



ONTARIO FEDERATION OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

# CLUB BULLETIN

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## What Snowmobilers Must Know to Ride OFSC Trails

The Use At Your Own Risk sign that starts appearing on OFSC trails this winter reminds snowmobilers that the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs uses reasonable efforts to provide valid snowmobile trail permit holders access to a system of trails suitable for the use of safe and prudent operators and passengers. Individual snowmobile operators and passengers are expected to take responsibility for their own safe riding behavior, always bearing in mind that snowmobiling is essentially an off-road activity, taking place in the natural environment.

With these facts in mind, it is expected that snowmobilers are aware of both the basic assumptions for using OFSC trails and of the Safe Rider Pledge. As a reminder these are listed below.

### Assumptions For Use of OFSC Prescribed Snowmobile Trails by Individual Operators and Passengers

1. All snowmobiles will be operated under a lawful snowmobile trail permit;
2. All operators and passengers are aware that they use OFSC trails at their sole risk and do so willingly;
3. Operators and passengers know and will obey the law, including, *The Occupiers' Liability Act*, *the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act* and *the Trespass to Property Act*;
4. It is recognized and accepted that snowmobiling is essentially an off-road activity taking place in the natural environment;
5. The OFSC is a volunteer-based organization with finite resources and manpower;
6. It is not practical, possible or desirable to maintain all OFSC trails uniformly or to remove all potential hazards;
7. The OFSC is providing the privilege of trail access without any guarantee of service or quality;
8. Operators and passengers will not consume alcohol prior to or while using OFSC trails;

9. Operators and passengers will be prudent and responsible and shall ensure that snowmobiles are operated with appropriate care and control at all times;
10. Operators and passengers know how to snowmobile competently;
11. Weather conditions affect trails and snowmobile operation and may change without warning;
12. The maximum speed on OFSC trails is 50 km/h unless reduced by law or conditions;
13. There may be additional users on OFSC trails other than snowmobilers;
14. Operators will stay to the right of the trail notwithstanding that there are no centre lines;
15. Operators know that there may be grooming or other maintenance activities under way at any time of the day or night;
16. Operators and passengers know that OFSC snowmobile trails are not engineered highways;
17. All operators and passengers know and will adhere to the principles published in *The Safe Rider Pledge Card*;
18. Operators and passengers are aware that emergency and cell phone service may not be available;
19. Operators and passengers are aware that there are no legal requirements for signage on OFSC trails and, when provided, it is only for assistance and convenience;
20. Operators and passengers know that snowmobiling on OFSC trails is regarded as a family-oriented activity;
21. Operators and passengers know the unique and particular dangers of ice crossing;
22. The grooming and maintenance of OFSC trails, when provided, is meant solely to enhance the comfort and enjoyment of the safe and prudent operators and passengers;
23. Operators and passengers will dress appropriately for all conditions and will be equipped with appropriate emergency equipment at all times.

## **Safe Rider Pledge**

I understand that riding with care and control is a personal choice I make every time I operate a snowmobile. To make snowmobiling a safer recreational activity and reduce my own risk of injury or death, I pledge to:

- review my sled's safety materials
- avoid alcohol until I am completely finished riding
- slow down while riding at night
- stay on OFSC trails
- keep to the right side of the trail
- slow down on corners and when cresting hills
- stop before crossing every road and railway track
- use the approved snowmobile hand signals
- wear an approved snowmobile helmet
- wear reflective clothing at night
- carry an emergency survival kit and cell phone