



**Ski NB**

**COVID Operational Plan**

**December 2021**

This is a working document and will be regularly updated based on changing recommendations from Public Health or as new issues arise. Please review it regularly to ensure you are up to date.

## **Background and Overview**

This document was developed by the Ski NB Covid Committee to provide protocols specific to ski racing and race training. It will describe how Ski NB will support training and competition for the three member clubs during the 2022 ski season under the Province of New Brunswick winter plan. The member clubs are: Poley Mountain Race Club (Waterford), Crabbe Mountain Race Club (Fredericton) and Mont Farlagne Race Team (Edmundston).

Alpine ski racing much like track and field, where the team trains together but individuals perform actual skiing alone. It is by definition an individual and physically distanced sport. In fact, unlike track and field, there is only one competitor on the training/race course at any given time, which eliminates all interpersonal contact. Given that skiing is an outdoor sport, risk of exposure and transmission of viral illness is much lower for athletes than for those who train for indoor sports.

While this document was developed with Alpine ski racing in mind, we anticipate that it can be modified for other outdoor winter sports such as snowboard, snowshoeing, freestyle skiing etc. to ensure safe, fulfilling participation at the many winter resort venues in the province.

The goal of the Ski NB Covid Protocol is to minimize the risk of viral transmission related to club activities, including training and racing. Members of the three New Brunswick Alpine Ski Racing clubs live in various communities (zones) of the province; we recognize that the nature of alpine ski training and racing at the three hills will result in participants visiting other zones of the province when this travel is permitted. Ski NB is concerned about the health and well-being of all – including its participants and the general public.

Pillars of this document are consistent with recommendations from federal and provincial public health as well as Alpine Canada Alpin and Ski NB. These pillars include vaccination, limiting potential exposures, monitoring for symptoms, staying home when ill, physical distancing, proper handwashing and cleaning protocols, and the wearing of appropriate masks. Strong adherence to these pillars will improve protection of club members and those we encounter.

**All aspects of the plan are subject to the most current public health information found at [www.gnb.ca/coronavirus](http://www.gnb.ca/coronavirus)**

All members of the race clubs, including athletes, coaches and parents, are always considered ambassadors for the clubs, both at their home hill and when traveling to another hill. Athletes may be refused the opportunity to participate in club activities, including training and racing, if either the athlete or parents are not following the Ski NB Covid Protocol. Failure of even individual member families to respect Public Health recommendations could lead to the athlete or the club not being allowed to train or race.

The following sections of this document will describe the measures of the Ski NB Covid protocol that will be utilized to enable athletes to train safely and to allow (by extending safety measures and the number of officials) safe competition - (i.e. to use a training course in a way that will allow officials to record the times of participants).

### **Measures specific to Alpine Ski training/competition**

Participants are defined as: Athletes, parents, coaches, volunteers, officials (major and minor)

1. All participants will sign a “code of conduct” or attestation that they are fully aware of the Covid Protocols and all restrictions that apply to them specifically. That they are committed to following those restrictions and will assist others to do the same, to protect all other participants.
2. Each participant is required to show proof of vaccination
3. The event will be operated with the minimum number of volunteers
4. Race/training clubs will remain in club cohorts
5. Mixing of athletes, coaches, volunteers or parents from other clubs will not be permitted
6. Social activity will not be permitted (as specified in the code of conduct)
7. Captains meetings (eg; for any competitions) will be held via Zoom or other virtual platforms
8. In addition to mandatory masks in indoor areas masks will also be required for all participants in outdoor areas such as:
  - during inspection of the course
  - in race/training prep area
  - in non-ski warmup area
  - during coaching with athletes
  - on chair lift
9. The only exception for masks will be while the athlete is on the race track, either in training, or being timed for their competitive run.
10. When clubs train or compete on a shared ski run each club will have a specific area near the start and finish for athletes and coaches only
11. (This item is specific to timed runs or competition). The starter will be placed outside the start hut. All other major and minor officials will NOT interact with athletes or other participants unless physically distanced and fully masked.
12. Only the athlete and one coach can be in the start hut (a roofed shelter with free air flow) at any time. All other athletes and coaches will be in designated areas physically distanced from all other athletes and coaches.
13. Volunteers will not be permitted any form of contact with athletes.
14. In competition formats, additional volunteers will include timers, referees and administrators: all will adhere to the code of conduct.
15. In the event of competition, Awards will be mailed to the winners and ceremonies will be conducted via Zoom or other virtual platforms
16. Each club and Ski NB will have 1-2 people per training or competition event who will be responsible to observe that all measures are being adhered to and will report any infractions.

### **Intra Provincial Training/Racing**

With the above safety measures in place; we would like to propose the opportunity for Ski racing (competitions) to take place within the New Brunswick border for NB athletes, coaches and volunteers.

The proposed events are below:

1. Mont Farlagne - Jan 8-9
2. Crabbe Mountain Speed camp - Jan 31, Feb 1-2
3. Crabbe Mountain – Feb 3-6
4. Crabbe Mountain Canada Winter Games test event - Feb 18-19
5. Poley Mountain – March 19-20
6. Mont Farlagne U16 Eastern Championships - April 5-7 \*
7. Poley Mountain U12 Skills Camp - March 16-17 \*\*

\*this is a larger event with athletes who would represent Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the eastern US.

\*\* this event will be contingent upon changes to the U12 restrictions