Sodergren Application – Larissa Davies

 1. Commitment to education, training and accreditation:  
I demonstrate my dedication to continuous improvement by actively seeking out feedback from my trainers and also my students. I always aim to create a workshop environment when I am instructing as I believe that I can always learn from everyone including my students. Additionally, I aim to consistently pursue relevant certifications and accreditations to ensure that my skills and knowledge remain current and relevant to the evolving needs of my profession. Open discussions with other instructors in the industry from both the APSI and other instructor associations helps me to achieve this. I feel as though a story that truly shows my determination to improving my snowsports skills and knowledges start back when I was in race club. My family and I couldn’t afford to live on mountain or rent in Mansfield. Instead my dad and I drove up to Mt Buller from Melbourne every day in school holidays and weekends. At 14, I worked two jobs to afford race club and raised money through selling snowboards. As buses did not start until after race club started I would walk from Horse hill Carpark to the top of Bourke Street to make it in time (was a really good warm-up). Ever since then, I have maintained that same determination and goal driven personality. Despite my fears of park, I asked every person I knew, including my squad kids, to come riding in the park with me for my Level 3. I went from not being able to do anything but 50/50 on a box to now being confident with a board slide and nose press. I achieved a 6/10 on my level 3 exam.

 Professionalism

As a snowsports instructor, I exhibit professionalism by embodying a strong work ethic, maintaining a positive attitude, and fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment for my students. I aim to communicate effectively with both colleagues and clients, demonstrating respect, integrity, and empathy in all interactions. Furthermore, I adhere to industry standards and guidelines while providing personalized instruction tailored to each individual's abilities and goals. I feel that whenever I come to work I always put 110% into what I am doing. I always cater each lesson to the individual as much as possible and aspire to create a genuine connection with each guest.

 Contribution and service provided to the industry:

Throughout my snowsports career, I have actively contributed to the advancement of the industry through various means. This includes attending the women’s seminar at Mt Buller as well as organising early season parties to help new snowboard instructors feel connected. Additionally, I have mentored aspiring instructors, through in-house training and encouraged young athletes to have a broad understanding of snowsports and create a sense of adventure and excitement in them. Even before my time as an instructor, I won the race club coaches award for mentoring and encouraging younger athletes to try their best but also have fun. I feel that I still have that same attitude when I am mentoring, instructing and coaching.

 Future direction and commitment to the industry:

In the future, I am committed to furthering my impact and contribution to the snowsports industry by pursuing opportunities for leadership roles as well as becoming a examiner and rookie trainer. This includes expanding my role within my organization or within industry associations to help shape policies, programs, and initiatives that support the growth and development of the industry particularly advocacy for women in the industry. Furthermore, I plan to continue advancing my own skills and knowledge, and continuing to improve as coach. I wish to mentor those who are working towards higher certifications both at Mount Buller and Niseko. Particularly through mental preparation and facing their own fears in the park if that’s something they struggle with. Lastly, continuing developmental training for those at Mount Buller as I feel like training is an area we lack in at Mt Buller and by being one of the only female trainers I hope to make a difference.