



Kendal Snowsports Club (KSC): Generic Risk Assessment (RA) for Slope Activities (schools and groups)

This is a generic risk assessment identifying known hazards, risks and control measures associated with using Kendal Snowsports Club's artificial slope. It refers to: *Users* (any person using the KSC artificial slope). *Participants* (members of a group under instruction, whether by KSC Volunteers or employer approved Leaders). *Instructors* (KSC Volunteers or employer approved Leaders deemed competent by KSC to instruct). *Leaders* (any employer approved Group Leader, whether instructing or not). *Supervisors* (any competent adult accompanying a group being instructed). It is not exhaustive and cannot be considered "suitable and sufficient" as the law requires unless it is personalised by *Leaders* according to their groups' needs (skills, special needs, mobility, behaviour etc.) **Leaders using this document should make their own risk management notes in the User Notes column. put their own name in the RA User box and the dd/mm/yy of their use in the Date of Use box.**

LOCATION:	Kendal Artificial Snowsports Slope	ORGANISATION:	Kendal Snowsports Club	ASSESSOR:	
SIGNED:		DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	August 2024	REVIEW DATE:	KSC review min. 12 months
RA USER:		SCHOOL/SETTING/GROUP		DATE OF USE:	
ACTIVITY:	Artificial Snowsports Slope Activities				
LEADER COMPETENCE	KSC requires all Leaders who will instruct participants in snowsports activities at KSC facilities to be competent through an appropriate National Governing Body Award or assessment by a KSC Volunteer instructor. All supervisors must also be aged 18 or over and appropriately trained for the role they are being asked to fulfil e.g. properly briefed on relevant slope safety aspects if being made responsible for them.				
RATIOS	Appropriate ratios are determined by the: needs of the group; competence of the leader; location and access to support and communication. The following are the minimum supervisory requirements of Kendal Snowsports Club only and your group may require more depending on their needs.				
	Key Stage 2	Aged 7/8-11 years	Minimum of 2 competent adults for first 10 participants and 1 competent adult for each multiple of 10 thereafter		
	Key Stage 3+	Aged 11/12+	Minimum of 2 competent adults for first 12 participants and 1 competent adult for each multiple of 12 thereafter		
FIRST AID:	KSC volunteer instructors have a first aid qualification appropriate for the activities they deliver. Groups providing for their own activity instruction should make their own provision and state it here.				

Hazard	Risks	Individuals at risk	Risk Low, Medium or High	Control Measures	User Notes	Residual Risk Low, Medium or High
Pre-existing disability or medical/ health condition	Illness, fall/ collision injury caused by condition and worsening of conditions	Users and anyone affected by a resulting incident		- All Users incl. all supervisors must be medically fit to participate in slope activities and any reasonable adjustments for disabilities must be suitable. - KSC Volunteers where present must be made aware of relevant conditions/ needs of participants; how they might affect activities and emergency action to take if necessary. Other Leaders must also plan		

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				accordingly and other supervisors must be appropriately briefed on a "need-to-know" basis only.		
Weather	Injury from hypothermia, heatstroke, sunburn, lightning strike, and windy conditions falls/ collisions	Users		• Leaders understand the effects of cold weather on slope activities i.e. icing and should make appropriate decisions on use or adjust activities. • Leaders understand the potential effects on users of any kind of severe weather incl. strong sun, high winds, heavy rain, lightning strikes etc. and take appropriate action e.g. sunscreen, appropriate clothing, adjusting/ abandoning activities. • If icy weather <u>significantly</u> affects the car park, paths and standing areas grit in the marked bins should be used sparingly on those areas (but not on the slope). If the slope is seriously iced you should not use it –in such case no charge will be made for your visit.		
Site hazards e.g. boundaries, pathways, car park, spectating area	Impact injuries from vehicles; slips, trips & falls incl. from height; entrapment in gates and environmental damage.	Users, anyone in the vicinity, and the facilities/ environment		• KSC Volunteer and Leader induction covers site hazards and appropriate behaviour. • Supervisors control movement around the site e.g. proper use of paths, awareness of traffic in the car park, use of gates, no running etc. • Climbing, walking and running on walls/other boundaries is prohibited. • Crossing planted areas is prohibited. • Crossing under/over tow lines is prohibited. • Users not skiing or instructing are not permitted on the skiing area and must watch from designated safe spectator points only.		
Using the Ski Lodge incl. fire & emergency evacuation, accidents and house-keeping	Burns, smoke inhalation; minor & serious injuries from slips, trips & falls; and illness from pest infestation	Users and anyone in the vicinity		• The fire evacuation procedure is displayed on the inside of the main door and KSC Volunteer/ Leader site induction includes information and a walkthrough. KSC Volunteers cover fire evacuation procedures with groups at the start of any lessons. Emergency exits are clearly signed. • On discovering a fire or in any emergency evacuation situation, users must raise the alarm, leave all equipment in situ but not so as to cause a hazard to people evacuating, assemble at the assembly point in the car park near the main gates and at the earliest opportunity contact the relevant emergency services. • All serious incidents and accidents should be reported to a KSC Volunteer where present and recorded in the Accident/Incident Book in the first aid cabinet in the kitchen area. • Users must tidily store under the benches all clothing and footwear not being worn, with consideration for the needs of other groups. • All litter, especially any food waste must be placed in the bins provided or removed from site after activities. • All premises defects are to be reported to a KSC Volunteer where present and recorded in the log book in the kitchen area.		

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Artificial slope activity clothing	Cold injury, entrapment, lacerations, abrasions and entanglement.	Users and anyone in the vicinity		• All clothing must be appropriate for activities and weather conditions. • Gloves or mittens must be worn at all times on slope. Fingerless gloves are not permitted and mittens can reduce the, albeit low risk of finger trapping in the slope surface in a fall. • Full arm and leg coverings without holes/tears must be worn at all times on the slope. • Children aged 16 and under must wear snowsports helmets correctly positioned and fastened. KSC encourages all other users to choose to wear an appropriate helmet and other Leaders must obey their organisation's policy on helmet use.		

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Artificial slope activity equipment	Impact injuries from falling equipment, dropped boots & mishandled equipment etc.; slip, trip & fall injuries; and injury from faulty or poorly fitted equipment	Users, assisting supervisors and anyone in the vicinity of equipment distribution or activities		- KSC Volunteers regularly inspect and maintain equipment in accordance with manufacturer instructions. - All equipment defects are to be reported to a KSC Volunteer where present and recorded in the log book in the kitchen area. Dangerous equipment should be immediately quarantined against the wall near the boot drier with a note on it. Note cards and bands are provided there - Advice on snowsports equipment can be obtained from any of the snowsports technicians listed in the equipment fitting booklets at the end of the counter near the ski boots. - Leaders are made aware of the behaviour expectations of anyone moving or using KSC equipment as well as proper handling techniques, use and care on induction. KSC Volunteers explain standards and hazards before equipment is used and they supervise distribution. - Only adults are permitted behind the equipment area counters. - Participants are made aware of behaviour standards and proper equipment handling techniques, use and care before activities. - Equipment must never be thrown. - Adults do not move equipment in/out of storage unless the lights are on and with care not to hit the lights when lifting skis down in particular. - Adults ensure equipment is not entangled with anything before lifting it, use both hands, take care of naturally sharp clasps/edges and never move equipment at height while anyone is working below them. - Skis must be issued to match chin and eye height of individual users, noting that some are heavier than others of similar length, edges and clasps are naturally sharp and labels e.g. "not suitable for beginners" must be adhered to. - Participants are briefed not to swap equipment, to remember the meaning of gear labels and to understand why bindings must be "set". - Leaders check boots in bindings using the simultaneous double actions (1) push boot into binding & (2) lift heel unit lever to reduce shoulder strain, careful not to trap fingers in bindings or between skis and boots. - When equipment is returned to store it must be put in the correct location (clear markings on shelves and racks), boots/ skis must be brushed (hand brushes are by the door) and boots must be fastened. - Adults and, where appropriate, participants are briefed to remove/ report or properly stow equipment causing an obstruction/ trip/ collision hazard.		
Artificial slope activities	Injury from falls/ collisions; improper use of equipment	Users		- All Instructors whether KSC Volunteers or employer approved Leaders must be competent (as described in the Leader Competence section above) and adequately insured. - Participants must be fully briefed by their Leaders on safe participation in slope activities e.g.		

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	or poor warm-up or poor instruction and choking			○ behaviour and consideration for others, ○ how to walk on the slope in ski boots and whilst carrying equipment, ○ skiing in control, ○ how to deal with problems and when/ who to ask for help and ○ that food, especially sweets and bubble/ chewing gum are not permitted to be eaten on slope due to the risk of choking. • Instructors must take account of terrain, weather, skills of participants and other relevant factors in planning and supervising activities. • Users must warm up prior to the start of sessions and all supervisors must lead by example. • Participants may only ski under the direct supervision of a competent Leader/ Instructor. Recreational skiing without a competent Leader/ Instructor is not permitted. • Independent skiing is not permitted. • All supervisors must actively promote controlled skiing and apply appropriate sanctions where instructions are wilfully ignored.		
Using tows	Injuries from slips, trips and falls incl. from height, impact injuries, entanglement,	Tow users and anyone in the vicinity of tows in use		• Participants should be introduced to using tows with the Rope Tow first so they can learn how to safely handle the 'pulling forces'. • Tows should only be used by participants who are able to perform basic, controlled descents incl. reasonably controlled plough turns from the level of the first get-off point. • When introducing button tows start with the one nearest the lodge. Far button get off points are quite challenging and this tow must be used with care and competent supervision. • A competent supervisor should always supervise tow get on/off points and be briefed on the correct use of emergency stop buttons. • Leaders/instructors must always be in a position to observe group members on the tow whilst managing the rest of their group. • All participants should be briefed on correct the use of emergency stop buttons, the dangers of and sanctions for misuse. • Participants should never restart tows: it must always be done by an appropriately trained supervisor. • When participants or supervisors are not well-practised in using tows only one person should be permitted on the tow at any one time. • Where more than one person is permitted on the button tow, at least one button should be left empty between participants until high competence is established (when all buttons might then be used). • Participants and supervisors are briefed that snowsports clothing must present as low a risk of entanglement in tow equipment as possible.		

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