

ORGANIZATION OF SKI GROUPS:

Waterville Valley Snowsports School uses skill sets to organize students into the correct groups. We focus our instruction on the skills that students currently have, and build upon those existing skills. Please use the following skier skill sets to place students in ski groups. **Please do not use these skill sets to organize the snowboard groups.** (Snowboarding has their own distinctive skills which are listed after the skier skill sets.)

Never-Ever: Has never skied before OR has only skied once before at a very early age and has not retained any skills from that experience. Students who already know how to snowboard, but are learning how to ski, should be placed in this group as well.

Beginner: Has skied for only one season, a few times, or has only skied a few times this season.

Their skills consist of some or all of the following:

- stop using a wedge ("pizza shape"),
- turn in one direction,
- turn in both directions,
- link two or three turns on a mild pitch,
- stop, using a turn,

. They will be learning:

- linking consistent turns down the Upper and Lower Magic Carpet terrain
- skiing in control consistently
- how to make small, medium, and large radius turns

Novice: Has skied for at least two seasons consistently.

Their skills consist of the following:

- use a small size wedge ("pizza shape") while skiing,
- stop by using turns,
- turn in both directions using small, medium, and large radius

turns

- comfortably ski the entire Upper and Lower Magic Carpet terrain from the top with control and consistent turns,
- comfortably ski using linked turns on the easiest trail (Leroy's Loop) at Lower Meadows.

They will be learning:

how to maintain control on steeper terrain/trails at Lower Meadows
how to use the wedge ("pizza shape") less and less on steeper terrain
to gain confidence and control with more speed,
how to ski in a parallel ("french fry") shape
how to do a hockey stop
how to safely and comfortably ride a larger/bigger chairlift

Lower Intermediate: Has skied for several seasons in the past and during this current season.

Their skills consist of ALL the skills listed in Novice, as well as the following:

NO longer use a wedge ("pizza shape") while skiing all of the terrain/trails at Lower Meadows
use a parallel shape to ski linked turns comfortably on all terrain at Lower Meadows,
use a variety of turn shapes and sizes,
able to do hockey stops,
have skied a few times on Valley Run or Stillness primarily using a parallel shape

They will be learning:

how to ski parallel consistently on Valley Run/Stillness terrain,
how to ski with control in small moguls and in glades trails.
how to use ski poles
how to ski parallel on harder terrain on Green Peak
how to comfortably ski varied conditions (ice, crud, powder,)

Intermediate: Has skied many times in the past seasons and during this current season.

Their skills consist of ALL the skills listed in Low Intermediate, as well as:

ski parallel consistently on terrain from the top of the mountain, which includes the trails Oblivion, No Grit, Upper Valley Run, and High Country
uses ski poles all the time
are comfortable on varied conditions on varied terrain

They will be learning:

skiing parallel consistently on harder blue terrain,

skiing more difficult moguls and trees with control,

Advanced: Has skied many times during past seasons and this season.

Their skills consist of ALL the skills listed in Intermediate, as well as:

ski parallel on trails such as Upper Bobby's, Old Tecumseh,
Utter Abandon, World Cup using a variety of turn sizes,
ski parallel through hard moguls and glades,
able to ski while blending different speed variations

ORGANIZATION OF SNOWBOARD GROUPS:

Please use the following rider skill sets to place students into snowboard groups. Please do not use these skills for skiers. (Skier skill sets are listed above). Please do not use the skier skill sets to group snowboard students, i.e. no novice, lower intermediate, intermediate etc.

Never Ever: Has never snow boarded at all. May have some ski experience, but has never tried snowboarding at all.

Slider/Half Turner: Has boarded only a few times in the past season, or this season.

Their skills consist of:

Can cross the slope only on a toe edge or only on a heel edge,
descend with EITHER a toe side slide or a heel side slide, but
still can not turn

can turn with EITHER a toe side turn or a heel side turn, but
can not do both

ride the Lower Meadows chair with help.

They will be learning:

how to do a toe side turn,

how to do a heel side turn

how to link a toe side turn with a heel side turn

how to link multiple turns together

how to link turns on steeper terrain

Turner: Has boarded many times either in past seasons or this season.

Their skills consist of the following:

comfortably linking turns on all terrain at Lower Meadows and Valley Run/Stillness

comfortable riding at higher speeds while maintaining control through turns.

able to use a variety of turn shapes and sizes

able to maintain speed control on steeper terrain

They are working on:

turning comfortably on harder terrain from the top of the mountain,

maintaining control at higher speeds,

exploring trees and easy moguls

using a higher edge angle in their turns and not skidding turns

being comfortable with different types of snow conditions

exploring easy free style techniques

learning to ride switch on easy terrain

Turner-Carver: Has boarded many times in previous seasons as well as this season.

Their skills consist of ALL those listed in Turner as well as:

comfortable on harder blue terrain from the top of the mountain

comfortable in harder moguls and trees

use a high edge to carve turns instead of just skidding turns.

They are working on:

Maintaining control and turning consistently on black terrain

Riding switch on harder terrain

Learning harder free style techniques and maneuvers