SUMMARY OF DiMM CANDIDATE PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

Official Communication Guidelines
(to contact candidates under Board review for acceptance, remediation, etc.)

- One board member is designated as the point person and communicates directly with the candidate.
- The point person may informally contact the candidate to discuss the specifics of the case on an information-gathering basis.
- The point person will review the case with at least one other member of the board before deciding how to proceed.
- The DiMM board will be advised on the preliminary decision with the opportunity to dissent.
- Final decisions will be communicated to the candidate via email. The final decision email should indicate in some way that this is a DiMM board decision. The email may be sent from a WMS email address, may use WMS/DiMM letterhead or signature line, or other board members may be cc’d. WMS administrative director (Teri) should also be cc’d.
- Depending on the situation, it may be appropriate for the point person (or several members of the board) to follow up with a phone call, especially in cases where we can use this both as an official avenue to share a board decision and as a service/tool to help the candidate succeed in the program moving forward.

Application to the DiMM

Applicants to the DiMM program will fill out the application questionnaire. Applicants that will be accepted without further question will have:

- Professional medical certification/license: EMT-P, RN, APRN, PA, DO, or MD with some experience in emergency, prehospital and/or wilderness medicine.
- Experience in rock climbing, technical glacier mountaineering and/or backcountry skiing
- Expressed interest or experience in wilderness rescue or expedition medicine
- No physical limitations that would preclude full participation in the program as described in the application

No proof of experience is required. Applicants are asked to self-assess.

Medical students who will graduate in less than 2 years and AEMTs with appropriate experience may also be accepted. Professional experience is strongly recommended.

Applications are submitted to the WMS and reviewed by the application screener from the Technical Rescue Advisory Board. The screener will respond within two weeks for applicants that should clearly be accepted into the program or for those that should be accepted and are recommended (but not required) to gain further experience before certain sessions (e.g. an otherwise well-qualified applicant who doesn’t have any glacier experience will be accepted with the recommendation to gain glacier experience before the Alpine Skills and Rescue session).

Applicants who are not clearly well qualified will be submitted to the DiMM board for application review. Application review board decisions may include:

- Acceptance
- Acceptance with recommendations (e.g. recommend gaining glacier experience before the alpine session, but not required.)
- Conditional acceptance (i.e. may begin the didactic sessions, but is required to gain further experience before skills sessions. Specific requirements should be clear. Applicant should have
a plan for how to gain that experience and it should have been discussed with the DiMM board point person.)

- Required skills/experience to gain before reapplying (specific requirements should be clear)

Official communication guidelines should be followed.

**Winter and Summer Conference/Didactic Sessions**

Required readings for each session should be completed before the sessions. For the conference sessions required readings are the WMS Practice Guidelines (available on the DiMM status page by logging to wms.org, click education, DiMM) listed below. As the DiMM textbook (edited by McIntosh, Rodway and Weber) becomes available it will become required reading as well. Questions on the exams will cover information from the sessions and required readings.

- Required readings, WMS practice guidelines
  - Summer conference: Lightning, Epinephrine, Spine Immobilization, Heat Illness, Wound management, Acute pain
  - Winter conference: Altitude illness, Frostbite, Eye, Hypothermia

During each conference there are specific presentations, workshops and pre-conference offerings that are designated as DiMM sessions. Some of these sessions are open only to DiMM candidates, others are open to all conference attendees. Candidates are expected to attend all DiMM sessions at each conference.

--- Level 1 Avalanche Opt Out

Candidates may qualify to opt out of the level 1 avalanche course at the winter conference if the candidate:

- Has successfully completed a level 2 avalanche course (that meets AAA standards) within the last 10 years and has backcountry skied at least 30 days total in the last 3 seasons.
- Has successfully completed a level 1 avalanche course (that meets AAA standards) within the last 3 years and has backcountry skied at least 10 days per season since attending the course.
- Other experience may qualify to opt out of the level 1 avalanche course and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Candidates wishing to opt out of the level 1 avalanche course portion of the DiMM should contact the WMS administrative director with a short description of avalanche training and backcountry experience. This will then be forwarded to the Technical Rescue Advisory Board for final approval. Candidates do not receive a discount if they choose this option.

--- Evaluation

After each conference/didactic session candidates will take an online exam. Exams are usually posted within a week following the conference and are available for 60 days. Exams are multiple-choice covering material from the required readings and each of the required DiMM sessions (including the avalanche course regardless if a candidate opted out). Exams are 100 questions with a time limit of 2 hours. The test cannot be saved and restarted at a later time. A minimum of 75% is required to pass. Not taking the test within the 60 day availability window counts as not passing the first attempt. Candidates that do not achieve a 75% on their first attempt for any reason will be allowed a second and final attempt to achieve a minimum 75% to pass the session. Logistical challenges such as interruptions, computer problems, loss of internet connectivity, not taking the test within the designated timeframe, etc. will generally not be seen as reasons to allow a third attempt. However, problems that are due to WMS or the test site will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Any candidate who does not achieve a passing score after two attempts will receive a FAIL and be referred to the DiMM board for consideration. The DiMM board will decide how/if the candidate can proceed with the DiMM. Typically the candidate will be required to repeat the session (at their own expense) in order to take the test again. In rare circumstances, the Board may consider other options.
Rock and Alpine Skills and Rescue sessions

Preparation for the Skills and Rescue Sessions are outlined on the DiMM status page (available by logging to wms.org, click education, DiMM). Requirements include ensuring adequate fitness, acquiring and prepping equipment and food, watching and practicing video skills, readings from the text book as it becomes available and gaining skill experience as outlined in the pre-course information or given at the time of acceptance into the DiMM.

----- Skills and Rescue Practical Evaluation

Feedback on performance will be provided during the skills sessions, however final evaluation and practical scoring will occur after the session is complete. Reasonable attempts will be made to help all candidates succeed during the course. In cases of specific isolated skill deficits, in-course remediation opportunities will be provided. However, extensive one-on-one instruction or remediation will typically NOT occur due to time constraints; the nature of assessing team rescue skill acquisition and application does not lend itself to regular field based remediation. Candidates must prepare themselves prior to the course to set themselves up for success. At the end of the skills session, the instructors for the session will grade each candidate either:

- GREEN: pass without concern
- YELLOW: borderline, board review required
- RED: preliminary fail, board review required

Additionally each candidate will be scored 0-20 in each of the following five categories:

- **Demonstrates safe personal and group practices**
  An appropriately conservative approach to safety is expected. Endangering oneself or others is unacceptable. Beyond immediate risk avoidance, demonstrating an active and ongoing awareness, analysis and management of risk creates the conditions in a group that promote good risk management. Personal care such as proper hydration and nutrition and protection from environmental threats are also considered.

- **Applies medical skills to the technical rescue arena appropriately**
  Engages in discussions about specific medical techniques and how to apply them in wilderness and rescue environments. Shares expertise appropriately. In scenarios provides appropriate patient care balancing medical and rescue priorities and considers consequence of medical intervention vs. no intervention. Presents well as a patient in scenarios and stays in role.

- **Maintains appropriate rescue pace**
  Demonstrates regular readiness. Maintains a balance of calm and urgency, and utilizes both to your advantage. Consciously decides pace appropriate for the situation. Physically capable of maintaining minimum required pace.

- **Technical knowledge and application of rescue systems**
  Exhibits technical rescue system skill competence and an understanding of proper indication and contraindication by choosing the correct system to apply. Defaults to simple, standard, team-based solutions when reasonable. Can adapt to alternate solutions and analyze them for safety.
Leadership, teamwork and communication
Promotes a culture of cooperation. Furthers team success in both leadership and followership positions. Displays maturity required to succeed in professional team environment. Asks thoughtful questions. Helps develop team spirit. Shares close living quarters with others well.

---- Online Exam
An online multiple-choice exam is required after each rescue session. Exam format is similar to the exam for conference sessions: 100 multiple choice questions, 2 hour time limit, 60 day availability, etc. The exam is usually available one week after the rescue session ends. The exam will cover material covered during the session as well as from the handbook provided during the course and pertinent WMS practice guidelines and from the text when it becomes available. The minimum passing score for the written exam is 75%.

---- Skill and Rescue Session Overall Evaluation
PASS criteria: A candidate that has completed the session, achieved 75% or above on the online exam, and received a GREEN: PASS WITHOUT CONCERN on the practical session has PASSED with no further consideration. The board will evaluate any candidate outside these parameters as described below.

---- Board Reviews
Board reviews will have a point person on the board. Field instructors will provide information about the candidate’s performance on the course and a recommendation. Factors that may influence reviews include, but are not limited to:
- Field instructor recommendations
- Practical scores in the skill categories
- Online exam scores
- Discussions with the candidate
- Candidate self-assessment of their performance on the course
- Candidate self-assessment on their DiMM application and pre-course questionnaire
- Prior skills and experience
- Performance on other DiMM sessions
- How the candidate accepted feedback
- Involvement in technical rescue and wilderness medicine

PRACTICAL SCORE: YELLOW OR RED, BOARD REVIEW REQUIRED
The Board will consider what is required for a candidate to pass the session, or if the candidate cannot pass the session. Candidates should be told that their case is under review within two weeks after the completion of a field session, even if further information is limited at that time. Candidates may take the online exam before they are notified that they are under review or what is required of them to pass the session.

RED: Preliminary Fail: A candidate that received a Skill and Rescue Session score of less than 75% (regardless of their online exam score) has preliminarily FAILED the Skill Session and is referred to the DiMM board for consideration. This candidate must re-take the session (at their own expense) and re-take the online exam. Under rare circumstances, the Board may decide another disposition.
YELLOW: Borderline: A candidate that received a BOARD REVIEW REQUIRED and a practical score of 75% or above is considered borderline. The board has leeway to make a wide variety of decisions regarding passing requirements for these candidates. A candidate may be:

- Deemed to have passed the skills session. Minimum 75% still required on the online exam.
- Required to remediate through...
  - Independent study for the online test where they demonstrate knowledge that was not clear during the field session. To obtain an overall passing score for the session a candidate may be required to obtain a higher score on the online test.
  - An essay that displays one’s understanding of rescue and/or mountain medicine.
  - Obtaining practical experience outside normal DiMM coursework.
  - Some other means appropriate to the situation.
- Judged to have not passed the session, no remediation possible.

Before a candidate who received a practical score of RED or YELLOW (board review required) takes the online exam a second time (if required) the candidate should be told what is required of them to pass. If passing the session is not an option, the candidate should not take a second attempt at the test.

PASS AND BOARD REVIEW: How to move forward with the DiMM

Borderline candidates may be at risk for failing future sessions and/or need remediation to successfully complete the DiMM. This review should focus on steps to help the candidate succeed as they move through the program. Recommendations or requirements may be provided before the candidate is allowed to continue. The point person from the board generally remains the same from the review for what the candidate needed to do to pass the session.

FAIL AND BOARD REVIEW: How to move forward with the DiMM

After a candidate fails a skills and rescue session, the board must address the question of if/how the candidate should proceed in the DiMM.

The board may decide that the candidate:

- Can continue with the program
- May continue with the program, but require specific order for upcoming courses
- Is required to take other steps before proceeding in the program- these steps should be specific and may include gaining technical experience, graduating from medical school, etc.
- Is not permitted to proceed with the DiMM

Retaking a failed session is at the candidate’s expense.

---- Incomplete Skill Session

If a candidate begins but does not complete a Skill Session, field instructors will report the reasons and give recommendations on how to proceed to the DiMM Board. Participants who leave for personal reasons (eg, family emergency, illness, etc) will generally have the opportunity to repeat the session (at their own expense) and continue with the DiMM. Participants who leave for course-related reasons (eg, inadequate preparation or fitness, poor behavior, etc) will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

---- Dismissal from Skill Session

A participant who has been DISMISSED from the field session (eg, negligence, safety, or behavior concerns) will generally NOT have the opportunity to repeat the session or continue with the DiMM. These situations will be assessed by the Board on a case-by-case basis.
Board decisions for any applicant or candidate under review will be final.
The DiMM candidate evaluation and remediation guidelines will be reviewed by the DiMM board periodically and are subject to change at any point and without notice, based on board decisions.
Rock or alpine skills and rescue session

Practical score:
GREEN: PASS WITHOUT CONCERN

Online exam 1st attempt

Score 75% or higher
PASS

Score less than 75%
Online exam 2nd attempt

Score 75% or higher

FAIL & BOARD REVIEW. How to move forward with DiMM?

Score less than 75%

Practical score:
RED or YELLOW: BOARD REVIEW REQUIRED

Online exam 1st attempt

Online exam 2nd attempt

PASS

Score 75% or higher

FAIL & BOARD REVIEW. How to move forward with DiMM?

Score less than 75%

BOARD REVIEW: What is required to pass?

Discussion with candidate re: what is required to pass

RED: Passing not possible

YELLOW: Passing score on 1st attempt online exam

YELLOW: Not passing score on 1st attempt online exam

Complete required remediation as per board decision

PASS & BOARD REVIEW. How to move forward with DiMM?