

SKIER ASSESSMENT

Prior guide briefing & introduction -touch hand
Est. rapport/preferences/ability/experience
Discuss visual / hearing / physical
Effect of light / shadows /noise / crowds
Medical concerns / medication / food
Check clothing / goggles / gloves / boots

LIFT LOADING & UNLOADING

Check gear / buckles / bindings / bibs etc.
Lift type, #seats, center or o/s pole, speed
Load - Skier next to operator - slow lift?
Poles held in o/s hand up away from danger
Advise of approach to wait line
“We’re next” – hold inside hands
Direction & distance to pick-up
“15 feet fwd & turn to 10 o’clock”
Check skier vs. chair alignment / poles
“CHAIR IN 3 - 2 - 1”
Unload - anticipate direction / #chairs to go
Poles up & away / hold hands to help steer
“TIPS UP – TOUCHDOWN IN 3-2-1”
Near backslope - “AND STAND-UP”
Clear unloading area asap

COMMUNICATE - Every few seconds
Use standard language, change inflection
Direction first - “left - turn” “right - easy”
“keep coming across” “hold” “slower”
Terrain changes - “steeper” “flatter” “bump”
Snow changes “Icy / Powder / Stop / Crash!”

DOWNHILL

Skier must stop if Guide inaudible
Snow conditions/pitch/width/fall line
Stay upbeat, assess traffic
Describe start, 1st turn, clear traffic
Guide proximity/uphill or in front
G uphill facing same direction as skier
Turn together/ view Skier’s danger zone
Centered on slope / Look in front of skier
Guide continually scan for traffic
Narrow passage / side by side danger
Monitor skier fatigue / initiate breaks
Falls – calm, don’t move or remove
Help skier first, move to side if possible
Never leave skier alone, stay upbeat

AT LODGE – Get Ski patrol phone #
Rack location / rendezvous time-place
VI Skier touches Guide’s back of elbow
Surface texture / slippery
Doors “towards you to L” “away to R”
“Narrow passage” / Stairs/revolving door
Tap/describe sink/soap/dryers/towels

GUIDING PITFALLS

Lack of anticipation / Distracted
Inaudible / periods of silence
Bad position/proximity- can’t protect
Too risky-trusting-pushy-babying
Out of practice / rusty

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