



Appendix 1

Mountaineering Development Framework Ski Mountaineering

This framework identifies the structure and arrangements that MCofS should deploy to support the development of ski mountaineering.

Status in Scotland and Worldwide

1. Scotland has a growing body of participation in the sport and many people travel to make use of the excellent terrain of the Scottish Highlands. Many Munros can be efficiently ascended on skis, some such as the Cairngorms and Ben Lawers offer superlative terrain. However, there are barriers to entry in the need for a combination of both skiing and winter mountaineering expertise and the relatively high cost of suitable equipment.
2. The European Alps represent an outstanding area for the sport. Many ski mountaineers will have their first taste of the activity in the Alps; others graduate from Scotland to tours such as the Haute Route.

Description of Activity

3. The terms “ski mountaineering” and “ski touring” tend to be used interchangeably. The former affirms the connections with mountaineering more strongly. This may be desirable for the Council. Both reflect the use of skis to travel through and over mountainous terrain, generally without the use of mechanical uplift.
4. There are traditionally two broad disciplines in ski mountaineering which, to an extent, overlap. These are:
Alpine – using relatively heavy skis boots and bindings well suited to steep technical terrain.
Nordic – using lighter more flexible equipment well suited to more gentle rolling terrain
Telemark skiers occupy an intermediate position between these two extremes.

What does the activity need from MCofS?

5. The Council should ensure that an Officer or a committed volunteer is able to provide high quality guidance on ski mountaineering to the organisation, to experienced ski mountaineers and to novices and is also able to answer questions and brief media, government etc. In the event that the “expert” is a volunteer then a proportion of officer time should be committed to provide support.

6. This individual should be supported by an advisory committee or looser group of experts (the Ski Mountaineering Development Group or SMDG). This group should actively recruit recognised experts and Scottish opinion leaders – it should be clear that it is THE expert ski mountaineering body in Scotland.
7. The Ski Mountaineering Development Group will submit an annual work plan to the Executive for approval and will meet at least once per annum with other meetings by tele conference etc. as required.
8. The Council Executive should take pains to ensure that ski mountaineering gets a level of support and attention in policy and operation that reflects its importance as an activity.
9. The Council has an advocacy role in helping ski mountaineers liaise with the commercial operators providing mechanical uplift in the Scottish mountains.

How is the Development Plan to be delivered?

10. Dedicated MCoFS web pages should be arranged to provide information on the sport including:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice to skiers taking up ski mountaineering • Advice to mountaineers taking up ski mountaineering • Equipment • Access • Avalanche and ski safety • Avalanche Transceivers – operation and availability • Navigation on skis • Winter skills and general winter mountain safety • “Leave no trace” philosophy in the sport • Venues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members’ accounts of tours • Members’ forum • Current conditions • Touring in the Alps • Insurance • Recommended books and other links • Alpine huts and reciprocal rights • Glaciers • Notable news in the sport • Competitions • Sources of training • Opportunities for guided tours • Photo gallery |
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11. The in house specialist should be confident to give advice in all these areas (or to know someone who can...). In the short term the Council may use the expertise available at Glenmore Lodge or similar but should aim to have high level in-house expertise.

12. A biennial ski mountaineering seminar held in Scotland would bring participants together to aid policy making, for specialist inputs (such as good avalanche practice, access and conservation or crevasse rescue) and to celebrate the sport.

13. MCoFS should aim to become the first choice source of information on the sport for established and would be participants, journalists and film makers in Scotland and indeed in the UK as a whole.
14. Issuing of press releases and stimulation of magazine articles on ski mountaineering in the Scottish Mountaineer and elsewhere should be done on a targeted and regular basis

Liaison, Partnership and working with kindred bodies

15. The Council should give due prominence to ski mountaineering in its campaign and advocacy work with government and other national agencies. Support work such as monitoring participation numbers, and drawing comparison with arrangements in Alpine and Nordic countries should be undertaken.
16. Links are desirable with representative bodies and clubs for skiing, ski teaching, ski mountaineering and nordic skiing. These include Scottish Ski Club, BASI, Snowsport Scotland, Eagle Ski Club, and Ramblers Association.
17. SMDG should work with SAIS to design and develop avalanche education customised for ski mountaineers. The Council should lead the development and delivery of a model training syllabus which can then be “franchised out” to approved providers and clubs. It is likely to be inefficient for the Council to be a “deliverer” rather than an “enabler”.
18. SMDG should liaise with Snowsport Scotland and BASI to help establish skills coaching programmes appropriate to ski mountaineers.
19. BMC are essential partners concerning alpine access, reciprocal rights and insurance. It would be natural for the MCoFS to aspire to provide the UK lead in ski mountaineering with the agreement of BMC and others.
20. MLTS, BMG, Glenmore Lodge and **sportscotland** are key bodies concerning the provision of training and the training of ski mountaineering leaders. SMDG to help with syllabus content, format of courses etc so that the MCoFS ski mountaineering ethos is maintained.
21. Links should be established with other international federations who may run ski mountaineering races and competitions. This could include support for Scottish racers and a potential Scottish team as required.

Development Milestones – Year 1

- Management and advisory structure for ski mountaineering established and publicised
 - Dedicated web presence established
 - Twelve ski mountaineering features per annum published in national media
 - Increasing number of hits on MCoS ski mountaineering web pages
 - An identifiable and active ski mountaineering community in close contact with and members of MCoS
 - Agreed training courses available through a variety of sources (clubs, individuals, Glenmore Lodge etc).
 - Avalanche advice, information and training as described above made widely available
 - Estimate as to scale of participation
22. All of above to be reviewed on an annual basis by SMDG and then a new work program submitted to Executive for approval. Budget and officer time to be allocated in a manner that reflects the importance and ethos of the sport within the overall work of the Council.