SNOW PIT PROFILE CHART

Date _____ General Area _____

Location of Pit _____

Weather & Temperature:

Any Observed Instability (slabs, cracks, whoomps, etc.):

Other Notes:

Elevation _____

Aspect _____

Slope Angle _____

STABILITY FORECAST

1 - Stable (Green)
2 - 50/50 (Yellow)
3 - Very Unstable (Red)

Crystal & Grain Symbols

(Note: slightly simplified from ICSI Standards)

- Newly Precipitated (Original crystals identifiable)
- Partially Rounded (Branches, irregular shapes)
- Rounded Grains
- Faceted Crystals (Sharp edges and corners, glassy smooth faces)
- Depth Hoar (Faceted, angular crystals with striations.)
- Rounding of Faceted Crystals
- Surface Hoar (Striated - sometimes needle-like)
- Melt Freeze
- Ice Masses

Free Water Symbols

- Dry Snow
- Moist - A snowball can be made but water not visible with a hand lens
- Wet - A snowball can be made easily and water can be seen between grains
- Very Wet - Water can be pressed out of the ball
- Slush - Water runs out easily

Shear Characteristics

Q1 - Breaks clean and smooth like it's spring loaded
Q2 - Breaks on a smooth plane but more stubborn
Q3 - Breaks on a rough, broken plane

Compression Test (CT) (30 cm x 30cm - 1' x 1')

(10 Wrist Taps / 10 Elbow Taps / 10 Shoulder Hits)

CTV - Fractures when isolating column (Red Flag)
CT1-CT10 - Fractures during first 10 taps (Red Flag)
CT11-CT20 - Fractures during elbow taps (Yellow)
CT21-CT30 - Fractures during shoulder hits (Green)
CTN or CTX - No Fracture (Green)

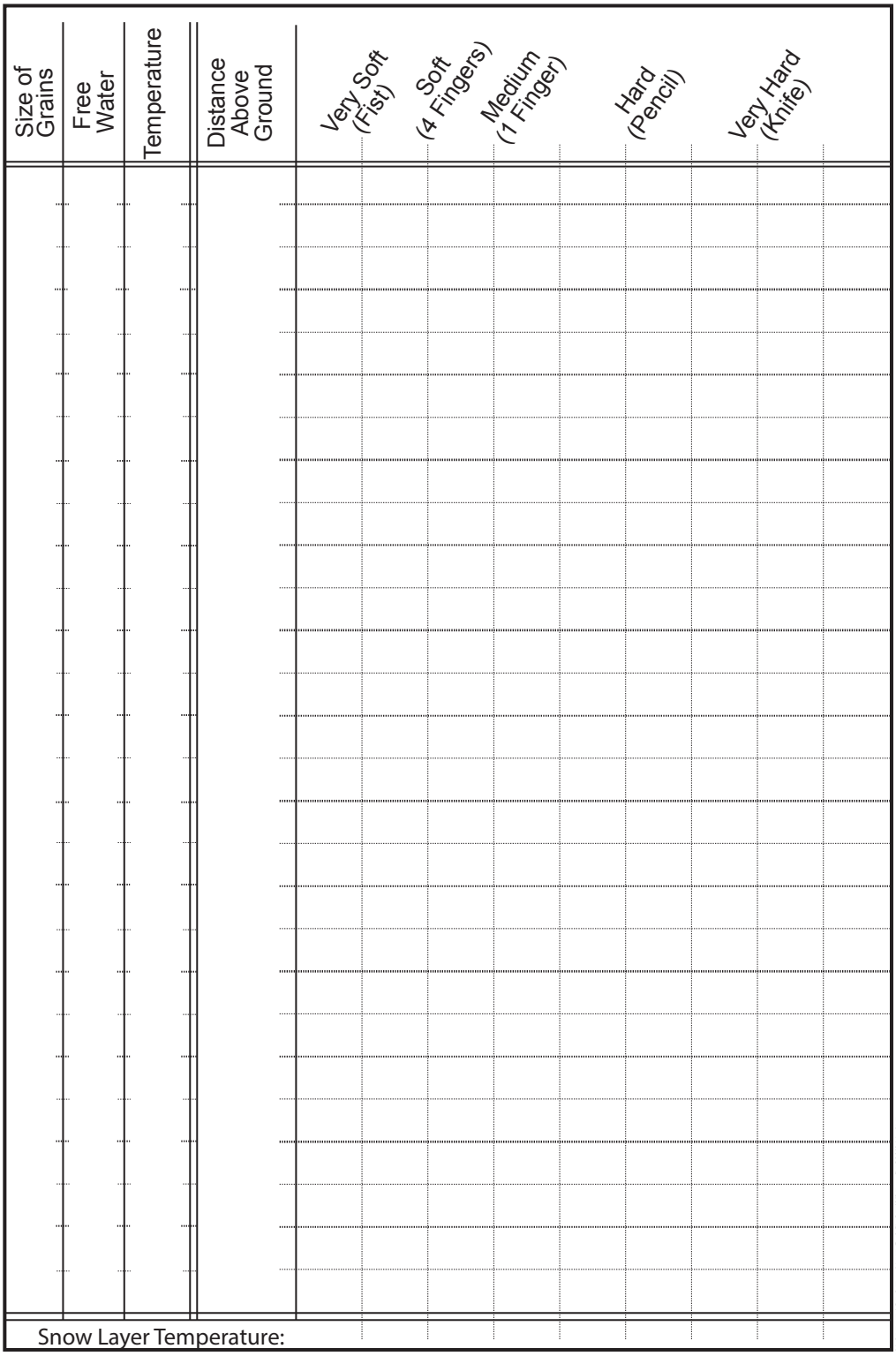
Extended Column Test (ECT) (90cm x 30cm) (3' x 1')

(10 Wrist Taps / 10 Elbow Taps / 10 Shoulder Hits)

ECTPV - Propagation: Entire column fractures (Red!)
ECTP# - Propagation: Entire column after # taps (Red)
ECTN# - Part of column fractures after # taps (Green)
ECTX - No Fracture (Green but try different shear tests)

Rutschblock Scores (RB) (2m x 1.5m - 6' x 4.5')

RB1 - Slides during digging (Red Flag)
RB2 - Slides with gentle step (Red Flag)
RB3 - Slides with knee compression (Red Flag)
RB4 - Slides with one jump (Yellow Flag)
RB5- Slides with two jumps (Yellow Flag)
RB6 - Slides with repeated jumps (Green)
RB7 - Nothing produces smooth break (Green)



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