

FAQs – MAIN TOPIC AREAS

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Ski length

What is the correct GRASS SKI LENGTH for me - which length is recommended based on AGE?

That depends on age, weight, sex, slope, surface and skiing style as follows:

- 60cm/24in - Children 6 years and older
- 70-75cm/28-30in - Juniors 7 to 9 years of age
- 80cm/32in - Women's Slalom, Junior Giant Slalom
- 85cm/35in - Women's Giant Slalom and Super-G, Men's Slalom, Kiting tricks
- 90cm/36in - Men's Giant Slalom and Super-G, Women's Super-G, Kiting speed
- 95cm/38in - Men's Giant Slalom, Super-G, expert Women's Giant Slalom/ Super-G
- 100cm/40in - Men's Super-G moderate slopes

Which SKI LENGTH is best suited for experienced alpine snow-skiers on grass slopes?

The following ski lengths generally offer the best glide and control on grass slopes:

- Women - 80cm/32in
- Men - 85cm/35in

What is the ideal GRASS SKI length for KITING?

Generally, the same ski lengths as are used for normal grass ski surfaces. To start, the skier must be able to develop some momentum downhill before the kite will actually become effective and thereafter the skier can proceed in larger and wider arcs. The following recommended lengths provide the best glide over minor grass surface irregularities:

- Ladies - 80cm/32in
- Men - 85-90cm/35-36in

Bindings & auxiliary equipment

What type of BINDING is used for the grass ski?

The bindings are of the same general quality and mechanism used with alpine "Big Foot" snow skis – and are fabricated using a specialized stainless steel. The design and construction allows the binding to be quickly and easily adjusted to fit various ski lengths and boot/shoe sizes as follows:

- Grass ski 60cm - Sole length 217mm-297mm
- Grass ski 70-75cm - Sole length 237mm-317mm
- Grass ski 80-100cm - Sole length 247mm-327mm

Please note that adding a 10mm binding extension allows for a 10mm longer boot sole to be accommodated.

Which ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT items are required to safely use the GRASSKIS?

Recommended items include: Safety goggles - plus elbow, knee and shin guards. The following equipment items are mandatory for competitive grass ski events:

- Safety Helmet

- Safety Gloves
- FIS-approved Ski Suit (long sleeves recommended)
- Back Support with Vertebrae Protector

What type of SKI BOOTS is required?

The same quality and standard ski boots that are available for alpine snow skiing are used. Recommended are harder, thicker ski boots - that do not lose durability in summer heat.

What is the purpose of the grass ski PROTECTORS?

The protectors are mounted on the inside surface of the grass ski to prevent the skis from coming into direct contact with each other and locking up.

WARNING – failure to correctly apply and use the protectors can cause the skier to fall and risk injury.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance in general

How important is the recommended MAINTENANCE?

As with all sports equipment – the required maintenance – plays a vital role in performance, safety and of course reduces repairs while extending the life and enjoyment of the grass ski. Ideally, the rails should be very lightly oiled with a few drops before every ride. After every use – it is highly recommended that dirt, grass and oil residue be removed from the grass ski so that it does not dry and harden on the moving parts. The recommended method is to wash the grass ski with normal kitchen or car-washing detergent in a bucket of warm water, using a sponge to clean the rails.

Which lubricating OIL is recommended – is special oil required?

Based on experience any oil will suffice. However, for optimum performance, ski life and ease of maintenance, light-weight oil is highly recommended. NOTE: in competitive skiing events only biodegradable oils are allowed to be used on the grass slopes.

How do I clean and WASH my GRASS SKIS?

The recommended method is to wash the grass ski with normal kitchen or car-washing detergent in a bucket of warm water, using a sponge to clean the rails. Dry with air or a clean rag.

Main components, replacement parts

Which REPLACEMENT PARTS are most routinely required to be replaced?

During normal usage (twice a week) under recommended conditions – expect the following routine replacement schedule (cost comparison values for 85cm ski length):

- All white parts - every 6 to 12 months
 - Set of rolls – EUR 26/pair of skis
 - Gliding inserts - EUR 8/pair of skis
- Special protective foil - after 8-12 skiing days (15-20 min. for replacement)
 - EUR 3/pair of skis

Please note that regular cleaning and oiling can extend the life of these parts.

What if the GLIDE ELEMENT breaks?

On the forward part of the rail there is an incision which allows the glide elements to be removed or inserted when carefully moved in the correct direction.

What is the purpose of the PROTECTIVE FOIL?

To prevent grass, dirt, stones and foreign objects from fouling, eroding or jamming the moving parts, the foil should be replaced whenever it becomes obviously too tattered or ragged to be effective. The replacement requires approx. 15-20 minutes depending on skier ability. The cost of the foil for a pair of grass ski is about EUR 3.

PURCHASE OF USED GRASS SKI and RENTING

Can I buy USED GRASS SKIS?

YES. Check my homepage for used ski listings. From time to time I have used grass ski of different sizes available.

Can I RENT GRASSKIS to test before I buy - or to use - for recreation and competition?

YES. You can test or rent grass ski. The rental cost is EUR 28 per day, per pair, which can be deducted from the cost of a subsequent purchase. In case the skis need to be shipped, shipping cost will be added.

SHIPPING

Shipping schedules

How long is the expected ORDER to DELIVERY TIME-FRAME?

That depends on the overall demand and seasonal time-frame. Normally, most lengths are generally in stock year around. During the high season for grass ski (March-June) minor delays can be expected and should be planned for – however, most orders for single sets of grass ski are usually shipped within 3-5 days from receipt of order. Larger orders for 20 or more sets of grass ski usually require 10 days or more prior to shipment. Please plan your orders during the high season including some lead time.

PRICES

For prices for grass skis, replacement parts and shipping please see the **WEBSHOP** on this homepage.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Slopes and ideal surface

What is the IDEAL SLOPE for grass ski?

This is a highly subjective question and depends greatly on the skill and experience of the skier. The ideal slope for grass ski beginners would be the equivalent of children's or beginners' slope in winter alpine skiing. An advanced grass ski slope would be the equivalent of a moderate winter snow ski course – even professional grass ski competitors would find a moderate alpine slope ('blue slope') to be fast and challenging.

What is the IDEAL SUBSURFACE for grass skis?

The ideal subsurface is similar to a golf course: even, cut short, and thick with no roots, twigs, dirt, gravel, stones or outcroppings. The ideal surface feels and ideally rides like a compacted winter snow course with 3 cm of new snow. But, such grass slopes and surfaces are hard to find. However, slopes that have been recently mowed and maintained as cow pastures - serve quite well as grass ski courses.

WARNING: avoiding damage or injury caused by stones or gravel is paramount.

What are the conditions required for a GRASS SURFACE to be used for grass skis?

There is no specific minimum or maximum grass height other than an optimal height of 15 cm for full effectiveness and enjoyment. With regard to the wetness or dryness of the grass surface – rather less wet – squeaky when walked on is not good – especially for the lubrication and endurance of all the moving parts. The oil is extremely important for ease of gliding of the grass ski and the overall lifetime of the ski.

Speed and skiing techniques

Can a GOOD ALPINE SKIER also do as well on grass ski?

A good alpine skier certainly has the basic foundations to be a good grass skier. However, the difference in technique and technology places a high demand on courage and self-confidence to make a successful transition from alpine snow skis to grass skis on a grass meadow.

CAUTION: the tempo or perceived speed on grass appears to be much higher than the equivalent rates on snow and the difference in surface effects mandates the wearing of recommended safety equipment and clothing.

How FAST can I go on grass skis?

The official world speed record on grass skis is 90 kph (54 mph). However, I am certain that unrecorded speeds of 100 kph/80mph have been reached and exceeded.

How do I ski CURVES, TURNS AND ARCS with grass skis?

To ski curves and turns, use the same general techniques as with alpine snow skis. The grass skis are placed hip-width apart. The same as in the snow ski carving technique. The legs and skis are held parallel to each other - with the skiers' weight set slightly inwards. Press both knees slightly towards the up-slope and guide the skis into the curve. There is a technological difference between the snow ski and the grass ski regarding the ability to turn curves. In snow skis that capability is provided by tailoring of the radius, while in grass ski the contact surface is tailored.

WARNING: grass skis are less forgiving of minor discrepancies than snow skis - great care must be exerted to land with the grass ski perfectly parallel – wherever the skis are pointed when you land is where you will go.

How do you BRAKE OR STOP with grass ski?

YES, it is possible to slow down and stop with grass ski – but not in any sense of applying a friction brake or using the cutting edge of an alpine ski. The method used is merely to turn an arc perpendicular to the downward slope or effect a 180 degree turn. An alternative method is to run out your momentum straight ahead on a flat or uphill surface – if that space is available.

WARNING: you cannot stop all at once! It is recommended to ski foresightedly.

Can grass skis be used to SKI JUMP?

YES, jumps are technologically possible up to a height of 15 meters.

CAUTION: jumps require extra care and advanced skill and techniques due to the fact while in the air the rotating glide belt slows down and will then accelerate sharply upon contact with the grass – possibly causing an unwary skier to tumble forward and reduces the life of the critical belt and gliding elements substantially.

Kiting and Touring

Can I use my grass ski for KITING?

YES. In fact, grass ski are ideally suited for kiting – especially if the slope and winds enable the kite to bring the skier back up the slope with very little effort. Since 2003, my grass skis have increasingly been used for kiting and have even opened up a new market for products, recreation and competition with no complaints or negative results to date. Recently, I obtained a kite for myself and enjoyed my first kite ride using my grass ski and enjoyed it immensely. Note that this sport requires much more strength and endurance than just skiing on a snow or grass slope – but additional equipment is available to lighten the load for the kite skier. See the section on kiting at: www.Kite-Power-Shop.de

What is the GRASS SKI LENGTH recommended for KITING?

The same lengths as recommended for grass slopes:

- Ladies – 80cm
- Men – 85cm

At the start, slowly start moving. Afterwards you can do larger curves. When using the recommended length for the ski you are well positioned to the slope and will not feel every hole in the surface of the grass. Already with these lengths the ski is steadily moving on the grass.

Are grass ski adaptable to TOURING?

NO. The grass ski depends on downward gravity and momentum to move forward and is incapable of any straight-line or braking action using the ski edges – therefore, it is very difficult to ski uphill or to prevent a backwards rolling motion when going uphill.

Training & Competition

Is it possible to use the grass ski for OFFSEASON TRAINING for alpine ski training?

YES. Grass skis are ideally suited for summer ski training in no snow conditions – grass ski is in fact highly recommended - and is a far better substitute than any other sport or method. The required timing, pole coordination and the mastery of centrifugal forces are invaluable for maintaining peak alpine skiing competition skills year-round. Although side-slipping is not a viable grass ski technique, the merging development of

snow and grass technology does lend itself to developing excellent carving ability using grass ski.

Which disciplines, events and courses constitute grass ski COMPETITION?

Essentially the same disciplines, events and course are run as in alpine snow skiing:

- Slalom
- Giant Slalom
- Super-G
- Super-Combined (Slalom & Super-G)

Note that running starts are not a feature of grass skiing - because of the effective functional limit of 100kph/60mph. This top speed limit is usually reached during Super-G runs. Note that summer pastures are usually not long enough and that beginner and moderate winter snow slopes are sufficient to achieve high speed on grass ski.

WARNING: rapid grass ski velocity development is not to be underestimated

Recommended age

What are the MINIMUM AND RECOMMENDED AGE requirements to begin using grass ski?

The recommended beginner age is 6 years and older – Prior to this age it is not reasonable as the ski should at least have a length of 60 cm, otherwise the grass ski does not develop enough momentum due to the low weight and inertia of the skier vis-à-vis the optimum ski length of 75cm.

WARNINGS AND CAUTIONS

Prohibited and dangerous practices, rocks/sand, void warranty

Can grass skis be used on PEBBLE SURFACES OR GRAVEL ROADS?

It could function, but is absolutely not recommended for the following reasons:

- High risk of injury
- Serious problem stopping on a road only 4 meters wide – inadequate turn radius
- No side-wards control on gravel
- The foil would quickly become unserviceable, damaged and ineffective
- Stones would damage or break the critical parts – glide plates, main elements, rails

WARNING: The grass ski is not designed, manufactured nor warranted for use on any surface except grass – use on soil, sand, gravel, stone or road surfaces will render the warranty null and void.

Can grass skis be used on SAND OR SAND SLOPES?

It could function – but is absolutely not recommended for the following reasons listed:

- Risk of injury
- Sand quickly clogs and damages all the critical parts – rollers, foil, glide plates, main elements and rails – including the stainless steel parts

WARNING: The grass ski is not designed, manufactured nor warranted for use on any surface except grass – use on soil, sand, gravel, stone or road surfaces will render the warranty null and void.

Can you SLIP SIDEWAYS with grass skis as in alpine snow skiing?

YES, it is possible, but is not an intended function or design capability. To affect the side-slip technique on grass ski would require far too much skills and power and would substantially reduce the downhill speed and required belt rotation while damaging the foil and risking loss of control altogether.

CAUTION: It is not recommended to attempt side-slip manoeuvres with the grass ski.