Weardale Ski Club Ltd

Important Information for members

Opening

WSC is run entirely by volunteers. Sometimes this may mean that the Club cannot open because it does not have enough trained operators to do so safely, even if snow conditions appear suitable. Operators will inspect the tow, the slope and consider the weather forecast before deciding whether to open. The site may close early if tow operators deem it necessary. Members agree to accept the tow operators' decisions in these matters.

General safety

Whilst WSC has first aid equipment on site, there are no first aiders on site. All members are responsible for their own welfare and that of any children or vulnerable adults with them. By attending WSC, members are confirming that they are fit to ski and able to cope with any weather or snow conditions that may arise.

It is recommended that all those engaged in snowsports at WSC wear a helmet.

The club does not provide instruction or supervision.

By attending WSC, you confirm that you and all accompanied children have the appropriate level of competence to ski or board safely in all conditions.

Before setting off for the ski club, tell someone that you intend to ski at WSC and when you expect to return.

Road conditions and access

Please heed the advice given on each ski day either on the website or via the email and make appropriate use of winter tyres and/or chains. Carry a shovel and anticipate the worst as conditions can change quickly. Only access the ski area from Daddry Shield. Do not travel through East and West Haswicks. The road from Newbiggin, Teesdale should not be used even if it looks clear.

Parking

Please drive forwards into a space at a 45 degree angle as close to the fence as possible on the left hand side or just past the corner on the right hand side. Never reverse into a space. Park as closely as safely possible to the next car as space is at a premium. You may need to dig in if there are no free spaces. Do not park in gateways and ensure you dig well off the road to avoid obstructing traffic.

Do not at any time block the gateway onto the fell as this is the only emergency access.

In the event of an accident where emergency services(mountain rescue/ambulance) are attending, the road will be temporarily closed and cars not allowed to leave the car park until the emergency services have arrived. A car leaving could easily hinder the incoming emergency services.

On arrival

No dogs or sledges allowed on the fell.
Follow the marker posts from the car park ski area access gate to the bottom of F1 tow. Do not veer off this path as there are various hazards such as sink holes.
Ski Club operators are identified by their orange or red jackets.
Members should show their membership cards to the ski club operator before skiing.

Signing in

Once at the ski club, members are requested to sign in at the lodge with the names of all in their party and their car registration. A signing in sheet will be provided for this and will be removed at the end of the day. This has been stipulated by our insurers who require us to keep an attendance record. The car registration is an added safety precaution helping us to identify who might be left on the slopes in the event of a car remaining in the car park at the end of the day when the tow operators are leaving.

Ski tows

We have 2 button lifts and all skiers/boarders should be competent in using a fast drag lift unassisted. The club does not provide instruction or assistance in the use of the tows. The tows are unsupervised. Please stay in line with the poma lifts as straying out too far can cause the rope to come off. If you do lose balance and veer off course it is safer to let go and return to the bottom and catch another button. Follow the displayed instructions for safe use of ski tows. Report any concerns immediately to ski operators.

In the event that a lift has stopped under no circumstances should you try and restart it or enter the fenced off engine huts.

Come prepared

WSC is isolated, with no mains power or water supply. There is no drinking water on site and nowhere to buy food and drink – the nearest place with significant facilities is St John Chapel, four miles away. When visiting WSC, you must bring sufficient food and drink for your trip, as well as any medication you might need.

The weather conditions in the North Pennines can deteriorate very quickly. You should come prepared with suitable clothing to protect you from severe weather.

You must tell someone where you are going and what time you intend to return. Note that the mobile signal at WSC can vary and there is no wifi.

The Lodge is open for use and all rubbish from packed lunches etc should be taken away. Observe the notices regarding general use and the use of the compost toilet system.

What to do in the event of a fire

Follow the emergency evacuation procedure set out in the lodge. Get out of the building. Do not take risks and do not tackle a fire with an extinguisher unless it is safe to do so. Inform an operator immediately if you discover a fire or a fire risk.

Members under the age of 18

Members under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. This adult will have sole responsibility for the welfare of the child whilst at WSC. Children must be supervised at all times, including in the lodge. Children are not to be carried when actively using the runs or tows, including but not limited to aids such as backpacks or chest harnesses.

WSC has a nominated Welfare Officer who is the lead person for any safeguarding issues that may arise. Details can be found on the website and posted in the lodge.

Ski area

The ski area is operated by a minimum of two club volunteers. Their role is to manage the safe use of the tow lifts.

There are no patrols of the ski area.

It is the duty of all users **to stop, enquire, assist / report on any skier who appears to have a problem.**

The ski area is not pisted, runs not marked, nor the wider fell area bounded by perimeter fencing. It is a dynamic ski area in that snow conditions, weather and visibility can change significantly and quickly. No two days will be the same.

It is not suitable for beginners.

Skiers should be aware that this is open 'mountain' terrain and should always make their own dynamic risk assessments, particularly in relation to hazards of rocks, piste and off piste traps, gullies, fencing, changing weather, ski tow infrastructure and risk of getting lost if skiing beyond the immediate ski area. Skiing in the area of gullies and the corrie head wall can involve steep sudden drops, deep snow and risk of localised avalanche traps.

The fell is open access land and as such is visited by walkers and spectators. Skiers and snowboarders should be aware of this and exercise caution.

Vehicles on ski slopes

Please be aware that vehicles may operate on the site all year round. Certain slopes may be closed whilst snow grooming is taking place but in some circumstances, vehicles may need to access a slope that is being used for skiing. Please exercise due attention and caution.

Other snow sports

No sledging, tubing or snowkiting is allowed near the tows or on the designated runs.
No construction of jumps is allowed.

Remember:

1. Let someone know you are skiing at Weardale and when you will be back in touch.
2. Wear suitable clothing and bring a drink and food
3. Familiarise yourself with the ski area map – online, car park area and bottom of F1.
4. If you see someone in need of help: stop / enquire / assist and report to ski operatives.
5. If you are away from the immediate ski area and cannot leave a casualty to report or are hurt yourself and there is no one likely to ski past you. Dial 999. Ask for Police – mountain rescue and ambulance. Name, injury, location or @weardale ski club : What3words location - **wonderful//typhoon//weaved** (this is the car park).
6. If there is an accident/incident on the fell **do not leave** by car down the road until instructed, it is important to keep the road clear for Emergency Vehicles.

<u>WSC Code of conduct</u>

1. WSC is open to anyone interested in snowsports, regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or other beliefs. The club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy the facilities in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse. All those participating at WSC have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity, and the club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously.
2. WSC believes that members should at all times show respect and understanding for the welfare of others.
3. No intoxicated persons may participate at WSC in any way.

4. WSC is run entirely by volunteers. Members agree to accept tow operators' decisions with regard to opening and closing of the tows.
5. Tow operators have the right to refuse access to the tows if they deem a member is acting irresponsibly.
6. Membership may be rescinded if there is serious or repeated inappropriate behaviour.

FIS rules of conduct

All WSC members must ski with care and follow the International Ski Federation (FIS) Rules of Conduct:

1. **Respect for others**. Skiers and snowboarders must behave in such a way that they do not endanger or prejudice others. Skiers and snowboarders are responsible not only for their own behaviour but also for defective equipment.
2. **Control of speed.** Skiers and snowboarders must move in control. They must adapt their speed and manner of skiing or boarding to their personal ability and prevailing conditions of terrain, snow and weather as well as to the density of traffic.
3. **Choice of route.** Skiers and boarders must choose their route in such a way that they do not endanger other skiers or boarders. The skier or snowboarder in front has priority.
4. **Overtaking.** Skiers or boarders may overtake another provided that they leave enough space for the overtaken skier or boarder to make any voluntary or involuntary movement.
5. **Entering.** Starting and moving: a skier or boarder entering a marked run, starting after stopping, or moving upwards on the slopes, must look up and down the slopes so that they can do so without endangering themselves or others.
6. **Stopping.** Unless absolutely necessary, a skier or snowboarder must avoid stopping on the piste in narrow places or where visibility is restricted. After a fall in such a place, a skier or snowboarder must move clear of the piste as soon as possible. One must not stop in narrow places or where it is difficult to be seen from above.
7. **Climbing and descending**. On foot a skier or boarder either climbing or descending on foot must keep to the side of the piste. Moving against the general direction poses unexpected obstacles for other skiers and boarders. Footprints damage the piste (or tow track) and can cause danger to skiers and boarders.
8. **Respect for signs.** A skier or boarder must respect all signs and markings.
9. **Assistance at accidents.** Every skier or snowboarder is duty bound to assist.
10. **Identification.** Every skier or snowboard who is a witness, whether a responsible party or not, must exchange names and addresses following an accident.

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