



## Clubs & Societies

# CODE OF PRACTISE

All clubs and societies are affiliated to Lancaster University Students Union and are therefore bound by the Union regulations and constitution.

**Club/Society:** Mountaineering

### The Aims of the Club/Society

To promote the interests of climbing and mountaineering amongst members of the Club.

To provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and participate in climbing and mountaineering activities together.

To act on behalf of and in the interests of Club members.

To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the cliff and mountain environment.

To take part in the work and activities of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC).

The following constitutes the clubs/societies procedures which must be followed by all members so that all activities are carried out safely:

### Area of activity: Climbing Outdoors

#### Procedures to follow

- Group instructed by trip leader to stay on paths & be aware of trip hazard at the start of the trip. Footwear inspected prior to trip by the trip leader. People with inadequate footwear will not be allowed on the trip.
- Group instructed to stay away from tops of crags by trip leader at the start of each trip. BMC climbing guidelines to be followed. Novice belayers will be trained by attending a recognised ropes course and by supervision from an experienced member on the trip. Experienced members will check the belays before use.
- Ropes are inspected before climbing by experienced climbers and at the end of each trip by the gear secretary. Climbing hardware to be inspected before use by experienced climbers. Inspections according to BMC guidelines. Inadequate equipment will be removed.
- Ropes to be used on crag and mountain routes. This is enforced by all exec members. No soloing is allowed, except while bouldering.
- Bouldering mats and spotters will be used with spotters while bouldering. Spotters must be experienced or supervised by

experienced climbers. Gear officer will make the mats available.

- All climbing practices must be done according to BMC guidelines. All exec and experienced members to ensure compliance. Inexperienced and novice belayers instructed and supervised by experienced climbers. Only experienced members lead.
- The club safety officer will organise a ropes course led by BMC qualified instructors during the first term for new members. All novices must attend a recognised course before being allowed to belay unsupervised.
- On bolted routes members are instructed to clip into all bolts. Climbers to use self place gear if necessary. Trip leader to instruct group prior to climbing. Experienced climbers to supervise novices.
- An assessment will be made on suitability of conditions for climbing. Suitable clothing and equipment checked for conditions. Trip leader to check conditions. Experienced climbers to check novices clothing and equipment prior to departure. A member without suitable clothing and equipment will be barred from the trip.
- Abseiling according to BMC guidelines. Experienced climbers to supervise novices. Training on abseiling will be given during the ropes course which novices must attend before being allowed to abseil unsupervised.
- Helmets will be worn when climbing or when belaying at the base of crags. This is to be enforced by all exec and experienced climbers.
- Club members are to be made aware of the hazard from plant allergies and the danger from animals by the Safety Officer during their induction to the club.
- Members will be instructed not to stand underneath other climbers. This will be done during their club induction. This is enforced by all exec members.
- Participants will be checked for suitable clothing before departure on any trip by the trip leader. Inadequate clothing will result in the member not being allowed on the trip.
- There will be no climbing in avalanche prone areas. The trip leader will check the avalanche forecast while planning any trip. A further check will be done on the day of the trip and the trip venue changed or cancelled if necessary.
- Areas of natural hazard will be avoided by the trip leader choosing suitable venues.
- A destination and ETA will be given for all trips to Security and a trip member will report in upon return. This is organised by the trip leader.
- Any trip involving cross-country navigation will have at least two experienced climbers to cross-check navigation. This is organised by the trip leader.
- There will be no trips to remote areas involving novices. Enforced by

the exec.

- The trip leader will ensure that at least 2 people are carrying mobile phones.
- The trip leader will ensure that there is a first aider in the group and a first aid kit.
- An experienced climber is a climber with at least two years of experience and deemed to be competent by the exec.

Areas of risk assessment covered:

Ground falls

Held falls

Crag location

Crag environment

Area of activity: Climbing Indoors

### **Procedures to follow**

- The club will use reputable climbing walls. These will be selected by the trip leader.
- All climbing will be done according to BMC guidelines.
- Novices will be supervised by experienced climbers at all times.
- Ropes and hardware will be inspected prior to use by experienced climbers according to BMC guidelines and after each trip by the gear officer. Failed equipment will be removed.
- Novices will be briefed during induction not to stand under other climbers. This will be enforced by all exec members. Novices will be taught how to belay correctly by experienced climbers.
- The Safety Officer will organise a ropes course led by BMC qualified instructors during the first term which all novices must attend.

Areas of risk assessment covered:

Climbing walls

Area of activity: General Hazards

### **Procedures to follow**

- Only members with clean driving licences may drive on club trips. Licences of all drivers will be checked by the exec.
- The drivers of private cars must produce valid insurance and MOT to the exec before using their cars on any club trips.
- All minibus drivers must have passed the university minibus test. The certificate will be checked by an exec member. All driving must adhere to the LUSU minibus driving guide.
- The exec will perform headcounts after every stop on trips to ensure

that all participants are present.

- The trip leader will ensure there is a first aider and first aid kit on every trip.
- Members will be advised to behave with propriety towards the general public during their club induction. This is enforced by the exec. The exec will supervise the group and remove members from any hostile situation.
- No trips of less than 4 people will be allowed.
- Members will be briefed by the Safety Officer during their club induction to guard against theft.
- Members deemed antisocial by the exec will be barred from the club.
- Club members will be advised by the Safety Officer during their induction to check with their GP that they can climb if they have an existing medical condition.

Areas of risk assessment covered:  
General Hazards

## Area of activity: Socials

### **Procedures to follow**

- The exec will encourage sensible drinking and brief new members on this during their induction.
- Safe venues will be chosen by the social secretary.
- Socials will be deemed to end once the chosen venue has been left.
- There will be no socials with less than four members present.
- Members are to be made aware by the exec of the risks of theft and violence during their induction.
- Members deemed antisocial by the exec will be barred from the club.
- One member of the exec will stay sober (within drink/drive limit) to chaperone the others. This will be organised by the social secretary.

Areas of risk assessment covered:  
Socials

## **Duty of Care**

Please note that on top of the above procedures, all individual members of the society owe a Duty of Care to fellow members of the society and other societies, and where appropriate the public. Any society member who acts in such a way as to deliberately cause harm or injury to a fellow member and/or who displays open and persistent disregard for the societies Code of Practice will be disciplined by the society executive committee and may face expulsion from the society.