



**Snowsport England  
Facilities Strategy 2011 – 2015**

A strategy produced with support from  
**Sport Structures Ltd**



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## **Executive Summary**

### **Welcome and foreword**

For many years other sports have grown and maintained participation levels along with strategies to provide those engaged in sport a high standard of facility, to encourage both current users but as a vehicle for attracting others to the sport.

This document, Snowsport England's first comprehensive national facilities strategy, will be of significant interest to those already involved in snowsport, but it is also essential that a wider audience receive the key messages contained within this comprehensive document . This strategy must be read and understood by, local authorities, planning bodies and developers who have the ability to help us to provide, and maintain, the facilities needed by those wishing to take part in snowsport in England.

This strategy is very much the first step for snowsport and will act as a platform from which we can develop our approach to the improvement of existing facilities as well as our approach to supporting the development of new facilities. We hope that members, clubs, snowsport centre managers, owners, local authorities, planning bodies and developers will use this strategy to help improve facilities for all disciplines and grow participation in snowsport. Like all strategies they develop over time as the world changes, now we have such a base to develop from it must continue to evolve to ensure that snowsport can build on the success of early years.

Barry Spouge

Chairman and Director, Snowsport England

## **Introduction**

Snowsport in England has a network of established facilities; these facilities have been provided by enthusiastic voluntary clubs, committed local authorities and by commercial organisations offering a range of opportunities to take part in snowsport. Snowsport in England takes place within a variety of environments including centres with natural snow slopes (when snow conditions allow), synthetic matting centres (dry slopes) and artificial snow centres (mainly indoor slopes). Roller skiing (a form of cross country skiing) also take places in England on closed circuit cycle tracks.

Existing facilities cater for all major snowsport disciplines such as Alpine, Nordic, Snowboarding and Freestyle. The development of snowsport facilities in England began in the 1960s and, under a variety of influences, has seen a multitude of designs and configurations. There have been many improvements in facility design and the introduction of new surface materials. These developments have had a profound effect on the sport. Snowsport is unlike many other sports in that no two facilities are the same and needs differ significantly between disciplines. The development of a national facilities strategy aims to provide guidance on specifications relevant to the development of the sport in each of the major disciplines, but does not seek to constrain the innovation that is such a strength of the sport.

Partnership working with national agencies, local authorities, commercial and voluntary facility operators, Snowsport England committees, clubs, schools and members is important to us. This executive summary aims to highlight the importance of having a facilities strategy, outline the approach we have taken so far, and sets out to identify the benefits to the partners we want to work with. The full strategy document starts on page 8.

### **Why does snowsport need a national facility strategy?**

Nationwide facility planning and development in snowsport is very much in its infancy compared to many sports where research based facility standards and specifications have been developed over 40 years or more. We do now have some evidence to support proposals, but much more research will be necessary to further advance the sport in terms of facility development and for us to provide robust comparison with other sports. The aim of the strategy is to provide Snowsport England with a framework for the delivery of facilities for snowsport that meets the needs of current and future participation, and is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

When we initially proposed the concept of developing a national facilities strategy for Snowsport we faced some scepticism. In 2009 we produced our Whole Sport Plan which outlined key improvements required at a local, regional and national level and particularly focused on the development of facilities. In order to provide a clear direction for us to guide and influence facilities we recognised the need to develop a National Facilities Strategy to complement the Whole Sport Plan. We have set out to provide a comprehensive and robust plan for snowsport provision up to 2015 and in broad terms until 2020 that can:

- influence the development and retention of facilities for snowsport,
- provide access to additional funding opportunities,
- be a guide for the development of quality facilities which meet the needs of all participants regardless of ability or discipline, and
- be used as an evidence base for planning policies and proposals across England.

### **How our strategy was developed?**

In 2010 we commissioned a national facilities audit. The audit included a comprehensive facility assessment process undertaken from April to August 2010. The assessment process included a desk based review and 50 site visits to snowsport facilities. Site visits incorporated interviews with management staff and site surveys focused on the quantity, quality, accessibility and future adaptability of provision. Needs assessments were undertaken through market surveys with snowsport clubs and an open forum session at the annual general meeting of Snowsport England which

offered an opportunity for members to engage with the shaping of strategic priorities for facilities. In addition, visits were made to several proposed snowsport centres and meetings were held with surface manufacturers. The findings from the audit provided a clear picture of the current position of snowsport facilities in England and the findings along with further consultation and input from a steering group have been used to inform the development of this facilities strategy.

## **Our vision**

To have a high quality network of sustainable snowsport facilities by 2020 that enhances the experience of snowsport participants at all levels

The achievement of our vision for snowsport facilities is simplified by working towards the following objectives. For each objective within the strategy we have identified key actions, the resources needed (human and financial), who is responsible for the actions, and how success will be measured.

## **Our objectives and core actions**

[Raising standards - Support targeted facilities to enhance provision and develop best practice in facility management](#)

We will;

- Establish a National Facilities Strategy Group to guide, oversee and monitor the progress of the strategy
- Extend the support offered to snowsport centres
- Provide facilities with management guidance and signpost to the UK Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure (QUEST)
- Map and promote all snowsport facilities online
- Improve standards of disability access
- Provide topical workshops for facility operators.

[Planning for the future - Provide strategic direction to proposed and planned developments](#)

We will;

- Work with Sport England to include snowsport facilities within future planning guidance
- Produce document packs for clubs, snowsport centre managers, owners, local authorities, planning bodies and developers

- Promote the strategy and discipline specifications
- Work with developers of new facilities to enhance provision in areas of deficit.

#### Effective partnerships - Coordinate partnership working with stakeholders (including facilities, funders, local authorities, clubs and schools)

We will;

- Work with Sport England and British Cycling to produce facility guidance and specifications for roller skiing
- Produce guidance for facilities on major and small grants programmes
- Support clubs in formalising agreements with snowsport centres
- Work with local authorities to identify ways to retain snowsport facilities
- Work with snowsport centres facing significant challenges to identify potential partnerships and solutions.

#### Developing evidence - Coordinate a database of facilities and critically analyse data to inform decision making

We will;

- Commission research into the opinions and needs of facility users
- Develop a secure area of the website for snowsport centre managers to share good practice
- Conduct research with performers to establish facility requirements for high performance training
- Commission research into artificial surfaces to establish which are most appropriate for each discipline and performance level.

### **How you can use our facilities strategy?**

#### As a county sports partnership

The strategy will help County Sport Partnerships (CSPs) to maximise the snowsport assets within their county - including both slope based centres and circuit based facilities to promote roller skiing as a mass participation sport. CSPs may play a role in promoting and advocating the strategy. CSPs may also be able to offer support for identifying local opportunities to develop facilities and increase participation. Other support may include assistance with funding applications.

### As a local authority

Local authorities have traditionally been a large investor in snowsport facilities. Public sector cuts mean that this is likely to change with a move in local government towards seeking alternatives to managing and maintaining facilities. Local Authorities should use the strategy to recognise the significance of the facilities they have within their boundaries and the positive impact snowsport facilities can have in relation to participation, regeneration and inward investment. Facilities of strategic importance to the sport have been identified and we hope to work in partnership with local authorities to provide solutions to reduce overheads and retain facilities. The nature of snowsport means that a strong relationship with planning departments will be important as developers propose new facilities.

### As a facility owner/manager

Existing facility owners and managers will play an important role in facility development and in ensuring that there is growth in participation. The strategy and resulting actions will act as the catalyst for advice, support, partnership development, relationship building and good practice. We want to encourage operators to seek support to enhance, improve and retain existing provision.

### As a developer

The strategy provides evidence on need, areas of deficit and research on population catchments as well as guidance on specifications for each discipline. This will assist in the design of facilities to ensure that the maximum return can be achieved on investment. Developers are encouraged to engage with us and to use the strategy at regular points through the planning process to ensure facilities are fit for purpose and able to grow participation.

### As a snowsport club

Clubs are vital to facilities. In most cases clubs will be active users of facilities and a key link to a broad base of participants. The strategy will support partnerships between facility management staff and clubs to enhance the snowsport offer. Those clubs that own their facilities will benefit from a consistent approach, guidance and sharing of good practice. We hope that clubs will be an advocate for the strategy and the development of facilities.

## Summary

We need to prioritise our activities. Due to the resources we have available and the capacity of the professional staff and volunteers that contribute to our work, we need to focus on the areas of work that will provide the biggest return in terms of stakeholder engagement and participation in our sport.

The strategy outlines realistic actions and measures to monitor the progress within a four year action plan. We will use the strategy to guide and influence the provision of facilities, to maintain and where possible protect existing provision, determine the future of planned/proposed developments, promote partnership working and prioritise the use of resources. The strategy will seek to meet four key outcomes:

Outcome 1: Sustained and increased levels of snowsport participation and satisfaction

Outcome 2: Improved performance in international competition

Outcome 3: Facility managers engaged with the activities of Snowsport England

Outcome 4: Evidence based planning standards and guidance for future facility development

**Snowsport facilities in England have a fundamental role in supporting the growth of participation as many snowsport centres will provide users with their first experience of snowsport. The standard of facilities has an impact on the satisfaction felt by participants and determines whether their experiences lead to sustained snowsport participation. We do not have the resources to build facilities but we aim to influence the provision of current and new facilities to help the development of affiliated clubs, grow participation, increase satisfaction and improve the sport as a whole.**

**Contents**

Executive Summary ..... 1

Introduction..... 9

Strategic Development..... 10

Part one: Snowsport England facilities – Where are we now? ..... 13

    Historical development of facilities..... 13

    Our involvement ..... 13

    Market demand for facilities..... 15

    Satisfaction with facilities..... 16

    Facilities audit ..... 16

Part two: Snowsport England Facilities – Where do we want to be? ..... 21

Part three: Priorities and implementation – How we are going to get there? ..... 22

    Classifications..... 31

    Population catchments ..... 32

    Provision standards for future/planned developments ..... 33

    Provision standards for existing facilities ..... 34

    Refurbishment..... 37

    Implementation plan – How we will deliver and who are our partners?..... 39

    Monitoring and Evaluation – How will we know when we have got there?..... 42

Part Four: Action Plan ..... 44

Part Five: Facility Specifications ..... 49

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## Introduction

Snowsport in England takes place within a range of facilities which enable participants to take part in the four core disciplines of snowsport; Alpine, Nordic, Snowboarding and Freestyle. Snowsport within England is limited by both the natural landscape and its temperate climate. These limitations appear not to have restricted the determination to develop facilities for participants to enjoy a snowsport experience. The current network of facilities within England has been developed through enthusiastic voluntary clubs and individuals, ambitious and foresighted local authorities and by commercial organisations seeking to capitalise on a sport with a broad potential market.

The historical development of snowsport facilities in England has been ad hoc with snowsport centres created by a range of management organisations and operators with little influence or guidance from the national governing body. Snowsport England (the trading name of the English Ski Council) is the recognised governing body for snowsport in England. Due to the continual growth in snowsport facilities in the 1980s, a National Facilities Strategy was produced in 1988<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately this document did not achieve its objectives. In 2010 Snowsport England (henceforward referred to as “we”) commissioned an audit of facilities in England to inform a new strategy. This was prompted by changes in facilities since the production of the initial strategy and recommendations outlined within Snowsport England’s Whole Sport Plan 2009-2013, which included the need for:

- Further analysis on demand for the sport, and the identification of priority locations.
- Legal advice and support on access to facilities, including potential standard model clauses for freehold and legal agreements
- Project based guidance for synthetic matting centres to investigate ways of increasing viability and quality.
- Closer working with facility managers to help gain reduced rates for events.
- An increase in the quality of and the accessibility provision at facilities.
- Improved satisfaction with facilities amongst participants.

## **Strategic Development**

We recognised the need to define the direction for snowsport facilities in England up to 2015 and in broad terms up to 2020. Understanding that this would best be achieved through the development of a national facilities strategy, we established a steering group comprising of representatives from the four snowsport disciplines, regional snowsport associations, stakeholder organisations and governing body staff. The steering group advised on the data collection tools, audit reporting and were involved in a series of strategy workshop sessions aimed at shaping and developing the strategic priorities for snowsport facilities.

### **Rationale and purpose of the strategy**

Snowsport facilities have changed significantly since the production of the 1988 facilities strategy, as the number of Snowsport centres in England has reduced. However, the introduction of artificial snow centres and increase in the number of cycle tracks suitable for roller skiing has led to a broader range of facilities being available. Snowsport facilities in England have a fundamental role in supporting the growth of participation as many facilities will provide users with their first experience of snowsport. The standard of facilities has an impact on the level of satisfaction which users' gain from participation and whether their experiences lead to sustained snowsport participation in England. We do not have the resources to build facilities but we aim to influence the provision of current and new facilities to help the development of the sport and affiliated clubs.

In partnership with Sport England we produced a brief for consultants to carry out a facilities audit and develop a facilities strategy. Within this brief the following aim and objectives were identified:

The aim of this strategic document is to: provide Snowsport England with a framework for the delivery of facilities for snowsport that meets the needs of current and future participation, and is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

The main reasons for having a facilities strategy are to: provide a comprehensive and robust facilities strategy for snowsport for the period to 2015 and in broad terms until 2020 that can:

- influence the development and retention of facilities for snowsport,
- Provide access to additional funding opportunities
- be a guide for the development of quality facilities which meet the needs of all participants regardless of ability or discipline, and
- be used as an evidence base for planning policies and proposals across England.

Sport Structures Ltd was commissioned to support the development of the audit and strategy. The 2010 Snowsport facilities audit included a comprehensive facility assessment process undertaken from April to August 2010. The assessment process included a desk based review and 50 site visits to snowsport facilities. Site visits incorporated interviews with management staff and site surveys focused on the quantity, quality, accessibility and future adaptability of provision. Needs assessments were undertaken through market surveys with snowsport clubs and an open forum session at the annual general meeting of Snowsport England which offered an opportunity for members to engage with the shaping of strategic priorities for facilities. In addition, visits were made to several proposed snowsport centres and meetings were held with surface manufacturers. The findings from the audit provide a clear picture of the current position of snowsport facilities in England and have been used to inform the development of this facilities strategy document. For more details see the separate audit document: *Snowsport England National Facilities Audit Report (2010)*.

This strategy determines the way in which we interact with current facilities and how we can influence new facility developments in the future. This strategy document has been designed as a 'working' or 'live' document which we will continue to adapt and shape to guide the provision of facilities for snowsport in England. We have divided it into five sections:

Part one: This section provides a brief overview of the current picture of snowsport provision – where are we now? (Extracted from: *Snowsport England National Facilities Audit Report 2010*).

Part two: This section outlines the vision, objectives and outcomes for the future of snowsport facilities in England up to 2020. The objectives underpin our work over the next four years 2011-2015.

- Part three: This section is essential for snowsport in taking a realistic approach to what work is done first and what can be addressed at a later stage in the facilities strategy. It outlines priorities and our approach to implementation.
- Part four: This section seeks to outline clearly the direction for Snowsport England in the provision of snowsport facilities up to 2020. The action plan considers medium term actions over the next four years (2011 – 2015) - action plan years 1 – 4.
- Part five: This section provides facility specifications guidance notes for each snowsport discipline. These have been compiled by Snowsport England as part of the Snowsport England National Facilities Strategy 2011-2015.

## **Part one: Snowsport England facilities – Where are we now?**

**This section provides a brief overview of the current picture of snowsport provision extracted from: *Snowsport England National Facilities Audit Report 2010.***

### Historical development of facilities

- 1.1 Artificial surfaces for snowsport were introduced in England in the early 1960s to enable snowsport participation in areas with insufficient snowfall for activity on natural snow slopes. The number of snowsport centres, particularly synthetic matting centres, grew rapidly in the 1980s and early 1990s, but has slowed down since. The first artificial snow centre was built in 1994 and there are now five artificial snow centres, the most recent of which opened in 2009. The early facilities initially focused on the provision of opportunities for the discipline of Alpine skiing. This changed in the 1980s with the growth of Nordic Skiing, Snowboarding and the recognition of Freestyle skiing in England. Snowboarding and freestyle skiing influenced the design of snowsport centres and led to the introduction of big air jumps/kickers, rails, quarter pipes and half pipes. Cross country skiing (using roller skis) became popular in the late 1970s and originally took place on tarmac surfaces such as cycle circuits and tracks, parks, roads, car parks and sports areas. More recently roller skiing has taken advantage of circuits that have been built specifically for cycling. The growth of snowsport facilities in England since the 1960s has been rather ad-hoc and has been shaped by market forces and local initiatives far more than strategic planning at a national level.

### Our involvement

- 1.2 Snowsport England (the trading name of the English Ski Council) is the recognised governing body for snowsport in England. The rapid growth in snowsport facilities in the 1980s led to us producing a National Facilities Strategy in 1988<sup>2</sup>. This document has become obsolete and furthermore was largely ineffective, having failed to identify ways in which its aims might be achieved. More recently we have outlined our ambition to grow participation, sustain quality of experience and excel in performance through our Whole Sport Plan 2009-2013. The plan contains four main interventions to increase participation. Facilities are crucial to *Intervention 1 – Increasing participation and membership; to*

*grow participation by 7,000*'. The plan outlines our approach to growing participation, developing the sport and supporting affiliated clubs by working to both improve users' satisfaction with existing facilities and influence the provision of new facilities.

1.3 We currently have a total of six full-time and two part-time members of staff. The development team currently works with 10 priority centres<sup>3</sup> selected as part of a development programme<sup>4</sup>. Staff provide support on increasing participation (disadvantaged communities, clubs, coaches, volunteers, schools and events) as well as guidance on workforce development, business planning and management practices.

1.4 Snowsport can be divided into four core disciplines, which each have a number of sub-disciplines:

- Alpine - Downhill, Super G, Giant Slalom, Slalom, Speed Skiing, (Touring/Mountaineering)<sup>5</sup>
- Nordic - Cross-country (Classical and Skating), Jumping<sup>6</sup>, Telemarking/Nordic downhill<sup>7</sup>, Biathlon, Ski Orienteering, Touring/Ski Mountaineering
- Snowboarding - Freestyle - Big Air, Half Pipe and Slopestyle, Boardercross, Slalom (Touring/Mountaineering<sup>5</sup>)
- Freestyle – Moguls, Aerials, Half-pipe, Slopestyle, Skiercross

1.5 Some of these disciplines and sub-disciplines are pursued in England at natural snow centres or at synthetic matting centres, artificial snow centres or circuit/track centres. However, it should be acknowledged that not all of these sub-disciplines can be catered for at participation or at high performance levels within facilities offered in England.

#### Participation in snowsport

1.6 Snowsport participation data for England is collected through the Active People Survey<sup>8</sup>. Comparisons between surveys conducted in 2008 and 2009 indicate a 0.1% decrease in monthly participation. There is also a reduction (-3.3%) in the numbers of participants taking part in organised competitions. Participation levels for those receiving tuition has remained the same, whilst club participation has increased (+2.1%).

According to the Active People Survey snowsport participants are more likely to be male, White-British, without a disability, and working within a professional or higher management position.

#### Market demand for facilities

- 1.7 There is limited data available on the snowsport market in England; currently more is known about snowsport participants from England that take part overseas. Comparison between the 2008/2009 season and the 2009/2010 season reveals that the number of people from the UK<sup>9</sup> taking part in snowsport holidays overseas has decreased (-11.0%). Snowsport tour operator sales also followed this trend with a decrease (-10.0%) in the 2009/2010 season. Although Scottish resorts received 5,000 fewer visitors overall, certain Scottish resorts did have increased levels due to excellent snow conditions. In the 2009/2010 season most UK snowsport participants went to ski (79.0%) or snowboard (18.0%) with the remaining (3.0%) taking part in other winter sports activities which is consistent with past seasons<sup>10</sup>. Unfortunately, there is no separate category to identify those participants that took part in Freestyle or Nordic activities. It is estimated that 101,500 school children participated in snowsport and therefore received/tuition lessons overseas, indeed demand during the last two years has remained more resilient than the rest of the market. Conversely, participation in a snowsport overseas by university students decreased (-10.0%) in the 2009/2010 season<sup>10</sup>. In general the snowsport market and participation figures have shown a decrease since 2008/2009 season. This could be due to many factors and barriers including the national and global recession, which has greatly impacted on the leisure and tourism market in general. Further monitoring is required to identify long term trends in the market.

#### Market segmentation

- 1.8 Market segmentation is an analysis tool that groups together customers using behavioural and statistical techniques<sup>11</sup>. It can help us to better understand snowsport demand in England. Sport specific market segmentation is provided by Sport England<sup>12</sup> using sports based data sets<sup>13</sup>. The sports market segmentation tool groups the adult (18+) population of England into 19 sporting segments and provides insight into the sporting behaviours and preferences of each of these segments, as well as their motivations and barriers to playing sport, satisfaction with the sporting experience, and the best ways to contact and market to people within each segment. Those most likely to take part in snowsport are currently *settling down males, comfortable midlife males and competitive male urbanites*. The top three segments are the same for those that

are most likely to want to take part (have a latent demand) other segments with a latent demand include *sports team lads, comfortable retired couples* and *pub league team mates* (more detail can found in the *Snowsport England National Facilities Audit Report 2010*).

### Satisfaction with facilities

1.9 Snowsport England, as part of the 'sustain' element of Sport England's strategy, has been provided with baseline figures for people's satisfaction with their experience of snowsport. This data is collected through Sport England's 'Satisfaction with the Quality of Sporting Experience survey' (SQSE). The SQSE<sup>14</sup> provides quantifiable measures taken from responses to survey questions providing average scores out of 10 (weighted by stated importance). The data is taken from three different levels of engagement: general users, members of affiliated clubs and members of the talent pool<sup>15</sup>. Satisfaction with facilities is one of the survey's ten themes. Compared to other sports, snowsport has a higher level of satisfaction with facilities (8.2) than the national average of all sports (7.6). Although there is a higher level of satisfaction for general users and club members this differs for the talent pool (scoring 0.7% less than the average for other sports).

### Facilities audit

1.10 The *Snowsport England National Facilities Audit Report (2010)* provides details on the current position of snowsport facilities in England. The audit highlights a number of key issues which have been grouped below into eight topic areas:

**Table 1 Issues facing snowsport facilities**

Area	Issue (The issue number in brackets is a reference to the audit section 6 Issues & recommendations page 58.)
1. Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited access by public transport, cycling and by foot causes problems for users without access to a car. (Issue 24)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A high proportion of centres are not signposted from main routes, other centres lack signposting on local roads. (Issue 25)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some centres are limited in the access opportunities for disabled people. There is a need to improve reception/social areas, toilets, changing areas, circulation, doors, internal ramps, lifts, external ramps and access to the slope. (Issue 26)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distribution of centres is inconsistent across the country with some areas of significant population limited as to the provision they</li> </ul>

	<p>can access. There are limitations in provision: East Midlands, South West, Greater London and North West (Issue 7)</p>
2. Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online information for circuit/track centres is limited as roller ski centres do not feature on the 'find a facility' functions of the Snowsport England or Sport England Active Places websites. (Issue 10)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The classifications of slopes as defined by the Sports Data Model within the Sport England Active Places online database are not appropriate for snowsport, as centre managers can assign slope classifications to different standards. (Issue 8)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no systematic approach for the collection of user data. Some centres collect no data from users. This limits the ability of management staff to understand their market and the demands of existing or potential users. (Issue 29)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User opinions of provision have been collected from a sample of clubs. The majority of users such as schools, colleges/universities, youth groups and the public (families &amp; individuals) have not provided views. In addition no adaptive snowsport clubs responded to this study. (Issue 23 &amp; 28)</li> </ul>
3. Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the Active People Surveys (2008 &amp; 2009) there has been an overall decrease in participation in snowsport and a reduction in the number of participants taking part in organised competition. Participation levels for those receiving tuition has remained the same, whilst club participation has increased. (Issue 3)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falling numbers of people taking part in snowsport holidays raises concerns. Although the majority of this participation takes place outside of the UK, a reduction in snowsport participation overseas can lead to fewer participants having lessons at facilities in England. (Issue 5)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The geographical gaps in provision that include significant urban areas are illustrated by catchment areas for each type of facility, these include the East Midlands (Nottingham, Derby, Leicester) and South West (Bristol) . Although some areas such as Birmingham, Merseyside, and London appear to be within the catchment of facilities the provision is not of a sufficient capacity or quality to meet demand. In some rural area the demand is insufficient to justify a snowsport centre even though the drive time to the nearest centre is significant. (Issue 27)</li> </ul>
4. Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical growth of snowsport centres has been characterised by an ad-hoc and unplanned approach to development, with inconsistency in the design of snowsport facilities and the inclusion of ancillary facilities. (Issue 1)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The erection of slalom poles or freestyle equipment is limited on slopes with carpet matting. The replacement of brush matting with carpet matting on some slopes (of an appropriate length and width for competition) has led to some no longer hosting performance training or competitions. There are also concerns about the effectiveness of some surfaces in simulating natural snow. (Issue 31)</li> <li>• The limited number of mogul fields, half pipes and terrain parks restricts the availability for freestyle and snowboarding users, although artificial snow centres can provide a range of terrain park options for use at specified times. (Issue 9)</li> <li>• Carpet matting surfaces are perceived by some centre managers, instructors, coaches and participants as attractive to young people and beginners of all ages as they are thought to have a reduced risk of injury. Some artificial matting centres have changed to carpet matting on slopes that were used for racing; this is a loss to the sport as there are now fewer venues able to host competitions. (Issue 18)</li> <li>• There are currently no circuit/track centres within England that have been developed specifically for the use of roller-skiing. The use of shared facilities enables roller-skiing to utilise a range of facilities for training and competition. Restrictions on having exclusive use of facilities can cause issues with hosting competitions or performance training in facilities open to other users. (Issue 11)</li> </ul>
<p>5. Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some commercially operated synthetic matting centres are run by keen snowsport enthusiasts who have sufficient capacity and business acumen to invest in a facility. Whilst other operators, although enthusiastic, can have difficulties in sustaining a business approach. (Issue 12)</li> <li>• Some centre managers see performance sessions as a disruption to the regular programming of lessons or open practice. They also perceive that performance sessions can cause accelerated wear on slope surfaces. (Issue 32)</li> <li>• The diversification of activities by some commercially operated centres can result in programming difficulties, as priority is given to activities that generate the highest income. In some centres this is to the detriment of other snowsport centre users.(Issue 13 &amp; 30)</li> </ul>
<p>6. Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consideration of environmental impact for new developments or alterations to existing sites cannot be overlooked. Assessments are part of the planning application process and can be a costly part of investigating the feasibility of a development. (Issue 37)</li> <li>• The lack of provision standards, development guidance and specifications for snowsport facilities and requirements for each discipline, limits the amount of influence Snowsport England can have on the planning and development of new facilities. (Issue 36)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snowsport facilities do not feature within PPG17<sup>16</sup> and its accompanying guidance. It is apparent that snowsport facilities do not feature within some sport and recreation plans and are missed by local authorities and other planners. (Issue 35)</li> </ul>
7. Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The governing body has limited capacity and funding to support all snowsport centres. A targeted programme of activity is taking place with 10 priority centres. (Issue 2)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited club funds suggests that some clubs have difficulty in maintaining their own facilities (if owned) or hiring facilities for training or competition. Some well established voluntary clubs have the potential to be more active in facility management. (Issue 34)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snowsport centres with refurbishment or development plans are being cautious in their approach to progressing with an investment in facilities due to economic uncertainty. This is particularly apparent with local authority owned sites. (Issue 33)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some trust managed centres have little coordination between different on site activities and have an over reliance on subsidies. This can limit the spread of resources across activities resulting in a lack of investment in snowsport facilities. (Issue 15)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local authorities are looking to find cost effective ways to increase the efficiency of service delivery. It is therefore unlikely that local authorities will be able to invest in large scale leisure developments such as new snowsport centres. (Issue 14)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those centres which are operated through voluntary clubs can face issues in relation to maintaining membership numbers and a lack of succession planning for key volunteer positions, with the tendency for some centres to be over reliant on too few volunteers. (Issue 16)</li> </ul>
8. Satisfaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snowsport participants have a higher level of satisfaction with facilities compared to other sports. The talent pool appears to be less satisfied with the current provision of facilities which are felt to be inadequate for high level performance. (Issue 6)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quality of fixed and movable terrain features for freestyle and snowboarding is inconsistent and can be limiting for young people or new entrants into these disciplines. There is currently no freestyle water jump facility in England. (Issue 20)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement is needed in the quality of ancillary facilities to bring some centres that are below average up to a suitable standard. However, this is probably not realistic for natural snow centres. To improve the quality of experience by for clubs, improvements should be considered for space for club activities, storage of equipment, changing facilities and toilets. (Issue 21)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfaction of experience is compromised by slope surface quality. There is a need for ongoing maintenance and improvements to</li> </ul>

	<p>some synthetic matting slope surfaces to improve user experiences. Some synthetic matting centres now require significant investment in slope and ancillary facility refurbishments. The number of closures of synthetic matting centres over the last 10 years gives cause for concern. (Issue 17)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Those centres that have not already had refurbishments will potentially require significant maintenance and/or major refurbishments over the next five years. (Issue 22)</li></ul>

## **Part two: Snowsport England Facilities – Where do we want to be?**

**This section outlines the vision, objectives and outcomes for the future of snowsport facilities in England up to 2020. The objectives underpin our work over the next four years 2011-2015.**

2.1 We are now entering a new phase for snowsport facilities in England. This facilities strategy demonstrates our commitment as the governing body for snowsport in England to address the issues facing snowsport participants, snowsport centre managers, owners, local authorities, planning bodies and developers. We have identified our own vision for snowsport facilities:

'To have a high quality network of sustainable snowsport facilities by 2020 that enhances the experience of snowsport participants at all levels'

2.2 Our work towards this vision will be guided by the following four objectives:

- 1 Raising standards - To support targeted facilities to enhance provision and develop best practice in facility management
- 2 Planning for the future - To provide strategic direction to proposed and planned developments
- 3 Effective partnerships - To coordinate partnership working with stakeholders e.g. facilities, funders, local authorities, clubs and schools
- 4 Developing evidence - To coordinate a database of facilities and analyse data to inform decision making

2.3 Success for snowsport facilities in England in 2020 will be for us to have attained the following four outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Sustained and increased levels of snowsport participation and satisfaction
- Outcome 2: Improved performance in international competition
- Outcome 3: Facilities actively engaged with the activities of Snowsport England
- Outcome 4: Planning standards and specifications guiding future facility development

### Part three: Priorities and implementation – How we are going to get there?

**This section is essential for snowsport in taking a realistic approach to what work is done first and what can be addressed at a later stage in the facilities strategy. It outlines priorities and our approach to implementation.**

- 3.1 The following table (table 2) provides details of the core tasks that have been identified through the facilities audit process. These have been grouped into the strategy objectives. These core tasks form the main work that is too be carried out through the lifetime of the strategy up to 2020. Due to the capacity and time required to complete these core tasks we have prioritised each one as to whether it is considered to be:
- A high priority
  - A medium priority
  - A low priority
  - An ongoing task
- 3.2 Those core tasks that are seen as a priority have been included in part four: Action plan. Each core task is broken down in the action plan into actions , resource, responsibility, success measure and review date.

**Table 2 Priority tasks for broadly up to 2020 broken down by objectives**

Objectives	Core tasks (The reference number in brackets is a reference to the audit section 6 Issues & recommendations page 58.)	Priority
Developing evidence	1. Update Sport England Sports Data Model via the Leisure Database Company <a href="http://www.theleisuredatabase.com">www.theleisuredatabase.com</a> with the revised classifications for snowsport as outlined in table 4 page 30. (Rec. 8)	High priority
	2. Further user opinions need to be collated from a representative sample of facility users including schools, colleges/universities, youth groups, clubs (including adaptive snowsport clubs) and in particular the general public (families &	Medium priority

	<p>individuals not in membership clubs), to inform decisions on the quality and accessibility of snowsport facilities and ancillary provision. (Rec. 23 &amp; Rec. 28)</p>	
	<p>3. Good practice examples relating to the collation of user data for each type of facility should be identified. These should form the basis for efforts to grow and sustain participation. A consistent format for data collection should be promoted. We should work with Sport England to involve snowsport facilities in the National Benchmarking Scheme to support facilities in data collection, deliver the required data and produce a facility-specific report on performance relative to national benchmarks. (Rec. 29)</p>	<p>Medium priority</p>
	<p>4. We need to use National datasets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport market segmentation should be used specifically to target population segments which are likely to take up snowsport. Use should be made of the web tool <a href="http://segments.sportengland.org/">http://segments.sportengland.org/</a> to create a segmentation profile for the priority facilities. This should be rolled out to all centres. (Rec. 4)</li> <li>• Based on findings from the facility audit. We should provide a summary document on Sport England's 'satisfaction with the quality of sporting experience survey' (SQSE) to promote the need for improving standards in facilities. This should be used when dealing with local authority owned centres to encourage investment. (Rec. 33)</li> <li>• Trends within the international snowsport market should continue to be monitored to enable an assessment of its impact on the centres in England. There is a need for a research study to understand better ways in which to convert all participants taking lessons, and all those between holidays, into regular users of snowsport centre's in England. (Rec. 5)</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing task</p>
	<p>5. It is anticipated that the talent pool will always find facilities in England limiting in relation to high performance training and competitions. A research study should highlight the feasibility of existing or new facilities in England becoming performance centres for specific disciplines (Link to WSP Intervention 3 Performance pathway and Talent ID). (Rec. 6)</p>	<p>Low priority</p>
	<p>6. There is a need for a research study into artificial surfaces to find out the most appropriate surfaces for the various snowsport disciplines and those most suitable for each level of participation. There is a need to ensure that surfaces suitable for racing are not replaced with inappropriate surfaces which could limit the number of centres able to host events. (Rec. 18)</p>	<p>Low priority</p>

	& Rec. 31)	
Effective Partnerships	7. We should promote all types of facilities using the 'find a facility' online tool with links to the clubs that are active at each centre, so that it can provide the most user friendly and comprehensive information on snowsport facilities in England. Active Places should be amended to include all snowsport centres incorporating key circuit/track centres for roller skiing. (Rec. 10)	High priority
	8. We should support proposed circuit/track centres for roller skiing and work closely with British Cycling to ensure that the specific needs of roller skiing are addressed based on the finding of the facility audit. (Rec. 11)	Medium priority
	9. To increase the levels of participation we should identify the business case for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local authorities in maintaining involvement with snowsport centres (whether this be land ownership, management or planning consent for new developments. All snowsport centres that are owned and or managed by local authorities should be approached by Snowsport England to assess how changes to leisure provision may affect snowsport centres. Support could include considering voluntary club involvement, creation of a trust or asset transfer. (Rec. 14)</li> <li>Multi activity outdoor centre's to include snowsport facilities as part of an overall programme of outdoor activity. (Rec. 15)</li> <li>Snowsport centres to host events. This should include advice and guidance on maximising entries from competitors and encouraging spectator/ showcase events giving facilities broader programming and income opportunities. (Rec. 32)</li> <li>Working in partnership to develop new facilities or developing partnerships to take over the running of slopes that are failing.</li> </ul>	Medium priority
	10. Continue working with clubs (Link to WSP Intervention 2 Clubs & Coaching): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clubs should be supported by Development Officers in accessing small grants programmes. Guidance should be given to clubs on attaining Snowmark and Community Amateur Sports Club status (CASC). (Rec. 34)</li> <li>Formalise agreements with facilities for programmed usage by clubs. (Rec. 13)</li> </ul>	Ongoing task
Raising standards	11. Facilities should be provided with management guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quest (The UK Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure) should be used to raise standards <a href="http://www.questnbs.org/">http://www.questnbs.org/</a> (Rec. 12)</li> </ul>	Ongoing task

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snowsport centres should be offered guidance on how to obtain brown tourist road signage. (Rec. 25)</li> </ul>	
	<p>12. Snowsport England should produce and distribute good practice examples on the following topics;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination of ancillary facilities. (Rec. 21)</li> <li>• Effective programming of activities and use of slope space. (Rec. 13 and Rec. 30)</li> <li>• Approaches to refurbishment and ways in which to access grants. (Rec. 22)</li> <li>• Improving the access to snowsport centres. (Rec. 24)</li> <li>• Approaches to slope maintenance and advice from surface manufacturers. (Rec. 19)</li> <li>• Environmental impact studies and their role in planning future development. (Rec. 37)</li> </ul>	Medium priority
	<p>13. We should work in partnership with Disability Snowsport UK to improve disability access. Guidance should be given on accessing small grants and ways to make necessary adaptations and improvements to existing buildings or slopes. All new developments must be designed to be DDA compliant. (Rec. 26)</p>	Ongoing task
Planning for the future	<p>14. We should work with Sport England to investigate the inclusion of snowsport within future guidance documents (e.g. PPG17 or its replacement Planning Policy Statement). (Rec. 35)</p>	High priority
	<p>15. We will provide design guidance and technical specifications for each discipline through existing technical committees. These should be used by local authorities and developers. (Rec. 1) Guidance should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include ways in which to encourage the inclusion of mogul fields, half pipes, quarter pipes and terrain parks in planned developments for larger centres. (Rec. 9)</li> <li>• Include a preferred suppliers list for the movable terrain features for Freestyle and snowboarding as well as a framework for training for centre staff in the use of fixed and movable terrain. This has been identified as an opportunity to further develop participation levels.</li> <li>• Outline benefits and process for current and potential providers of engaging with the governing body in the planning</li> </ul>	Medium priority

	<p>process. (Rec. 36)</p>	
	<p>16. A feasibility study should be conducted to investigate the potential for developing a freestyle water jump within England. Including investigations into the reasons why previous jumps in England have failed. (Rec. 20)</p>	<p>Medium priority</p>
	<p>17. The geographical gaps in provision that include significant urban areas and are not within the primary catchment of an existing facility are in the East Midlands (Nottingham, Derby and Leicester) and the South West (Bristol). In addition from the outcomes of the audit Birmingham, the North West, South Yorkshire, and London are areas in need of improved provision based on the size of population against the level of provision measured in size and capacity. Feasibility studies will be required to establish the viability of snowsport centres within areas of deficit. We should seek to meet demand (where it has been proven) and consider each proposed renovation of existing centres or new development on a case by case basis. (Rec. 7)</p>	<p>Medium priority</p>

### Priority centres

3.3 The priority centres that we worked with in 2009/2010 were selected through a consultation process as part of the development of the Whole Sport Plan in 2009. Our development team worked closely with 10 priority centres on all aspects of their approach to snowsport participation including working with disadvantaged communities, clubs, coaches, volunteers, schools and events. Our support also included fundamental reviews and guidance on workforce development, business planning and management practices.

3.4 We evaluated the successes and lessons learnt from the initial programme of support offered to the priority centres over the last 12 months. The evaluation included a review of the results from the facilities audit and feedback from the development officers. The review revealed the need to reassess the priority centres against the selection criteria. In addition the criteria for selection have been amended. We now use the following criteria to select those centres that are a priority for us to work with:

- Likely level of engagement from the Facility/Club
- Type of centre natural, synthetic matting, artificial snow and circuit (mixture of types required)
- Ownership (mixture of ownership required)
- Latent demand/ Population/ Potential for growth/Challenges faced
- Geographical location (a spread of facilities around the country)
- County Sport Partnership and Local Authority support/Priorities
- Snow mark /Club mark accreditation (working towards or attained)
- Number of registered performers (training/competing)

3.5 The priority centres from 2009/10 and 2011/12 are highlighted in table 3. Due to the capacity of the development staff we have placed a limit on the number of priority centres that can be supported. In total we have identified 12 slope based centres as priority centres for 2011/12 (two more than were supported in 2009/10). Three further slope based centres that are strategically important to snowsport have also been identified as in need of monitoring throughout 2011/12. These have been selected due to current circumstances at these centres.

**Table 3 Priority centres 2011/12**

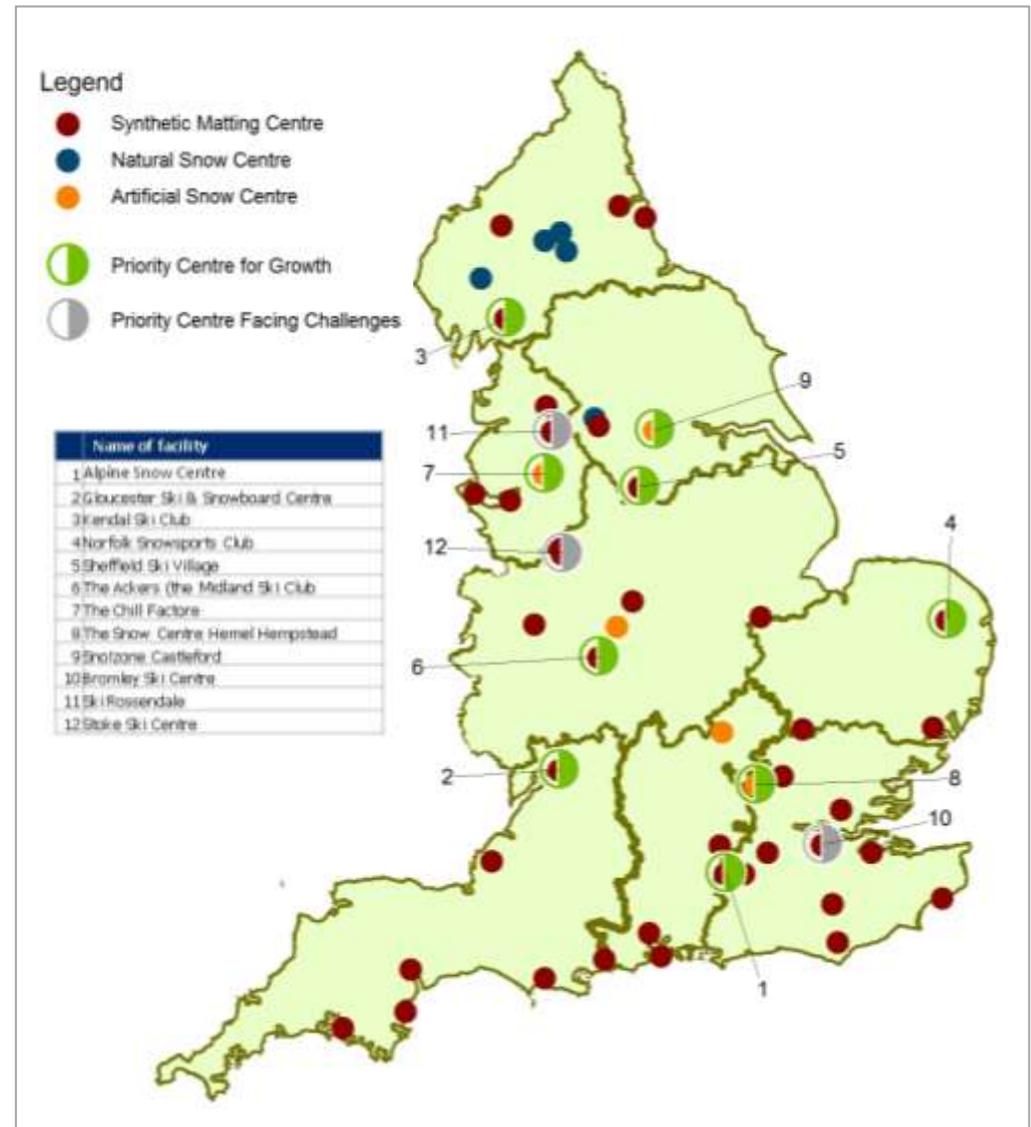
	Priority centres 2009/10	Priority centres 2011/12	Other centres to be monitored during 2011/12
Potential Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alpine Snow Centre</li> <li>Gloucester Ski and Snowboard Centre</li> <li>Kendal Ski Club</li> <li>Norfolk Snowsports Centre</li> <li>Ski Rossendale</li> <li>Sheffield Ski Village</li> <li>Sno!zone Castleford</li> <li>The Chill Factor</li> <li>The Ackers (the Midland Ski Club)</li> <li>The Snow Centre Hemel Hempstead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alpine Snow Centre</li> <li>Gloucester Ski and Snowboard Centre</li> <li>Kendal Ski Club</li> <li>Norfolk Snowsports Centre</li>   <li>Sheffield Ski Village</li> <li>Sno!zone Castleford</li> <li>The Chill Factor</li> <li>The Ackers (the Midland Ski Club)</li> <li>The Snow Centre Hemel Hempstead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandown Sports Club</li> </ul>
Facing challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No centres were identified as facing significant challenges. This was new criteria added in 2011.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ski Rossendale</li> <li>Stoke Ski Centre</li> <li>Bromley Ski Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gosling Sports Park</li> <li>Halifax Ski &amp; Snowboard Centre</li> </ul>

3.6 Figure 1 illustrates the 12 priority centres identified for 2011/12 (see appendix A for details relating to their selection). All of the 10 facilities that were supported in 2010 will continue to be supported with the addition of Stoke Ski Centre and Bromley Ski Centre. Ski Rossendale will be moved to the 'facing challenges' category.

3.7 Centres have been highlighted as a priority for growth or a priority in terms of challenges facing the centre. The selection of priority centres will be reviewed in January 2012.

3.8 The review of priority centres for 2009/10 identified that there were no circuit based facilities for roller skiing engaged in the process. This was due to several restricting factors relating to staff capacity, the availability of information on circuit based centres and their use for roller ski activity. The development of this strategy has allowed us to gain greater understanding of the circuit centres available for use for roller skiing in England.

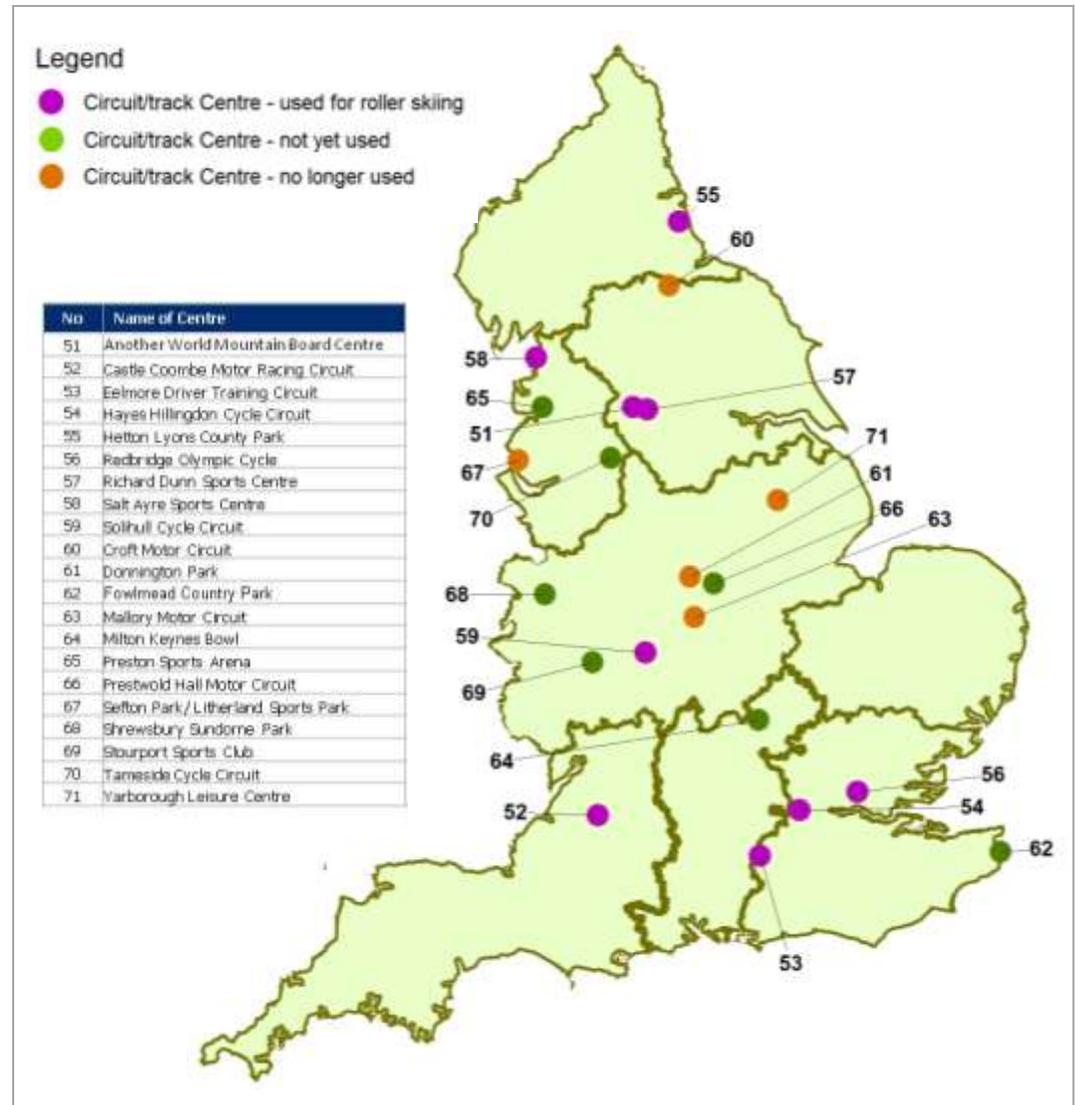
**Figure 1 Map of priority slope based centres for 2011/12**



3.9 Figure 2 illustrates 21 circuit/track centres in total. These circuit/track centres will be the priority for the promotion of roller skiing participation. As part of implementation of this strategy it will be important to investigate these centres in detail through site based assessments similar to those undertaken for slope based snowsport centres. Although it is acknowledged that other circuits or tracks will be used by individuals, these circuits have been selected on the basis of geographical location, existing or previous use for roller skiing. Other centres have been included due to their potential for growing roller skiing participation, as several are newly developed sites which have received investment through British Cycling and aim to be multi-sport centres.

3.10 Our approach to Circuit/track Centres will initially be to work with those centres that are currently used for roller skiing. The focus for support will be on club development linked to the Whole Sport Plan Intervention 2 Clubs & Coaching. In addition we will be strengthening our relationship with other governing bodies such as British Cycling.

Figure 2 Map of priority circuit centres for 2011/12



## Classifications

- 3.11 In 2004 Sport England developed the Sports Data Model. This model incorporated the development of facility classifications for 13 sports including snowsport. The Sports Data Model classifications were then used to inform the Active Places online facilities tool provided by Sport England. The seven classifications as outlined by the Sports Data Model are as follows; nursery, intermediate, advanced, competition, mogul, half-pipe and other.
- 3.12 It should be noted that the assessment of centres against these classifications is open to interpretation, centre managers are telephoned every 15 months to verify the details held on the Active Places database regarding their ancillary facilities and the classifications of their slopes. The self assessment process is inconsistent and varies from centre to centre, and could also differ from person to person as centre managers are not always available to take the assessment call. The definitions and classifications used by the Sports Data Model for each sport are due to be revised in 2011. It is evident that the classifications need to be more suitable for snowsport, our revised classifications are shown below:

**Table 4 Slope classifications for Sport England Active Places tool revised 2011**

Classification	Details
Slope type 1	A separate slope with sufficient space for a minimum of one class under instruction. Normally minimum length 20m.
Slope type 2	Section of slope type 3, 4 or 5 with sufficient space for a minimum of one class under instruction. Normally minimum length 20m.
Slope type 3	Allows snowsport participation. Normally minimum length 150m.
Slope type 4	Allows snowsport participation. Normally minimum length 80m.
Slope type 5	Allows snowsport participation. Normally length less than 80m.
Terrain park type 1	An area of the facility that can accommodate moveable terrain features such as rails, boxes, ramps etc.
Terrain park type 2	An area of the facility incorporating fixed terrain features such as moguls, half/quarter pipes, rails, boxes, ramps etc. This area would be designed with the <i>specific</i> needs of freestyle and snowboarding participants in mind with additional moveable features.
Fun-activity area	An area of the facility that can be used exclusively for fun activities such as ringos, tubes, toboggans

Population catchments

3.13 Snowsport centres should be matched to the demands and needs of a defined population to be successful. Primary catchment areas for snowsport centres differ between types of facility (natural, synthetic matting and artificial snow) therefore catchments range between 20-40 minutes drive time. The same is apparent for secondary catchments with drive times depending on facility type ranging from 40-120 minutes drive time. This catchment population data aims to assist us in identifying the populations served by existing facilities. Population catchments will also be a focus for facility operators or developers interested in increasing the catchment at existing snowsport centres or planning new centres. This information, contained within the accompanying audit (*Snowsport England National Facilities Audit Report 2010*), will help to inform the feasibility and viability of new snowsport centres. As more evidence is developed in relation to facility users we will be update the catchment data.

**Table 5 Primary population within catchments served by existing slope based centres**

2m population minimum	800k population minimum	250K population minimum	50K population minimum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Artificial Snow Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 Synthetic matting Centres</li> <li>1 Artificial Snow Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 Synthetic matting Centres</li> <li>1 Natural Snow Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 Synthetic matting Centres</li> <li>5 Natural Snow Centres</li> </ul>

3.14 For new developers and operators hoping to extend facilities population catchment is only one consideration. We suggest that an assessment is made using the criteria outlined below in table 6. These have been presented to show how important we perceive each to be to the growth of participation and performance in snowsport:

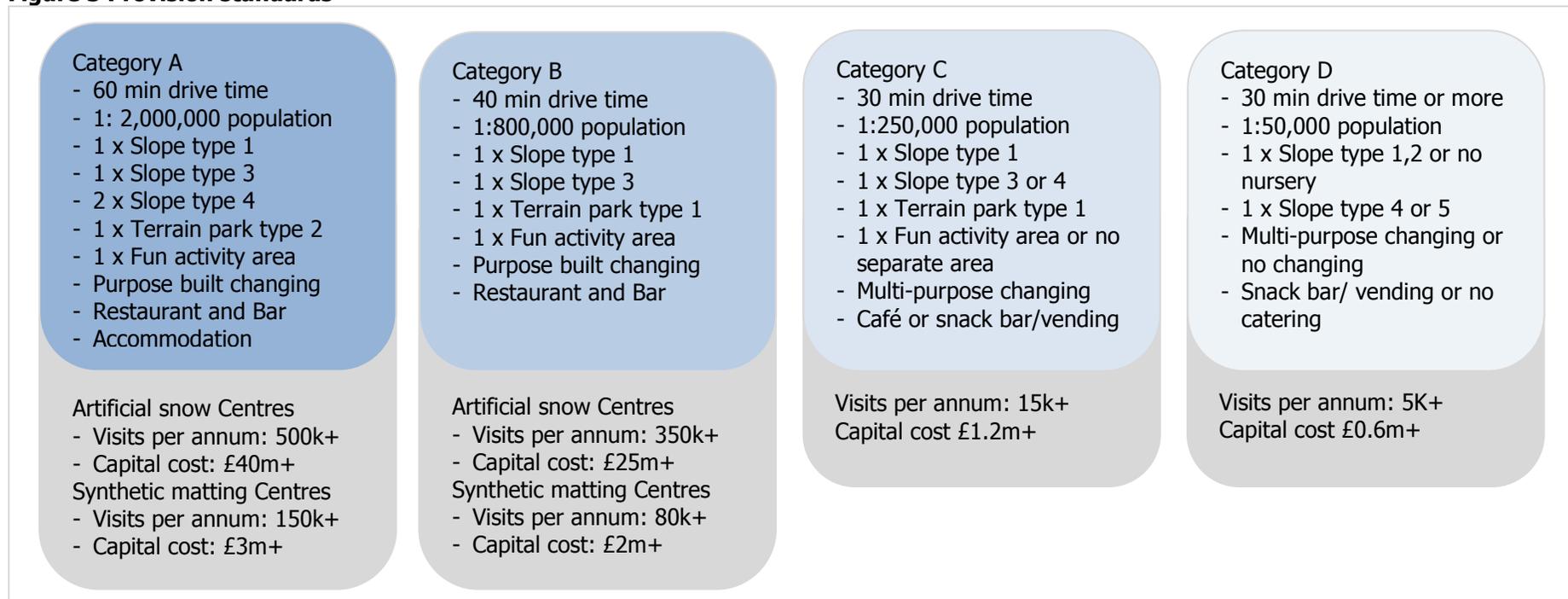
**Table 6 Primary population within catchments served by existing slope based centres**

More important ←-----> Less important		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year round use</li> <li>Maximum length of slope</li> <li>Separate nursery slope</li> <li>Separate terrain park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separate fun activity area</li> <li>Number of slopes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changing provision</li> <li>Catering provision</li> </ul>

### Provision standards for future/planned developments

3.15 By using provision standards for snowsport facilities we are able to outline the provision for competition, training and general participation. The criteria for these facilities are not designed to place unrealistic demands on existing facilities or developers, but provide recommendations for different levels of provision. Figure 3 below illustrates the key characteristics of each of the facility categories. The provision standards are based on the revised classifications (refer to table 4) and should be used by developers/operators in combination with the discipline specifications (in part five) to meet the needs of the discipline(s) that the snowsport centre aims to cater for. The provision standards shown below are optimum facilities for the different levels of provision. We will modify the criteria identified within each category as more evidence on catchment areas and usage data is obtained.

**Figure 3 Provision standards**



### Provision standards for existing facilities

3.16 The provision standards for future and planned developments can also be applied to existing facilities. We have not designed the provision standards to be a measure of quality but instead to be a guide to what slope and ancillary facilities are desired within each category. We are aware that some existing snowsport centres may not meet all the criteria outlined in a category, and therefore may judge themselves to be between categories, for example, between categories C/D. We hope that existing snowsport centres will use the categories in the provision standards to identify potential areas for development to move clearly into a category. We recognise that snowsport centres face constraints and limitations of all kinds that will determine future development. Table 7 below was created from evidence collected at site visits and discussions with managers in 2010 these will need to be reviewed by each centre and updated when developments occur.

**Table 7 Summary of existing snowsport centres provision standards against criteria**

Facility name	Year round use	Slope type 1	Slope type 2	Slope type 3	Slope type 4	Slope type 5	Terrain park type 1	Terrain park type 2	Fun activity area	Purpose built changing	Multi-purpose changing	Accommodation	Restaurant	Bar	Cafe	Snack bar/ vending
Chill Factore	●	●		●			●		●	●			●	●	●	●
Sno!zone Castleford	●	●	●	●			●			●			●	●	●	●
Sno!zone Milton Keynes	●	●	●	●			●			●			●	●	●	●
Snowdome	●	●	●	●			●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●
The Snow Centre Hemel Hempstead	●	●		●			●			●			●	●	●	●
Alpine Snowsports Aldershot	●	●			●		●		●		●				●	
Avon Ski Centre	●	●		●					●		●		●	●		
Bassingbourn Snow Sport Centre	●	●			●						●					●
Bowles Outdoor Centre	●	●			●				●		●					
Bracknell Ski and Snowboard Centre	●	●		●	●			●	●		●		●	●		
Brentwood Park Ski & Snowboard Centre	●	●	●	●	●			●			●					●
Bromley Ski Centre	●	●			●		●				●		●	●		
Calshot Activities Centre	●	●				●	●		●		●				●	
Carlisle Snowsport Club	●		●			●					●					
Chatham Ski and Snowboard Centre	●	●		●			●		●		●		●	●		

Christ's College Ski Club	●	●				●			●		●					●
Dorset Snow Sport Centre	●	●			●						●					●
Exeter and District Ski Club Ltd	●	●			●						●					●
Folkestone Sports Centre	●	●			●				●		●					●
Gloucester Ski and Snowboard Centre	●	●		●	●			●	●		●		●	●		
Gosling Sports Park	●	●			●		●				●		●	●		
Halifax Ski and Snowboard Centre	●	●			●			●	●		●		●	●		
Kendal Snowsport Club	●		●		●			●			●					●
Knockhatch Ski and Snowboard Centre	●	●			●		●		●		●					●
Norfolk Snowsports Club	●	●		●				●			●		●	●		
North Staffs Ski Club Ltd	●		●		●						●					●
Oval Sports Centre	●		●			●					●					●
Pendle Ski Club	●	●		●		●					●					●
Plymouth Ski and Snowboard Centre	●	●		●		●			●		●		●	●		
Runcorn Ski and Snowboard Centre	●	●	●		●		●				●					●
Sandown Sports Club	●	●			●				●		●		●	●		
Sheffield Ski Village	●	●		●				●	●	●	●		●	●		
Silksworth Sports Complex	●	●		●		●		●	●	●						●
Ski Rossendale	●	●		●				●			●					●
Snowtrax	●	●			●				●		●		●	●		
Southampton Alpine Centre	●	●			●	●			●		●					●
Stoke Ski Centre	●	●		●		●			●		●			●	●	
Suffolk Ski Centre	●	●		●	●						●					●
Swadlincote Ski and Snowboard Centre	●	●		●		●				●			●	●		
Tallington Ski Centre	●	●			●											●
Telford Ski and Snowboard Centre	●	●	●		●		●				●			●	●	
The Ackers	●	●			●		●		●		●					●
Torquay Alpine Ski Club	●		●		●						●					●
Whickham Thorns Outdoor Activity Centre	●		●			●					●					●
Allenheads Ski Slope				●												
Another World Mountain Board Centre		●			●			●								
Harwood Common				●												
Lake District Ski Club				●												
Weardale Ski Club				●												
Yadd Moss Ski Area				●												

Key:	●	Artificial snow centre	●	Synthetic matting centre	●	Natural snow centre
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3.17 We have used the provision standards criteria relating to slope based facilities and ancillary provision to identify how existing snowsport centres fit into the provision standards for planned and future developments. Presently no snowsport centres meet all the criteria required in category A. Other snowsport centres fall between the four main categories as although they may be close to meeting the needs of a specific category they are limited by not having certain facilities, for example; purpose built changing rooms or terrain park features. Table 8 below provides a summary of existing facilities in relation to the provision standards as outlined in table 7, this may change as developments are made:

**Table 8 Summary of existing snowsport centres provision standards**

Category A	Category B	Category B/C	Category C	Category C/D	Category D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No snowsport centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Synthetic matting Centres</li> <li>5 Artificial Snow Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Synthetic matting Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Synthetic matting Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 Synthetic matting Centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 Synthetic matting Centres</li> <li>6 Natural Snow Centre</li> </ul>

3.18 Our approach to provision standards will help facilities identify ways in which they can make improvements and allow there to be some consistency in the types of facilities available. Through the implementation of this strategy we will look to support those existing snowsport centres that want to improve their facilities to meet the criteria within one of the categories. We will also seek to support new developers in selecting the category most suitable for their level of investment and desired population catchment.

3.19 The provision/standards do not include circuit centres as roller skiing is unlike any other discipline and therefore requires fundamentally different facilities. We aim to undertake further research as part of the implementation of strategy as described in 3.8-3.10.

## Refurbishment

3.20 The refurbishment of slope based snowsport centres can most simply be considered in three areas; the slopes, clubhouse and car parking/roads. With all refurbishment there is inevitably a degree of upgrading involved. This may be needed because of changes in regulations, advances in materials, the need or desire to improve on issues such as safety, operational management, energy conservation, changes in customer demand and the introduction of new activities. In most cases, refurbishing a slope is less expensive than building a new one. We understand that facilities are continually following a scheme of maintenance, although there are some snowsport centres with slopes that would benefit from full refurbishment. A full list of refurbishment requirements is not shown in this document but it should be noted that our priority for investment will be to support slope resurfacing at those snowsport centres that are seen to be strategically important. Due to the very different age and design of existing facilities, producing general guidelines on costs is difficult. Detailed costs for a particular project can only be determined following a comprehensive site survey. Updated analyses of building costs can be obtained from the BSEC website, [www.building.co.uk](http://www.building.co.uk). Table 9 below provides indicative costs and we recognise that these will vary from site to site.

**Table 9 Refurbishment costs**

Area for Refurbishment	Description
Slope surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlike other sports facilities with artificial surfaces, snowsport slopes have some high wear areas. It is therefore customary to replace parts of a slope unless a complete change in slope surfacing material is planned. Some synthetic matting materials are available in standard "tiles" of a little under 2sq m each. They are relatively easy to fix and most facilities will change small numbers in-house on a regular basis. Other composite materials are produced in larger rolls or sheets and require specialist fixing. Underlay and shock absorbing layers may also need replacement over time depending on location, maintenance and use.</li> <li>As a guideline only therefore, the cost of replacing a whole slope of 120m by 12m and a 1000 square metre nursery slope nursery slope would be around <b>£250,000</b>.</li> </ul>
Clubhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An analysis of existing clubhouses for a standalone snowsport centre shows sizes varying from 150 to 1300 square metres. Smaller buildings tend to be simple portable or wood clad structures while the larger are more sophisticated on two floors. Refurbishment costs are a reflection of new build and a reasonable range would be £400 to £1000 per square metre.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The cost of refurbishing a small community facility would therefore be around <b>£30,000</b> while a larger sub-regional facility could cost <b>£500,000</b></li></ul>
Car parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Car parks and roads vary from basic rolled stone to high quality macadam and in size from 20 spaces to 200 spaces.</li><li>A median provision of <b>£200.00</b> per space would be reasonable to include access and circulation.</li></ul>

3.19 The refurbishment of artificial snow centres is more complex, and the needs of specific centres even more varied. Due to the age of some of the artificial snow centres refurbishments have centred on ancillary provision. The intensive use of reception areas, changing rooms and catering areas will result in the need for refurbishment when wear is evident.

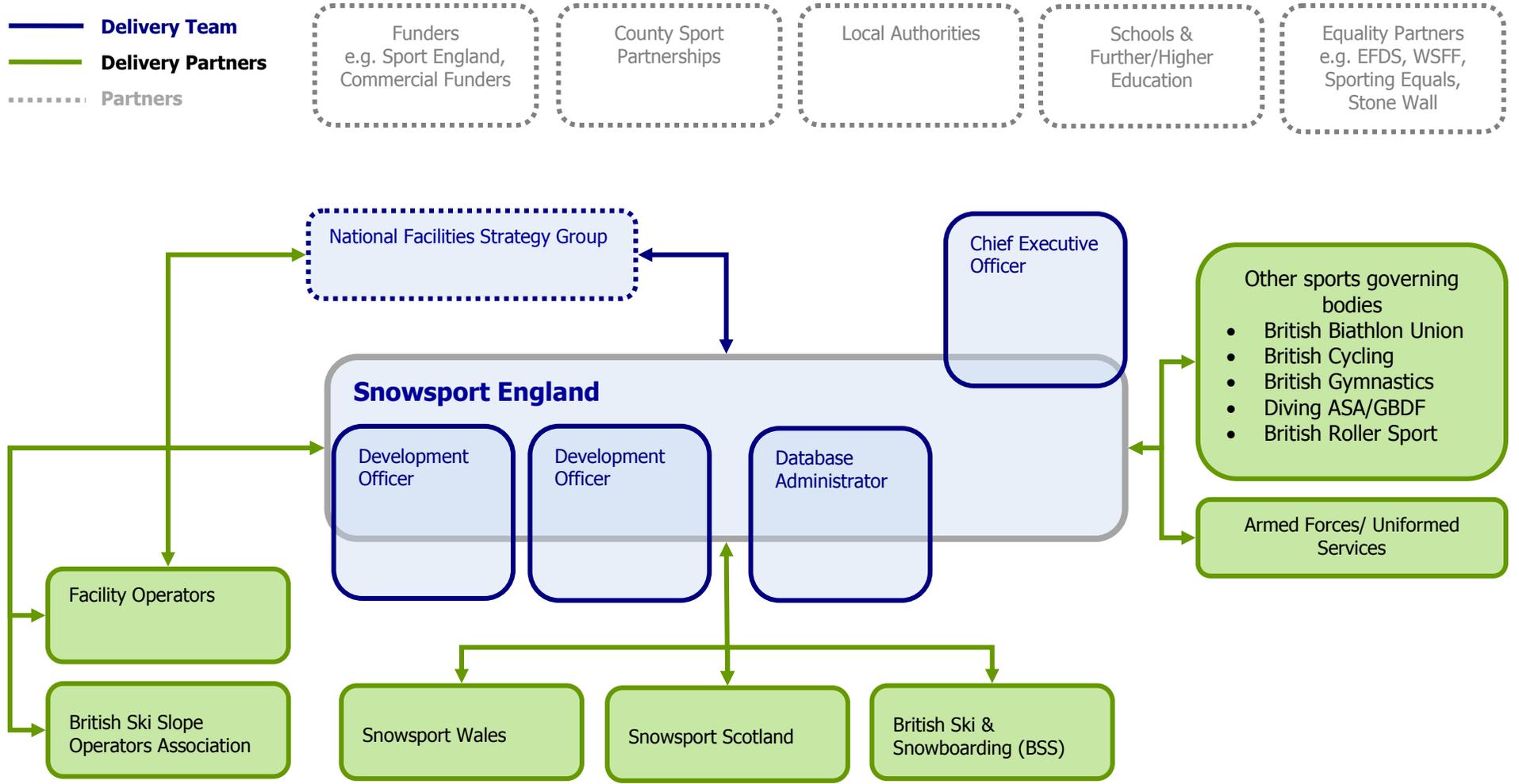
Implementation plan – How we will deliver and who are our partners?

3.21 We will implement the strategy through coordinated partnership working with the groups described below and illustrated in figure 4 pg. 40

Delivery Team	Role and Responsibilities
1 National Facilities Strategy Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring and evaluating the progress of the facilities strategy</li> <li>Linking with other partners that are central to the delivery of the facilities strategy</li> <li>Drawing together best practice from all Technical Groups across disciplines</li> <li>This group should comprise of representatives of each discipline and different types of facilities</li> <li>An independent chair should be elected for the group</li> </ul>
2 Chief Executive Officer & 3 Development Officer (x2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining a comprehensive database of facilities</li> <li>Interaction between facilities, strategy group and funders</li> <li>Communication with clubs and facilities (specific targeted support within 10 priority sites)</li> <li>Identification and development of facility support to meet needs at a local level (bottom up approach)</li> </ul>
4 Discipline-specific technical groups (Alpine, Snowboard, Freestyle, Nordic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and revision of classifications of centres and slopes (including homologation)</li> <li>Provide and update specifications guidance for facilities</li> </ul>
Partners	Role and Responsibilities
5 Facility Operators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sign up to strategy and commitment to sharing good practice and collection of user data.</li> </ul>
6 Funders e.g. Sport England, commercial investors etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of demand for the sport – Active People Survey (APS) and other market surveys</li> <li>Evidence of levels of satisfaction with facilities – Satisfaction with the quality of sporting experience survey</li> <li>Promotion of snowsport facilities to the public – Active Places, magazines, newspapers, feature articles</li> <li>Legal advice and guidance on planning policy – inclusion in PPG17 and other planning documents</li> <li>Support on provision standards and access to facilities</li> </ul>
7 Home Country Governing Bodies (Snowsport Scotland, Snowsport Wales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of home country facilities strategies linked to Snowsport England National Strategy</li> <li>Communication and partnership working to improve the coordination of facilities across the UK</li> </ul>
8 British Ski Slope Operators Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication and partnership working to improve grow participation at facilities in England</li> </ul>

9	Governing bodies of other sports/	
10	Armed forces and Uniformed services	
11	County Sports Partnerships	
12	Schools & Further/Higher Education	
13	Local Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication and partnership working to improve grow participation at facilities in England</li> <li>• Share facility information with planning bodies, central policy makers, local politicians and other officers</li> <li>• Assisting to identify suitable sites for new facilities</li> </ul>
14	Equality Partners e.g. English Federation for Disability Sport (EFDS), Women’s Sport and Fitness Foundation (WSFF), Sporting Equals, Stonewall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Snowsport England to provide equal opportunities for participants in snowsport</li> </ul>

Figure 4 Delivery approach and partners



### Monitoring and Evaluation – How will we know when we have got there?

3.22 We have transformed the way in which Snowsport England functions to become more financially stable, but we still have limited capacity to implement this strategy. It is therefore essential that any forward planning for the support of facilities is realistic and achievable. Snowsport England will receive £131,952 from Sport England over the period 2009 to 2013 to deliver the targets as set out in our whole sport plan (over the four year period) which includes direct support for facilities but does not include funds for capital investment<sup>17</sup>.

3.23 It will be essential to monitor and evaluate our progress as we deliver this strategy. We must ensure action is being taken to deal with any issues or barriers that occur throughout the four year cycle. The monitoring of the strategy will be undertaken by the National Facilities Strategy Group which is comprised of representatives of each discipline. The National Facility Strategy Group will work collectively across Snowsport to guide the implementation of the strategy. The chair of this group will need to ensure that quarterly meetings occur and that the monitoring of the strategy is a central item on the agenda.

3.24 Monitoring framework for strategy sections:

Part one: This section provides a brief overview of the current picture of snowsport provision – where are we now? (Extracted from: *Snowsport England National Facilities Audit Report 2010*). This section will require updating towards the end of the four year cycle. It is suggested that this section is reviewed in 2014 and a systematic assessment of facilities and national datasets is then undertaken to inform and update the picture of snowsport provision.

Part two: This section outlines the vision, objectives and outcomes for the future of snowsport facilities in England up to 2020. The objectives underpin our work over the next four years 2011-2015. This section should be reviewed towards the end of the strategy in 2015 in preparation for the next strategy document 2015-2020.

- Part three: This section is essential for snowsport in taking a realistic approach to what work is done first and what can be addressed at a later stage in the facilities strategy. It outlines priorities and our approach to implementation. This may need to be revised if there are changes to the resources available to the governing body.
- Part four: This section seeks to outline clearly the direction for Snowsport England in the provision of snowsport facilities up to 2020. The action plan considers medium term actions over the next four years (2011 – 2015) - Action Plan Years 1 – 4. This section will need to be reviewed at quarterly meetings to assess progress against each action and revised accordingly depending on available resources.
- Part five: This section provides facility specifications guidance notes for each snowsport discipline. These have been compiled by Snowsport England as part of the Snowsport England National Facilities Strategy 2011-2015. This section will need to be reviewed each time the International Ski Federation make changes to the specifications relating to facilities.

## Part Four: Action Plan

**This section seeks to outline clearly the direction for Snowsport England in the provision of snowsport facilities up to 2020. The action plan considers medium term actions over the next four years (2011 – 2015).**

### Action Plan Years 1 – 4.

The following table outlines detailed actions against each of the primary objectives for four years of the strategy 2011 - 2015. It is recognised that some of these are significant in their nature however some small '*quick wins*' have also been identified.

<b>Objective 1: Raising standards- To support targeted facilities to enhance provision and develop best practice in facility management</b>				
Action	Resources	Responsibility	Success Measure	Review Date
Establish a national facilities strategy group to oversee the implementation of the facility strategy 2011-2015. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop terms of reference for the strategy group</li> <li>Independent Chair elected/co-opted</li> <li>Schedule a calendar of quarterly meetings</li> <li>Promote the existence, roles and responsibilities of the national facilities strategy group to facility operators.</li> <li>Seek signup from facility operators to gain commitment to sharing good practice and collection of user data</li> </ul> (Ref: Implementation plan 1).	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Facility Strategy group setup with a programme of quarterly meetings	May 2011 Members reviewed annually
			All facilities signed up to a commitment to the strategy and sharing of good practice	Sep 2011 Updated action plan shared annually
Extend the support offered to facilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain an annually updated database of all facility contacts</li> <li>Providing opportunity for centres to self assess against provision standards</li> </ul>	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Database verified and updated annually	Annually in Sep

## Snowsport England National Facilities Strategy 2011

<p>criteria in table 7 page 33.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess whether those facilities facing significant challenges require support.</li> <li>The production of development plans of short, medium and long-term actions relating to facility programming, management, maintenance, accessibility, capital and revenue funding, competitions and events.</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Priority Areas 11/12).</p>			<p>Facilities with development plans 10 plans 2012 12 plans 2013</p>	<p>Annually in Sep</p>
<p>Provide facilities with management guidance and signpost facilities to the UK Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure (QUEST) to raise standards <a href="http://www.questnbs.org">http://www.questnbs.org</a></p> <p>(Ref: Priority Area 13).</p>	<p>To be completed SSE</p>	<p>To be completed SSE</p>	<p>All facilities to have access to QUEST</p>	<p>Sep 2011</p>
<p>As part of the website redesign ensure all facilities are mapped on the Snowsport England 'find a facility' online tool with links to clubs active at each facility. Incorporate circuit/track centres for cross country (roller skiing).</p> <p>(Ref: Priority Area 7).</p>	<p>To be completed SSE</p>	<p>To be completed SSE</p>	<p>Live online mapping tool with links to all facilities (59 within audit)</p>	<p>Jan 2012</p>
<p>Work with Disability Snowsport UK to improve the standards of disability access within snowsport centres – specifically synthetic matting centres. Create a guidance document for facilities on adapting facilities and funding guidance for changes.</p> <p>(Ref: Priority Area 15).</p>	<p>To be completed SSE</p>	<p>To be completed SSE</p>	<p>Guidance produced. Centres</p>	<p>Jan 2012</p>
<p>Provide an annual seminar/ series of workshops for synthetic matting, artificial snow centres, circuit/track centres (not natural snow centres) suitable for all types of facility operators (Clubs, Local Authorities, Trusts, Commercial) to attend. The seminars/workshops should be specific to each type of facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to topics – e.g. satisfaction scores, QUEST</li> <li>Provide updates on Snowsport England's services and activities</li> <li>Allow facilities to raise issue/concerns</li> <li>Share good practice</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Priority Area 13 &amp; 14).</p>	<p>To be completed SSE</p>	<p>To be completed SSE</p>	<p>Attendance by facility operators 20% 2012, 30% 2013, 50% 2014</p> <p>(baseline 59 centres in the audit 2010)</p>	<p>Initial session in spring 2012</p> <p>Annually in May</p>

<b>Objective 2: Planning for the future - To provide strategic direction to proposed and planned developments</b>				
Action	Resources	Responsibility	Success Measure	Review Date
Work with Sport England to investigate the inclusion of snowsport within future guidance documents (e.g. PPG17 or its replacement Planning policy Statement). (Ref: Priority Area 18).	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Snowsport facilities specified in planning guidance as a sport facility type	Mar 2012
Produce a document pack for facility operators, developers and local planning authorities and clubs on the need to work with Snowsport England in the planning process include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An abridged version of the facilities strategy</li> <li>Agreed discipline specifications ( see part 5 Facility specifications)</li> <li>Promote the fact that Snowsport England should be the first stop for advice and guidance when preparing development projects</li> </ul> (Ref: Priority Area 17).	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Document pack produced and directly mailed to all operators and local authorities with a facility.	Jul 2011
Promote the document pack and design specifications documents to facility operators, developers and local planning authorities and clubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated planning section on the Snowsport England website</li> <li>Direct mailing to individual planners via the Royal Town Planning Institute</li> <li>Write a feature for planning literature, magazine and annual planning conference</li> </ul> (Ref: Priority Area 17).	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Website planning pages live with relevant content. Feature article within planning magazine.	Sept 2011
Work with developers of new facilities to enhance provision in areas with significant urban populations which are not within the primary catchment of existing facilities such as East Midlands (Nottingham, Derby and Leicester) and South West (Bristol). Provision for Birmingham, the North West, South Yorkshire and London should also be considered. Encourage developers to provide facilities to meet the provision standards and discipline specifications within the strategy.	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	New facilities developed to meet the standards as outlined in the hierarchy of provision.	Ongoing

**Objective 3: Effective partnerships - To coordinate partnership working with stakeholders eg. facilities, funders, local authorities, clubs & schools**

Action	Resources	Responsibility	Success Measure	Review Date
<p>Work with Sport England and British Cycling to produce facility guidance and specifications for roller skiing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review proposed and planned closed circuit road tracks to provide advice on suitability for roller skiing activities</li> <li>Seek agreement from British Cycling that facilities will be encouraged to engage with Nordic clubs</li> <li>Provide British Cycling with clear facility specifications for roller ski training and competition. Develop an outline programme of roller skiing activity for a closed circuit road track to support planning and funding applications.</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Priority Area 8).</p>	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Formal agreement established with British Cycling	Sep 2011
<p>Produce guidance for facilities on major and small grants programmes to enable voluntary, trust and local authority owned facilities to extend, refurbish and maintain slope and ancillary facilities. Guidance should be downloadable from the Snowsport England website and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sources of capital and revenue funding</li> <li>Advice on applying and gaining funding</li> <li>Options for all types of facility including commercial and social enterprises</li> </ul> <p>(Ref: Priority Area 12).</p>	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Guidance available for all facilities updated annually.	Annually May
<p>Support clubs in formalising agreements with snowsport centres for programmed usage of facilities (Link to WSP Intervention 2 Clubs &amp; Coaching)</p> <p>(Ref: Priority Area 10).</p>	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	34 clubs with formalised agreements for programmed usage of facilities	Apr 2013
<p>Arrange meetings with local authorities that own snowsport facilities to identify next steps in terms of leisure services provision and provide the business case for snowsport facilities to be retained.</p> <p>(Ref: Priority Area 10)</p>	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Local Authorities aware of the support that is available from Snowsport England.	Jun 2011
<p>Work with facilities at facing significant challenges to identify potential partnerships that could be established that would enable effective management approaches to be applied.</p>	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Facilities at are being directly supported to grow in participation.	Jul 2011

**Objective 4 Developing evidence – To coordinate a database of facilities and analyse data to inform decision making**

Action	Resources	Responsibility	Success Measure	Review Date
Update Sport England Sports Data Model via the Leisure Database Company <a href="http://www.theleisuredatabase.com">www.theleisuredatabase.com</a> with the revised classifications for snowsport as outlined in table 4 page 30. (Ref: Priority Area 1).	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Updated classifications for inclusion in Active Places	May 2011
Commission research of user opinions of facilities to inform decisions on the quality and accessibility of snowsport facilities and ancillary provision, link to an academic research institution. Potentially create a research panel to be involved in regular research. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including representative sample of schools, colleges/universities, youth groups and the public (families &amp; individuals), clubs (including adaptive snowsport clubs)</li> </ul> (Ref: Priority Area 2).	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	User opinion data gathered in a measurement framework which can be repeated.	Sep 2012
Develop a secure area of the website for facilities to share good practice/case studies to promote standards of provision. Include advice and identify sources of additional information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National datasets (Active People, SQSE, Sports Market Segmentation, Crystal report, snowsport market trends etc)</li> <li>National Benchmarking Scheme</li> <li>Collation of user data for marketing purposes</li> <li>Management &amp; programming of slope space</li> <li>Best practice approaches to slope maintenance</li> <li>Hosting competitions and events (attracting competitors &amp; spectators)</li> </ul> (Ref: Priority Area 3 & 4).	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Secure area for facilities developed with good practice topic sheets and a minimum of 8 case studies updated annually.	Annually Jul
Conduct research with performers/talent pool to establish facility requirements for high performance training and competitions suitable for facilities in England. Highlight within the study the feasibility of certain facilities/or new facilities in England becoming performance centres for specific disciplines (Link to WSP Intervention 3 Performance pathway and Talent ID). (Ref: Priority Area 5).	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Feasibility study undertaken	Oct 2013
Commission research into artificial surfaces for snowsport to establish which are most appropriate for all disciplines and participation levels. Link to an academic institution. (Ref: Priority Area 6).	To be completed SSE	To be completed SSE	Research proposal developed.	Jan 2014

## **Part Five: Facility Specifications**

**This section provides facility specifications guidance notes for each snowsport discipline. These have been compiled by Snowsport England as part of the Snowsport England National Facilities Strategy 2011-2015.**

- 5.1 The guidance is aimed at snowsport facility managers, owners, local authority planners and those who may be considering the provision and design of a snowsport facility. While not exhaustive, it is a comprehensive briefing document designed to prompt the right questions and to inform the decisions that formulate the project and design briefs.
- 5.2 Specialist professional consultants should be appointed at an early stage of project development to provide the necessary level of expertise on the design, management and maintenance of snowsport facilities. Before considering the provision of a new facility to host snowsport competitions, train elite performers, develop talent or encourage participation in snowsport, it is vital that you contact the governing body of the sport: Snowsport England.
- 5.3 The following specifications are considered to constitute a top-class facility for each discipline in England. This does not mean that all specifications have to be met, and it is recommended that discussions take place with Snowsport England at the planning stage. This guidance document is not intended to state absolute or essential requirements as each slope will be, and should be different.
- 5.4 The objectives of these guidelines are:
- To provide advice on the facility specifications suggested for snowsport at various levels.
  - To encourage the building of new facilities to provide a network of provision.
  - To encourage centres to upgrade their facilities to make them compatible at various levels of competition.
  - To encourage management arrangements to increase access and usage for training and recreational use.

5.5 The specifications are divided into the four core disciplines of snowsport that take place in England – Alpine, Freestyle, Snowboard and Roller skiing (a form of cross country). The following table outlines the current levels of participation and performance that can be attained in England using existing facilities. Taking part in snowsport at facilities in England at all levels will enhance users experience of a mountain resort.

**Table 10 Levels of participation and performance currently attainable in snowsport centres in England**

	Competition	Training/ Recreational
Alpine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry into Club events</li> <li>• Entry into Club National race</li> <li>• Entry into Grand Prix race</li> <li>• Ability to be selected for regional squads</li> <li>• Ability to be selected for England national squad</li> <li>• Ability to be selected for England team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To learn beginner skiing techniques and develop skiing skill the ability to make linked turns and control speed</li> <li>• To learn more techniques</li> <li>• To improve skill on an ongoing basis</li> <li>• Entry into club system for training and competing</li> </ul>
Freestyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry into British Championships</li> <li>• Entry into British Snow Tour</li> <li>• Entry into Regional freestyle squads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be competent parallel skiers</li> <li>• Beginner freestyle</li> <li>• Entry into freestyle sessions for training and competing</li> </ul>
Snowboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry into Brit Tour</li> <li>• Entry into British Championships</li> <li>• Entry into selection events</li> <li>• Ability to be selected for GB team training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginner snowboarding techniques the ability to make linked turns and control speed</li> <li>• Entry into freestyle sessions for training and competing</li> </ul>
Roller skiing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry into GB Rollerski Series</li> <li>• Ability to be selected for GB team training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginner roller skiing and cross country techniques</li> <li>• Entry into club system for training and competing</li> </ul>

5.6 Snowsport England will seek to support innovative facility designs that provide viable solutions to growing participation and improving standards of performance. Therefore, within each of the discipline specifications (highlighted in blue), reference has been made to the international specifications for competition as outlined by the International Ski Federation (FIS).

## Facility specifications for Alpine (including Telemarking)

- 5.7 The discipline of Alpine includes - Downhill, Super G, Giant Slalom, Slalom, Speed Skiing (Touring/Mountain)<sup>1</sup>. The international governing body for snowsport is the International Ski Federation (FIS). The FIS rules for competition included within this specification are based on the FIS regulations for 2011 (these are highlighted in blue). The specifications used for Alpine can also be used when considering Telemarking. Telemarking is classified as its own discipline by the FIS for competition but uses the same slopes as alpine.
- 5.8 The tables outline relevant Snowsport England requirements for facilities that intend to host alpine competitions and provide opportunities for training and recreational activity in England. There is no such thing as a standard slope design alpine skiing, nor would a standard design ever be desired by the sport.

**Table 11 Specifications for facilities intending to cater for the discipline of Alpine skiing in England**

	Competition		Training/ Recreational	
A.1 Slope, surface, terrain and gradient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface - The most suitable surfaces in England are brush matting and snow.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface – brush matting, carpet matting and snow.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contour of slope must allow quick acceleration from horizontal start, appropriate deceleration area 10m from finish, no limiting contours (Slope contours are to be judged by the person homologating).</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contour of slope allows quick acceleration from horizontal start, appropriate deceleration area, no limiting contours</li> <li>Separate nursery slope for beginners</li> </ul>	
A.2 Slope dimensions and technical data for sub-disciplines	Slalom	Club National Race (Homologation criteria currently used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vertical drop: Not defined</li> <li>Length: 120m</li> <li>Width: 10.8m (7.2 min)</li> <li>Course angle: <math>\leq 17^\circ</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		Grand Prix Race (Homologation criteria currently used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vertical drop: Not defined</li> <li>Length: 140m</li> <li>Width: 10.8m (7.2 min)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Biathlon and Ski Orienteering are multi-disciplinary activities governed by the British Biathlon Union and the British Orienteering Federation respectively and not by Snowsport England.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course angle: <math>\leq 17^\circ</math></li> </ul>	
		Slalom optimum specification in England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop: 80m - 120m (or if under 80 metres with a minimum of 50 metres you can run an entry league race over 3 runs – potentially within an indoor artificial snow centre if there is a facility of suitable vertical drop Rule 801.1.4)</li> <li>• Length: 120 – 180m</li> <li>• Width: 40m</li> <li>• Run Time: 30 seconds min.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		Slalom FIS technical data (see 801).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop (For Olympic Winter Games, FIS World Ski Championships and FIS World Cup): 180m - 220m (Men) 140m - 220m (Women)</li> <li>• For all other races of the FIS: 140m - 220m (Men) 120m - 200m (Women)</li> <li>• For entry league races: 80m – 120m (Men 140m)</li> <li>• Width: 40m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		Giant Slalom optimum specification in England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop: 80m - 120m</li> <li>• Width: 40m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		Giant Slalom FIS technical data (see 901).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop (For Olympic Winter Games, FIS World Ski Championships and FIS World Cup): 300m - 450m (Men) 300m - 400m (Women)</li> <li>• For all other races of the FIS: 250m - 450m (Men) 250m - 400m (Women)</li> <li>• For entry league races: 200m – 250m</li> <li>• Width: 40m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
	Downhill	Downhill optimum specification in England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No facilities in England are able to accommodate an appropriate vertical drop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		Downhill FIS technical data (see 701)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop (For Olympic Winter Games, FIS World Ski Championships and FIS World Cup): 800m - 1100m (Men) 450m - 800m (Women)</li> <li>• For entry league races: 400m - 500m (1 run race)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 350m - 500m (2 run race)</li> <li>• Width: 30m min.</li> </ul>	
	Super-G optimum specification in England.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No facilities in England are able to accommodate an appropriate vertical drop.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
	Super-G FIS technical data (see 1001)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop (For Olympic Winter Games, FIS World Ski Championships and FIS World Cup):</li> <li>• 400m - 650m (Men)</li> <li>• 400m - 600m (Women)</li> <li>• For all other races of the FIS:</li> <li>• 350m - 650m (Men)</li> <li>• 350m - 600m (Women)</li> <li>• For entry league races:</li> <li>• 350m - 500m</li> <li>• Width: 30m min.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
	Telemark Giant Slalom optimum specification in England.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop: 80m - 120m</li> <li>• Length: 120 – 180m</li> <li>• Width: 40m</li> <li>• Run Time: 30 seconds min.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
	Telemark Giant Slalom FIS technical data (see 1801)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop: 250m – 450m</li> <li>• Width: 30m min.</li> <li>• Jump height: =&lt; 1.5m</li> <li>• Jump inclination: no &gt;20°</li> <li>• Suited for jumps from 5m – 25m.</li> <li>• Jump clear zone: 5m at sides, 10m above and 50m below.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
	Telemark Classic optimum specification in England.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No facilities in England can accommodate an appropriate vertical drop or cross country terrain.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
	Telemark Classic FIS technical data (see 1901)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop: 300m – 500m</li> <li>• Width: 30m min.</li> <li>• Terrain: 30-40% cross country, 60-70% Telemark, Jump, 360, whoops.</li> <li>• Jump height: =&lt; 1.5m</li> <li>• Jump inclination: no &gt;20°</li> <li>• Suited for jumps from 5m – 25m.</li> <li>• Jump clear zone: 5m at sides, 10m above and 50m below.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
	Telemark Sprint Classic optimum specification in England.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No facilities in England can accommodate an appropriate vertical drop or cross country terrain.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>

		<p>Telemark Sprint Classic FIS technical data (see 1901)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop: 100m – 200m</li> <li>• Width: 30m min.</li> <li>• Terrain: Jump, 360, skating</li> <li>• Jump height: = &lt; 1.5m</li> <li>• Jump inclination: no &gt; 20°</li> <li>• Suited for jumps from 5m – 25m.</li> <li>• Jump clear zone: 5m at sides, 10m above and 50m below.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
A.3 Uplift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uplifts should be planned carefully in relation to slope space.</li> <li>• Uplift must be efficient without interfering with race or race organisation.</li> <li>• Uplift next to the course is essential to ensure that the races are run smoothly and rapidly (1223.3).</li> <li>• Uplift options for disability users to gain access to slopes.</li> </ul>			
A.4 Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recommended levels of lighting for snowsport are very modest compared to most other sports. The most comprehensive recommendations are contained within the European Standard for sports lighting EN 12193:2007. The Standard contains 3 levels of lighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I For international and national competitions 100 lux</li> <li>- II For mid level competition 30 lux</li> <li>- III For low level competition and training 20 lux</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The light level anywhere on the course must not be less than 80 lux and be as uniform as possible (665.2.1)</li> <li>• Floodlights should be positioned to allow users to see texture or contour changes on the slope.</li> <li>• Unlike moving ball sports, low level columns are acceptable although higher columns will normally provide greater uniformity and less light spillage on surrounding property.</li> </ul>			
A.5 Timing, judging and scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for timing personnel and a Public Address (PA) system in private location with good view of slope.</li> <li>• Timing cables (including telecommunications cables) wired in to link top and bottom of slope.</li> <li>• Weatherproof timing hut as close to finish as possible with space for at least 3 officials.</li> <li>• Private room available for use by Jury.</li> <li>• Timing equipment should be available for use for training sessions.</li> </ul>			
A.6 Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health and Safety in Ski Slope Operation Guidance' governs management obligations for appropriate risk management. <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indq371.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indq371.pdf</a></li> <li>• Overcrowding of the slopes increases the risk of accidents. The carrying capacity of the slope should be defined, and steps should be in place to manage the slope in order to prevent overcrowding.</li> </ul>			
A.7 Equipment hire and maintenance area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area and equipment available for competitors to carry out basic equipment maintenance.</li> <li>• Equipment range to include adaptive equipment.</li> <li>• All competitors and forerunners must wear a crash helmet for official training as well as for the race that meets the FIS Equipment Specifications. Soft ear protection is only permitted for helmets used in Slalom. (707)</li> </ul>			

## Facility specifications for Freestyle

5.9 The discipline of Freestyle includes Moguls, Aerials, Half-pipe, Ski Cross and Slopestyle. The international governing body for snowsport is the International Ski Federation (FIS). The FIS rules for competition included within this specification are based on the FIS regulations for 2011 (these are highlighted in blue).

5.10 The tables outline relevant Snowsport England requirements for facilities that intend to host freestyle competitions and provide opportunities for training and recreational activity in England. There is no such thing as a standard slope design for freestyle skiing, nor would a standard design ever be desired by the sport.

**Table 12 Specifications for facilities intending to cater for the discipline of Freestyle skiing in England**

	Competition		Training/ Recreational	
F.1 Slope, surface, terrain and gradient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface - the most suitable surfaces in England are artificial snow, carpet matting and brush matting.</li> <li>Contour of slope must allow quick acceleration from horizontal start, appropriate deceleration area.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface - the most suitable surfaces in England are artificial snow, carpet matting and brush matting.</li> <li>Contour of slope allows quick acceleration from horizontal start, appropriate deceleration area.</li> </ul>	
F.2 Slope dimensions and technical data for sub-disciplines	Mogul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mogul optimum specification in England.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-10 moguls can be used for recreational use. More moguls are required for effective training.</li> <li>Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length: 40-50m</li> <li>Width: 3m min</li> <li>Mogul pitch: 25°-30°</li> <li>Mogul number: &gt;10</li> <li>Air bump height: To suit landing angle</li> <li>Landing zone angle: Dependant on slope angle.</li> <li>Finish area length: 10m-15m</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mogul FIS technical data (see ICR 4303).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vertical drop: 110m ± 30m</li> <li>Length: 235m ± 5m</li> <li>Width: 18m min.</li> <li>Course angle: 28° ± 4°</li> <li>Start to 1st Air Bump: 15% of CL</li> <li>2nd Air Bump to Finish: 20% of CL</li> <li>Finish Area Length: 35m ± 5m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish Area Angle: 5° ± 5°</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air bump height: 50cm – 60cm</li> <li>• Air bump width: 120cm</li> <li>• Bump to takeoff: 4.0m – 5.0m max.</li> <li>• Takeoff to end of landing: 15.0m</li> <li>• Landing zone angle: &gt;26°</li> <li>• Takeoff angle: 26° - 30°</li> </ul>	
	Ariel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The requirements for an Ariel landing hill will not be suitable for training or recreational use in England.</li> <li>• Water jump: with In-Run and Kickers as specified below.</li> <li>• Landing: Natural water source eg. Lake/quarry</li> <li>• Water surface: Sparging/bubbler system that provides a soft water landing by aerating the water in the landing zone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ariel training and recreational preparation in England will take place outside of snowsport facilities within:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trampolining venues</li> <li>• Gymnastic venues</li> <li>• High board diving venues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As there is currently no Water Jump in operation in England training activity for using jumps takes place abroad at suitable water or snow jump venues.</li> </ul>
	Ariel optimum specification for England.	In-Run <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitch: 20° - 25°</li> <li>• Length: 64m – 74m</li> <li>• Width: 24m min.</li> <li>• Transition area: 0° for 13m min.</li> </ul>	
		Kickers (Triple, Double, Single) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width: 5.5m, 3.5m, 1.5m</li> <li>• Height: 4.0m, 3.5m, 2.0m</li> <li>• Take off angle: 70.0°, 65.0°, 50.0°</li> <li>• Take off to knoll: 8.0m, 6.5m, 4.0m</li> </ul>	
	In-Run (FIS technical data see ICR 3060).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitch: 20° - 25°</li> <li>• Length: 64m – 74m</li> <li>• Width: 24m min.</li> <li>• Transition area: 0° for 13m min.</li> </ul>	
	Kickers (Triple, Double, Single) (FIS technical data see ICR 3060).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width: 5.5m, 3.5m, 1.5m</li> <li>• Height: 4.0m, 3.5m, 2.0m</li> <li>• Take off angle: 70.0°, 65.0°, 50.0°</li> <li>• Take off to knoll: 8.0m, 6.5m, 4.0m</li> </ul>	
	Landing Hill (FIS technical data see ICR 3060).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitch: 37° (±1°)</li> <li>• Width: 24m min.</li> <li>• Length: 30m</li> <li>• Transition to flat: 12.5m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ariel course will be available for training prior to a competition at competition venues.</li> <li>• Recreational activity will not take place on big air jumps.</li> </ul>

		Finish Area (FIS technical data see ICR 3060).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width: 35m</li> <li>• Depth: 30m</li> <li>• Pitch: 0°–3°</li> </ul>	
Ski Cross		Ski Cross Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length: 140m</li> <li>• Terrain: 3-4 features - Banks (crescent shaped), Double Banks, Single, Double or Triple Jumps Rollers, Offset Rollers - (Single, double, triple, etc.), Step-up jumps, spines and double spines, Pro style jumps, Hip jumps, Table top jumps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational skiing training and development developed from Alpine techniques for racing.</li> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		International Ski Cross (FIS technical data see art. 2701).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop: Min.130m – max. 250m</li> <li>• Length: min. 650m – 900m</li> <li>• Width: min. 30m</li> <li>• Pitch: 12°-22°</li> <li>• Run time: 35 – 60 seconds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features: Banks (crescent shaped), Double Banks, Single, Double or Triple Jumps Rollers, Offset Rollers - (Single, double, triple, etc.), Step-up jumps, spines and double spines, Pro style jumps, Hip jumps, Table top jumps and medium or long GS type turns (when building a feature is not possible).</li> <li>• Other terrain features can be built, but competitor security considerations must always be a priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features: Banks (crescent shaped), Double Banks, Single, Double, or Triple Jumps. Rollers, Offset Rollers - (Single, double, triple, etc.), Step-up jumps, spines and double spines, Pro style jumps, Hip jumps, Table top jumps, Stepdown jumps.</li> </ul>
Halfpipe		Halfpipe Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of half-pipe: 60m</li> <li>• Bottom flat: 5m - 6m</li> <li>• Width (lip to lip): 13m</li> <li>• Wall height: 2.0m – 4.0m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational activity could take place on quarter pipes to build competence.</li> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		International Halfpipe (FIS technical data See art.2601.2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of half-pipe: 100m – 140m</li> <li>• Inclination: 14° - 18°</li> <li>• Width: 14m – 18m</li> <li>• Wall height: 3.0m – 4.5m</li> <li>• Transition: 3.0m – 5.0m</li> <li>• Bottom flat 5m max.</li> <li>• Drop in area: flat to 2m</li> <li>• Vertical: max 0.2@83°</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		International Oversized Pipe (FIS technical data See art.2601.2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of half-pipe: 120m – 160m</li> <li>• Inclination: 14° - 18°</li> <li>• Width (lip to lip): 16m – 20m</li> <li>• Wall height: 4.7m – 5.7m</li> <li>• Transition: 5.2m – 7.2m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical: max 0.2@83°</li> </ul>	
	Slopestyle	Slopestyle Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length: 100m</li> <li>• Width: 20m - 30m</li> <li>• Flexibility in design is encouraged</li> <li>• Features: 7-8 (3 min.)</li> <li>• Other terrain features can be built, but competitor security considerations must always be a priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		International Slopestyle (FIS technical data NOT available).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data not available first FIS slopestyle event is 2011 it is anticipated that some technical data will be produced by the FIS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
F.3 Uplift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uplifts should be planned carefully in relation to slope space.</li> <li>• Uplift must be efficient without interfering with race or race organisation.</li> <li>• Uplift next to the course is essential to ensure that the races are run smoothly and rapidly (1223.3).</li> <li>• Uplift options for disability users to gain access to slopes.</li> </ul>			
F.4 Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recommended levels of lighting for snowsport are very modest compared to most other sports. The most comprehensive recommendations are contained within the European Standard for sports lighting EN 12193:2007. The Standard contains 3 levels of lighting:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I For international and national competitions 100 lux</li> <li>- II For mid level competition 30 lux</li> <li>- III For low level competition and training 20 lux</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The light level anywhere on the course must not be less than 80 lux and be as uniform as possible (665.2.1)</li> <li>• Floodlights should be positioned to allow users to see texture or contour changes on the slope.</li> <li>• Unlike moving ball sports, low level columns are acceptable although higher columns will normally provide greater uniformity and less light spillage on surrounding property.</li> </ul>			
F.5 Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifications as per sound company and local situation – during competition not to loud that we can run the event. For training minimum music is required.</li> </ul>			
F.6 Timing, judging and scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for timing personnel and a Public Address (PA) system in private location with good view of slope.</li> <li>• Timing cables (including telecommunications cables) wired in to link top and bottom of slope.</li> <li>• Weatherproof timing hut as close to finish as possible with space for at least 3 officials.</li> <li>• Private room available for use by Jury.</li> <li>• Timing equipment should be available for use for training sessions.</li> </ul>			
F.7 Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health and Safety in Ski Slope Operation Guidance' governs management obligations for safety provisions. <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg371.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg371.pdf</a></li> <li>• 1 meter crowd control metal fence.</li> <li>• Banner fence (sponsor banners) set at 2,5 meters from coping.</li> <li>• Other safety nets and padding (TV-towers, etc.) as per required by race jury.</li> <li>• Overcrowding of the slopes increases the risk of accidents. The carrying capacity of the slope should be defined, and steps should be in place to manage the slope in order to prevent overcrowding.</li> </ul>			
F.8 Equipment hire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area and equipment available for competitors to carry out basic equipment maintenance.</li> <li>• Equipment range to include adaptive equipment.</li> </ul>			

and  
maintenance  
area.

- Competitors must wear a helmet in the competition in training and competition. (4008.2, 4206.1). Back protection and padded trousers are advised during competition.

## Facility specifications for snowboarding

- 5.11 The discipline of Snowboarding includes - Big Air, Half Pipe, Slopestyle, Snowboard Cross, Slalom (Touring/Mountain<sup>5</sup>). The international governing body for snowsport is the International Ski Federation (FIS). The FIS rules for competition included within this specification are based on the FIS regulations for 2011 (these are highlighted in blue).
- 5.12 The tables outline relevant Snowsport England requirements for facilities that intend to host competitions for snowboarding and provide opportunities for training and recreational activity in England. There is no such thing as a standard slope design for snowboarding, nor would a standard design ever be desired by the sport.

**Table 13 Specifications for facilities intending to cater for the discipline of Snowboarding in England**

	Competition		Training/ Recreational
S.1 Slope, surface, terrain and gradient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface - the most suitable surfaces in England are carpet matting and artificial snow.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surface - the most suitable surfaces in England are carpet matting and artificial snow.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contour of slope must allow quick acceleration from horizontal start, appropriate deceleration area.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contour of slope allows quick acceleration from horizontal start, appropriate deceleration area.</li> </ul>
S.2 Slope dimensions and technical data for sub-disciplines	Slalom	Slalom Optimum specification in England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TO BE COMPLETED</li> </ul>
		Slalom FIS technical data (see art. 2101).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vertical drop: Min.120m – max. 180m</li> <li>Length: 400m – 600m</li> <li>Width: 30m</li> <li>If the 2nd run is reset on the first track the minimum width is 20m.</li> </ul>
		Parallel Slalom Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TO BE COMPLETED</li> </ul>

		Parallel Slalom FIS technical data (see art. 2502).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vertical drop: Min.80m – max. 120m</li> <li>Length: 250m – 450m</li> <li>Recommended length: 350m</li> <li>Width: 30m</li> <li>Pitch: 17° – 22°</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		Giant slalom (NOT held in England) FIS technical data (see art. 2201).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vertical drop: Min.200m – max. 400m</li> <li>Length: 400m – 600m</li> <li>Width: 30m</li> <li>If two runs are set on the same slope the course must be at least 40m wide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International specifications are not applicable for training and recreation in England.</li> </ul>
		Parallel Giant Slalom (NOT held in England) FIS technical data (see art. 2515).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vertical drop: Min.120m – max. 200m</li> <li>Length: 400m – 700m</li> <li>Recommended length: 550m</li> <li>Width: 40m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International specifications are not applicable for training and recreation in England.</li> </ul>
	Big air	Big Air Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TO BE COMPLETED</li> <li>The jump and the landing should have sufficient angle to accommodate both flips and spins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TO BE COMPLETED</li> <li>The jump and the landing should have sufficient angle to accommodate both flips and spins.</li> </ul>
		In-Run (FIS technical data see art. 2801).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pitch: 22° (±2°)</li> <li>Length: 60m (±2m)</li> <li>Width: 8m minimum</li> <li>Flat area before jump: 0° for 5–10m min.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big air jumps will be available for training prior to a competition at competition venues.</li> <li>Recreational activity will not take place on big air jumps.</li> </ul>
		Jump (FIS technical data see art. 2801).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Width: 5m min.</li> <li>Height: 2,5m–3,5m</li> <li>Take off angle: 25°–30°</li> <li>Jump take off to knoll: 10–18m</li> </ul>	
		Landing Hill (FIS technical data see art. 2801).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pitch: 30° (±2°)</li> <li>Width: 22m min.</li> <li>Length: 35m</li> <li>Transition to flat: 10m</li> </ul>	
		Finish Area (FIS technical data see art. 2801).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Width: 30m</li> <li>Depth: 30m</li> <li>Pitch: 0°–3°</li> </ul>	
	Slopestyle	Slopestyle Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Length: 100m</li> <li>Width: 20m - 30m</li> <li>Flexibility in design is encouraged</li> <li>Features: 7-8 (3 min.)</li> <li>Other terrain features can be built, but competitor security considerations must always be a priority.</li> </ul>	

	International Slopestyle (FIS technical data see art. 3002).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features: table top jumps, fun boxes, quarter pipes, waves/jumps, rails and ridges, or other features types.</li> <li>• The course should have a minimum of three (3) different features types and a minimum of four (4) judged hits in total.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features: table top jumps, fun boxes, quarter pipes, waves/jumps, rails and ridges, or other features types.</li> <li>• The distance between the features should allow a smooth transition and performance.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop: Min.100m – max. 200m</li> <li>• Width: 30m</li> <li>• Pitch: 12°</li> <li>• Run time: 20+ seconds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features: table top jumps, fun boxes, quarter pipes, waves/jumps, rails and ridges, or other features types.</li> <li>• The course should have a minimum of three (3) different features types and a minimum of four (4) judged hits in total.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features: table top jumps, fun boxes, quarter pipes, waves/jumps, rails and ridges, or other features types.</li> <li>• The distance between the features should allow a smooth transition and performance.</li> </ul>	
	Snowboard Cross	Snowboard Cross Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length: 140m</li> <li>• Terrain: 3-4 features - Banks (crescent shaped), Double Banks, Single, Double or Triple Jumps Rollers, Offset Rollers - (Single, double, triple, etc.), Step-up jumps, spines and double spines, Pro style jumps, Hip jumps, Table top jumps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
		International Snowboard Cross (FIS technical data see art. 2701).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical drop: Min.100m – max. 240m</li> <li>• Length:500m – 900m</li> <li>• Width: 40m</li> <li>• Pitch: 14°-18°</li> <li>• Run time: 40 – 70 seconds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features: Banks (crescent shaped), Double Banks, Single, Double, or Triple Jumps. Rollers, Offset Rollers - (Single, double, triple, etc.), Step-up jumps, spines and double spines, Pro style jumps, Hip jumps, Table top jumps, Stepdown jumps.</li> <li>• Other terrain features can be built, but competitor security considerations must always be a priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features: Banks (crescent shaped), Double Banks, Single, Double, or Triple Jumps. Rollers, Offset Rollers - (Single, double, triple, etc.), Step-up jumps, spines and double spines, Pro style jumps, Hip jumps, Table top jumps, Stepdown jumps.</li> </ul>
Halfpipe	Halfpipe Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of half-pipe: 60m</li> <li>• Bottom flat: 5m - 6m</li> <li>• Width (lip to lip): 13m</li> <li>• Wall height: 2.0m – 4.0m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational activity could take place on quarter pipes to build competence.</li> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>	
	International 18ft Halfpipe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of half-pipe: 100 - 150m</li> <li>• Slope angle: 16o – 17o</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>	

	(FIS technical data See art.2601.2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width (crown to crown): 17.5 – 18m</li> <li>• Width of decks: 6 – 7.5m</li> <li>• Height (floor to crown): 18ft (5.4m)</li> <li>• Height of vertical: 0.2m</li> <li>• Drop-in ramp length: 15m</li> <li>• Drop-in ramp width: 10m</li> <li>• Drop-in ramp height: 5.5m</li> <li>• Distance from ramp to pipe: 9m</li> </ul>	
	International 22ft Halfpipe (FIS technical data See art.2601.2).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Length of half-pipe: 120 – 165m</li> <li>• Slope angle: 17.5° – 18.5°</li> <li>• Width (crown to crown): 19.5m</li> <li>• Width of decks: 6 – 7.5m</li> <li>• Height (floor to crown): 22ft (6.5m)</li> <li>• Height of vertical: 0.2m</li> <li>• Drop-in ramp length: 15m</li> <li>• Drop-in ramp width: 10m</li> <li>• Drop-in ramp height: 5.5m</li> <li>• Distance from ramp to pipe: 9m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>
S.3 Uplift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uplifts should be planned carefully in relation to slope space.</li> <li>• Uplift must be efficient without interfering with race or race organisation.</li> <li>• Uplift next to the course is essential to ensure that the races are run smoothly and rapidly (1223.3).</li> <li>• Uplift options for disability users to gain access to slopes.</li> </ul>		
S.4 Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recommended levels of lighting for snowsport are very modest compared to most other sports. The most comprehensive recommendations are contained within the European Standard for sports lighting EN 12193:2007. The Standard contains 3 levels of lighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I For international and national competitions 100 lux</li> <li>- II For mid level competition 30 lux</li> <li>- III For low level competition and training 20 lux</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The light level anywhere on the course must not be less than 80 lux and be as uniform as possible (665.2.1)</li> <li>• Floodlights should be positioned to allow users to see texture or contour changes on the slope.</li> <li>• Unlike moving ball sports, low level columns are acceptable although higher columns will normally provide greater uniformity and less light spillage on surrounding property.</li> </ul>		
S.5 Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifications as per sound company and local situation – during competition not to loud that we can run the event. For training minimum music is required.</li> </ul>		
S.5 Timing, judging and scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for timing personnel and a Public Address (PA) system in private location with good view of slope.</li> <li>• Timing cables (including telecommunications cables) wired in to link top and bottom of slope.</li> <li>• Weatherproof timing hut as close to finish as possible with space for at least 3 officials.</li> <li>• Private room available for use by Jury.</li> <li>• Timing equipment should be available for use for training sessions.</li> </ul>		
S.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health and Safety in Ski Slope Operation Guidance’ governs management obligations for safety provisions.</li> </ul>		

Safety	<p><a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg371.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg371.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 meter crowd control metal fence – in special cases only crowd control fence (each side of the pipe) top to bottom incl. start/finish area, set at 3 meters from coping (edge of pipe).</li><li>• Banner fence (sponsor banners) set at 2,5 meters from coping.</li><li>• Other safety nets and padding (TV-towers, etc.) as per required by race jury.</li></ul> <p>Overcrowding of the slopes increases the risk of accidents. The carrying capacity of the slope should be defined, and steps should be in place to manage the slope in order to prevent overcrowding.</p>
S.7 Equipment hire and maintenance area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Area and equipment available for competitors to carry out basic equipment maintenance.</li><li>• Equipment range to include adaptive equipment.</li><li>• The use of crash helmets is compulsory for all snowboard events. Helmets used in FIS Snowboard events shall be specifically designed and manufactured for the respective discipline and shall bear a CE mark and conform to recognized and appropriate standards such as CEE 1077 or US 2040, ASTM 2040.</li></ul>

## Facility specifications for roller skiing

- 5.13 This specification provides details for roller skiing, a form of cross country skiing that can take place in England. Cross-country skiing (classic and skating) is one of the sub-disciplines of Nordic. It also includes Telemarking/Nordic downhill, Biathlon, Jumping<sup>2</sup>, Ski Orienteering, Ski Mountaineering. The international governing body for snowsport is the International Ski Federation (FIS). The FIS rules for competition included within this specification are based on the FIS regulations for 2011 (these are highlighted in blue).
- 5.14 Although Telemarking is seen as a sub-discipline of Nordic by Snowsport England, it is classified as an Alpine discipline by the International Ski Federation (FIS) for competition, and (it as well as Nordic downhill) takes place on alpine facilities. For these sub-disciplines please refer to Alpine specifications for details of facility specifications.
- 5.15 Roller skiing is unlike any other discipline and therefore requires fundamentally different facilities. Roller skiing takes place in England on a wide range of suitable tarmac surfaces (cycle circuits and tracks, parks roads, car parks/sports areas, etc). These specifications apply to circuits that can be used for roller skiing activity, with booking giving the possibility of exclusive use during the booking period. To ensure the viability of the circuit it is recommended that the circuit should be suitable for a range of sports in addition to roller skiing, such as cycling and roller skating/blading. Facility specifications are available for these activities from British Cycling and British Roller sport. The specifications below do not cover the requirements for shooting ranges, necessary for biathlon. Specifications for shooting ranges can be obtained separately from the International Biathlon Union.
- 5.16 The tables outline relevant Snowsport England requirements for facilities that intend to host in competitions or encourage recreational activity for roller skiing events in England.

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<sup>2</sup> There are currently no facilities for jumping in the UK and there is no demand for coaching support for jumping in England at present.

**Table 14 Specifications for facilities intending to cater for the discipline of roller skiing in England**

	Competition	Training/ Recreational		
R.1 Circuit surface, terrain and dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous circuit</li> <li>Identified warm up and cool down areas.</li> <li>Smooth, fine tarmac surface, free-draining and not susceptible to growth of algae.</li> <li>Tarmac surface away from trees or bushes, to avoid damage by roots, leaves and algae problems, and designed to avoid washing of debris onto surface.</li> <li>The start and finish line must be clearly marked on the surface using paint.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circuit/ track or flat areas and areas of gentle slope for beginners.</li> <li>Overcrowding of the circuit increases the risk of accidents.</li> <li>Smooth, fine tarmac surface, free-draining and not susceptible to growth of algae.</li> <li>Tarmac surface away from trees or bushes, to avoid damage by roots, leaves and algae problems, and designed to avoid washing of debris onto surface.</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one significant uphill, of 50m length or more.</li> <li>The downhill sections must not have any sharp curves.</li> <li>Sufficient run-out at the bottom of hills min. 5m prior to any corner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One significant uphill, of 50m length or more.</li> <li>Sufficient run-out at the bottom of hills min. 5m prior to any corner.</li> <li>Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corners flat or slightly banked, but never off-camber.</li> <li>Corners on down and uphill sections, as long as these can be easily negotiated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corners flat or slightly banked, but never off-camber.</li> <li>Corners on down and uphill sections, as long as these can be easily negotiated.</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mass start areas: Width 4m min. in order to permit a fair start.</li> <li>The finish area and Roll Out Zone which follows the finish line should be safely situated and allow for sprint finishes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible. There are no defined specifications for start, finish or rollout zones for recreational activity.</li> </ul>		
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Optimum specification for England.</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed circuit</li> <li>Length:1500m</li> <li>Width: 4m</li> <li>Capacity: 50 competitors max.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed circuit</li> <li>Length:1500m</li> <li>Width: 4m</li> <li>Capacity: 50 competitors max.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circuit, Track or tarmac area</li> <li>Length: 400m min.</li> <li>Width: 2m min.</li> <li>Capacity: 3 x groups of 10 skiers.</li> </ul>
	Optimum specification for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed circuit</li> <li>Length:1500m</li> <li>Width: 4m</li> <li>Capacity: 50 competitors max.</li> </ul>		
<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">International (FIS Roller Ski technical data See ICR. 396).</td> <td>                     Prologue                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up-hill 4 – 6 km all categories</li> <li>Undulating 8 – 12 km all categories</li> </ul>                     Interval Start or Pursuit                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 km all Ladies and Junior Men</li> <li>30 km Senior Men</li> </ul>                     Uphill (Interval or Pursuit or Mass Start)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 10 km all Ladies and Junior Men</li> <li>Up to 15 km Senior Men</li> </ul>                     Individual Sprint                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>150 – 1000 m all categories</li> </ul>                     Pursuit (with or without a break)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 – 20 km all Ladies and Junior Men</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	International (FIS Roller Ski technical data See ICR. 396).	Prologue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up-hill 4 – 6 km all categories</li> <li>Undulating 8 – 12 km all categories</li> </ul> Interval Start or Pursuit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 km all Ladies and Junior Men</li> <li>30 km Senior Men</li> </ul> Uphill (Interval or Pursuit or Mass Start) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 10 km all Ladies and Junior Men</li> <li>Up to 15 km Senior Men</li> </ul> Individual Sprint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>150 – 1000 m all categories</li> </ul> Pursuit (with or without a break) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 – 20 km all Ladies and Junior Men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training should take place on surfaces as close to competition standards as possible.</li> </ul>	
International (FIS Roller Ski technical data See ICR. 396).	Prologue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up-hill 4 – 6 km all categories</li> <li>Undulating 8 – 12 km all categories</li> </ul> Interval Start or Pursuit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20 km all Ladies and Junior Men</li> <li>30 km Senior Men</li> </ul> Uphill (Interval or Pursuit or Mass Start) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 10 km all Ladies and Junior Men</li> <li>Up to 15 km Senior Men</li> </ul> Individual Sprint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>150 – 1000 m all categories</li> </ul> Pursuit (with or without a break) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 – 20 km all Ladies and Junior Men</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 – 30 km Senior Men</li> </ul> <p>Team Sprint (2 members per team)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 x 2 km x 3 laps all Ladies and Junior Men</li> <li>• 2 x 2 km x 5 laps Senior Men</li> </ul> <p>Team Relay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 km x 3 laps all Ladies and Junior Men</li> <li>• 6 km x 3 laps Senior Men</li> <li>• Width: 4m</li> </ul>	
R.2 Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recommended levels of lighting for snowsport are very modest compared to most other sports. The most comprehensive recommendations are contained within the European Standard for sports lighting EN 12193:2007. Artificial lighting for roller skiing is not considered necessary. If provided, though it should provide even coverage across the whole circuit. The light level anywhere on the circuit should not be less than 80 lux.</li> <li>• Artificial lighting is not considered necessary for training and recreational activity.</li> </ul>	
R.3 Timing, judging and scoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlike moving ball sports, low level columns are acceptable although higher columns will normally provide greater uniformity and less light spillage on surrounding property. Columns must not be placed where they constitute a collision risk (e.g. not on the outside of corners).</li> </ul>	
R.4 Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for timing personnel and a Public Address (PA) system in private location with good view of the circuit.</li> <li>• Weatherproof timing hut or shelter as close to finish as possible with space for at least 3 officials.</li> </ul> <p>Timing equipment for use for training sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible the edges of the circuit should be of short grass of about 2m wide on either side of the circuit, and provide a smooth transition from asphalt to grass.</li> <li>• No obstacles or hazardous objects shall be along or beside the track, or if not possible, they must be clearly marked and where necessary protected by padding. (396.4.3 Cross-Country ICR)</li> <li>• Where practical, the outer boundary of the facility should be closed or restricted, in order to prevent or limit the access of e.g. pedestrians, animals and cyclists.</li> </ul>	
R.5 Equipment hire and maintenance area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area and equipment available for competitors to carry out basic equipment maintenance.</li> <li>• Equipment range to include adaptive equipment.</li> <li>• The minimum safety equipment for official training and competition are an appropriate safety helmet (i.e. cycle safety helmet) and eye protection. Gloves, elbow and knee pads are optional. (GB Rollerski Series rules)</li> </ul>	

## Ancillary Facility specifications for ALL snowsport disciplines

- 5.17 Ancillary facilities are essential in relation to the experience of snowsport participants whether they are taking part as competitors, training or recreational activity. Ancillary facilities are also important for coaches, officials and spectators.
- 5.18 All sports facilities should be fully accessible to people who have a disability. Accessibility means that everyone can make full use of the facility as a participant, spectator or member of staff. Achieving this may not mean more costly solutions. If integrated into the design and development process, the requirement for full access can be achieved relatively easily and the result will be a better facility for everyone.
- 5.19 The following table outlines the specifications for ancillary facilities within snowsport centres in England. These specifications apply to all disciplines.

**Table 15 Specifications for ancillary facilities for snowsport centres in England**

	Competition/ training and recreation
1 First aid room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First aid provision will vary according to the size and use of the facilities. In all but very small buildings, a shared use room such as an office or physiotherapy room away from the main entrance could be used for first aid treatment. In larger centres and facilities used by large numbers of participants or spectators, a dedicated, fully equipped first aid room should be provided. 'The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 Approved Code of Practice and Guidance' governs management obligations for first aid provisions. <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/information.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/information.htm</a></li> </ul>
2 Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locked storage for race equipment and secure lockers for individual users. Minimum locker size is 900mm high, 300mm wide and 450mm deep. Storage should be provided to meet the needs of the specialist disciplines (for competitors to store skis/ snowboards or roller skis), as well as for the needs of schools and community groups to avoid operational problems.</li> <li>Training items should be kept separate from competition equipment and there may be a need for separate storage for schools and community groups.</li> </ul>
3 Accessibility i.e. access for people with a disability, car parking, public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to: Accessible Sports Facilities Guidance 2010 <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_guidance_notes.aspx">http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_guidance_notes.aspx</a></li> <li>Refer to: BS8300 : 2009 'Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people – Code of Practice'</li> <li>On-site parking minimum of 30 spaces including disability spaces compliant with DDA standards.</li> <li>On-site signage for all facilities.</li> <li>The facility should be designed to allow emergency access to all areas with dedicated parking directly in front of/next to the first aid room. This parking area must be hatched in yellow and include the clear message 'Emergency vehicles only'.</li> </ul>

4 Viewing and spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viewing area with good view of a significant portion of the slope or circuit where competitive activity, training or recreational activity will be taking place. The viewing area should be accessible for disability users.</li> </ul>
5 Main entrance, reception and office space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The design requirements for entrance and reception areas depends on the type of centre and the activities, the range of user groups, peak numbers of people, and times of use.</li> <li>Clearly defined reception area, suitable security and good queue management, clear access to other areas. The design should allow staff to closely control those entering the centre, particularly if spectators are to be catered for.</li> </ul>
6 Changing areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changing space clearly defined. There must be a space allowance of 1.2m<sup>2</sup> and 500mm bench space per participant. Temperatures need to be: changing and shower areas 20-22°, these temperatures may be lower where only boot changing takes place or where the wearing of outdoor clothes is common.</li> <li>Having determined the frequency of the maximum occupancy level and the pattern of use, it is possible to make considered judgments on the scope and scale of changing provision. For example, if it is probable that the facility will be used primarily for training, with a small-scale competition held twice a year, it is logical to calculate the maximum requirement for training and then devise a contingency plan for the biannual event. This could mean using other changing facilities on the site or providing temporary accommodation.</li> <li>If it is probable that some kind of competition will be held every month, it is logical to base the calculation for provision on the optimum occupancy for these regular events.</li> <li>Further guidance on the layout of changing rooms is given in the Sport England guidance note Sports halls – Design. <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/sportshalls_design.pdf">http://www.sportengland.org/sportshalls_design.pdf</a></li> </ul>
7 Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toilet provisions should be determined on the pattern of use, and the frequency of the maximum occupancy level. It is desirable to plan toilet accommodation in such a way that spectators and other visitors do not have to pass through changing areas. Recommendations on the design and scale of sanitary provisions in sports facilities are given in: BS 6465-1:2006+Amendment 1:2009 Sanitary installations. Code of practice for the design of sanitary facilities and scales of provision of sanitary and associated appliances.</li> </ul>
8 Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The layout of the indoor facilities, the design of the building structure, the uses and occupancy patterns of the building, materials and equipment, should all be considered in a fire engineering strategy which should be discussed with the local authority building control department at an early design stage.</li> </ul>
9 Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To achieve a successful and sustainable project, it is essential to understand the requirements for future maintenance The design team should prepare a fully specified maintenance schedule that will ensure that all are maintained in accordance with design requirements.</li> <li>The report should include recommendations for appropriate maintenance equipment and any special training that may be required. The report must indicate likely maintenance costs and the capital cost of purchasing the equipment.</li> </ul>
10 Other ancillary accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catering provision and additional rooms will vary according to the size and use of the facilities. Suitable catering/social areas for competitors and spectators will depend on other activities on site and the potential scope of catering and sales.</li> <li>Classroom provision for use by coaches and officials for planning, debriefing and video playback. To make the most of this facility there would need to be links to the local schools/colleges/universities so training can happen alongside education.</li> <li>Gym and training room facilities would enhance the opportunities for physical training and preparation away from the slope or circuit.</li> </ul>
11 Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The design team should follow best practice in sustainable development and whole life design. Buildings should have a high environmental performance, particularly in terms of materials, energy, water efficiency and waste management.</li> <li>Where the proposal is for the development of a completely new site or a major extension to an existing one, a single comprehensive environmental assessment, prepared at the outset. The scope of the environmental information required in support of each new</li> </ul>

development proposal will have to be judged by the planning authority in discussion with the developer.

## Appendix A: Priority centres

**Table 16 Justification for priority centres 2011/12**

	Priority centres 2011/12	Reasons for selection
Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alpine Snow Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South East, High number of registered performers, Local Authority, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gloucester Ski and Snowboard Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South West, High number of registered performers, New owner, Strategically significant for freestyle and snowboarding, Commercial, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kendal Ski Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North, Snowmarked, Relationship with CSP, Potential to be pilot scheme centre, Club managed, Voluntary, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Norfolk Snowsports Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East, High number of registered performers, Strategically significant for freestyle and snowboarding, Club managed, Voluntary, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sheffield Ski Village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside, Strategically significant for freestyle and snowboarding, Commercial, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sno!zone Castleford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside, Large population within primary catchment, Commercial, Artificial Snow Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chill Factor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North West, Large population within primary catchment, Highest number of registered performers, Commercial, Artificial Snow Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ackers (the Midland Ski Club)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Midlands, Large population within primary catchment, Snowmarked, Trust, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Snow Centre Hemel Hempstead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South East, Large population within primary catchment, High number of registered performers, Commercial, Artificial Snow Centre</li> </ul>
Other centres to be monitored during 2011/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandown Sports Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South East Large population within primary catchment, High number of registered performers, Club managed</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roller Ski centre/club (to be specified)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not yet identified</li> </ul>
Facing significant challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ski Rossendale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North West, Large population within primary catchment, For sale, Local Authority, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stoke Ski Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Midlands, Facing challenges, Commercial, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bromley Ski Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South, East, Large population within primary catchment, Facing challenges, Commercial, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
Other centres to be monitored during 2011/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gosling Sports Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South East, Large population within primary catchment, Facing challenges, Trust, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Halifax Ski &amp; Snowboard Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yorkshire &amp; Humberside, Facing challenges, Commercial, Synthetic Matting Centre</li> </ul>

## Glossary

Term	Explanation
Active People Survey	The Sport England Active People Survey (APS) asks questions to adults (aged over 16) relating to their levels of activity, including levels of participation in snowsport. <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx">http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey.aspx</a>
Active Places tool	Active Places the online facilities tool provided by Sport England to help people find local facilities. <a href="http://www.activeplaces.com/">http://www.activeplaces.com/</a>
Artificial snow centres	Often referred to as indoor centres usually have a refrigerated snow box containing tons of snow created by a range of snow making technologies.
Brush matting	Some slopes are surfaced with lattice plastic brush matting (with voids) for example Dendix/Techmat
Carpet matting	Some slope are surfaced with a continuous matting (without voids) Snowflex/Permasnow/Powderpac/Play Grass
Circuit/Track based facilities	Are used for cross country skiing. These are divided into two main types of facilities, circuit/track centres and natural snow centres.
Circuit/track centres	Used for roller skiing are tarmac tracks or circuits that can be used at certain times exclusively for roller skiing activity.
Market segmentation	Segmentation is a market analysis tool that groups together customers using behavioural and statistical techniques. Sport specific market segmentation is provided by Sport England <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/research/market_segmentation.aspx">http://www.sportengland.org/research/market_segmentation.aspx</a>
Natural snow centres	Are managed areas of land on hillsides that when conditions allow capture sufficient levels of natural snowfall.
Natural snow cross country track centres	Are managed tracks that when conditions allow capture sufficient levels of real snowfall for cross-country skiing.
PPG 17	Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) sets out the policies needed to be taken into account by local planning authorities. It is available online from the Department of Communities and Local Government.
Satisfaction with the Quality of Sporting Experience	Sport England's Satisfaction with the quality of sporting experience survey (SQSE) is a tool to gather baseline figures for people's satisfaction with their experience of sport, including snowsport. <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/research/sport_satisfaction/a_good_experience_of_sport.aspx">http://www.sportengland.org/research/sport_satisfaction/a_good_experience_of_sport.aspx</a>
Slope based facilities	These are divided into three main types of facilities, synthetic matting, artificial snow and natural snow centres.
Synthetic matting centres	Often referred to as dry slopes which are constructed from a brush or matting material designed to replicate a snow surface.
Sports Data Model	Sport England developed the Sports Data Model. This model incorporated the development of facility classifications for 13 sports including snowsport.

End notes:

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<sup>1</sup> English Ski Council. 1988. National Facilities Strategy.

<sup>2</sup> English Ski Council. 1988. National Facilities Strategy.

<sup>3</sup> Alpine Snow Centre, Gloucester Ski and Snowboard Centre, Kendal Ski Club, Norfolk Snowsports Centre, Ski Rossendale, Sheffield Ski Village, Sno!zone Castleford, The Chill Factor, The Ackers (specifically the Midland Ski Club) and The Snow Centre Hemel Hempstead.

<sup>4</sup> Priority centres/clubs were selected through a consultation process as part of the Whole Sport Plan in 2009 using the following criteria: 1. Likely level of engagement from the Facility/Club, 2.Type of slope indoor/outdoor (mixture of types required), 3. Ownership (mixture of ownership required), 4. Latent demand, 5. Geographical location (a spread of facilities around the country), 6. County Sport Partnership support, 7.Local Authority Priorities, 8. Snow mark /Club mark accreditation (working towards or attained)

<sup>5</sup> Biathlon and Ski Orienteering are multi-disciplinary activities governed by the the British Biathlon Union and the British Orienteering Federation respectively and not by Snowsport England.

<sup>6</sup> There are currently no facilities for jumping in the UK and there is no demand for coaching support in England at present.

<sup>7</sup> Telemark is classified as an Alpine discipline by FIS for competition.

<sup>8</sup> Sport England Active People Survey (APS) which poses questions to adults (aged over 16) relating to frequency of participation levels in the last four weeks, usual duration of activity, club membership, tuition and participation in competition.

<sup>9</sup> Data is not available as a breakdown of the UK into the home countries.

<sup>10</sup> Crystal Ski report 2009/2010

<sup>11</sup> Experian Ltd. (2009). Effective Segmentation.

<sup>12</sup> Sport Market Segmentation Source: Sport England and Experian Ltd (2010) [http://www.sportengland.org/research/market\\_segmentation.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/research/market_segmentation.aspx)

<sup>13</sup> The segments were created by Experian, using their own population, demographic and other indicators, as well as 'Active People Survey' data, 'Satisfaction with the Quality of the Sporting Experience' survey data and 'Taking Part' survey data. They employed a process to analyse this data and to identify groupings that exist in the population according to sport and active recreation behaviour and attitudes.

<sup>14</sup> The development of this research has been informed by consultation with the national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), a literature review on previous studies in this area, scoping work undertaken by Ipsos MORI, and qualitative research by the Henley Centre.. [http://www.sportengland.org/research/sport\\_satisfaction/a\\_good\\_experience\\_of\\_sport.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/research/sport_satisfaction/a_good_experience_of_sport.aspx)

<sup>15</sup> In total 621 people (age 16 and over - 14 and over with parental permissions for members of talent pool, where applicable) from Snowsport took part in the survey; 425 general participants, 100 affiliated club members and 96 talent pool members. The overall score for Snowsport is weighted to reflect the number of people taking part in each of the engagement levels (general participants, club member, and talent pool). This leads to an effective base size of 454 for statistical considerations.

<sup>16</sup> Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) sets out the policies needed to be taken into account by local planning authorities. It is available online from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

<sup>17</sup> Correct at the time of publication although October 2010 Sport England announced 33% reduction in grant in aid revenue funding by 2014/15 and a 40% reduction in capital grant budget. It was stated that the revenue funding for national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) will be protected until March 2013, subject to their contracted performance. Capital funding grants will be reduced through consultation with governing bodies.