

# The Hartford Ski Spectacular

## 2025 Essential Eligibility Criteria & Event Ski and Snowboard Policies and Guidelines

Participants must read, meet and agree to these program requirements as listed.

### The participant requesting lessons:

- Has a permanent, disabling condition.
- Agrees to disclose all disability and pre-existing conditions to The Hartford Ski Spectacular staff prior to arrival.
- Agrees to discuss their participation in winter sports lessons, and the risks associated with winter sports activities, at The Hartford Ski Spectacular with their primary physician and get approval to participate in the specific sport, specifically at altitude.
- Agrees to take part in a The Hartford Ski Spectacular Learn to Ski program at their own risk considering the potential for an increased exposure to COVID19 and other illnesses.
- Is able to actively participate in a lesson and understand that they are engaging in the specific sport lesson/clinic.
- Understands that for the safety of the skier and instructor, the maximum body weight of sit-skiers is strictly 220 pounds. Sit skiers may be weighed onsite to ensure they are within this limit. If a participant is over 220 pounds, they will not be able to sit-ski at the event. Is able to wear properly fitting, industry standard, safety equipment and must properly fit into equipment.
- Has personal equipment that must be in good working order and approved by a staff member at The Hartford Ski Spectacular. All personal equipment utilized at The Hartford Ski Spectacular Learn to Ski and Snowboard lessons is subject to organizational and programmatic policies.
- Understands any recommendations for equipment and instructor needs will be considered based on the participant's disability and safety. In the interest of safety, The Hartford Ski Spectacular staff and event leads reserve the right to make the decision on the appropriate equipment for each participant as well as the instructor(s) assigned to the lesson.
- The nature of the environment that our programs are held in is remote. Individuals and families must be comfortable with being out of direct contact with medical personnel while engaging in lessons.
- Will be able to follow directions independently or with the assistance of a caregiver.
- Will have a caregiver, parent and/or guardian who can provide supervision during non-lessons times, if necessary.
- Will have a caregiver, parent and/or guardian who can provide supervision, if needed, to use bathroom facilities during scheduled lesson times.
- Will have a caregiver, parent, or guardian available to administer all necessary medications, if needed, that are scheduled to be taken during lesson times.
- If a medical condition requires the immediate administration of medication, and/or medication needs to be administered in the event of a seizure, a trained caregiver, parent, or guardian must accompany the individual on the lesson.
- Agree to notify staff if you have any symptoms of illness and are unable to attend scheduled lessons.



## General

- Instructors must review student files prior to the first lesson, including: medical history, previous experience, and any additional information to ensure a safe and positive experience. Instructors must complete lesson evaluation daily.
- For the safety of the skier and instructor, the maximum body weight of sit-skiers is strictly 220lbs.
- In case of emergency, follow event emergency procedure steps provided at registration and posted throughout each department area.

## Lessons

- **Equipment:** All mono-skis, bi-skis, and sit-skis, including personal equipment, must have retention and evacuation straps.
- **Tethering:** When tethering fixed outriggers, ski-legs or sliders, a wrist lock is required. The wrist lock is defined as a girth or clove hitch that cinches to the instructor's wrist (next to the skin) when pulled on.
- **Sit Ski Seat Assist:** Seat assists should be conducted at the appropriate speed for the terrain and general traffic flow. Fixed outriggers are to be removed when seat assisting for entire runs.
- **Terrain and Conditions:** Instructors should use terrain and conditions commensurate with the skill level of the guest and activities being presented in the lesson. Instructors and guests in lessons should use speeds appropriate for terrain, conditions, personal skiing or riding skills, and general traffic flow.
- **Instructors:** We cannot guarantee participants will be assigned to a specific instructor based upon requests.
- The Hartford Ski Spectacular cannot guarantee a no fall lesson to any participant.
- If a participant arrives more than 15 minutes late to a lesson, the lesson may be modified or canceled.
- Helmets are mandatory for all on-snow participants, instructors, and volunteers.

## Lift Operations

### Communication with Chair Lift Operators

- Clear communication with lift operators is vital. Confirm with lift operator verbal and hand signals (i.e. how to convey "stop", "slow down", "pullback" and "okay").
- The lift operators should be made aware of any special needs PRIOR to entering lift loading area.
- There should be sufficient instructors and/or trained volunteers to load the student.
- DO NOT ask the lift operator to assist with a load if it interferes with their ability to hit the emergency stop button.
- Please report any lift operation issues to Move United or event staff.

### Loading and Unloading

- Simulate/practice loading and unloading with new students prior to using the actual lift.
- Explain the lift process in detail and establish action commands with the student prior to riding.
- It is the instructors' responsibility to make sure that ski/snowboard equipment is in good working order, and all retention straps and loose clothing/equipment are secured prior to entering the lift loading area.

### Riding the Lift

Students, staff and volunteers should always ride with the lift bar down if its use does not cause a safety concern. Retention straps should be used. A tether line or safety retention strap is required for all sit-down skiers and for anyone with conditions/disabilities that have an increased risk of unpredictable movements and/or falling (i.e. seizures or spasticity). This is especially important when there is no safety bar on the chair lift.

