

# **Essential Eligibility Criteria for Vail/Beaver Creek Ski and Snowboard School Lesson Products**

Vail Resorts operates under a United States Forest Service special use permit for public lands and requires an equal access/non-discrimination policy for all programs and buildings. The **Essential Eligibility Criteria (“EEC”)** listed below outlines the essential eligibility standards that are required for ALL guests to participate in a specific product (e.g. class lessons). This criterion outlines the basic level of function necessary for an individual to participate in a class lesson product:

The guest must be within the reasonable scope of the lesson (same terrain and speed as the rest of the group).  
The guest must not distract from the experience of other group lesson participants.  
The guest should not present a safety risk to themselves or others.

The purpose of our **EEC** is to give our employees and our customers the information they need to make an accurate, objective assessment when deciding if an individual’s abilities are appropriate for a group lesson format.

## **Group Lesson Inclusion Program and Assessment**

If it is unclear whether or not an individual meets the EEC but such individual would like to participate in a group lesson product, the individual must be assessed by an instructor or supervisor *prior* to being included in group lessons. Individuals interested in the inclusion program will need to book an adaptive lesson and alert the instructor that they want an assessment for inclusion. The instructor will work with the student and the student’s parents or guardian to determine the best lesson placement.

If a guest does not meet the EEC after being assessed by the instructor or a supervisor, one of the following will be provided:

- Inclusion into the class lesson product with mild adaptation (e.g., a smaller class or an instructor with adaptive experience).
- Inclusion into a class lesson product with the assistance of an integrated Ski Buddy provided through the Adaptive Ski and Snowboard School.
- Private Adaptive Lesson offered at a discounted rate at Vail or Beaver Creek scheduled through the Adaptive Ski and Snowboard School, which will be adapted to the needs of the guest and endeavor to integrate with a class lesson throughout the day.

In either of the first two alternatives, further assessment will take place during the course of the lessons. If the student cannot participate within the reasonable scope of the lesson or if there is a safety risk to themselves or others, the Vail/Beaver Creek Ski and Snowboard School has the right to suggest an alternative program that may be better suited for the individual.

Although every situation is unique to the individuals and groups involved, the above scenarios are possible ways to provide inclusion for those guests who may need a personalized level of inclusion. The choice of scenario is a collaborative effort between instructors, supervisors, and families to determine the most appropriate fit for the individual guest. All parties involved must be in agreement that the inclusion scenario not only benefits the student in the inclusion program, but also does not fundamentally alter the program for all other students as well. The Vail/Beaver Creek Ski and Snowboard School reserves the right to suggest an *alternative* inclusion scenario or, in cases where guests in the group lesson product perceive that their lesson experience has been compromised by the inclusion, no inclusion at all.

## **Eligibility Criteria for Group Lesson Inclusion**

There is a basic level of function that must be met by all individuals participating in ski or snowboard group lessons. For some individuals, the basic level of function can be achieved with additional assistance or other reasonable accommodation. The following **Essential Eligibility Criteria** lists the most basic functions necessary to allow for the safe participation in a ski or snowboard group lesson format. Although this list is comprehensive, there may be situations and variables that do not appear below and there are many different situations (such as weather, crowds, group dynamics, etc.) that make it impossible to list every form in which inclusion may take place. The Vail/Beaver Creek Ski and Snowboard School reserves the right to determine additional criteria at any time. It is the goal of the Vail/Beaver Creek Ski and Snowboard School to provide a positive group lesson inclusion experience not only for the individual, but for all other guests participating in the group lesson product.

### **Physical Abilities**

#### 1. Basic Participation

The student is able to do the following, either independently or with the assistance of a companion:

- Properly put on and take off equipment;
- Load, ride and unload lifts safely, as outlined by the NSAA in "Your Responsibility Code";
- Ski or snowboard on level-appropriate\* trails and areas, to control speed and to return to the base area; Travel at the same rate of speed as the group;
- Get up after falling, re-adjust equipment as necessary and continue on with the group in a reasonable amount of time;
- Attend lunch, visit restrooms, stop with the group on a trail or maneuver in a lift line.
- Perform all functions of the lesson within a reasonable time frame (without holding up the movement of the entire group);
- Continue with the group throughout the day without causing detours in terrain selection, additional breaks or other changes in the normal course of the lesson plan as designed for the entire group; and
- Follow "Your Responsibility Code."

Please note that inclusion into Group Lessons is most successful at Skiing or Snowboarding Level 3/ advanced beginner and above. Beginners and those unable to participate at this level should take Adaptive Private Lessons.

\* "Level appropriate" refers to any terrain, snow condition, weather condition, snow surface or any other factor that a typical Level 3 or above student encounters. For a complete description of ski & snowboarding levels used in Vail /Beaver Creek, please refer to our Ski and Snowboard School brochures and product guides.

#### 2. Safety Considerations

The student is able to do the following:

- Travel with the group at a similar rate of speed using the same basic turn shape as the rest of the group.  
*Example:* If the group travels down the mountain slowly, links turns with a traverse and stops together at the side of the hill, the student with a disability should be able to perform the same basic tasks, either independently or with the assistance of a companion. An example of unacceptable participation might be if the student with a disability travels straight down the hill at a high rate of speed, causing a safety risk for himself and those around him.
- Negotiate level-appropriate terrain without hindering the experience of other lesson participants or causing risk to personal safety.  
*Example:* If a student is signed up for a Level 5 intermediate skiing lesson, the group negotiates trails with the designated difficulty of green and easy blue. Depending on weather, snow conditions, crowds and other factors, typical Level 5 students can ski successfully in a variety of natural situations occurring on the mountain. The student with a disability should be able to negotiate the same terrain and conditions (either with or without the assistance of a companion).

## **Cognitive Abilities / Behavior**

### 1. Basic Participation

The student is able to do the following, either independently or with the assistance of a companion or interpreter:

- Identify who the instructor is for the day;
- Communicate personal needs to the instructor;
- Follow directions as communicated by the instructor;
- Socialize with a group of similar age and ability level students, without requiring extra attention from the instructor that distracts from his/her reasonable care of the entire group;
- Follow procedures for inadvertent separation from the group as outlined by the Vail/Beaver Creek Ski and Snowboard School;
- Maintain a reasonable level of willingness, desire and motivation to participate in the sport of skiing or snowboarding in a group lesson environment.

### 2. Safety Considerations

The student is able to do the following, either independently or with the assistance of a companion:

- Understand the cause and effect relationships in which an action or behavior may place the physical safety of himself or others at risk;  
*Example:* Understanding that turning (either independently or with the assistance of a companion) controls the rate of descent down the mountain, and failure to do so could result in an injury.  
*Example:* Understanding that traveling too close to another student (either independently or with the assistance of a companion) may cause a collision with that person, which may result in injury.
- Maintain the amount of attention and focus necessary to participate in a changing outdoor mountain environment, while being cognizant of the environment and other people within the environment, for the duration of the lesson; and
- Maintaining the amount of attention and focus necessary to participate in an indoor, noisy and possibly chaotic lunch environment (during an all day group lesson format).

## **Personal Companion Guidelines**

A guest may have a companion or guide that assists them with their skiing or snowboarding experience. Typically a companion is someone who knows the individual personally and has assisted in other experiences ranging from every day living to travel or other sports.

There are instances where a companion is actually detrimental to the safety and productive flow of a ski or snowboard lesson. The following is a list of reminders for companions when participating in a lesson with the Vail/Beaver Creek Ski and Snowboard School:

- With regard to skiing or riding activity, the instructor is the primary decision-maker for the student.
- Companions that are not specially trained, or are not Vail/Beaver Creek Adaptive Ski Buddies, will be allowed to participate in the inclusion program on a case by case basis.
- For their own safety and the safety of the class, companions must have an adequate ski or snowboard skill level (6 or above as outlined in the Ski and Snowboard School Brochure and product guide).

## **Conclusion**

All guests are welcome and important at the Vail/Beaver Creek Ski and Snowboard School. Our goal is to provide a professional level of care and service that creates the best possible experience for each and every individual visiting our resorts. The guidelines presented in this document are designed to help students, their family members and their specially-trained instructors make the best decisions for all parties concerned. It is impossible to list every scenario that may occur and we recognize that every person is special, valued and important. We hope that we will be able to accommodate every guest and provide them with an *experience of a lifetime™!*