

AVA TRAIL/ROUTE RATING SYSTEM

The event brochure including the AVA electronic event listing (Walking Events – Event Details) must identify a trail/route 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. Participants need to know about major elevation gains, heavy traffic, narrow road shoulders, construction detours, roaming dogs, cattle guards, and the like along the route.

Although any rating system is somewhat subjective, the two-part numerical/alpha rating system will give event organizers a reliable planning tool. Thus, participants will have an idea about what to expect along a route whether it is for walking, biking, cross-country skiing, or snowshoeing.

Also, a trail/route rating system 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 needs to decide on an event rating based on the scale given below. The Regional Director should work with chartered clubs to achieve uniformity in the assignment of all trail/route ratings.

All elevations over 3500 feet must be included in the written description of an event.

Part 1 – INCLINE/ELEVATION		Part 2 - TERRAIN	
1	Very small hills or very little stair climbing. Probably suitable for strollers and wheelchairs. Cumulative elevation gain from Starting Point: up to 200 feet.	A	Almost entirely on pavement.
2	Some moderate hills and stair climbing. Probably suitable for strollers. May not be suitable for wheelchairs. Cumulative elevation gain from Starting Point: 200 - 1000 feet.	B	A significant part of the route is on well-groomed trails with very few obstacles.
3	Some significant hill or stair climbing. Not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs. Cumulative elevation gain from Starting Point: 1000 - 2000 feet.	C	A significant part of the route is on somewhat difficult terrain (rocky/rooted paths or soft sand.)
4	Lots of significant hills or stair climbing. Cumulative elevation gain from Starting Point: 2000 - 3500 feet.	D	A significant part of the route is on very difficult terrain.
5	Many steep hills. Cumulative elevation gain from Starting Point: more than - 3500 feet.	E	The majority of the route is on very difficult terrain.

Examples

When determining elevation gain, if a route goes up for 50 feet and down for 50 feet and back up for another 75 feet, the cumulative gain would be 125 feet.

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.