

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts – Children in Backpacks Policy

Version: 30/08/2020



Introduction:

Skiing and or boarding with a baby/ infant/ small child in a front or backpack creates risks that go beyond the tolerable threshold for the RAL Safety Management System.

Purpose:

To maintain the safety of all our guests, particularly the youngest/smallest who may be inadvertently injured during normal ski/boarding incidents and who are more vulnerable to adverse weather conditions during unexpected lift stoppages.

Risks:

The following table outlines the typical risks associated with skiing/riding with a small child in back or front packs.

Hazard:	Risk (pre-controls)	Control:	Risk (post controls)
Child is injured when parent or caregiver crashes.	Yellow	Entirely dependant on skier/rider skill level.	Yellow
Child is injured when parent or caregiver is collided with by another rider.	Red	Entirely dependent on skier/rider skill level, slope congestion and conditions.	Red
Child is affected more quickly by cold conditions – hypothermia during unexpected lift stoppage/ evacuation.	Red	Ensure that all guests are aware of and prepared for conditions. This remains subjective.	Yellow
Child is injured during a lift load or unloading incident.	Yellow	Lift operator NZQA training, compliant lifts, signage etc.	Yellow

Procedures:

<https://mtruapehu.sharepoint.com/sites/pnp/hse/Shared Documents/01. Safety/2. Public/6. Public Policies - codes/RAL Children in Backpacks Policy.docx>

- RAL reserves the right to prohibit any activity, including skiing or riding with children in back packs, that presents serious risks to its customers and or visitors as per the HSWA 2015.
- Based on the risk assessment above, RAL has chosen to prohibit guests carrying children in back or front packs whilst skiing, snowboarding and using RAL lifts for access.
- We recommend Happy Valley and or Alpine Meadows as suitable options for children to learn about snow sports safely under their own mobility on carpet lifts.
- Alternatively, the Sky Waka Gondola is a suitable option to experience the alpine environment in a safe manner for infants etc.