

# CHAIRLIFT LOADING AND UNLOADING PROCEDURES

Lift operators (better known as “lifties”) are trained by the ski area to do a specific task; get skiers on and off the lift safely and efficiently. They will treat you and your student in the adaptive equipment the same. To some this means they will try to help. If they do, politely say that they can best help be staying close to the stop button and let you and your “booter” do all the work. Because it is loud under the lift, remember to use your hand signals. Also, remember that these hard working guys and gals are your friends, treat them as such. For your reference, attached is the Policy and Procedures the lift operators have been issued and will follow.

## BEFORE LOADING CHAIRLIFT

- ⇒ Are link pins secured in the undercarriage by cotter pins or ring pins?
- ⇒ On the mainframe, are there any loose bolts, cracks in welds or any bent parts?
- ⇒ Is evacuation system and retention strap webbing in good condition, not frayed?
- ⇒ Is a carabineer attached to safety strap?
- ⇒ Is the fiberglass seat cracked, broken or loose?
- ⇒ Are the ski(s) fractured or split?
- ⇒ Are screws connecting the frame to the ski(s) screwed down tight?
- ⇒ Is bolt on pressure release lever on the side of the jack locked tight?
- ⇒ If any parts are missing, cracked or broken do not use the ski until properly fixed. Alert the Program Coordinator in person or by phone of any needed repairs.

## CHAIRLIFT LOADING

Discuss w/ student loading progression.  
Discuss w/ student safety procedures.  
Practice loads on flats (use countdown).  
Ask lift operator for SLOW SPEED.

### Common Loading Problems

While lifting, ski tips are loaded causing tails to rise and foul oncoming chair causing misload.

Instructor and lifter not in sync while loading, causing unbalanced load.

Instructors not practicing loading procedures.

Trying to rush a load because of insufficient time between chairs.

Not clearing the chair height and getting the student all the way back on the chair.

## CHAIRLIFT UNLOADING

Discuss unloading sequence for exiting chair.  
Use proper hand signals to alert lift operator.  
If stop is needed, verbalize and use hand signal.  
Lift operator should be positioned to stop chair.

### Common Unloading Problems

Failure to disconnect retention strap

Failure to get ski off the chair on the flat prior to the nose of the ramp

Failure to be in communication with lift operator in case of potential dismount problems.

Failure to stabilize student in neutral position as student skis down ramp

Failure to prohibit student from leaning forward once the retention strap has been unhooked.

**If an incident/accident occurs while skiing, loading or unloading chairlift**, proper action should be taken to reduce the severity of the incident and ensure safe resolution. No comments shall be made at the scene (regarding cause, fault, etc.). Debriefing will occur later if necessary. A written INCIDENT REPORT must be completed ASAP. In addition, the Program Coordinator must be alerted. Conflicts with lift operators shall only be handled by the Program Director.