

TO: Tech Team Tryout Applicants
FROM: Kirsten Huotte
DATE: February 16, 2025
RE: Tech Team Tryout Update

Thank you for your application and interest in joining the PSIA-NW Technical Team. This is an update to give you some basic information on the tryout to help you prepare. More detailed information will be available as we approach the tryout dates, and you can expect more information on April 2nd 2025.

TRYOUT LOCATION & SCHEDULE

Our current plan is to hold the tryout at Mt. Bachelor April 25th – 27th 2025. As always weather and other factors could impact these plans and if there are any changes we will communicate right away.

TEAM COACH

The Team Coach position is on a 3-year term aligning with the term of the team. This position opens up for application every three years, allowing the current coach and any other qualified applicants to apply. The Team Coach for the next 3-year term will be announced by March 31st 2025. The Team Coach will be planning and executing all the details of the team selection process.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Skiing, Teaching, Technical and People Skills and Knowledge that far exceed the Level 3 standard.
- Clinicians who will be great ambassadors for the region, PSIA-AASI and snowsports in general.
- Professionals who are currently ready to step into the role of coaching NW Trainers and Education Staff without additional training needed.
- Communicate using basecamp and checking it multiple times per week for updates.
- Flexibility and experience to quickly adapt to factors like group dynamics, outdoor vs. indoor presentation, conditions of the day, etc. and put out a quality product.
- Proficiency with Zoom, Teams, Google Meets and other online meeting platforms.
- Availability for 20 or more days per year for a combination of leading clinics, attending training and meetings.
- Willingness to volunteer time for team training and content creation.
- Current PSIA-NW Ed Staff with experience leading clinics for the region **or** a combination of other equivalent experience leading clinics.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE TRYOUT

The tryout will be somewhat similar in format to the level 3 exam with the expectation of performance at a much higher level. It is also different than a level 3 exam in that there is not a specific standard, there is a limited number of positions available, and the team needs members

with a variety of backgrounds and skill sets. Selections will ultimately be made based on the needs of a collective team.

Performance at the tryout will primarily determine who is selected but a candidate's background, experience and previous performance will also be considered. Being a current team member does not guarantee selection and current team members will be evaluated during the tryout with the same criteria used for other participants.

The Tryout is likely to include:

- Teaching your peers and improving their skiing.
- Evaluation of your people skills throughout the entire application and tryout process.
- Sessions specifically designed to evaluate your technical understanding of skiing and movement analysis skills.
- Evaluation of your presentation skills in person and / or over video conferencing.
- Evaluation of your skiing skills, be prepared to demonstrate any of the current Alpine Certification tasks from all levels of certification in addition to modifications and / or variations of those tasks to make them more challenging.

To aid you in getting ready for the tryout we have also created the attached Tech Team Tryout Preparation List for your reference (page 3 of this document). These are all the details on the tryout that are available at this time and as stated we look forward to providing additional details on April 2nd 2025.

Sincerely

Kirsten Huotte
CEO, PSIA-NW

To aid in your training and preparation, here are some ideas and things that you should be prepared for:

- **Skiing:**
 - Well above the Level 3 standard. Greater precision at slow speeds. Higher energy at faster speeds. Better stability and consistency in challenging terrain and/or with difficult tasks.
 - Versatility: terrain, speed, turn sizes/shapes, specific movement applications.
- **Teaching:**
 - Well above the Level 3 standard. Adapting to individual needs in the moment.
 - Content that results in people skiing better.
 - Interpersonal skills and communication that is engaging and motivating for participants.
- **Technical Understanding and Movement Analysis:**
 - Well above the Level 3 standard. Greater clarity and conciseness recognizing and communicating what is happening, cause/effect relationships, and how to make changes.
 - Strong ability to clearly explain “it depends” answers, but also able to give definite and accurate responses when scenarios are narrow enough that it actually does not “depend”.
- **Exam/National Alignment:**
 - Whether you are currently an examiner or not, having a thorough understanding of the National Alignment materials (score sheets, performance guides, assessment criteria, etc.) and process is valuable knowledge for Technical Team members. School trainers and the membership will expect you to be knowledgeable about this.
- **Availability:**
 - Think carefully about how much time you can commit and specific limitations that you may have (no weekends, only weekends, etc.). There is a large amount of unpaid time that is expected of team members.
- **Other:**
 - Written articles, PowerPoint presentations, video interviews, written/online “quizzes/responses”, indoor presentations, book/article reviews, self-assessments and phone calls could also be a part of the application/tryout process. All of these are things that former Team members have been involved with during the course of their terms, and therefore that makes them relevant as a potential part of the selection process. Basically, “anything at any time” related to ski instruction is what you will want to be prepared for. Not because the selectors want to trick you, but because that is what the membership expects from you and will hit you with.