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| **DESCRIPTION OF TASK / ACTIVITY** | **Snowsports**  This generic Risk Assessment should be used as a basis for preparing an event specific Risk Assessment.  It sets out general hazards and control measures for a Snowsports excursion.  The Risk Assessment covers On-piste Alpine Skiing or Snowboarding and Nordic Skiing on prepared trails.  Elements may be removed if they are not applicable and additional elements may be added to address specific hazards of an excursion, activity or participants’ needs.  It is the responsibility of the Head of Establishment / Visit Leader to prepare a Risk Assessment that recognises these general hazards and provides adequate details of the hazards and control measures of their specific excursion. |
| **LOCATION** |  |

| **Item** | **What are the hazards?** | **What are you already doing, i.e. what Control Measures are already in place?** | **Anything else you need to do to manage this risk?** | **Action by whom?** | **Action by when?** | **Done** |
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| 1 | Inappropriate activity plan | * Supervisors will hold an appropriate qualification for the route and/or activity * Supervisors will hold an appropriate First Aid qualification * Supervision ratios will be a minimum of 1:10 * Group members will be appropriately trained and prepared for the route and planned activities * Route and activities have been planned to suit the abilities and needs of individual group members | In preparing excursion specific Risk Assessment you can add details of supervisor’s qualification  Is supervisor familiar with the ski area? Does supervisor need to do a physical assessment of the route to ensure it is appropriate for this group?  Supervision ratios may need to be increased to meet individual needs  Details of AAPs, ski schools or freelance instructors should be provided |  |  |  |
| 2 | Inadequate or faulty equipment | * Leaders will visually check equipment at time of issue * Check to include serviceable of all Helmets, Skis, Boards, Boots, Bindings and Poles and their suitability for the planned activity * If participants are using their own equipment the leader will ensure it is suitable for the expected conditions and nature of the activity * Leaders will check that participants have appropriate clothing and equipment * Leaders will make a final check of equipment prior to the activity starting, ensuring where necessary, that it is correctly fitted and that all participants are adequately clothed and equipped * Skis with release bindings are to be set by a qualified technician for the make of the binding | Activities may have to be adjusted or curtailed if participants have inadequate clothing or equipment  Helmets must be serviceable and regularly maintained. The name of any equipment hire shop or centre should be added here |  |  |  |
| 3 | Snow Conditions, Grade of routes | * Supervisors are experienced in local conditions and will be trained to NGB standards in group management, instructional techniques and emergency procedures * Helmets must be worn whenever participants are in the skiing area * Routes have been chosen taking account of the nature of the activity, the ability level of the group, weather conditions and the equipment available * Participants will be briefed on hazards specific to the route or area being used and will be instructed in the skills and techniques needed to avoid them or deal with them * Leaders will ensure that safety equipment appropriate for the specific route and activity and is carried * A system for dealing with incidents will be in place, including effective channels of communication, a base contact and late back procedure | This may include  Supervisors to be aware of individual needs and abilities  Supervisors must have pre-planned alternate activities if participants are unable to continue  Participants to be briefed on safety within the ski area  Parts of the route may require close supervision of the group or individuals  Advice should be taken from AAP/Ski school or Freelance instructor as to environmental conditions the day before the event |  |  |  |
| 4 | Trips, slips or falls | * Instructors/Supervisors must hold relevant NGB and First Aid qualifications * Leader will be aware of the abilities of the group and individuals * Helmets must be worn whenever participants are in the skiing area * Participants will introduced to activities in a progressive manner and should not be allowed on to slopes or routes beyond their capability * Ski binding to be set by a qualified technician | This may include  Participants to be briefed on safety  Parts of the route may require close supervision of the group or individuals |  |  |  |
| 5 | Impact with other skiers, snowboarders or members of the public | * Helmets must be worn whenever participants are in the skiing area * Instructors/Supervisors must hold relevant NGB and First Aid qualifications * Instructors/Supervisors to be familiar with the venue * Participants will be briefed on etiquette and respect for other users | Consider listing snow slope etiquette and precautions for preventing collisions |  |  |  |
| 6 | Location - Delayed access to medical assistance | * Supervisors have appropriate First Aid qualifications for the planned route * Appropriate first aid equipment will be carried by the supervisor * Group members have be briefed on the actions to take in the event of an incident or emergency * A system for dealing with incidents will be in place, including effective channels of communication, a base contact and late back procedure * Supervisors and instructors to have contact details of ski area Snow Patrol |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Group late or lost | * Groups will operate as a team under the supervision of an adult leader * Teams will use pre-planned areas or routes * Teams have been trained in procedures to be taken if lost or late * Teams will be briefed on how to contact Supervisors * A system for dealing with incidents will be in place, including effective channels of communication, a base contact and late back procedure |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Weather  Current weather conditions  Rapid changes to conditions  Changes to water conditions | * Supervisors/AAP/Ski School/Freelance Instructor will obtain information on weather and other relevant factors and make an assessment of conditions with prior to the start of the activity * Leaders will ensure that each participant is appropriately clothed, carries sufficient food and that additional food, clothing and equipment is available to suit the expected conditions and nature of the activity * Leaders will carry emergency equipment, including bivvy bag or shelter * Leaders will be First Aid trained to the level required by the NGB * Group members will be trained to recognise early signs of hyperthermia or dehydration and carry out the appropriate actions * Supervisors will modify or curtail the activity if prevailing conditions are inappropriate for the group or the planned activity | Consider needs of individual group members with additional support needs  Consider pre-planned bad weather activities |  |  |  |
| 7 | Carrying Skis, Snowboards and Poles | * Participants to be briefed on correct techniques for carrying Skis, Snowboards and poles |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Pre-existing medical conditions | * Parents must complete consent and medical information forms * Supervisors must familiarise themselves with any pre-existing medical conditions * Leaders will be First Aid trained to the level required by the NGB * Group members are to briefed on appropriate First Aid for possible medical conditions * All staff and group members to be briefed on the location and use of any inhalers or auto-injectors carried by members of the group | Consider adding details of any pre-existing medical conditions |  |  |  |
| 9 | Inappropriate behaviour | * Code of conduct agreed with all group members prior to the expedition | Consider adding details for supporting specific individuals |  |  |  |
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| **Prepared by:** | |  | **Date:** |  | | |
| **Date for review:** |  | | |
|  | | | | | | |
| **Checked and Approved by:** | |  | **Date:** |  | | |