



SkiBike Best Practices  
Adopted November 14, 2017

**Purpose:** These guidelines are not mandatory - they are recommended guidelines provided by the ASA based on our experience and industry best practices, to help ski resorts develop reasonable and effective policies 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 Skier Responsibility Codes apply equally to all resort guests – skiers, snowboarders and SkiBike riders alike. However, the American SkiBike Association holds all SkiBike riders to a higher level - 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. 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 Loading the Chairlift**

- Skiers responsibility code requires ability to load and offload safely.
- Do not ride chairlift if SkiBike is too heavy for rider to lift and control.
- 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.
- Before entering chairlift line, 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.
- Detach riding leash from rider, if applicable, and attach neatly to SkiBike prior to entering chairlift line.
- SkiBike riders should be able to load and offload without slowing the chairlift. Exceptions:
  - adaptive riders
  - people in a SkiBike lesson
  - a reasonable learning period
  - in case of emergency



SkiBike Best Practices  
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- Watch chairlift operator for directions.
- People learning SkiBike loading and off-loading should request chair to be slowed by communicating verbally with chairlift operator before entering loading area, and using standard hand signals.
- Ask operator "Please slow for loading, and ask the operator at off-loading area to slow Chair # \_\_\_\_."
- SkiBike counts as a person on the chairlift.
- Load SkiBikes to the far left or far right (outside positions) on the chair if possible for ease of leashing.

1. B Riding the Chairlift

- Always have at least one hand holding SkiBike while riding on chairlift.
- Always use an anti-drop device (leash) from SkiBike to chairlift - not from SkiBike to rider.
- Use factory-supplied or factory recommended anti-drop leashing equipment.
- Attach anti-drop leash from SkiBike to fixed post or armrest of chairlift.
- Do not attach anti-drop leash to chairlift safety/courtesy bar **unless bar is fully lowered to the down position.**
- Lower courtesy/safety bar if possible.
- Make sure SkiBikes are positioned within chairlift seat area so that skis do not make contact with support towers or poles.
- Always pay attention, do not use phone while using the chairlift.
- Keep track of your location relative to off-loading area.
- When approaching the off-loading area, disconnect the anti-drop leash from chairlift and clip onto SkiBike.
- Raise the safety bar while holding SkiBike securely with at least one hand.
- Give lift operator hand signal to slow or stop lift, if needed.
- Double check to ensure SkiBike is no longer leashed to chairlift, and all lines are organized, and not tangled or wrapped around any part of chair.

1. C Off-Loading from the Chairlift

- Keep ski or board tips up.
- Keep SkiBike and front ski pointed straight forward while off-loading.
- Coast straight ahead off the chair and come to a stop out of traffic.
- Connect riding leash if applicable.



SkiBike Best Practices  
Adopted November 14, 2017

## STANDARD 2 – ANTI-DROP/FALL RETENTION BEST PRACTICES

**Comments:** In the case of wearing a leash that attaches the rider to the SkiBike while being transported on a chairlift we have concerns that if a SkiBike falls from the lift, the rider can be pulled off if attached to the SkiBike. We recommend a leash attached directly from the SkiBike to the lift chair only to prevent incident.

- Use factory supplied **or factory recommended** anti-drop leash or rated mountain climbing line and rated mountain climbing, non-locking carabineer.
- Always use anti-drop device while riding chairlift.
- Do not leash from SkiBike to rider while riding chairlift.
- Leash to a stationary bar or armrest of the chairlift, do not leash to the swing-down safety/courtesy bar **unless safety bar is fully lowered to the down position.**
- Disconnect fall retention leash just prior to arriving at off-loading area.

## STANDARD 3 - 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 with alpine ski bindings.

## STANDARD 4 - RUNAWAY PREVENTION BEST PRACTICES

**Comments:** In the case of wearing a leash while riding the SkiBike at the resort our research shows that the SkiBike will not travel upright unattended except in the following situations: 1. The SkiBike has 3- skis in a "trike" configuration, or 2. The skis used on the SkiBike are extremely wide

4. A Always review and follow manufacturers' recommendations for runaway prevention.

### 4. B Freestyle SkiBikes

- Know what the resort's SkiBike rules require.
- Unless ski boards are extremely wide, no external anti-runaway riding leash is needed, unless required by resort's SkiBike rules.



SkiBike Best Practices  
Adopted November 14, 2017

4. C Classic Skibob Style SkiBikes

- Know what the resort's SkiBike rules require- unless ski boards are extremely wide, no external anti-runaway riding leash is needed, unless required by the resort's SkiBike rules.

4. D Board Bikes

- Due to extreme width of boards and low center of gravity, an anti-runaway riding leash is highly recommended.
- Use factory supplied **or factory recommended** riding leash or similar made of coiled, plastic coated steel cable that attaches from SkiBike to rider with suitable attachment.

4. E Trikes

- Due to three skis and extreme stability, an anti-runaway riding leash is highly recommended.
- Use factory supplied **or factory recommended** riding leash or similar made of coiled, plastic coated steel cable that attaches from SkiBike to rider with suitable attachment.

**STANDARD 5 – SAFETY APPAREL**

5. A Helmets

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

5. B Eye Protection

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