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INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS

ATHLETE INJURIES

If an SSWSC athlete is injured during a SSWSC activity, the responding SSWSC employee should attend to the athlete and secure the area first. Call for assistance if needed.

Steamboat Ski Patrol Dispatch: 970.871.5911

Howelsen Hill ski patrol: 970.879.8499 x7, or go to nearest lift terminal

Once the scene is secure and the employee is no longer needed to provide assistance to the athlete, contact the athlete’s parent or legal guardian if the athlete will be transported to obtain medical treatment or will not be able to continue training. The employee is required to accompany the athlete until the parent or legal guardian arrives. Employees must arrange for another staff member to take their group while assisting the injured athlete.

INCIDENT REPORTING

SSWSC employees who witness or are involved with any emergency, accident, property damage or injury to a SSWSC member or staff, or to a member of the public caused by the actions of a SSWSC employee or athlete, must complete an incident report within 24 hours of the incident. The [incident report is an online form](#) that can be accessed from the [Staff Helpful Links](#) page on SSWSC website. SSWSC coaches are encouraged to bookmark this form or copy it to their phone.

When completing an incident report, employees must:

1. Report every event that involves an athlete or employee, ski area equipment, SSWSC vehicles, injuries, or collisions.
2. Report any incident of athlete injuries or incidents that should be disclosed to an athlete’s parents.
3. Include the exact location of the incident (e.g., a specific part of the trail).
4. Provide as much factual information as possible when describing the incident. If the employee did not see it, the employee should indicate “[athlete or witness] stated that ...”

5. Not include conjecture or possibilities about how the incident may have happened.
6. Include other relevant information in the incident report, such as if a guest or other person was involved in the incident, if a third party asks for the employee’s name and the employee provided their name, and if third-party took a picture of an employee, an athlete, or of the location of the incident.
7. Include the name of all witnesses, employees, or guests.

In addition to completing the incident report form, employees must contact their program director to inform them of the incident. For any events involving serious or life-threatening injury, or damage to any SSWSC vehicle or equipment, contact the Athletic Director, Director of People, or Executive Director by phone or text as soon as possible.

CONCUSSION POLICY

All SSWSC coaches are required to take annual concussion training provided by SSWSC, or through the [CDC’s Head’s Up program](#), to be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of concussions and be able to respond to them. Pursuant to the Jake Snakenberg Youth Concussion Act, if an athlete has a fall or a blow to the head or body, and the coach suspects that a concussion is possible, the coach must remove the athlete from training or competition and alert the athlete’s parents.

If the athlete exhibits any symptoms of concussion that may have been the result of a fall or blow to the head or body, the athlete **MUST** be removed from training or competition immediately and will not be permitted to return to training or competition until he/she is evaluated by a medical professional with training in concussions and is given written clearance to return to sport. A written copy of such medical clearance should be submitted to the SSWSC Office Manager.

If the injury or symptoms occur while on the ski mountain, contact ski patrol for a toboggan ride down. If the incident occurs on the trail during the summer, if possible, the athlete should walk to the nearest evacuation point or the bottom of the trail. An [incident report](#) must be completed by the responding SSWSC employee in all such cases.

If the athlete is a member of US Ski & Snowboard or USASA and experiences concussion symptoms, the coach should complete the online incident report form at [HERE](#). The athlete is not eligible to return to competition until they receive written clearance from a doctor and submit it to both SSWSC and US Ski & Snowboard or USASA.

| SIGNS OBSERVED BY COACHING STAFF | SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE |
|--|--|
| • Appears dazed or stunned | • Headache or “pressure” in head |
| • Is confused about assignment or position | • Nausea or vomiting |
| • Forgets sports plays | • Balance problems or dizziness |
| • Is unsure of game, score, or opponent | • Double or blurry vision |
| • Moves clumsily | • Sensitivity to light |
| • Answers questions slowly | • Sensitivity to noise |
| • Loses consciousness (even briefly) | • Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy |
| • Shows behavior or personality changes | • Concentration or memory problems |
| • Can’t recall events prior to hit or fall | • Confusion |
| • Can’t recall events after hit or fall | • Does not “feel right” |

If an employee exhibits symptoms of concussion that may have been the result of a fall or blow to the head while working, the employee should contact the Director of People to start a workers compensation claim and should discontinue coaching until they have been evaluated and cleared to return to skiing/riding by a medical professional.

WEATHER POLICIES

All the disciplines of SSWSC take place outdoors. Athletes need to be prepared for frequently changing weather conditions. Training is rarely canceled, but the following are policies that might affect training:

Lightning: Lightning can occur any time of year, but is more likely in spring, summer and fall. Coaches working at these times of year must be diligent in anticipating the possibility of a lightning event and modify the training plan as necessary to decrease the risk of a lightning strike. See the [SSWSC Lightning Safety Plan here](#).

Air Quality: When smoke from wildfires is in the air, it is important to be vigilant monitoring Air Quality Index (AQI) conditions for the safety of our athletes and staff. Training could be canceled or modified depending on AQI numbers. SSWSC looks at [Purple Air Map](#) and the 10 min average.

- AQI: 91-149 – modified training
- AQI: 150-200 – modified training, not recommended for those with respiratory issues. No exertion recommended.
- AQI: above 200 – canceled training

Temperature: If temperatures dip to -20 degrees Fahrenheit, training may be canceled or delayed for the safety of our athletes.

LIFT RIDING PROCEDURES

SSWSC makes a large impact on Steamboat Ski Resort on the weekends. Athletes are expected to be on their best behavior in the lift maze and on the chairlift and gondola. Best practices for lift riding:

- Groups should meet outside the maze (not blocking the entrance) to regroup, count kids and enter together.
- Know your athletes. Who struggles? Who needs a boost? Who can't ride with whom? Pair them up.
- Seat on the Seat <> Back in the Back
- Use comfort bar from the side to lift and lower.
- SSWSC group may only use the general public lanes with their groups, not ski school lines.
- Coaches always ride last. Junior Coaches ride first.

U6 ATHLETES (5 YEARS AND YOUNGER)

Introduce lift riding the first day of the season. Check who has never ridden a chairlift before. Children 5 years and younger must be accompanied by a coach or a capable adult on all chairlifts. Adults to U6 skiers is a 1:1 ratio except for the coach, who may accompany two if comfortable. Junior coaches may accompany one athlete if able to lift the athlete onto a chair.

U8 ATHLETES (6-7 YEARS)

Communicate with parents before you let kids ride by themselves!

Steamboat Resort: U8 children should be accompanied by one adult per chair for the first month. Any athlete not tall enough or needs assistance raising or lowering the comfort bar should ride with a capable adult. Junior coaches may accompany one athlete.

Howelsen Hill: The first day of training at Howelsen Hill should focus on safe lift riding procedures. U8 athletes should only ride 2 athletes per chair.

- Poma: Teach athletes how to alternate in the line. Have them advocate for themselves if they need assistance. No weaving or jumping while riding the poma, athletes must stay in the tracks. Howelsen lift operators may pull ski passes if lift line and poma line behavior is not acceptable.

U10 ATHLETES AND OLDER (8 YEARS AND OLDER)

Athletes can ride without a capable adult if they are safe and follow resort lift riding policies. Athletes are recommended to use the comfort bar if they can safely lower and raise it.

- Poma: Teach athletes how to alternate in the line. Have them advocate for themselves if they need assistance. No weaving or jumping while riding the poma, athletes must stay in the tracks. Howelsen lift operators may pull ski passes if lift line and poma line behavior is not acceptable.

ATHLETE SUPERVISION

BATHROOMS

Athletes under the age of 8 should have a coach outside of the bathrooms. Take helmet, gloves and jacket off before letting children enter the bathroom.

LUNCH

Groups often eat lunch together on the weekends. Coaches should prioritize sitting with athletes and getting to know them. It is allowed and encouraged to ban use of phones during this time and interact with each other. It is the coach's responsibility to monitor their athlete's behavior. All groups should leave the lunch area cleaner than when they arrived.

If an athlete forgets lunch money, the 3rd floor of Thunderhead will feed the athlete and record their name. Please check in with the cashiers to see if one of your athletes owes money and let their parents know.

ATHLETE PICK-UP

Coaches must stay with their group after a training session until all athletes have departed. For programs with children ages 12 and younger, the athlete must be released to a parent, older sibling, or designated adult. If the pick-up party is running late, the coach must stay with the athlete or arrange for the coach's supervisor or another SSWSC coach to stay with the athlete.

LOST CHILD PROCEDURE

The key to not losing a child is being clear in your instructions! Check for understanding, stop often and count, count, count. Make sure you remind your skiers of the following policies for the first few weeks.

Howelsen Hill: Often skiers fall off the poma! Tell your skiers to go to the **bottom** of the poma and **wait** for you to return. Let them know not to get back in line, not to ride up the poma, and not to take off their skis.

Steamboat Ski Resort: If a skier gets separated from the group at Steamboat Ski Resort, have them go to the nearest lift (top or bottom) and tell the lift operator that they are with SSWSC, lost their group and show their emergency card. Direct them to stay put and do not ride the lift!

The coach's job is to go to the nearest lift to see if your athlete is there! If not, call patrol 970-871-5911 and let them know you are missing an athlete. Use your radio to alert other coaches to keep an eye out for your athlete. Once located, you ski to them.

ATHLETE DISCIPLINE

The objective of the SSWSC Athlete Discipline Policy is to ensure a positive, safe, and rewarding learning environment for all participants in support of our mission which is to create champions on and off the mountain. The primary purpose of our Athlete Discipline Policy is to redirect inappropriate behavior and to contribute toward the development of contributing community citizens. All participants must understand that verbal warnings may precede the issuing of any disciplinary procedure. In addition, when deemed necessary, SSWSC will refer athletes to a third party for assistance with these matters.

It is important to remember to reach out for help on athlete discipline. Before doling out a consequence, check with your program director or the athletic director.

Please refer to the [SSWSC Parent/Athlete Handbook](#) for more specifics on athlete code of conducts, disciplinary procedures and expectations. Travel information can be reviewed in the [SSWSC Parent/Athlete Travel Handbook](#).