

NSP SOUTHERN DIVISION SENIOR PROGRAM

OET CLINIC AND EVALUATION FORMAT - Aug 14, 2025

OET CLINIC - FORMAT

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the OET Clinic is to provide the candidates a venue to observe and demonstrate the required skills and tasks on the same or very similar terrain used during the evaluation. Instructors should offer feedback on what the candidates need to meet the essential criteria for the evaluation.

PREREQUISITES AND PREPARATION:

The Senior Candidate must have reached Alpine Patroller status to participate in the event and have the recommendation of the patrol director, patrol representative or the Region Senior Coordinator. The candidate will have applied to participate in the program in their Region.

The candidate must complete the Southern Division Senior Alpine Sign-off sheets. Provide them to the Region OET Administrator prior to attending the pre-evaluation clinic and the evaluation.

GUIDELINES:

The clinic must be registered as a course with the NSP. We are currently registering it as an OET Skills Workshop. Notes should be added to the course description that it is for Senior OET candidates only. The Region OET Administrator or his assignee should be the INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD (IOR).

The T/E's should be carefully chosen by the Region OET Administrator and be approved and vetted by the Division OET Supervisor. An adequate number of T/E's or OET Instructors should be used to provide feedback and attention to the candidates.

Standard course waivers, introductions and rules for any NSP clinic or workshop will be reviewed and completed by all students and instructors. A course evaluation form should be distributed to all students and collected at the end of the course.

It is essential that time should be allowed for group and individual feedback. A clear explanation of the evaluation objectives shall be provided.

The clinic is **not** a "practice" evaluation where the candidates are scored and their scores shared with them.

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GUIDELINES(cont)

The safety of all participants is very important. If anyone feels uncomfortable performing any of the activities during the clinic, for whatever reason, they can choose not to participate in that activity. Candidates should seek further instruction to prepare for the evaluation.

ON SNOW ACTIVITIES:

It is recommended that the Ski/Ride portion take place first; however, the order may be changed due to slope and snow conditions and resort activities.

The clinic should be held, if possible, at the same resort and on similar terrain to be used for the evaluation. Suitable terrain for the clinic and evaluation will be determined by the Region OET Administrator and/or the Division OET Supervisor. Every effort will be made to provide more difficult and most difficult terrain relative to the Region and to meet the minimum requirements of the NSP Senior OET criteria. A control course may be used.

The clinic should review all of the skills in the evaluation: skiing, riding, patroller skills, and toboggan handling. A variety of turn shapes will be demonstrated and performed on advanced and variable terrain and conditions. Use of PSIA/AASI credentialed T/E's or credentialed PSIA/AASI instructors outside of NSP for demonstration and advice on the ski/board portion is highly encouraged.

Trainer/Evaluators (T/E) and instructors shall demonstrate and explain the skiing/riding and toboggan handling skills and tasks, meeting the criteria expected of the candidates during the evaluation. The candidates will have an opportunity to perform the required skills and tasks with feedback from the instructors.

Control courses and a variety of equipment may be used to demonstrate and practice patroller skills and equipment carry. If there is a possibility that a control course will be used for the evaluation, one should be provided, demonstrated, and used during the clinic.

All toboggan handling skills and tasks will be demonstrated and practiced. This will include empty toboggan handling, scene approach, passenger loading, front and rear loaded toboggan handling, slope traverse, direction change and safety maneuvers.

A candidate may be informed that they are not adequately prepared to participate in the evaluation.

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OET EVALUATION - FORMAT

OBJECTIVE:

The Senior Alpine Skiing/Riding Evaluation provides an opportunity for Senior Alpine candidates to demonstrate contemporary skiing/riding fundamentals by performing a variety of turn sizes while skiing/riding on groomed slopes, steep slopes, moguled slopes, and ungroomed terrain. Equipment carry will also be expected with stability on Senior terrain. The main objective is to determine whether Senior Alpine candidates are qualified at the senior level.

The Senior Alpine Toboggan Evaluation provides an opportunity for Senior Alpine candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of their toboggan handling skills, their knowledge of the mechanics and components of various rescue toboggans and demonstrate operation of both an unloaded toboggan and a loaded toboggan in both the front (handles) and rear (tail rope) positions. Skills are performed in a variety of snow conditions on more difficult and most difficult slopes

PREREQUISITES AND PREPARATION:

The evaluation is open to Senior Alpine candidates who have received a recommendation for evaluation from their patrol representatives and/or Senior Alpine Program coordinators, and who have completed the SD Senior Alpine Skills Sign-off Sheets. The Region OET Coordinator will determine if the candidate is ready to participate in the evaluation. Candidates must enroll in the NSP course(s) used to administer the evaluation(see Guidelines).

For people who are interested in the Senior Program and who want to observe or 'audit' the OET evaluation, they should contact the Regional OET Administrator to coordinate.

GUIDELINES

The evaluation will be administered by use of two NSP OET courses, the Senior Alpine Skiing/Riding Evaluation (SAEE) and the Senior Alpine Toboggan Evaluation (SATE). Both courses are typically held on the same day. Alternative formats may be used to conduct the clinic or the evaluation. The Region OET Administrator or his assignee should be the Instructor of Record (IOR) registering the course. Limits should be placed on the number of students to enroll to provide adequate time and attention for each candidate.

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Standard course waivers, introduction and rules for any NSP clinic or workshop shall be completed by all participants. A course evaluation form should be distributed to all participants and collected at the end of the course.

If possible, necessary paperwork (waivers, scorebooks, etc.) can be filled out prior to the day of the evaluation. Numbers and bibs may be assigned to the candidates.

It is recommended that the Senior Alpine Skiing and Riding Evaluation (SAEE) be conducted first, however the order may be changed due to slope availability, snow conditions and/or resort activities.

The Region OET Administrator or their assignee shall be the facilitator. One Trainer/Evaluator or Instructor should be assigned as the advocate for the candidates. This role may be assumed by the facilitator. Once the evaluation has begun, communication between the candidates and the evaluators should be through the advocate. The advocate will remain impartial and not score the candidates.

ON SNOW ACTIVITIES:

The safety of all participants is very important. If anyone feels uncomfortable performing any aspect of the evaluation, for whatever reason, they will not be required to participate in that activity. The candidate will not pass the module should they choose to not participate in any portion of course. The candidate may continue the evaluation as an observer.

Each of the skills and tasks to be evaluated shall be demonstrated by one of the evaluators or an available instructor at a performance level to pass the evaluation. The demonstration should be provided for all skiing/riding and toboggan handling portions of the evaluation. The demonstration may be omitted if ALL candidates agree.

A control course for patroller skills may be used if the evaluators feel the existing terrain is not adequate to demonstrate the tasks and skills at the required level. A control course should only be used if it was provided during the clinic or if adequate time is allowed for demonstration and practice during the evaluation.

The equipment used for the equipment carry should be the same for all candidates.

The evaluation will be scored by three current SR T/E's. Senior T/E mentees may evaluate, however their scores are not used to determine a pass or fail. -

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The evaluation will use the current Southern Division evaluation score cards. Grading is a +,=,- scale.

ADMINISTRATION:

The evaluators shall discuss marginal performance, conflicting opinions should be reconciled and a majority consensus shall be reached by the evaluators. A decision to rate a candidate below senior level must be justified by a failure to meet the established performance objectives and evaluation criteria for each of the courses (SAEE and SATE). It is possible for a candidate to pass one of the two courses.

An opportunity must be provided for all candidates to discuss their performance with the evaluators. Positive feedback and future practice/training opportunities should be discussed.

All participants shall complete a course evaluation form on site or online.

Provide a means for the candidates and their patrol directors to receive the results of the evaluations.

All instructors, evaluators, advocates and facilitator shall review the day's activities to include but not be limited to discrepancies, conflicts, opinions, instructor performance, candidate performance and general ways to improve the event for the good of the program and the members

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APPENDIX A - SAMPLE OET CLINIC AGENDA

Senior Alpine OET Clinic

Location: resort name

Date: month, day, year

Resources:

- Candidates – names
- Evaluators/Instructors – names
- Quality Assurance – name
- Candidate Advocate – name
- Admin/Facilitator – name

Agenda (subject to change based on resources, weather, and slope conditions):

- Sign in and waivers
- Overview and introductions
- Risk reminder: Decline any activity that places you in an unsafe situation. Stay to side of trail. Look uphill.
- Review agenda
- Demonstration, Practice and Feedback - Alpine skills
- Lunch break
- Demonstration, Practice and Feedback - Toboggan skills
- Administration
 - Participant complete survey/feedback
 - Candidate receives feedback and assessment

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APPENDIX B - SAMPLE OET EVALUATION AGENDA

Senior Alpine OET Evaluation

Location: resort name

Date: month, day, year

Resources:

- Candidates – names
- Evaluators – names
- Quality Assurance – name
- Candidate Advocate – name
- Admin/Facilitator – name

Agenda (subject to change based on resources, weather, and slope conditions):

- Sign in and waivers
- Overview and introductions
- Risk reminder: Decline any activity that places you in an unsafe situation. Stay to side of trail. Look uphill.
- Review agenda
- Demonstration and Evaluation - Alpine skills
- Lunch break
- Demonstration and Evaluation - Toboggan skills
- Administration
 - Participant complete survey/feedback
 - IOR, advocate and quality control compile scores
 - Provide candidates with evaluator feedback