

## **Ski safely with CCCSC.**

There are inherent hazards in ski touring which could lead to injury or death, or to loss or damage to property.

CCCSC ski tour safety procedures to manage these hazards and consequences (risks), include advice, lodgement of an tour Intention Form and loan of PLBs where appropriate.

Whether you ski tour with CCCSC or others you owe a duty of care to other participants and the public. If you are the tour leader, or are more experienced, you owe a higher duty of care. If someone suffers injury or loss because you did not provide the level of care that a court considers reasonable in the circumstances, the court may require you to pay damages.

Members participating in a CCCSC ski tour are insured for General Indemnity, Professional Liability and Management Indemnity through Ski and Snowboard Australia (SSA).

## **To lead a CCCSC ski tour:**

### **Read the primary ski tour safety documents on the CCCSC website:**

- *CCCSC Advice to Ski Tour Leaders;*
- *CCCSC Advice to Ski Tour Participants;*
- *CCCSC Tour Intention Form/Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations;*
- *CCCSC Medical Information and Emergency Contact;*
- *CCCSC Emergency Procedures;*

### **Read the supplementary ski tour safety documents on the CCCSC website:**

- *CCCSC Tour Grading;*
- *CCCSC Equipment List;*
- *CCCSC Incident Report;*
- *CCCSC Code of Conduct;*
- *CCCSC Complaint Procedure;*
- *CCCSC Guide to Transport Costs, and*
- *Driving in the Snow.*

### **Select a tour to lead**

Intermediate tours are often easier to lead if you haven't previously led, as beginners usually require more supervision and guidance. The website has the following options for day tours:

- *Comprehensive Tour List*
- *Tours with Directions*
- *Popular Tour Meeting Points*

### **Describe the tour to the Tour Coordinator on a CCCSC tour Intention Form**

- Include dates, start and finish.
- Terrain, distance and skills required should use CCCSC Tour Grading
- Ask for approval as a CCCSC ski tour.

## **Advertise the approved tour:**

The Tour Coordinator will, if advised at least 2 weeks in advance, advertise approved tours:

- On the CCCSC website – ad-hoc Member and non-member versions (no contacts)
- In the CCCSC newsletter “Off Piste” - monthly Member and non-member versions
- At CCCSC Social Meetings – fortnightly *CCCSC Tour Intention Form*.
- On the CCCSC Facebook page – ad-hoc non-member version (no contacts)
- By email to CCCSC Members – weekly Member version and short notice tours.

## **Ensure all participants can do the tour**

Check with people beforehand about their ability and suitability for the tour. Be wary of the claims of fitness and experience of those you do not know. Be prepared to discuss individual cases with the Tour Coordinator or other leaders if you are unsure. Feel free to reject anyone who you feel will be too slow or too inexperienced. If they do come on your tour, you must adjust it to suit the weakest. This could easily dampen participant's enjoyment, especially if you were trying to ski to a particular destination or along a particular route.

## **Complete the CCCSC Tour Intention Form**

Have all participants complete their details on the form, including signing the acknowledgement of risks and obligations on the back of the form.

- Leave one (unsigned) copy with your emergency contact,
- Leave a second (unsigned) copy visible in your car
- Carry a third (signed) copy with you, and
- Email a copy (or the details therein) to [cccscsafety@gmail.com](mailto:cccscsafety@gmail.com)

## **Keep the tour to a manageable size**

Although a maximum group size is not specified, more than 12 can be difficult for one leader to handle. However, this depends on the experience of the party. If you do want to lead a very large group, get the aid of an assistant leader to help you with keeping track of everyone, ensuring no-one gets lost, keeping an eye on everyone's condition. In some areas permits may be required once the group size reaches 20.

## **Make transport arrangements**

One of the hardest tasks for a tour leader is to arrange transport for everyone. By the Thursday 2pm before the tour, everyone who wants to go must have told you. Anyone who joins after you have made the transport arrangements must make their own way to the snow, unless there is a spare seat in one of the cars. One way of reducing the number of telephone calls and other work you need to do, is to get the drivers to ring their passengers and make their own arrangements of when and where the pickups will be. It may be easier if passengers drive to their driver's home. Advise drivers about the option of using the Perisher SkiTube if the road is hazardous. For Thredbo the chairlift may be used.

## **Arrange to meet at an easily found place and time**

Before a tour can start, everyone must get to the starting point. Perisher car park can fill by 9am in peak season. Allow about 3 hours for the drive from Canberra to the snow-fields,

including a rest stop or two. It takes about 2 hours for the drive to Jindabyne and about 1:45 hours for the drive to Adaminaby. The meeting place can be where the tour starts or somewhere before then. Making the meeting place at the tour's start helps get the day off to a faster start, as there will be one less break for people to waste time in. Making the meeting place before the tour's start allows everyone to meet and briefly discuss the tour, as well as ensuring that all expected people have safely come this far.

### **Leave messages if you need to**

This is most useful if you have become tired of waiting for late-comers and want to let them know what is happening. It can also be useful if you need to change the details of a published tour due to weather or snow conditions, and want to leave a record of your new plan for search and rescue.

### **Wait only a short while for latecomers**

If a car is late, it is recommended that you wait no more than 30 minutes for it to arrive. If possible, leave a message on the driver's mobile phone or in the Perisher Ranger Station or Nordic Shelter.

### **Have everyone complete the Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations form**

You should also advise all participants that they will be required to sign the *Acknowledgment of Risks and Obligations* on the *CCCSC Tour Intention Form* before taking part in your tour. The form requires participants to advise you of any medical conditions which may affect them. Carry a few spare blank *CCCSC Medical Information and Emergency Contact* forms for visitors and participants who are not carrying theirs in their packs.

### **Introduce participants to each other**

By letting the participants introduce themselves to everyone else before the tour starts, you will help create friendlier atmosphere for the tour.

### **Be prepared to change the tour to suit the weather**

If the weather is bad, it is often best to change the destination of the tour or move the tour to another day if better weather is expected. Links to the latest information on weather and snow conditions is at: <http://www.cccsc.asn.au/links.html>

### **Show people a map of where the tour will go**

This lets everyone know where you are planning to take them. It also encourages them to participate in the tour more, rather than blindly following the leader.

### **Let someone else navigate**

If you know the area well enough and are confident enough, encourage someone else in the party to navigate. This will give them confidence in navigating and leading. It could also encourage them to lead tours themselves, at some other time.

### **Rest and regroup when appropriate**

Few people enjoy skiing without a break for an entire tour. Rest stops are good for checking that people aren't getting too tired, cold, hungry, blistered, etc. They can also be good for checking where you are, taking photographs, admiring the view, or checking the weather.

### **Ask someone to write an article about the tour for the CCCSC newsletter**

Tell the world what a great tour you led and encourage others to come on your later tours. You have done enough work, just leading the tour, so get one of your fellow tour members to write an article for Off Piste.

### **Offer to lead another tour**

Now that you've successfully led a tour, and learnt some of the pleasures and pains of leading a tour, why not lead another? The Tour Coordinator will love you.

### **Forward all forms to CCCSC**

At the completion of the trip advise the Tour Coordinator and [cccscsafety@gmail.com](mailto:cccscsafety@gmail.com) of your safe return or any incidents.

Handover or scan and email the *CCCSC Tour Intention/Acknowledgement of Risks and Obligations* form and any *CCCSC Incident Report* to the Tour Coordinator or [cccscsafety@gmail.com](mailto:cccscsafety@gmail.com).