

AVA TRAIL/ROUTE RATING SYSTEM

The event brochure including the AVA electronic event listing (Walking Events – Event Details) must identify a trail rating for all events except swimming, boating and skating events. In addition, any route obstacles or special conditions must be explained to describe the level of difficulty of the event.

Although any rating system is somewhat subjective the two-part numerical/alpha rating system will give event organizers a reliable tool so participants have an idea about what to expect on a route whether it is for walking, biking, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing. They need to know about major elevation gains, heavy traffic, narrow road shoulders, construction detours, roaming dogs, cattle guards, and the like on the route.

Also, this is a safety issue since an improperly/underrated event could have serious consequences for someone who is not physically prepared for more strenuous route conditions.

The sponsoring club will decide this rating based on the scale given below. The Regional Director should work with chartered clubs to achieve uniformity in the assignment of all trail ratings.

Part 1 – INCLINE	Part 2 - TERRAIN
1. Very small hills or very little stair climbing. Probably suitable for strollers and wheelchairs. Elevation gain from Starting Point: up to 500 feet.	A. Almost entirely on pavement. Probably suitable for strollers and wheelchairs.
2. Some moderate hills and stair climbing. Probably suitable for strollers. May not be suitable for wheelchairs. Elevation gain from Starting Point: 500 - 1500 feet.	B. A significant part of the route is on well-groomed trails with very few obstacles. Probably suitable for strollers but may not be suitable for wheelchairs.
3. Some significant hill or stair climbing. Not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs. Elevation gain from Starting Point: 1500 - 2500 feet.	C. A significant part of the route is on somewhat difficult terrain (rocky/ rooted paths or soft sand). Not suitable for strollers and wheelchairs.
4. Lots of significant hills or stair climbing. Elevation gain from Starting Point: 2500 - 3500 feet.	D. A significant part of the route is on very difficult terrain.
5. Many steep hills. Elevation gain from Starting Point: more than - 3500 feet.	E. The majority of the route is on very difficult terrain.

Examples:

A route that is mostly on flat pavement would be rated 1A.

A beach walk would be rated 1C.

A route with moderate hills on well groomed trails would be rated 2B.