

Proposed NSP Skill Classifications Schematic
Frequently Asked Questions
Draft 8-24-08

What is this all about?

It has been recognized for some time that revisions to the NSP skill classifications would help mountain management better understand our roles, and could also provide positive benefits with regard to recruiting and retention of members. A Request For Board Action (RFBA) has been submitted to the NSP Board of Directors (BOD) asking them to consider changes to the skill classifications. The attached schematic describes what these changes might be.

What is the status of this Request for Board Action?

The BOD has approved the concept of changes to the skill classifications. The next submittal will be the details of the changes and the specific changes to Policies and Procedures for the Board's review and approval. Currently this schematic is being distributed so that members may comment and consensus be reached with regard to the actual classifications. Once the classification designations are determined, the draft Policy and Procedure changes can be created for submittal to the BOD. It is hoped that this presentation will be made at the BOD meeting at Snowbird in April 2009.

I think there are other paths not shown on the schematic

Yes, there may be other paths, however the goal of the schematic is not to identify every possible route to a particular classification. Its goal is to show the relationship between the proposed skill classifications and the hierarchy and relationship between the skill levels so that the proposed classifications may be understood.

What are Associates?

Currently there are other ways to be affiliated with the NSP, such as the Mountain Host program and there may be others in the future that may or may not use the OEC program as a part of skill base. The term Associate is being suggested currently to identify the difference between these members and those that would be considered "Traditional Members", Patrollers.

What are the new NSP Skill Classifications?

On the schematic, the yellow boxes depict the proposed skill classifications.

What happened to the Auxiliary classification?

One of the goals of the changes to the NSP skill classifications was to eliminate the term "Auxiliary" as a classification. The term "Auxiliary" has never correctly defined the role that current Auxiliary Patrollers play within the NSP and it creates a reduced expectation for those outside of the NSP. One of the key changes depicted in the classification schematic is that the root definition of all traditional members registered with the NSP will be "Patroller". Another

benefit that will accrue from this change is that most agree that it will be easier to recruit new members if they will be identified as Patrollers instead of Auxiliary. With regard to retention, as members age and find that they are no longer comfortable running sleds, it may be that a member is more likely to remain a member if their classification is Patroller, not Auxiliary Patroller.

What about Student Patrollers?

The current term used by the NSP BOD to identify Patrollers who are between the ages of 15 and 18 is “Young Adult Patrollers”. While this term, or “Student Patroller”, or the historic term “Junior Patroller” describe a certain group of Patrollers, it is not a Skill Classification and like the term “Auxiliary”, these terms do not accurately describe the role these members play. The typical difference between Young Adult Patrollers and their older compatriots is that the younger Patrollers do not transport injured patients. Under the current proposed skill classifications, this would make them a “Patroller” (passed OEC, has CPR card, registered with a Patrol, passes local OEC requirements). Because at the National level, the database does not contain a category for Student, or Young Adult Patrollers, some Student Patrollers are kept registered as Candidates for several years until they turn 18. As a Candidate, they are not eligible for certain membership benefits, such as reduced prices from those companies that offer goods to the members of the NSP. Under the current proposal, they would achieve the classification as “Patroller” quicker and with it those benefits.

What is a Nordic Master?

Nordic Master is a program currently being piloted in the Eastern Division and represents a tier of skill above Senior Nordic. It is hoped that if the pilot program is successful it will be adopted at the national level. Because this program is on the horizon, it was included in the schematic.

At my mountain we use different descriptions, can we still do that?

Yes, absolutely. This proposal is for how NSP members are classified, but Patrollers can have any title at their home area that their management wishes to give them. Your NSP membership card may say “Senior Alpine Patroller” but your title at your ski area may be “Ace Sled Dog”. This proposal will not change that.

How a member moves up the Skill Classification ladder is clear, what about down?

The path from higher skill levels to lower skill levels is the reverse of the routes from lower to higher skill levels.

When will the change take place?

As soon as the National Board of Directors approves it, which is hoped will occur near the end of this coming ski season, so the actual changes to membership cards will occur with the 2010 registration cycle.

How can I comment on the proposed Skill Classifications?

Comments are encouraged and should be sent attention to the Chair of the National Board of Directors Governance Committee, Clark Noble at cnoble@spro.net

What about Alumni members?

“Alumni” is not a Skill Classification, so has not been included in the schematic. It is hoped however that these proposed changes will help to keep NSP members registered as Patrollers longer. At the point where a member feels that they can no longer safely run toboggans, they may still retain the title Patroller instead of the current choice of “Auxiliary” and it is hoped that this will help to retain these members as registered Patrollers.