be taken into consideration.

Whatever your riding style, no matter what equipment you've chosen to bring to the assessment, be ready to make it work. From groomed to crud, in the pipe or on the racecourse, come ready to show us that you can adapt to any or all of these situations. Bring the equipment and skills that are capable of doing it all.



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## Terrain & Conditions

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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. If necessary, trails or sections of trails will be selected to keep exams consistent across the division and the country.

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## AASI Snowboard Level 1 Assessment

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Snowboard Level 1 is the first level of PSIA-AASI certification. At Level 1, you're expected to demonstrate experience teaching beginner level snowboarders, show an introductory level of knowledge of snowboard instruction.

Most Level 1 candidates are new to the profession and need help understanding how the big picture of teaching snowboarding is enhanced by improving the details (Riding, Movement Analysis, and Teaching Skills). Throughout the assessment, examiners help candidates succeed at the "details" of the assessment and understand how each section relates to the big picture of teaching better lessons for Level 1 to Level 4 guests.

### **Level 1 Prerequisites:**

- Current with PSIA-AASI Membership Dues
- Minimum 16 years of Age
- If you are affiliated with a ski & snowboard school and have completed in-house training, you may go directly to the Level 1 assessment. If not, you must first attend the 2-day Level 1 prep clinic before attending the Level 1 on-snow assessment
  - This course is required for those members who have not completed new-hire training at their ski & snowboard school. The course is recommended for those who have been through training but have limited teaching experience or want to spend more time preparing for the assessment
- Complete and pass online E-Learning Modules prior to the on-snow assessment:
  - Snowboard Level 1
  - Delivering the Beginner Experience – Snowboard (optional)
- Attend 3-Day Snowboard Level 1 Assessment (you must pass this)

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## AASI Snowboard Level 2 Assessment

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Snowboard Level 2 Certification is the second level of AASI certification, focused on intermediate snowboard instruction. At the Level 2, candidates will demonstrate experience teaching intermediate to advanced level snowboarders, display a, appropriate level of knowledge of snowboard instruction concepts, and apply their knowledge and skill to situations on-snow and through discussions with the examiners. The Level 2 assessment is a three-day process, participants will be on snow all 3 days.

## Level 2 Prerequisites

- All prerequisite courses must be taken after passing the Level 1 assessment.
- AASI Level 1 Certification
- PSIA-AASI Children’s Specialist 1 can be used as both a prerequisite and as the required module
- Complete at least two of the approved prerequisite courses.
  - If you attended CS1, you are only required to attend one 201-level clinic.
- Pass the Level 2 Professional Knowledge Exam

## Level 2 Prerequisite Courses

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Complete at least two of the following courses prior to your first assessment module:

- Teaching Courses
  - Snowboard Teaching 201
  - Children’s Specialist One (CS1)
- Technical Courses
  - Snowboard Movement Analysis 201
- Riding Courses
  - Ride 201
  - Snowboard Freestyle Specialist (any level)

## AASI Snowboard Level 3 Assessment

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Snowboard Level 3 is the highest level of PSIA-AASI certification. At Level 3, candidates should be able to teach or ride anything, anytime, anywhere.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate experience with high-level students, show mastery of snowboard instruction concepts, and apply their knowledge and skill to situations on-snow and through discussions with the examiners. The Level 3 assessment is a three-day process, participants will be on snow all 3 days.

## Level 3 Prerequisites

- All prerequisite courses must be taken after passing the Level 2 assessment
- AASI Level 2 Certification
- PSIA-AASI Children’s Specialist 2 can be used as both a prerequisite and as the required module
- Complete at least two of the approved prerequisite courses.
  - If you attended CS2, you are only required to attend one 301-level clinic.
- Pass the Level 3 Professional Knowledge Exam



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## Level 3 Prerequisite Courses

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Complete at least two of the following courses prior to your first assessment module:

- Teaching Courses
  - Snowboard Teaching Prep 301
  - Children’s Specialist 2 (CS2)
- Technical Courses
  - Movement Analysis 301
- Skiing Courses
  - Ride 301
  - Snowboard Freestyle Specialist (any)