



# MRM Ski Patrol Toboggan Loading Procedures

## Effective January 2026

At Mad River we have two types of toboggans – the Legend and the SS Cruiser. All of our sled pullers are trained to run both types and to be aware of the differences. Following are the general procedures / guidelines to be followed when returning a toboggan via chairlift to its designated storage location after use. *Safety is always to be the top priority and to ensure this there will be times when judgement will require slight modifications.*

- **Preparing the toboggan –**

- Remove toboggan bag – to be separately carried up the chair for storage at the top
- Secure backboard inside toboggan with minimum of one strap
- Secure tail rope in toboggan
  - Fasten with a toboggan strap or loop through the front bow handles.
  - This also sets it up to use when offloading from chair
- Attach chair carrier using the four ring anchors
  - Open side of carrier goes towards the tail of the toboggan



- **Moving through the access area to chair –**



- Approach lift line using available access points at setup by mgt. Current preferred location is below the quad chair base (patio side).
- Patroller can slide the toboggan up to the chairlift holding the bow handles or the tail rope can be looped through the bow handles to pull the toboggan behind “walk the dog” fashion. Some patrollers carry their own “leash” with carabiner which is acceptable.
- Arrange patrollers or empty chair both ahead and behind the chair used to transport toboggan for safety reasons.
- Note – for candidate training, it is recommended that a candidate and current alpine patroller load together until assured that the candidate is able to appropriate load and unload as a single rider.

- **Loading the chair –**

- Single patroller – this person should be opposite side of toboggan from bullwheel.
  - The purpose of this is to avoid a patroller being trapped if offloading goes badly at the top
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  - If the single patroller is a boarder, they need to be able to face the toboggan and able to ride efficiently (ie. If they must ride switch).
- 2 patrollers are also an allowed option.



- Both patrollers actively manage the loading/offloading of the toboggan
- They will need to have an offload plan for which direction they will pull the sled.
  - Bring the toboggan onto the loading ramp, get the toboggan as close as possible to parallel with the travel path of the chair.
  - If the chair has more than 2 seats, try to center yourself and the toboggan for best balance.
  - Placing carrier/toboggan on the chair
    - It is ok to ask chairlift operator to slow down the chair
    - As the chair approaches, use the handle of the chair carrier to lift up the carrier so it is high enough for the seat of the chair to set into the carrier 'hook'.
    - Patroller then immediately sits next to the carrier holding toboggan.

- While riding –
  - Patroller(s) maintain grip on the carrier to avoid any action that would cause it to slip forward.

- Unloading chairlift –



- Place hand nearest the carrier under the carrier handle (palm up) for best offloading strength.
- As soon as the back of the toboggan touches the offloading ramp, stand up and then LIFT AND PUSH forward on the carrier handle to remove it from the chair seat.
- Once it is clear of the seat, glide down the ramp allowing the toboggan to slide beside on the ground.
- Hold on to the handle and guide the toboggan away from the ramp area.
  - Tail rope can be used to 'leash' the toboggan and guide it away from the off-loading ramp.



- Preparation for storage
  - Remove the toboggan carrier to be taken back down to the patrol room for storage
  - Unstrap the backboard
  - Recoil the tail rope and secure it to back of toboggan
  - Place the bag on top of backboard then secure the combined pack and backboard with the toboggan patient straps
  - Fold the handles down over the packed toboggan and slide into the designated tube
- Training, monitoring, and general considerations
  - On a daily basis any adjustments to these protocols will be determined by the Training Team Leads and/or the Hill Leader in coordination with area management.



- Consideration of guest traffic should be priority on busy days, allowing more chairs to load customers before loading a toboggan unless there is an emergency.
- Toboggans primary loading area is below the quad above the patio area. Prep can be done to the side of the chairlift base area a bit out of traffic as needed, then pull in when ready to merge. On busy days it may be better to load from hillside to limit interruption of customer traffic flow as much as possible. When needed, toboggans can also be uploaded on the other chairlifts following above procedures as close as practical.