

1 Operational Policies

OP-01 Cold Weather Policy

WCCSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLICY

Policy Name: Cold Weather Policy

Number: OP-01

Policy Type: Operational Policy
02/15/21

Approved/Amended:

BACKGROUND

The Board is working towards health and safety of all members and staff. Cold weather is a regularly occurring situation in Whitehorse, and the ski club must be diligent to protect members and staff. This policy is part of the ski club's General Health and Safety Statement.

POLICY

When the air temperature as posted by Environment Canada at 8am at the Whitehorse Airport is -25C to -31.9 (without windchill) the Ski Chalet (and wax room) will be opening reduced hours. In reduced hours, the chalet will be open from Noon to 8pm on weekdays and 11am – 6pm on weekends.

When the air temperature as posted by Environment Canada at 8am at the Whitehorse Airport is -32C or colder (without windchill) the Ski Chalet (and wax room) will be closed.

The final decision for applying Cold Weather Policy is made by the WCCSC Managers based on the criteria above, and others such as weather forecast and month of the year. The Managers may open the Chalet at their discretion. This may occur if the Managers are confident that significant warning will occur during the day.

When the Chalet and Wax Room are closed, there are no rescue or other support services available from the Club. The Chalet phone will not be answered when the Chalet is closed. Skiing is not recommended. Members who choose to ski when the Chalet is closed do so at their own risk and must be self-sufficient.

During prolonged cold weather events, members who have lockers may wish to remove their equipment from their lockers to ensure they have access to it for the duration of the period of cold weather.

RATIONALE

The ski club needs a cold weather policy so that there is an understanding of expectations of users and staff during extremely cold weather. The policy recognizes the practicalities of opening at extreme temperatures, and that consideration is given to management and staff who are scheduled to open or close. The reasons for the cold weather policy are:

- Skier Safety - being open when -32C or colder sends a message that it is safe to ski or snowshoe. Although it can be safe to be outdoors in extreme cold, it should be up to each person to take

responsibility for their own safety. Novice skiers and snowshoers should be encouraged to venture out only with a qualified instructor or a partner who is experienced and should know that help will not be available at The Ski Base.

- Rescuer Safety – When the ski chalet is open there is an implication that help is available by phoning the ski club. If somebody is lost, overdue or injured, it will put ski club volunteers/staff/EMS at risk if a rescue is required.
- Staff safety – requiring staff to start vehicles or travel to work on extremely cold mornings in order to open may not be safe. Returning home after a shift is can be unsafe for the same reasons.
- There are costs associated with opening and closing the Ski Chalet. At extreme temperatures only a few people choose to ski or snowshoe, and providing a heated, staffed building for the chance that a few people will use it, is an unnecessary expense.

APPROVAL

The Board approves this Policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

The WCCSC Managers are charged with the implementation and day-to-day interpretation of this policy.

RELATED PROCEDURES

Cold Weather Procedures – the Ski Club Managers develops, approves and implements these Procedures (see attached unedited text for the Procedures)