

NYS Article 18 Safety in Skiing Code

Skiers, snowboarders, and lift passengers are governed by the NYS Safety in Skiing Code, Article 18 of the NYS General Obligations Law. Signed by Governor Mario Cuomo and enacted into law in 1989, the New York State Safety in Skiing Code is detailed below.

TO BE A SAFE SKIER NYS LAW REQUIRES YOU TO KNOW AND OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING DUTIES OF SKIERS:

1. Not to ski in any area not designated for skiing;
2. Not to ski beyond their limits or ability to overcome variations in slope, trail configuration and surface or subsurface conditions which may be caused or altered by weather, slope or trail maintenance work by the ski area operator, or skier use;
 3. To abide by the directions of the ski area operator;
4. To remain in constant control of speed and course at all times while skiing so as to avoid contact with plainly visible or clearly marked obstacles and with other skiers and passengers on surface operating tramways;
5. To familiarize themselves with posted information before skiing any slope or trail, including all information posted pursuant to subdivision five of section 18-103 of this article;
 6. Not to cross the uphill track of any surface lift, except at points clearly designated by the ski area operator;
 7. Not to ski on a slope or trail or portion thereof that has been designated as "closed" by the ski area operator;
8. Not to leave the scene of any accident resulting in personal injury to another party until such times as the ski area operator arrives, except for the purpose of summoning aid;
9. Not to overtake another skier in such a manner as to cause contact with the skier being overtaken and to yield the right of way to the skier being overtaken;
10. Not to willfully stop on any slope or trail where such stopping is likely to cause a collision with other skiers or vehicles;
 11. To yield to other skiers when entering a trail or starting downhill;
 12. To wear retention straps or other devices to prevent runaway skis;
13. To report any personal injury to the ski area operator before leaving the ski area; and,
14. Not to willfully remove, deface, alter or otherwise damage signage, warning devices or implements, or other safety devices placed and maintained by the ski area operator pursuant to the requirements of section 18-103 of this article.

TO BE A SAFE LIFT PASSENGER NYS LAW REQUIRES YOU TO KNOW AND OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING DUTIES OF PASSENGERS:

1. To familiarize themselves with the safe use of any tramway prior to its use;
2. To remain in the tramway if the operation of a passenger tramway, as defined pursuant to section two hundred two-c of the labor law, is interrupted for any reason, until instructions or aid are provided by the ski area operator;
 3. To board or disembark from passenger tramways only at points or areas designated by the ski area operator;
 4. Not to eject any objects or material from a passenger tramway;
 5. To use restraint devices in accordance with posted instructions;
 6. To wear retention straps or other devices to prevent runaway skis;
 7. Not to interfere with the operation of a passenger tramway;
8. Not to place or caused to be placed on the uphill track of a surface lift any object which may interfere with its normal operation; and,
9. Not to wear loose scarves, clothing, or accessories or expose long hair which may become entangled with any part of the device.

Skiers have the following additional duties to enable them to make informed decisions as to the advisability of their participation in the sport:

- a. To seek out, read, review, and understand, in advance to skiing, the 'Warning to Skiers' summarized below and displayed where tickets are sold; and,

Warning to Skiers: Downhill skiing and snowboarding, like many other sports, contains inherent risks including, but not limited to the risk of personal injury, including catastrophic injury, or death, or property damage, which may be caused by variations in terrain or weather conditions; or surface or subsurface snow, ice, bare spots or areas of thin cover, moguls, ruts, bumps, or other persons using the facilities; or rocks, forest growth, debris, branches, trees, roots, stumps; or other natural objects or manmade objects that are incidental to the provision or maintenance of a ski facility in New York State. New York law imposes a duty on you to become apprised of and understand the risks inherent in the sport of skiing or snowboarding, which are set forth above, so that you make an informed decision of whether to participate in skiing or snowboarding notwithstanding the risks. New York also imposes additional duties upon you, to which you must adhere, for the purpose of avoiding injury caused by any of the risks inherent in skiing or snowboarding. If you are not willing to assume all of these risks and abide by these duties you must not participate in skiing or snowboarding at Bristol Mountain.

- b. To obtain such education in the sport of skiing as the individual skier shall deem appropriate to his or her level of ability, including the familiarization with skills and duties necessary to reduce the risk of injury in such sport.

Your Responsibility Code

Skiing and snowboarding can be enjoyed in many ways. At ski areas you may see people using alpine, snowboard, telemark, cross country and other specialized ski equipment, such as that used by disabled or other skiers. Regardless of how you decide to enjoy the slopes, always show courtesy to others and be aware that there are elements of risk in skiing that common sense and personal awareness can help reduce. Observe the code listed below and share with other skiers the responsibility for a great skiing experience.

1. Always stay in control.
2. People ahead of you have the right of way.
3. Stop in a safe place for you and others.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging, look uphill and yield.
5. Use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
6. Observe signs and warnings, and keep off closed trails.
7. Know how to use the lifts safely.

Be safety conscious and **KNOW THE CODE. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.**