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SKI ACCIDENTS AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY IN THE SLOVENIAN LEGAL SYSTEM

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1. Introduction

Last year at the Bormio Forum, I presented the Law on the Safety of Protected Ski Areas (hereafter law of the areas), that is to say »Zakon o varnosti na smučiščih« (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 110/2002 dated 18 December, 2002 – consolidation act No. 55/2005), with reference to penalties against skiers present in the protected skiing areas for having violated the provisions of the law or for negligence relevant to the behaviour required thereby.

Therefore, the Slovenian standards are intended exclusively to these areas. For every accident and event, with subsequent damage to persons and objects outside the area boundaries, the owner or manager of the area and lift facilities is exempted from civil and criminal liability.

From the above, it comes out that the following subjects can be fined for breaches prescribed by the law of the areas:

- skier user of the area,
- organizer of events (competitions, trainings),
- ski instructor,
- other persons present in the area (spectators at the events).

The staff in charge of services, including the area manager and supervisor may also be fined for omissions concerning safety and the signalling system on ski slopes.

Managers and staff in charge of lift facilities, in compliance with Law on cableway facilities – lift facilities for transport of persons (hereafter law of facilities), that is to say »Zakon o žicniških napravah za prevoz oseb« (Official Gazette of Republic of Slovenia, No. 126/ 2003 dated 18 December, 2003), can be responsible for breaches.

When the consequence of the breach of the above mentioned laws is a fatal accident, body injuries or considerable damage to objects, the infringement can constitute a criminal offence in compliance with the Penal Code (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 63/1994 dated 13 October, 1994 – consolidation act No. 3/ 2006), provided that between the breach and the damage to a person or an object there is a causality relationship.

It is therefore derived that criminal liability for ski accidents in Slovenia has two aspects:

- as breach of the standards of Law of the Areas, even with possible minimum consequences, that is to say minor body injuries, or as
- criminal offence.

2. Infringements of the standards according to the Law of Protected Ski Areas

The provisions of the Law of the Areas are the basic right for breach against the transgressor.

In fact, article 24 of the Law of the Areas, is the skier's code of good conduct and establishes the standards the skier must observe during the latter's presence in the protected ski area.

In these law standards are implemented all the FIS regulations together with particular and specific standards for Slovenia. For example, the prohibition to take animals on ski slopes, the duly rightful safety helmet for children under 12, the prohibition to off-ski slope skiing, skiing on closed ski slopes, the transit prohibition for snowmobiles, the prohibition of alcoholic drinks or use of drugs and so on.

Non-observance of the provisions of art. 24, constitutes a transgression sanctioned as a penalty. The transgressor will stand trial in compliance with the Law of Infringements, that is to say "Zakon o prekrških", (Official Gazette of Republic of Slovenia, No. 07/ 2003 dated 23 January, 2003).

Sanctions as penalties are provided by articles No. 32 – 35 of the Law of the Areas:

- the skier who infringes the provisions of the above mentioned art. 24 is fined from 10,000.00 (41.50 €) to 75,000.00 talers (312.50 €),
- the manager who does not follow and implement basic safety standards is fined from 200,000.00 (833.30 €) to 3,000,000.00 talers (1,250.00 €), for minor infringements from 100,000.00 (416.50 €) to 1,000,000.00 talers (4,166.50 €),
- the staff in charge and responsible is fined from 10,000.00 (41.50 €) to 50,000.00 talers (208.25 €),
- the organizer of the event, legal person, from 100,000.00 (416.50 €) to 1,000,000.00 (4,166.50 €) talers, if a single person – legal person from 10,000.00 (41.50 €) to 100,000.00 talers (416.50 €),
- the ski instructor, or the person who illegally teaches skiing, from 50,000.00 (208.25 €) to 150,000.00 (624.75 €) talers,
- even the supervisor of the area who does not duly carry out his task, or carries it out negligently, from 10,000.00 (41.50 €) to 75,000.00 (312.50 €) talers,
- persons in charge of children – sons/daughters (up to 14 years) are fined for the child's infringement, if the latter infringes rules of art. 24, for having neglected custody, with money fines envisaged for the skier from 10,000.00 to 75,000.00 talers. *

The area supervisor can fine on the spot, if he has noticed the infringement by himself. Police officers can act only if the skier is drunk or under the influence of drugs. In this case, the sanctioned subject is served a payment order with attached bank draft and is informed on the right to apply to the proper court within eight days and of a 50% discount if the fine is paid within eight days.

The supervisor has the power to fine the transgressor on the spot, provided that he ascertains the infringement personally, by himself, in compliance with art. 24 of the law, except, as already mentioned, the

ascertainment of the presence of alcohol and drug in the body of the suspect. In case of such suspicion, the supervisor must identify the suspected skier and inform the police.

The main duty of the supervisor is prevention, for example through warnings to skiers for non-observance of proper conduct rules on the ski slopes, advises on the use of ski slopes and main pathways / communication passages, help to solve skiers' problems with inappropriate and faulty equipment, etc.

In any other case of a committed offence, if the supervisor has not detected it personally, it is proceeded with a proposal to the competent inspectorates, ministerial bodies and police. This infringement proposal can be sent to the proper state authority even by the police officer. Most of the legal actions against transgressors come from the interested party that is to say from the injured party.

The competent state authorities, after having reviewed the acts with the power also to examine the witnesses, order the penalty. In some cases provided by law (for example juvenile transgressors, accidents with minor body injuries) they must forward the file to the local District Court (Magistrate's court), bringing a charge.

In accordance with the principle and right of the law for the protection of the citizen, the sanctioned subject can lodge an appeal to the District Court.

In both cases, that is to say the indictment according to a charge or the appeal of the sanctioned subject to the court, there will be a summary criminal lawsuit provided in accordance with the Law of Infringements.

In both cases, against the ruling of the court, is envisaged the appeal to the Supreme Court – Court of Appeals.

* Starting 1 January, 2007 the use of the Euro (€) will come into force also in Slovenia.

3. Criminal offence – general characteristics of ski delinquency

Most of the criminal case record for ski accidents refers to unintentional crimes; malicious crimes have not occurred.

Unintentional crime appears as a conscious blame (aware of the illegal consequences, the transgressor naively thinks that there will not be any) or an unconscious blame (according to personal capacities and circumstances the latter should be aware of the illegal consequences).

Most of ski offences have been committed because of omission of the due behaviour.

Practice of law penalises them by passing judgements with money fines or imprisonment with suspended sentence. Practically, recidivism does not exist.

Concerning the commensuration of the sanctions to the transgressor, all extenuating and aggravating circumstances are taken into account. The judge particularly takes into consideration the degree of criminal liability (contributory negligence of the injured party), exposure to danger and

realization of the dangerous situation on the ski slope, personality of the transgressor, etc. The transgressor's behaviour with regard to damaged-injured party after the crime is also important.

Criminal liability does not exclude the civil and vice versa. The civil judge is linked to criminal judgement; this does not exclude contributory negligence in the civil controversy.

For example, the Supreme Court of Ljubljana during civil judgement, with a decision dated 30 January, 1997, No. CP 973/96 declared first and second degree judgements null and void, since during criminal judgement contributory negligence had not been sufficiently examined, even if the defendant had already been convicted for criminal offence.

As already explained, between the defendant's action and omission, a causality relationship must exist. *Under judgement dated 11 March, 2004, No. I lps 216/2002 the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia rejected the extraordinary impugment for legality defence started by the transgressor (this impugment is not present in the Italian Law, it is present in the Austrian Law as "Nichtigkeitsbeschwerde zur Wahrung des Gesetzes"), confirming first and second degree judgements. The transgressor, skiing down a closed ski slope because of a competition, was skiing at high speed and, passing on a hump with poor visibility, bumped against a skier who was standing further down; they both fell, slid down, bumping against a third skier who was standing further down; they ran over him, causing him a serious injury. The first named, fast skier, was sentenced to one month with a year's suspended sentence. In the appeals that he lodged, he mentioned that between the first and the second bump no causality relationship existed, being unrelated events. The Courts decided that, skiing at high speed on a closed ski slope and passing on the hump where there was poor visibility of the course, he should have known, as student ski instructor, that is to say skilled, that at the sides of the ski slope there are spectators and he should have not allowed himself to ski at an uncontrollable speed.*

4. Criminal liability of single subjects present in ski areas

4.1. The skier, or whoever is present in the area except manager's staff

For non-observance of the provisions of art. 24, this person is liable of criminal offence in case the accident caused death or injuries to a person or considerable damages to objects. The most frequent criminal offences committed by the skier are:

- speed not proportionate to own ski ability, to the ground conditions and not in compliance with weather condition and crowding of the ski slope;
- non-choice of own descent direction in order not to endanger other users of the ski slope;
- incorrect overtaking, without safety distance;
- non-observance of priority to the skier who precedes;
- stopping in the middle of the ski slope, in obliged transits, near humps or where there is no or not allowing satisfactory visibility;
- skiing on closed ski slopes or skiing with inappropriate or faulty equipment.

In most cases, the skier is charged for serious body injuries or death according to articles 129, 134 and 135 of PC. For minor body injuries, in compliance with art. 133 of PC, the transgressor is brought to trial only upon the proposal of the injured party to the Public Prosecutor.

However, there can be brought to trial, also in compliance with art. 317 of PC, as can be inferred from two criminal cases of forensic case record, a case occurred twenty years ago, and another occurred in 2002, which means that nothing has changed in the last twenty years, even if *from a fact and right perspective, it is difficult to claim that a single skier can represent a general danger.*

As general danger, the legislator intends the energy deriving from natural, electrical, atomic, internal combustion engines, explosives etc. phenomena which cannot be compared with the ski, which, on the basis of the gravity of the earth, slides exploiting the ski slope for recreational or sport activities.

In criminal file K 288/81 of the Court of Kranj, a skier caused a general danger on the ski slope, in compliance with article 247, as culpable criminal offence of the then PC, corresponding to present day art. 317 CP, not having taken the direction of his own skiing without endangering other skiers, on 19 March, 1982 ran into a child causing serious injuries to the latter, and he was convicted with suspended sentence. The Court of Appeal accepted the qualification of the offence, extending the freedom penalty and the period of the suspended sentence. This sentence became a final judgment.

Even recently, as previously mentioned, criminal qualification of ski accident has not accepted the argument that skiing can be a general danger.

According to the judgment of the Court of Nova Goriva dated 8 December, 2003 No. K 175/ 2002, a skier was sentenced for culpable criminal offence in compliance with art. 317 PC, since he provoked a general danger by skiing on a ski slope at uncontrollable speed, so that, not paying attention to a skier who was further down, ran into him causing his death.

In the first degree he was sentenced to a year imprisonment with three years' suspended sentence.

The Court of Appeal, that is to say the Supreme Court of Capodistria, under sentence No. Ips 204/ 2004 rejected the appeal of the transgressor and confirmed the first degree judgment.

Even the Supreme Court of Slovenia, under sentence Ips 308/2004 rejected the request for legality of the judgment of the first degree court.

This means that a skier causes on the ski slope a “general danger”, infringing the provisions of art. 24 of the “Law of Protected Areas Intended for Skiing”.

Is the single ski a tool really able to cause a “general danger”?

The count of indictment is in the hands of the Public Prosecutor, who is the person who decides on the qualification of the crime.

We have to start from the problem of whether a skier can really cause a general danger. This means that the existence of the general danger for life and human body must be provoked. On the contrary, the evidence that skiing causes a general danger would be a “*probatio diabolica*”.

Therefore, it would be more correct to qualify the indictment as criminal offence for body injuries, or else culpable death, being, in any case, death and

injury undoubtedly proved; to this we have to apply the evidences of the infringement of the relevant provision of art. 24.

For the skier, the charge according to art. 140 PC – failure to assist the injured skier in peril for the latter's life - is not excluded. In any case, this failure includes anyone who, in this case, does not give help and assistance.

4.2. The management of the protected areas intended for skiing and lift facilities and its service staff

The manager of the areas has the duty to provide protection for anti-avalanches, precipices, areas not suitable for skiing, within protected areas and more generally protection against dangers. Furthermore, he must provide protection against dangerous structures and obstacles such as electric poles and lift bearing pillars, equipment for scheduled artificial snowing of the ski slopes and paths of communications.

Moreover, it is the manager's duty to provide maintenance of the ski slopes. In case of inappropriate snow thickness, he must provide artificial snowing of the same and of the paths, to mark the borders of the area and ski slopes, to place ski signposts where they can be seen by the users of the area, including the board with the area map (position and classification of ski slopes, passages, routes for sledge and cross-country skiing, lift facilities, parking, first-aid stations, etc.)

He must provide for the organization of a first-aid station and for the supervision of ski slopes by supervisors. In case of danger of avalanches, fog, strong wind, heavy rain or storm, he must close the area or just a part of it or some ski slopes, even if he does not have a sufficient first-aid station or supervisors for the supervision of the ski slopes.

Being the ski slopes now crowded, the manager of the area could be liable, according to art. 317 PC, to provoke general danger for accidents with damages to persons or objects of great value, due to the omission of the above mentioned duties. This qualification of the count of indictment could stand, without placing any longer under discussing the single ski!

Even art. 323 PC, omission of the actions necessary for the removal of a danger, may be taken into consideration.

Therefore, in case of criminal offence, the manager can be liable, in my opinion, for culpable death, minor, serious, very serious injuries to persons or objects, according to articles 129, 133, 134, 135 and damages to other persons' objects according to art. 224 of PC, not excluding liability according to the above mentioned articles 317 and 232 of PC.

4.3. Liability of the organizer of the event on snow and of the ski instructor

These too can be liable for criminal offence, by infringing the provisions of the Law of Ski Areas, of safety devices according to the regulations of FIS-IWO competitions and, for the ski instructors, of professional ethics code.

Within the areas, winter sport events can take place, in their various forms, on surfaces and courses which must be separate and properly protected from the ski slopes where mountain skiing is being practiced.

The organizer must ensure that the ski slope intended for the competition is equipped with safety tools and signposts, in compliance with the standards of law and specific requests for safety, adequate to the kind of event. The ski slope must be closed also during training or a barrier must be set up with a coloured band along the whole course of the competition or of the training, including the safety area. When the event or training is over, the organizer must remove from the surface or ski slope the protections and signposts placed for this purpose. According to the law, the ski instructor must inform the pupils about the basic ski safety rules and of the regulations for using the ski slopes.

Both are liable for criminal offences provided by articles 129, 133, 134, 135, 138, 224 and 140 PC. Undoubtedly, the instructor or the organizer of the skiing event is penally liable also for the events outside the skiing areas.

4.4. Liability of the manager of the lift facilities and of his operating staff

Art. 326 of the PC – explicitly deals with the cable railway public traffic. The manager of the lift facility, by culpably infringing safety rules of this traffic, can commit an offence since the consequence of the infringement is serious personal injuries or death of one or more persons.

4.5. Criminal liability outside the protected areas intended for skiing – outside ski slopes

Criminal liability is not limited only to protected areas intended for skiing where there exists a first aid organization and ascertainment of the cause of the accident.

Art. 24 - paragraph 3 of the Law on the safety of protected areas intended for skiing, forbids the skier to ski outside of the ski slope within the protected area; this does not mean that this prohibition is valid also for persons who are skiing on surfaces outside the organized skiing areas, as for example on small fields at the edges of a mountain village, mountaineering-skiing, tourism-skiing, etc. According to the Slovenian skiing theory, even the skiers on these improvised ski-fields, must behave according to the ten FIS rules; this means that if they do not observe the rules, they are liable in case of accident.

Prohibition of skiing outside protected areas intended for skiing is meant as skiing on surfaces at the border of the area.

If the consequences coincide with PC rules, a criminal offence has been committed. It is obvious that money fines for infringements provided for by the law, cannot be taken into consideration, since they are valid only within organized skiing areas.

What has been mentioned for these improvised ski-fields is valid also for the so-called *freeride*, in *freeride areas*.

For cross-country skiing, the special FIS regulations for cross-country skiing are valid. Concerning accidents between cross-country skiers due to non-observance of the rules, there could be also criminal liability.

5. Withdrawal of the card – precautionary measure

The measure of prohibition and withdrawal of the card, as provided by art. 28 of the law cannot be considered a penalty but a precautionary measure for order on ski slopes. Not being a penalty or an infringement, such measure can be applied also to under-age skiers.

The card can be withdrawn only for one day, that is to say loss of that day's skiing, in case it is valid for more than one day, on the day of the incident the card is deposited at the desk until the closing of the skiing area.

The supervisor is authorized to act against skiers, who seriously do not respect behaviour standards provided by art. 24 of the Law of the Areas.

It is the police officer who must ascertain the presence of alcohol or drugs in suspicious skiers. In any case, the card is withdrawn from the suspect and he is obliged not to ski for that day. If he denies being drunk or drugged or if he puts up resistance, the police officer can proceed against him by arranging a test at a medical laboratory.

6. On the spot ascertainment of a skiing accident under suspicion of criminal offence.

Art. 29 of the Law of the Areas, establishes that in case of a skiing accident the supervisor of the area must draft the report on the form set by ministerial regulations. He has the right and the duty to identify the persons involved and the witnesses, as well as ascertain the facts, describe traces, ski slope, weather and snow conditions (temperatures, kind of snow, etc.), system of signals of the place, check ski preparations, make a sketch of the place and take a photo. Moreover, he must express in writing his opinion on the cause of the accident, that is to say the liability.

In case of fatal accident, serious injuries to persons or considerable damages to objects, where there are clues and suspicions of criminal offence, the supervisor must inform the police and first-aid station. He must arrange for the protection of the place of the accident to avoid tampering the evidence, with authority to have the ski slope closed by the manager. In any case, he must help injured persons until the arrival of the police and first-aid rescue.

On the spot, the police proceeds in compliance with article 148 PPC (published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia dated 13 October, 1994, No. 63/ 1994 – consolidation act No. 8/2006), ascertaining the fact and identifying the involved persons. Furthermore, the police must inform the IM and PP of the accident and draft the report in compliance with articles 79 – 82 of PPC. The police have also the right to take into custody the suspect (article 160 PPC).

It is obvious that also in this case the content of the report must take into consideration all specific data and elements of the skiing accident. On the basis of the ascertainment on the spot drafted in the report, evidences, expert's reports, claims of the suspect, it is the PP who decides if the accident has elements of criminal offence in order to start proceedings at the competent Court.

The exact and detailed draft of the report is essential, considering that this is the basic document for further proceedings, both criminal and civil. The importance of expert's reports which can be questioned, by showing the contrary, must not be neglected.

8. The supervisor of the area - service of ski slopes

The supervisor of the area, according to the Law of the areas, could be compared to the Swiss or French "pisteur", but with authorities of a state body (fines, forwards criminal charges, withdraws the card, legitimates persons, etc.). Therefore, within the area, he has full powers with respect to order and observance of the law by the users.

The fact that lately his employer is simultaneously the manager of the area is incompatible. This is the reason why this supervision service does not work. By modifying the law, a solution is being sought by which the supervisor would become a completely autonomous supervision body with its own organization at state level.

9. Articles of Penal Code (hereafter PC) applying to skiing accidents

article 129: death of a person caused unintentionally
whoever unintentionally causes someone's death, is punished with imprisonment from six months to five years

article 133: minor personal injuries

(1) Whoever causes an injury that can cause disablement or temporary debilitation of an organ or a part of the body, or temporarily reduce the capacity to carry on ordinary activities, or provoke signs that can distort the physical aspect or a temporary worsening of the health, is punished with a money fine or imprisonment for one year;

(2) If the injury described in the previous paragraph is caused by a weapon, a tool or other offensive means, or else by behaviour which can lead to provoke a serious injury to the person or a serious worsening of the latter's health, an imprisonment of up to 3 years can be applied;

(3) To the perpetrator of the offence described in the previous paragraph, the judge can apply the judicial warning, especially if the offence has been caused by an unseemly or brutal behaviour of the person who suffered the injuries;

(4) For the offence described in the first paragraph, the judge can proceed with a lawsuit.

article 134: serious personal injuries

(1) The person who causes someone a serious injury or damages to the health that can endanger the latter's life, or destroy, or sensibly and permanently weaken an organ or an important part of the body, or make the latter temporarily unable for any ordinary activity, considerably reduce the latter's capacity, or temporarily disfigure the latter, or else, that can cause a serious temporary worsening or a minor permanent worsening of the latter's health, is punished with imprisonment from six months to five years;

(2) If the injury described in the previous paragraph causes the death of the injured person, the judge can sentence to imprisonment from one to ten years;

(3) The person committing the offence described in the first paragraph by own fault, is punished with imprisonment of up to two years;

(4) The person committing the offence described in the first or second paragraph, acting on an impulse, having been, without own fault, seriously provoked by aggression or offences, is punished with imprisonment of up to three years.

article 135: very serious personal injuries

(1) *The person who causes someone an injury or a damage to health that can endanger the latter's life, or destroy or sensibly and permanently weaken an important organ or an important part of the body, or that can make the latter permanently unable for any ordinary activity, or permanently disfigure the latter, or else, that can cause a serious, permanent worsening of the latter's health, is punished with imprisonment from one to ten years;*

(2) *If the injury described in the previous paragraph causes the death of the injured person, the judge can sentence to imprisonment for no less than three years; **

(3) *The person committing the offence described in the first paragraph of his/her own fault, is punished with imprisonment up to three years;*

(4) *The person committing the offence described in the first or second paragraph, acting on an impulse, having been, without own fault, seriously provoked by aggression or offences, is punished with imprisonment from six months to five years.*

article 138: causing a state of danger

The person who leaves someone in a state of peril for the latter's life caused by the former, is punished with imprisonment of up to one year.

article 140: failure to assist

The person who fails to assist someone who is in peril of the latter's life, even if the former can do it without own danger or to other persons, is punished with imprisonment of up to two years.

article 224: damage caused to other person's object

(1) *The person who damages, destroys or renders unusable other person's objects, is punished with a money fine or imprisonment of up to two years.*

(2) *If the damage caused is of a great value the judge can sentence imprisonment of up to five years;*

(3) *For the offence described in the first paragraph, the judge can proceed with a lawsuit.*

article 317: cause general danger

Whoever causes a general danger to a person's life or to a property of considerable value by: fire, flood, explosion, poison or toxic gas, ionizing radiations, motor power, electric (or other kind of) energy, or else with a behaviour or any other means which can be dangerous for the general safety, or by omission of actions due for the safeguard of the general safety of persons and things, is punished with imprisonment of up to three years;

(2) *The person committing the offence described in the previous paragraph by the latter's own fault, is punished with a money fine or imprisonment of up to one year;*

(3) *If the injury described in the first or second paragraph causes serious personal injuries of one or more persons or a damage to property of great value, the judge can sentence, for the offence described in the first paragraph, to imprisonment of up to five years, for the offence described in the second paragraph imprisonment of up to three years.*

(4) *If the injury described in the first or second paragraph causes the death of one or more persons, the judge can sentence for the offence described in the first paragraph to imprisonment of up to twelve years and for the offence described in the second paragraph imprisonment of up to eight years.*

article 323: omission of actions necessary to avoid a danger

(1) *Whoever, being able to do it without own or other person's danger omits to timely inform the competent body or organization or, in any case, does not do all that is necessary to avoid the current danger of: fire, flood, explosion, ecological disaster, any other danger for a person's life, for the integrity of the environment or for a property of a great value,*

(2) *Whoever, by force, threat or fraud prevents someone from doing anything that is necessary to avoid a danger for a person's life, environment or a property of considerable value, is punished with imprisonment of up to two years*

article 326 : jeopardize public traffic on special means of transport

(1) Whoever, unintentionally, causes an accident, by infringing safety rules of railway, naval, air traffic or on cableways or by infringing safety rules on road traffic of collective transport, is punished with a money fine or imprisonment of up to two years.

(2) If the offence described in the previous paragraph causes serious personal injuries, the judge can sentence to imprisonment of up to five years.

(3) If the offence described in the previous paragraph causes the death of one or more persons, the judge can sentence to imprisonment of up to eight years.

**The duration of imprisonment cannot be lower than fifteen days or greater than thirty years.*

10. Skiing accidents in Slovenia – skiing season 2005 / 2006

According to statistical data from the Transport Inspectorate at the Ministry of Transport, the number of skiing accidents is increasing:
season 2003/ 2004 reported 1,294 cases, of which 6.6 % outside the areas and those for going up and down lift facilities,
season 2004 / 2005 highlighted 1,445, of which 5 % outside the areas and those for going up and down lift facilities,
season 2005 / 2006 highlighted 1,608, of which 5.2 % outside the areas and those for going up and down lift facilities,

During the 2005 / 2006 season, according to approximate data, one fatal case in the area intended for skiing, 274 cases of serious injuries, 235 of minor injuries, 186 of average injuries have been reported (this accident classification does not correspond to criminal classification).

In this season 1,271 cases of accidents without third party cause – self-injuries, 247 due to the collision with other persons, 74 due to crash against objects-obstacles within the area and 16 of various causes, have been reported.

Most of the accidents have been reported in January, with a predominance of knee injuries (463 injured), followed by head and neck injuries (289 accidents), shoulder and arms in 234 cases, and so on.

For less than two million Slovenians, among which more than 400,000 skiers, the accidents are too numerous. This is also the reason for the novation of the law of the areas with more efficient legal mechanisms to improve supervision and control of ski slopes.

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