

## **SNOWMOBILE - APPAREL**

Before heading out onto the trails, you need to equip yourself with the right snowmobile apparel.

Make sure you have layers on to protect your body.

Select your clothing carefully depending on the weather, paying special attention to the weather when you start, during the ride, and the wind chill factor.

Frostbite can be drastically reduced when wearing the proper riding apparel.

### Under layers

The clothing you wear underneath your suit is crucial to feeling comfortable while you are riding.

On cold days, layers can provide a barrier from the cold, wind chill and frostbite.

If you have too many layers on, you can always remove them during your journey, but if you don't put enough on before you start, you can't add any later.

The first layer should be long underwear that allows your body to breathe.

This layer should be lightweight, and not tight or restrictive.

A couple of light layers add better protection than one heavy layer.

Cotton should never be worn as the first layer or as any layer since it does not wick moisture created by perspiration away from the body, does not dry and stays wet and/or freezes once it is wet.

Polyester blends, silk or other synthetic blends are recommended because they dry quicker and wick moisture away from the skin.

Fleece, wool or polyester tops and bottoms are the best choices.

Cotton sweatshirts, t-shirts and jeans, cotton long underwear, and cotton socks should never be worn.

### Snowmobile Suits

Snowmobile suits are designed for warmth and comfort while riding.

The main purpose is to protect you from the cold, wind chill and frostbite.

The outside shell of your apparel should be windproof and waterproof.

Acrylic or synthetic materials are the most popular fabrics used in suits.

Do not use cotton suits, for they can become saturated with water from the snow.

If you plan to travel near or on ice, some suits

come equipped with an approved flotation device.

### Headgear

Your helmet is your most important piece of equipment.

Approved helmets should be worn at all times.

Helmets can protect you from serious injury during a crash.

There is always a risk of head injuries, but wearing a helmet can greatly increase your chances of survival.

Full-face helmets are the warmest. They completely cover the face and provide a chin guard.

These helmets also have full visors to protect your face and eyes from the cold.

Open face helmets provide the same protection from head injuries as full-face helmets, but there is no chin guard to protect the face.

Remember to always have the helmet's straps fastened as you ride.

### Facemasks

Facemasks can be important to have on very

cold days to prevent frostbite.

If your helmet is not full-faced, a facemask is a must. If not normally worn when riding, a facemask is always important to have stored in a pocket, in case the weather does become very cold.

Baklava facemasks made of thin polyester, silk or other synthetic fabrics are lightweight, less bulky, more comfortable, and often preferred over knit stocking cap facemasks.

### Eye Protection

Eye protection is essential and may include a helmet visor, goggles, and sunglasses.

They protect the eyes from tree limbs, kicked up snow and ice from other snowmobiles, flying debris, and protect your eyes from watering from the wind and cold.

Goggles, sunglasses or visors with colored lenses for bright days are indispensable.

Amber or yellow colored lenses are very useful during late afternoon or dark times.

These lenses, when used in the correct light conditions, can reveal dangerous depressions in the snow.

### Gloves

Gloves are an essential item in your riding apparel. Some choose mittens, which can be the warmest, to

protect their hands.

Always purchase gloves or mittens that allow your hands to operate the controls freely.

Gloves, as should your suit, should repel water and wind. This will help keep your hands warm.

Fleece or wool glove liners worn as a layer with regular gloves can help adjust for cold to colder or warmer weather, since you can always add or remove the liners.

### Socks

When selecting socks, select carefully and **NEVER** wear cotton!

Good sock choices include thin nylon, fleece, polypropylene, wool or synthetic blends.

Wool or fleece is best for keeping a good warm insulation on your feet.

When you feel your feet getting cold, it is time to change your socks. Bring an extra pair along with you to change if needed.

### Boots

Boots are very important for keeping your trip enjoyable. Boots keep your feet warm, comfortable, and protected from water.

The best material for boots is a combination of materials that includes a rubber, waterproof bottom with a good lug sole for traction; a nylon or synthetic upper that is

high enough and fastens to repel snow; and a removable, breathable liner made of wool, fleece or synthetic material that wicks perspiration away from the foot.

Make sure your boots do not let in any water, but allow your feet to “breathe” or let out moisture.

Choose boots that fit well and are comfortable for a long day of riding.

They should not feel tight or restrictive when worn.

Boots that are too tight, can cut off circulation and your feet can become cold.