

Snow Sports and Ski Racing

Information for HTs, Heads of Establishments, EVCs and trip leaders

This sheet should be read by those organising and leading activities involving ski racing excursions

It is produced to help clarify for colleagues the position to be adopted within EC&S when considering a school organised trip to take part in a ski racing event.

Heading	Guide
1 EC&S view of ski racing	<p>EC&S supports the provision of offsite excursions and adventurous activities, which are risk assessed and delivered in a well organised manner and planned and authorised making use of the offsite excursion guidance. Trips organised by establishments must be on and authorised through Evolve.</p> <p>Qualifications Where this is a school trip, those supervising and managing the ski trip will need to have appropriate qualifications to supervise and manage pupils, whilst the pupils are not racing. These pupils might be, for example, skiing when not racing, warming up, waiting to race , having fun in the snow, be in the café etc. The race organisers only supervise the actual race.</p> <p>EC&S supports head teachers and heads of establishments in their decision to organise and authorise school excursions involving ski racing or the provision of an authorised absence of pupils to take part in ski racing events. HTs may also decide that an authorised absence will not be provided.</p>
2 Must the ski racing trip be a school organised trip for a pupil to be able to take part in Scottish Schools Ski Racing?	<p>No. the Scottish Schools Snow Sport Association (SSSA) say they allow young people to take part, where the trip is not organised or authorised by the school. The SSSA say they do not require the trips to ski racing to be school led or organised. This means that parents and pupils are able to enter for the races without direct school support or organisation or teachers being present at the race venues.</p>
3 What insurance does Aberdeenshire Council have, for offsite excursions?	<p>Aberdeenshire Council has offsite excursion insurance in place which covers children and staff. The insurance does not cover personal items such as mobile phones, jewellery etc. Establishments have been provided with a summary of this insurance. For any questions regarding the insurance policy please contact the insurance team on insurance@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</p>
4 Does this insurance cover excursions which include skiing and snowboarding?	<p>Yes, The Aberdeenshire Council offsite excursions insurance covers trips in the UK and abroad, entered on Evolve and approved in advance of the excursion being undertaken.</p> <p>Adventurous activities, as specified in the insurance policy, are covered by the policy and this includes snowsports and skiing, as specified in the policy.</p>
5 Does this Aberdeenshire Council offsite excursion insurance cover trips that include ski racing?	<p>No. The Aberdeenshire Council offsite excursion insurance does NOT cover any part of a trip where ski racing will be undertaken.</p>

	<p>This means that no part of a trip from leaving the school, travelling to the slopes, skiing generally, warming up, racing or travelling back to the school, is covered by this insurance.</p> <p>Pupils racing will require their own insurance. Pupils or more likely parents must arrange this themselves. Aberdeenshire Council, under Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) guidelines, cannot provide advice to parents or pupils on the types of insurance to purchase nor can we make arrangements for the insurance to be provided.</p> <p>Note: Establishments organising ski trips abroad will need to ensure that the trip insurance provided for this trip covers all the activities to be undertaken on the trip.</p>
<p>6 Must a school organised trip which involves ski racing be entered on Evolve?</p>	<p>Yes, where this is a school organised trip, then this must be planned and risk assessed making use of the offsite excursion guidance and be authorised on Evolve before the trip goes ahead.</p> <p>Where this is not a school organised trip ie parents are taking children out of school to take part in the ski race, then this is not entered on Evolve. Here, responsibility for the trip rests with the parents .</p> <p>The Headteacher may choose to give either an unauthorised or an authorised absence where pupils are ski racing and this is not a school organised trip. Where the absence is authorised, this does not make the school liable for the planning, risk management, execution or outcome of the trip.</p>
<p>7 Where the trip is on Evolve, who authorises the offsite excursion?</p>	<p>Where the ski racing trip is an establishment organised trip, the Head of Establishment (HoE) authorises the excursion on Evolve.</p>

Please contact Outdoorexursions@aberdeenshire.gov.uk if you have any questions with regards to Evolve and Adventurous School Excursions.