

## Cleveland Mountaineering Club Under-18s Policy Statement

1) This document aims to pull together in one place key information about membership and child protection for Cleveland Mountaineering Club members aged less than 18 years. The club has a duty of care towards all its members (though we are an informal association) and this document sets out how we meet our duty of care towards under-18s. Any queries about this policy should be directed to the Youth Officer in the first instance (contact via the Club Secretary).

### Membership

2) Cleveland Mountaineering Club welcomes the membership and participation of people aged less than 18 years, as Junior and Family members.

3) In the box below are the most relevant extracts from the Club Constitution (2010). All members are recommended to familiarise themselves with the current Constitution, available on the website or from the Club Secretary.

#### **3. Qualification for Membership**

- 3.1 Any person aged sixteen years or over who is interested in and prepared to further the objects of the Club as defined above, shall be eligible for Membership of the Club.
- 3.2 Members below the age of eighteen years shall be junior Members and they will not be allowed to take part in climbing meets except with the written consent of the parent or guardian. Junior Members shall not be eligible to serve as Members of the Committee but may be appointed to Sub-Committees.

#### **6. Entrance Fee and Subscription**

- 6.2 Junior Members and all Members under the age of 21 may be charged reduced subscription rates to be determined at an Annual General Meeting.
- 6.3 The spouse/partner and children under the age of 18 years of a Member, for twice the ordinary Membership fee, may apply to become Family Members. This entitles the adult to all normal benefits of the Club, and their children to attend all meets including Discount nights and use the Hut at designated times.
- 6.4 The children, upon reaching the age of 18 years must apply for Membership in the usual way.

#### **18 Proceedings at General Meetings**

- 18.1 All Members aged 16 years or over and not excluded under other clauses shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings and none other shall be so entitled.

#### **20 Agnes Spencer Memorial Hut, Appointment and Duties of Trustees**

- 20.7 The Cleveland Mountaineering Club shall endorse and implement the BMC Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Policy and Guidelines.

*Club Constitution, February 2010*

## Participation in Mountaineering Activities

4) Climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

5) The attached guide, produced by the BMC, is particularly aimed at non-climbing parents to help them understand the nature of the activity and risks involved.



Young\_people\_Parents\_Booklet\_Web.pdf

6) Whilst Members may be happy to share their skills and knowledge, CMC is not a provider of hill walking, mountaineering or climbing instruction.

7) Junior Members and Family Members under 18 may take part in climbing meets only with the written consent of the parent/guardian (to be completed on the Application Form).

**8) Junior Members and Family Members under 18 may attend meets (of any kind) only under the care of their parent/guardian or another nominated person aged 18 or over acting *in loco parentis* exercising the care of a reasonably prudent parent, and with the informed consent of the parent/guardian.**

9) Please note that the Club cannot accommodate children under 16 years who wish to join independently of their parent or guardian.

10) For further information on duty of care all Members and parents are encouraged to refer to the BMC's club guideline on Risk, Responsibility and Duty of Care.



CG Risk Liability.pdf

## Club Hut

**11) Junior Members and Family Members under 18 may use the Club Hut only under the care of their parent/guardian or a nominated person aged 18 or over acting *in loco parentis* exercising the care of a reasonably prudent parent, and with the informed consent of the parent/guardian.**

12) The attached document is the BMC's technical guideline 11.1 for hut managers on Safeguarding Children in Mountain Huts. The Club follows this guidance.



Guideline11.pdf

13) Please consult the club hut booking calendar on the club website, or contact the Hut Bookings Secretary if in any doubt over when it is permitted for under-18s to use the hut. However, in general the following will apply:

- Under-18s may be taken to the Club Hut on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month

- Around the third weekend in August access is extended so that families with children under 18 have access to the Hut from the preceding Monday night to the following Thursday night – i.e. a period of eleven nights.
- In addition, at Easter, families with children under 18 will be able to use the Hut, Monday night to Thursday night during the first or second week of the school holidays to be determined at the beginning of the year and highlighted on the club hut booking calendar on the club website. The same arrangements for linking this with the family weekend apply and will be clearly highlighted on the Hut booking calendar.

14) All hut users must pay Hut fees irrespective of age.

15) The Hut will not be exclusively for the use of families on the above dates. Other club members may continue to use the Hut at these times, but will need to be aware that there may be under-18s (potentially including young children) present. All club members should act with consideration and courtesy to other Hut users.

16) The Cleveland and Chamois Club have a reciprocal Hut access agreement and up to four Chamois members are allowed to use the Cleveland Hut at any time including the above family access times.

17) Group bookings e.g. of parties from other BMC affiliated clubs must not include under-18s. This decision has been made by the Committee on the grounds that members of visiting groups (unlike Club members) do not have the opportunity to assess the Hut environment and its risks/suitability for under-18s in person prior to their visit. In addition the Hut is not suitable for supervised groups of under-18s (e.g. schools, scouts) because of the communal sleeping arrangements.

18) People responsible for under-18s at the Hut must acknowledge the risks and constraints of using the hut and accept that it is their responsibility to manage Hut use by under-18s so that no risks and dangers ensue. Therefore you are advised to familiarise yourself with the Hut before bringing under-18s there for the first time. Please refer to the hut Risk Assessment, posted on the Club website and in the hut. A sign-up sheet is provided in the hut for those responsible for under-18s to record that they have read and understood the risk assessment. Any queries regarding the hut risk assessment should be directed to the Hut Warden in the first instance.

19) The Hut is managed by CMC and the Hut Trustees with a full range of compliance measures in place in line with all relevant BMC guidelines.

### **Child Protection Policy**

20) Cleveland Mountaineering Club recognises the right of children and other vulnerable people to be protected from harm (including physical, mental, sexual abuse, neglect and bullying).

21) Cleveland Mountaineering Club has adopted the BMC Child Protection Policy and adheres to the guidelines on child protection for clubs. This is to ensure that we help safeguard children and young people from harm, and act according to best practice and to comply with our Civil Liability Insurance Policy. The Club adheres to BMC recommended best practice which has been developed with the Child Protection in Sport Unit, part of the NSPCC.



Interim%20BMC  
Child Protection Policy

22) The attached guidelines on child protection for clubs cover duties *in loco parentis*, risk and reasonableness, the BMC Child Protection Policy and include an example consent form that parents can use to give informed consent for another adult to act *in loco parentis*. Whilst it is not a requirement to use this form, it may be useful.



BMC Childprotection  
Feb 09.pdf

23) The key contact within CMC for any queries or concerns relating to Child Protection issues and procedures and young members is the Youth Officer, contact via the Club Secretary (details on Meets Card or via [secretary.com@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.com@gmail.com)) The Club is required to have a Youth Officer because we have a Junior membership category.

24) The Youth Officer is responsible for raising awareness of issues of child protection within the Club and working towards implementing the BMC Child Protection Policy within the Club. The Youth Officer has an enhanced CRB check and has attended training in safeguarding children.



BMC CG Club Youth  
Officer role.pdf

Signed:

Stuart Bradley  
President

Date

20 Dec 2010