



46 Great Hollow Rd. · Cornwall, CT 06753 · 860.672.6100 · [www.mohawkmtn.com](http://www.mohawkmtn.com)

## WINTER SNOW-SURFACE USE POLICY – For all non-downhill skiers

### FAQ

Goal: To promote mountain safety  
To educate all guests what a “skier” is defined as per CT Law  
To educate all skiers of inherent risks, responsibilities and the constraints of mountain use  
To have consistent policies that take into account the needs of all skiers, mountain management and DEEP

#### Who IS a SNOW-SURFACE USER? Who is an UPHILLER

Anyone who, at any time, is on skiable terrain commonly used for downhill skiing. In addition to traditional downhill equipment, other users might skin, snowshoe, trek, walk or engage in some other on-snow sport or activity. An Uphiller may choose to travel up the mountain on a designated route. Some ski down and others may travel on foot.

#### Is every snow-surface user a “skier”?

**YES!** Connecticut General Statutes define each individual as a “skier” if they are travelling on any prepared (groomed) snow surfaces (skiable terrain) at a ski area, regardless of equipment or method or direction of travel. All “skiers” engage in the sport of “skiing”. Connecticut Skier Statutes apply to them.

#### What is skiable terrain?

In Connecticut we don’t always have natural snow, so we rely heavily, and at times – exclusively, on man-made snow. We consider “skiable terrain” to be the prepared, groomed surface. While we designate trails on which skiers may ski, the dimensions of any particular trail may vary from day to day, depending on snow conditions. We expect skiers to stay on the groomed surface... the “skiable terrain”, that we prepare for their enjoyment.

#### Why do we need a policy for uphill and other snow-surface users?

Connecticut does have laws in place that all skiers may not be aware of, even though they do apply to them.

The number of guests engaging in winter activities where travel is uphill or around the Mohawk Mountain environs has increased. With this greater frequency comes more chance for adverse interaction between all types of skiers, exposure to the inherent risks of skiing and direct contact with routine mountain operation, including night or after hour snowmaking and grooming activities.

#### Are uphill and other snow-surface users held to the same rules as downhill skiers?

**YES!** There are 3 prevailing components to this policy.

##### 1. State Statute

Connecticut General Statute Statutes 29-201, 29-212 and 29-213 pertain to skiing, for winter sport participants and the state’s ski areas.

##### 2. “Your Responsibility Code”

Mohawk Mountain, like areas all across North America, has adopted “Your Responsibility Code” as the rules of our slopes. This Code is a safety conscious list of rules that all skiers must accept, respect and obey so they can all enjoy Mohawk Mountain, no matter what equipment they use or what direction they are going.

##### 3. Mohawk Mountain

Mohawk Mountain has area specific rules that pertain to its operation and to what skiers can do. They work effectively. They also reflect CT DEEP regulations that Mohawk Mountain must support.

With these practical and common-sense regulations in place, Mohawk Mountain is a better winter sport environment for all skiers.

#### Can Mohawk Mountain set rules for uphill and other snow-surface users?

**YES!** Mohawk Mountain has the right and duty to establish rules reflecting responsible use of public land within Mohawk State Park, especially as they pertain to public safety. This is also part of a national trend. Other areas have or are developing similar protocols for their resort terrain. In most cases they are more restrictive than ours.

There are limitations in place to minimize risks for all our guests by making sure uphill and other snow-surface users (skiers) are aware of inherent risks and our policies regarding appropriate conduct and trail utilization.



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Do we have specific uphill routes and terrain?

**YES**, and routes are limited.

Mohawk Mountain's only designated base to summit uphill route is on the southerly edge (the right side looking uphill) of the Mohawk Trail. This route crosses trails entering from the right. Uphillers must stop, look and then proceed with caution. Do not stop in any trail opening. There is no alternative uphill route to the summit.

There is a short uphill and downhill access route to the race finish area, starting on the north side of the Arrowhead Lift base, continuing up the Arrowhead lift line and Exhibition trail before crossing through woods to the race finish line area. Uphill traffic is not allowed above this point. On race days, this route will terminate in a designated spectator area.

ALL uphill traffic must be single file and stay within the designated 8ft wide route, at the right edge of the skiable terrain. This terrain is not for the exclusive use of uphill traffic. Be prepared for oncoming downhill traffic; they have the right of way.

Additionally, when crossing the Mohawk Mountain base areas, snow-user (skier) traffic not on traditional downhill equipment must remain 20 feet downhill of all lift bases and/or lift loading areas. Cross-base area skier traffic is not permitted south of the Ski Patrol Building or north of the Arrowhead Chairlift. All cross-base terrain is in designated Slow Skiing Zones. Crossing downhill skiable terrain requires stopping and looking uphill at *each* trail intersection per "Your Responsibility Code" and other regulations. Skier traffic not on traditional downhill equipment is not allowed in the Hawk's Nest area at any time, except for those who are picking up children from programs.

Always be aware of surroundings, understand the risks of uphill, base area or cross-trail travel, do not obstruct trails and use common sense.

I'm just walking and don't have any winter equipment. Do I have to heed these rules and conditions?

**YES!** By walking on any skiable terrain, you become a "skier" under CT law, even though you aren't using ski equipment. Like uphillers, you may be moving in a different direction than the majority of other skiers. As such, you are a potential hazard for downhillers and you could also be injured. By keeping to the specific designated routes, you are more predictable.

Additionally, deep foot or snowshoe prints in soft snow are a hazard for other skiers long after they are made. Under certain conditions, all non-ski or snowshoe traffic may be restricted or prohibited.

On some race days, a special uphill travel path may be designated to access a race spectator area.

What if I am returning downhill after I climbed up?

If you are returning downhill on foot, you must stay within the designated 8ft wide route, at the left edge of the skiable terrain on the specific Uphiller paths. Be aware of all up and down-hill traffic and trail crossings.

If you are returning downhill on some kind of controllable skis or snowboard (securely attached to your feet), you may ski down any open trail, with other downhill ski traffic. Obey all signage and rules.

Sliding, on any form of sled, saucer, tube, snow-bike or other device, is not allowed at any time.

Is there anything about equipment that I need to know?

**YES!** All equipment should be in good condition... clean and safety inspected as appropriate. Boots should have treads designed for secure snow travel. All equipment designed to slide on the snow surface must securely attach to the skier's feet and have a restraint device intended to prevent runaway hazards. Helmets are suggested but not required under CT law.

Why do you recommend skier awareness devices for uphillers... and what IS that?

If you are going up downhill skiable terrain, you are not expected by most other skiers. Wearing bright clothing like a safety vest, having a flag or beacon or clearly identifying yourself in some way makes you more visible to downhill skier traffic and less of a hazard.

Do I need to buy a lift ticket?

**NO!** There is no charge to use the designated skiable terrain areas unless you plan to use a chairlift during your visit. \*You may only use a chairlift if you are using skis or a snowboard.



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What are inherent risks?

There are infrastructure, operational, geographic, naturally occurring objects and hazards that are characteristic of any skiing venue. Many are listed in CT statutes. They are part of the terrain, or the equipment that ski areas need to operate effectively. They may delineate boundaries or natural features. They are usually obvious and some are marked with skier awareness devices like signage, nets, fencing and covers that are colorful and visible. Stay attentive and use common sense.

No skier can go into closed, restricted or off-limit areas at any time. Abide by all signs, informational notices and marked areas.

Why do I have to pay attention to maps and signage?

Maps indicate the overall layout of Mohawk Mountain in addition to locating special areas like those for slow skiing, night lighting and uphill travel. They also show trail names and levels of difficulty. Maps online and in the lodge also show conditions and open/closed trails as well as where there may be ongoing activities like snowmaking, grooming, maintenance or races.

Permanent signage identifies trails, boundaries and landmarks as well as conveying general information. Closed trail and hazard markers are examples of temporary signs or awareness devices that appear around the mountain at different times. These reflect changing conditions or restricted entry to closed trails or other areas. All signage conveys important information that skiers need to know... and heed.

Why can't I go on closed trails?

Mohawk Mountain doesn't close trails unless there is a *good* reason. We prefer having our terrain open so our downhill skiers can enjoy it.

Safety is the main reason for trail closures. They also occur when there is no lighting, snowmaking and grooming are in progress, hazards exist or because the snow surface is not adequate. Occasionally trail access is restricted because of a race, special event or some kind of incident.

DO NOT GO ONTO ANY CLOSED TRAILS OR TERRAIN. It is against CT law. Not only is it unsafe for skiers but it puts others at risk too if they are working in the closed area or need to go into a closed area to assist you.

**ALL TRAILS ARE CLOSED TO ALL PUBLIC USE, INCLUDING SKIING, OUTSIDE OF POSTED OPERATING HOURS.** Please note that these hours can vary according to conditions or time of year. Check our website ([mohawkmtn.com](http://mohawkmtn.com)) or with our office for the most current information.

If Mohawk Mountain is open, how do I know if a trail is closed or restricted?

Ski Patrol posts signs and/or markers at the top entries to closed trails. Signage in the lodge and on the Mohawk Mountain web site reflect the terrain status. Please check them.

Why does it matter if I am here before the area opens and after it closes?

It is CT State Park law. All parks open at dawn and close at dusk, **except** where DEEP allows for special use, like Mohawk Mountain. We determine opening and closing times and they can vary according to operational needs. In winter, all trails are closed to public use when the ski area is not operating. All skiers are welcome during any operating hours but not at any other times.

These restrictions are in place for skier safety. Ski Patrol is not available for assistance. Skiers on dark terrain are not visible to snowmaking and grooming staff operating machinery and skiers may not see hazards on the terrain, especially when those operations are in progress.

A CLOSED TRAIL IS NOT A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, NO MATTER HOW APPEALING THE SNOW MIGHT SEEM.

Why can't uphillers cross skiing terrain?

Skiers coming downhill have the right of way as noted in "Your Responsibility Code" and ski area rules and practices everywhere. Many of our downhill skiers are inexperienced and may have trouble avoiding someone in their path, as might slower moving uphill skiers.

Why are there Slow Skiing Zones? Where are they?

Slow skiing areas are shown on Mohawk Mountain maps. They moderate speed in areas where trails merge, where terrain is easier and skiers are less experienced as well as where any congestion might occur, like around the base area and at the top of lifts.



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Why no pets?

Many of us agree that pets are beloved and fun companions BUT snowy ski trails and skiable terrain are a bad place for them and they are not allowed. Skiers, including owners, can become entangled with or hit pets, causing injury. Cuts from skis and boards can be catastrophic. Pets are susceptible to extreme weather, especially snow on tender paws. Not all pets are as well behaved as their owners think, especially in stressful situations. Ski Patrol is not equipped to care for pets. Not all pet owners are responsible about sanitation.

DEEP allows pets in some instances, when restrained on leashes no longer than 6 feet and always monitored... just not on skiable terrain. Leashed or tied pets cannot be left unattended anywhere at Mohawk Mountain. They are not allowed in the lodge. Do not leave them in vehicles in any adverse weather conditions as concerned individuals have notified animal control agencies in the past.

Identified and documented service animals are allowed in public assembly areas, including lodges but not on skiable terrain.

Do I have to listen to a Patroller and do what they say?

**YES!** The 'National Ski Patrol' is a Federally Chartered Organization for skiing, first-aid responders. It is an exceptional assistance, safety, education and winter-sport advocacy group. Our Patrol is part of this organization and Mohawk Mountain supports their dedication and missions for safer mountain experiences and providing assistance to skiers.

Mohawk Mountain's Patrollers are the logical on-snow monitors of skier activity and conditions. Ski Patrol has authority over *all* mountain guests. With management support, Patrollers can ask skiers not following policies or who are endangering themselves or others, to leave Mohawk Mountain or to call State Police for assistance if necessary. Public Safety Infractions and Misuse of State Land are chargeable offences in CT.

Will the policy for uphillers change?

Maybe. The program is evolving. Based on things like use, skier traffic and adherence to established rules, Mohawk Mountain may adapt or cancel uphill and other snow-user access any time. We review and revise policies regularly. We welcome input from guests. We have an uphiller information page on our web site and a specific map and brochure available. Both reflect current policies.