



Memo To: CSA Members
From: David V Pym, Managing Director & CEO
Date: March 15, 2019
RE: Canadian Snowsports Association
URGENT – Risk Management Update

Over the past two seasons we have received reports of a number of serious incidents involving CSA member athletes and Ski Area guests. .

Note: In each case, the ski club member was clearly at fault and was not skiing with care or attention.

As a result, we ask that all member clubs revisit with their members some very important and critical risk management policies:

1. **Canadian Alpine Responsibility Code(s)**

The Canadian Alpine Responsibility Code governs all users of ski area/resort facilities. This includes **all** members of the CSA.

This code is endorsed and used by Canada West Ski Areas Association (CWSAA); Ontario Ski Resorts Association (OSRA); and Atlantic Ski Areas Association (ASAA). Ski Areas in Quebec (ASSQ) have government of Quebec legislation that basically embraces the same principles.

The Code functions as “Rules of the Road” and must be followed.

CSA members must review the following code with their members and we encourage you to post the code prominently in club facilities.

Those identified with ➡ are critical. The fact that the club member is a competitor/racer/volunteer does not provide exemption from the code.

Alpine Responsibility Code

There are elements of risk that common sense and personal awareness can help reduce. Regardless of how you decide to use the slopes, always show courtesy to others. Please adhere to the code listed below and share with others the responsibility for a safe outdoor experience.

- ➡ 1. Always stay in control. You must be able to stop, or avoid other people or objects.
- ➡ 2. People ahead of you have the right-of-way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.
- ➡ 3. Do not stop where you obstruct a trail, or are not visible from above.
- ➡ 4. Before starting downhill or merging onto a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
- ➡ 5. If you are involved in or witness a collision/accident you must remain at the scene and identify yourself to the Ski Patrol.
- ➡ 6. Always use proper devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
- ➡ 7. Observe and obey all posted signs and warnings.
- ➡ 8. Keep off closed trails and obey area closures.
- ➡ 9. You must not use lifts or terrain if your ability is impaired through the use of alcohol or drugs.
- ➡ 10. You must have sufficient physical dexterity, ability, and knowledge to safely load, ride, and unload lifts. If in doubt, ask the lift attendant.

Know the Code – Be Safety Conscious!
It is your responsibility.

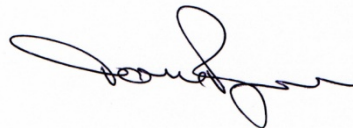
2. Ski Club Responsibilities

CSA member clubs (750+) and their members are, for the most part, **guests of the ski area/resort**. All CSA members are required to follow the rules and regulations of the Alpine Responsibility Code, as well as any added rules; regulations; and/or policies set by the host ski area/resort governing the clubs' access and use of facilities.

3. Ski Club Risk Management

All member clubs are strongly encouraged to review the CSA Snowsports Association Risk Management Manual [October 2018] and in particular, to review Chapter 5 – Ski Area/Resort Relationships.
<http://canadiansnowsports.com/e/about/insurance.htm>

We must be pro-active in this exercise. Of the incidents referred to above, one is already in litigation and another is very likely to end up in litigation. These were avoidable situations and we must continue to be diligent in reminding athletes of their responsibilities and of the fragile nature of relationships between Clubs and our host resorts. Please communicate this very serious message to all PTSO members, member clubs, coaches and volunteers.



DVP/la