

Level 1 Certification Process Guide

Instructor Candidates will be assessed to the professional knowledge, skiing and teaching performance standards for Level 1 as described in The PSIA National Alpine Certification Standards. These standards should be reviewed and can be found on the “Alpine Certification” page at www.psia-i.org.

Alpine Certified Level I instructors are expected to teach adults and children in the Beginner/Novice Zone. Skiers in this zone range from “never-evers” to those able to effectively control speed and turn shape on most beginner terrain. Certified Level I instructors must be able to ski all green terrain (including mild un-groomed conditions) and groomed, moderate blue terrain.

Certification Procedure – step by step

- Become a Registered member of PSIA and PSIA-I with current dues paid.
- Complete the PSIA-I Level 1 Workbook. The Workbook is available via the division website at www.psia-i.org.
- Submit completed Level 1 Assessment Event Registration form, fees, and signed Cover Sheet from the Workbook at least two weeks prior to an assessment date to:

PSIA-I, 7105 Highland Dr. #201
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121
801-942-2066 admin@psia-i.org

- Choose an event date and location: use the PSIA Alpine Calendar located on the web site: www.psia-i.org. Event Registration forms are also available on the web site.
- Attend Level I Assessment. You must be registered for this event at least 2 weeks prior to its date. The event is a 2 -day assessment. A candidate is required to attend both days.
- **BRING YOUR COMPLETED WORKBOOK TO THE FIRST DAY YOUR ASSESSMENT!** These will be reviewed during the assessment (see details below).

Level 1 Assessment Overview: While this is an assessment, coaching will be provided. This is unique to the level 1 assessment. During the two days your Clinic Leader/Examiner will help you to understand the skiing and teaching requirements defined by the PSIA National Certification Standards.

Assessment Format Details

The Level I Assessment is a two-day event. The first day is focused on skiing and the second day is focused on teaching.

- **Skiing Assessment:** During the first day, you will perform skiing tasks. Tasks are used to determine your level of competence with the skiing fundamentals found in the PSIA National Alpine Certification Standards. The lists of tasks used in each assessment are found on the “Level 1 Score Sheet.” The descriptions and expectations for each task are found in a document called “Alpine Task Matrix.” Both of these documents can be found on the web site’s “Alpine Certification” page.
- **Video Movement Analysis:** You will begin Day 2 indoors where you will see video of recreational skiers in the beginner zone. You will be assigned to watch one of the skiers and then build a lesson plan for that skier. You will use the “Skier Assessment” form to help you build your lesson. The “Skier Assessment” form is available from the website for you to preview prior to the exam.
- **Teaching Assessment:** This also takes place on Day 2. It is used to evaluate the competence of your teaching fundamentals described in the PSIA National Alpine Certification Standards. Candidates will present the lesson they developed from the video work sheet described above. Similar to the ski portion, coaching will be provided both during the work sheet development and on the hill.
- **Written Quizzes:** Each afternoon during the assessment, up to 5 questions will be pulled from the Workbook to assess your general knowledge and comprehension. These questions will be scored and discussed immediately following the quiz, and will be used to help you debrief your experiences from the day and help solidify learning and growth.
- **Workbook:** BRING YOUR WORKBOOK TO THE ASSESSMENT! Do NOT mail these to the office. These will be graded for completion and various topics discussed during the two-day assessment. Information from these may be used to help the DECL clarify their understanding of your preparation.

FAQ's

Q: What happens if I forget it or bring an “unsatisfactory” workbook to the assessment?

A: You will be allowed to complete the assessment process but will NOT receive your certification until the Workbook has been completed and approved by PSIA-I.

Q: Is it possible to “fail” this assessment?

A: Yes. You must perform to the standards as described in the PSIA National Certification Standards, and as listed on the Level 1 Assessment Score Sheet. While there is coaching involved during this assessment you must perform to the standards. We use the term “Does Not Meet Standards” to impress upon the candidate that they may be doing great things but further work is necessary to achieve the standard.

Q: Where do the questions for the daily quizzes come from?

A: These are pulled straight from the Workbook. They will be graded immediately and discussions will follow. The first day will have ski related questions; the second day will have teaching related questions.

Q: Can you “fail” the ski or the teaching separately?

A: No. This assessment evaluates the total “package.” You will be scored on each component but your overall result includes both. Please look at a score sheet for details.

Updated 11-5-2014