



## **LTP Practice and Checkout Policies Procedures for Examiners and Assistants**

### **Safety Requirements**

1. Climbing helmets are to be used during rock and snow practices and checkouts, where head protection is warranted: on rock, for all climbing activities, belays, rappels, third class scrambling, or otherwise when there is the potential for a fall, falling rocks, falling equipment, etc.; for snow, for all self-arrest situations, including roped travel falls and arrests as well as individual arrests.
2. Ice axe adzes are to be covered to minimize danger. A section of split hose taped on is preferred, or several layers of duct tape may be used. The snow chair should make sure prior to each snow practice and checkout event that a leader is designated to provide the hose and duct tape at the trailhead. Examiners should make sure that the adze protection is in place prior to any arrest runs are taken.
3. Crampons are not to be worn during arrests.
4. Slopes with a safe runout shall be used for arrests. Sometimes due to snow conditions, a slope with a safe run out is not totally possible. Alternative methods like tying each candidate to a "J" line or creating a rope net at a good location are reasonable alternatives if the slope is slightly less than perfectly safe.
5. Except for low angle snow rappels on safe slopes, rappels by students and those checking off shall be belayed. Independent rope belays for the inexperienced are encouraged.

### **General Procedures**

1. If feasible for the site and the number of participants and examiners/assistants, examiners shall set up stations as appropriate so that candidates move from station to station and are evaluated by more than one person. Ice axe arrests are routinely done by the whole group at one time or sometimes two groups—checkout candidates and those only practicing—at the same time. Navigation checkout procedures vary from site to site.
2. If possible, have candidates actually lead groups for leader practice. For rock, if the checkout is scheduled for a full weekend, the second day can be devoted to a climb led by the successful candidates (with two appropriately rated leaders supervising). This has been done, for example, with Bear Creek Spire. For snow, M and E candidates can lead others in ascents of slopes. Potential E's can demonstrate and practice instructing "rusty" participants (the M's as guinea pigs) in the use of crampons. E candidates can direct the M candidates or those practicing as part of roped teams.
3. Candidates who clearly have failed at a particular point shall be told this with the suggestion that they spend the remainder of the time practicing.
4. Following the checkout, examiners should discuss and evaluate each candidate privately. Each candidate should then be "debriefed"—spoken to apart from the other candidates with a discussion of strengths and weaknesses as well as whether he or she passed.

## **Policies**

1. Upon checking off a candidate, an examiner is responsible for promptly notifying the technical chair, who notifies the LTC Administrative Chair of the candidate's accomplishment. The examiner is also charged with giving the candidate a written notice of satisfactory completion. The candidate should keep this notice as insurance against some breakdown in internal LTC communications.
2. If a candidate fails two rock or two snow checkouts in a year, normally he or she must wait one year before attempting another checkout. He or she may apply to the technical examiner in writing for a potential exemption to this rule. In that application the candidate must supply specific evidence of additional training and experience to satisfy all previous deficiencies. In order to be considered for the exemption, the candidate must be considered likely to pass. This one-year wait policy does not apply to navigation checkouts. LTC has adopted this policy to ensure that sufficient openings on rock and snow checkouts are available for prepared candidates..
3. All checkouts must be approved in advance by the appropriate technical chair and must be conducted by approved LTC examiners and assistants.
4. In the interest of maintaining uniformly high standards and equal opportunity for candidates on all checkouts, private checkouts are discouraged. In any case, a private checkout must be approved in advance by the appropriate technical chair.
5. The technical chair has the final approval of an LTC checkout.
6. In the event a situation arises that is not clearly covered by these policies and procedures, the judgment of the appropriate technical chair shall prevail.
7. To become an LTC examiner for an LTP activity (rock, snow, navigation), one must be approved by the appropriate technical chair. LTC examiners are expected to participate periodically in a practice/checkout of the discipline in which they are examiners and to maintain their examiner's skill level. Each technical chair maintains a current list of examiners and assistants and makes it available to the LTC Chair.

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