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**From Jim G's desk**

-- By Jim Giffin, Northern Vermont Region Director

I have meet with our legal advisor and have a draft of changes to the by-laws that will allow for electronic voting. The process for the changes is for the election committee to approve, then I will review and the membership will vote on it at the fall meetings. We have used language from the recent Eastern Division By-Law changes as much as possible. Attached is a strike though version for you to see the changes. When approved there will be a lot of clean up in the policy & procedures to reflect the changes and deal with dated processes.

**Patroller Stress Awareness Resource Page**

Note that The NVT web site was recently updated with a link to patroller stress awareness. <https://www.nspeast.org/stress-awareness-resources.html> - thanks Jessie and Harley.

**Seeking OEC Refresher Dates**

-- From Harley Freedman, Northern Vermont Webmaster

If you have not done so already, please notify Harley Freedman (harley@hfvisuals.com) of your areas OEC refresher dates so he can post it on the NVT web site. This assists patrollers who need to find an alternative date from their areas.

**NSP Roster management updates and improvements**

-- From the NSP Direct Line newsletter

The NSP Membership System aka "iMIS" was updated recently to improve roster management capabilities for Patrol and Host Unit Representatives and Directors. You'll find that the User Interface has been updated to streamline the management process and improve the visual aspects of the interface.

The most exciting improved feature is the management of ALL rosters under a single User ID / User Account. No more "Admin Accounts"! Your ability to utilize an Admin Account is not impacted. We will look to phase them out, so if you are an Admin Account user, look for further communication regarding transitioning to a single account.

You can review the changes and updates through this [document](#), which is also available on the Roster Management home page of [nsp.org](http://nsp.org). There are other useful documents on this page, including one documenting the [Candidate Join Process](#).

## Regional OEC class Fall 2021

-- From Meg Freeman, Northern Vermont Region OEC Advisor

We are planning to run the Hybrid course again this year. The Hybrid class allows us to spend the bulk of class time working on hands-on skills and scenarios. The final exam will be held on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The first class will be introductions, history of the NSP, and legal brief. Because the classes are focused on skills and scenarios, the more instructors available for each session, the better prepared our candidates will be for the final practical exam. Please look at your calendars and help to make this a successful class for our region. If you have any questions, please reach out to the IOR, Chris Southworth at [chrissouthworth63@gmail.com](mailto:chrissouthworth63@gmail.com), or me at [NVTROA@gmail.com](mailto:NVTROA@gmail.com)

**Location:** Bolton Valley Ski Area – near the Sports Center

**Dates:** Thursday starting Aug. 19th to Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 6-9PM and 1 Saturday a month  
Saturdays: Aug. 28th, Sept. 18th, Oct. 16th, 9AM-2PM

Students who want to register should first contact the Patrol Director for where they would like to Patrol, then you need to go the NSP website and become a Candidate Member:

1. The potential Candidate Member creates an account on the NSP website using the Create Account link near the top right of the page.
2. The potential Candidate Member lets their Patrol rep/director know they have created an NSP account.
3. The Patrol rep/director adds the Candidate Member to their patrol.
4. The following day after being added to the patrol the Candidate Member logs in to the member site and proceeds with the join process by clicking Next below, where they will click the Add to Cart button. Once added click the View Cart link or click the cart in the upper right corner and pay the Candidate Member dues.
5. Once dues are paid and processed the Candidate Member will receive their NSP Membership Card.

## Eastern Division Patriot Stars

-- From Allen Miller, Alumni Program – Eastern Region

If you have patrollers or Alums that have served our Nation please nominate them for the Patriot Star. It will go National and a DD245 copy (proof of honorable discharge) will be required. Our Eastern Division requirements do not ask for this currently. Please take advantage of this and honor those that have served. Patriot Star Award (EDPatS), for any active patroller who is:

- An active-duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces for at least three years.
- A current member of the US Armed Forces Reserves or National Guard.
- An honorably discharged service member from the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Armed forces include the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Arm National Guard, and the Air National Guard.

The Patriot Star patch is to be worn on the right arm of the patrol parka, one-half the distance from the cuff to the elbow. To nominate a patroller, download the Eastern Division Patriot Star nomination form - [click here](#).

The NVT web site was recently updated with a link to patroller stress awareness. <https://www.nspeast.org/stress-awareness-resources.html> Thanks Jessie and Harley.

## Eastern Division - COVID19 Training Guidelines Summer-Fall 2021

The CDC has recently revised their guidelines and now are advising that fully vaccinated people are able to interact without masks or social distancing.

The following proposal updates the position taken by the BOD in March 2021 in regard to all Division and Regional training/testing events.

### Vaccination and Program Administration for NSP Eastern Division Training Events

The Eastern Division ***Strongly Recommends Vaccination*** of all patrollers and participants. In addition, all CDC, state and local guidelines should be followed as well as any parameters set forth by the hosting venue (mountain, park, fire house, church, etc). BSI, Be prepared, Be alert, Be clean - these all still apply!

**Any Region** event must:

- Be specifically approved beforehand by the Region Director,
- Have a **written operations plan**, including defined leadership and command structure with safety officers, submitted to the RD from the event coordinator/IOR prior to approving it.
- Have **plans** that address **how the event** will be **conducted in compliance** with the CDC, state and local guidelines. Each RD may specify how far in advance they need the request before rendering a decision.
- Include **registration** for all attendees (**required**).
- **Event administrators (IT/IOR/Program Admin) can establish additional attendance guidelines/requirements.**
- **Document** that participants have **shown** properly executed **vaccine cards** and record the name of each participant that has shown their card confirming vaccination status (RD or designee including IOR or IT is responsible for confirming documentation) \*
- Ensure IOR **confirm that all personnel** (IT's, Instructors/Evaluators, patients, etc.) **are approved by mountain management (or venue)** in the early planning stages of the event.
- Ask that **participants "self-certify"** that they are healthy and come prepared with face coverings and gloves. Bottom Line: If you are feeling ill, **STAY HOME!**
- Ensure access to hand-washing stations and /or hand sanitizer.
- Provide training for new candidates and patrollers with questions on proper PPE, hand washing, cleaning and disinfecting, and review the COVID19 questions
- Minimize or eliminate food offerings in a group setting. Bottled water is an excellent option. Eat before you arrive
- Have garbage bags set up for refuse.
- Have additional supplies on hand - surgical masks, gloves, face shields, hand sanitizer
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces and equipment – post event.

\* The purpose of documenting vaccines is for tracking and safety, not policing, in the event of an outbreak, that information will be needed. Copies of the cards are not to be retained.

**Indoor Events** will still require masks and 6-ft social distancing guidelines (to the greatest extent possible) for **unvaccinated participants**, consistent with CDC, state and local guidance.



**Outdoor Events** will require **Unvaccinated participants** to **don masks** and adhere to the 6-ft social distance guideline to the greatest extent practical. **Vaccinated participants** at outdoor events **do not need** to wear face coverings.

**Unvaccinated participants** must follow the established guidelines previously described (masks, social distancing, safety precautions) regardless of whether the event is indoors or outdoors. ***If the above constraints conflicts with the participant's view, and the participant is unwilling to adhere to the above, they are not able to participate.***

In addition, **all participants (unvaccinated and vaccinated)** must complete the following questions: (with all negative responses):

1. In the last 24 hours, have you had fever, chills, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea?
2. Any new or unusual cough, shortness of breath, headache, or sore throat?
3. Any new loss of smell or taste?
4. To your knowledge, have you been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive patient for a prolonged period of time?
5. Have you had direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 patient (e.g. being coughed on by a COVID-19 positive patient) while NOT wearing PPE, including a face mask?

Region Directors would be empowered to approve events under the above conditions in their Regions without further approval by this BOD. Nothing in the above proposal shall negate or otherwise relieve the RD and IOR of the responsibility to conduct any event in accordance with CDC, state and local guidelines.

**Please utilize the new "NSP Event/Training Release Forms" found on [www.NSPeast.org](http://www.NSPeast.org) under the resources, forms/documents tab.**

Upon adoption of this proposal, the COOPED-UP Task Force will be charged with updating the Division guidance documents to include changes made in this proposal.

These guidelines will be revisited as necessary, and the National Ski Patrol, Eastern Division, Board of Directors reserves the right to update and change this document at any time.

Revision 1.8 Submitted: 06/08/2021

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_