



SkiBike Best Practices

Purpose: These guidelines are not mandatory - they are suggested guidelines provided by the American SkiBike Association (ASA) based on our experience and industry best practices. These suggested guidelines are intended to help SkiBike riders to ride safely and courteously, and to assist ski resorts and ski areas to develop reasonable, safe and effective policies and procedures relative to SkiBike use. These guidelines may not be applicable outside of the United States.

This is a living document, and subject to change. Please contact the ASA for the latest version, if you have any questions, or to suggest revisions to this document.

The established National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) Skier Responsibility Code applies equally to all resort guests – skiers, snowboarders and SkiBike riders alike. However, the American SkiBike Association holds all SkiBike riders to a higher standard - we expect each SkiBike rider to follow all resort rules, to courteously and safely integrate with all other resort guests, and to be an ambassador for our sport.

The ASA understands that each ski resort may have differing equipment, terrain, and safety concerns, so adopted SkiBike regulations may vary. SkiBike riders should always follow resort rules and manufacturer’s recommendations.

If a ski resort has questions, special needs, or would like assistance in developing appropriate SkiBike safety standards please contact the ASA for assistance in customizing your SkiBike program to meet your specific needs, and to help integrate SkiBikes safely into your customer base.

STANDARD 1 – CHAIRLIFT LOADING, RIDING AND OFF-LOADING

1. A. Preparing to load the Chairlift

- The Skier Responsibility Code requires the ability to load, ride and offload the chairlift safely.
- Do not ride chairlift if SkiBike is too heavy for rider to lift and control.
- SkiBike riders should be able to load, ride and offload chairlift safely without slowing the chairlift. Exceptions:
 - adaptive riders
 - people in a SkiBike lesson
 - when first learning to ride the chairlift (the first 2-3 chairlift trips)
 - in case of emergency
- Review resort rules and manufacturers’ recommendations for SkiBike leashing requirements on chairlift. Always follow resort rules safely.
- Review trail map. Always use a lift that ends at an appropriate trail based on your skill level, and any resort SkiBike access restrictions.



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- All SkiBike riders should use a safe chairlift loading, riding and offloading technique designed to keep their equipment within the envelope of the chair as much as possible.
- SkiBike counts as a person on the chairlift. Example: A four person chair holds 1 SkiBike and rider plus 2 skiers/boarders, or 2 SkiBikes with riders.
- Before entering any line to ride the chairlift, lift up SkiBike keeping it level and check to make sure ski board tips are up, not hanging down. Readjust ski board retention if needed.

1. B. Loading the Chairlift

- Always follow resort rules and manufacturer's recommendations for loading, riding and offloading the chairlift safely.
- Watch chairlift operator for directions.
- If lap loading a SkiBike, and planning to sit in the chair closest to the tower, load the SkiBike on your side that is furthest away from the tower to ensure the SkiBike stays within the envelope of the chair.
- Sit on SkiBike and scoot toward "Load Here" line pushing with one foot.
- If needed, people just learning SkiBike chairlift loading, riding and offloading can request chair to be slowed by communicating verbally with chairlift operator when entering loading area —ask the operator "Please slow the chair for loading, and could you please_ask the operator at offloading area to slow Chair # _____. Thank you."
- Stand directly on the "Load Here" line, with all SkiBikes lined up evenly.
- Wait standing with both feet on the "Load Here" line, with your SkiBike next to you pointing straight ahead and resting on the snow to your left or right side, depending on your chairlift seat position.
- Look over your shoulder to see the chair approaching.
- Sit down on chair, grasping SkiBike firmly.
- Keep front ski pointed straight forward until the SkiBike lifts slightly off the snow.
- Then lift SkiBike into secure chairlift riding position as recommended by manufacturer or required by the resort.

1. C. Riding the Chairlift

- Always have at least one hand holding SkiBike while riding on chairlift.
- Use factory-supplied or factory recommended anti-drop leashing equipment if recommended by manufacturer or required by resort.
- Lower chairlift restraint bar if possible.
- Always pay attention, do not use phone or allow yourself to become distracted while using the chairlift.



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- Make sure SkiBikes are positioned within chairlift envelope to avoid making contact with chairlift support towers, equipment or poles.
- Pay attention to your location relative to off-loading area.
- When approaching the off-loading area, prepare SkiBike for offloading.
- Raise the chairlift restraint bar while holding SkiBike securely with at least one hand.

1. D. Off-Loading from the Chairlift

- Double check to ensure SkiBike and all lines are organized, and not tangled or wrapped around any part of chair.
- If needed, give the lift operator a hand signal to slow the chairlift, by holding arm parallel to the snow and slowly raising and lowering arm.
- Keep ski or board tips up.
- Keep SkiBike and front ski pointed straight forward while off-loading.
- Take one or two steps then sit on SkiBike.
- Coast straight ahead off the chair and come to a stop out of traffic.

STANDARD 2 - SKI RETENTION BEST PRACTICES

- When using footskis, a ski leash attached from the rider's footwear to each ski is required. Ski brakes are acceptable for use with footskis.

STANDARD 4 - RUNAWAY PREVENTION BEST PRACTICES

3. A. Freestyle SkiBikes

- Always review and follow resort rules and manufacturers' recommendations for runaway equipment prevention.
- Unless ski boards are extremely wide, no external anti-runaway riding leash is needed, unless required by resort's SkiBike rules.
- If a Freestyle SkiBike is separated from the rider, the SkiBike will fall over, and the foot rests and handlebars will dig into the snow, stopping the SkiBike and preventing runaway equipment.

3. B. Classic Skibob Style SkiBikes

- Always review and follow resort rules and manufacturers' recommendations for runaway equipment prevention.
- No external anti-runaway riding leash is needed, unless required by resort's SkiBike rules.



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- If a Classic SkiBike is separated from the rider, the SkiBike will fall over, and the foot rests and handlebars will dig into the snow, stopping the SkiBike and preventing runaway equipment.

3. C. Trikes

- Always review and follow resort rules and manufacturers' recommendations for runaway equipment prevention.
- Due to three skis and extreme stability, an anti-runaway riding leash is suggested.
- Use factory supplied or factory recommended riding leash.

3. D. Board Bikes

- Always review and follow resort rules and manufacturers' recommendations for runaway equipment prevention.
- Due to extreme width of boards and low center of gravity, an anti-runaway riding leash is suggested.
- Use factory supplied or factory recommended riding leash.

STANDARD 4 – SAFETY APPAREL

4. A. Helmets

- Helmets are suggested for SkiBike riders, regardless of age or skill level.
- Acceptable helmets include approved ski, snowboard, bicycle and motorcycle helmets.

4. B. Eye Protection

- Eye protection is suggested for SkiBike riders, regardless of age or skill level.
- Acceptable eye protection includes ski or snowboard goggles, or safety lenses with UV protection.