

## **SARA Program's 2023 Ski & Snowboard Rental Fleet Monitoring Report**

I have just finished my inspection of the long term fleet test areas. In terms of ski durability all 4 brands (Dynastar Elan Head and Rossignol) in the SARA Program are holding up very well. We now have several fleets that are 6-10 years old and they all looked pretty good. Our efforts to concentrate on long term durability have really been met. As for the new 2-4 year old skis they look like they will hold up even better. I would caution that buying foam core rental skis is a false saving. The \$10/\$20 dollar saving is false hope as these are not even close to the reduced durability. They break and chip at a rate way above the wood core skis.

Another caution I would have is that U really need to know where your fleets situation is with Grip Walk. If your fleet includes 4/5/6 year old or older skis U will have to take into account how U will blend in the new Grip Walk boots. Running with 2 systems is challenging. Even very sophisticated operators have been caught out by this. U really need to have a good plan so that U don't get caught with non compatible fleets.

While the ski durability has totally improved boots have a few issues. Inspection of a number of fleets found toe and heel wear of 3/4/5 year old boots found many were worn way past what is considered safe. U need to inspect the replaceable toes and heels more often. A surprising number from all 3 manufacturers were worn beyond guidelines. It appears that having a heated paver approach to the snow surface has a significant effect on boot sole durability. It does appear that the new Grip Walk soles are holding up much better.

Lastly I would say that boots do not have the same lifetime as skis. Even if the shells still look serviceable the liners are shot.

Best. tk