

FACTSHEET



Doing adventurous activities with your club

FS: 19

Introduction

This briefly outlines the requirements when undertaking adventurous activities as a SSAGO member. Full details can be found in the 'Activity Guidelines, Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures' Policy Document which can be found in the resources section of the SSAGO website.

What is an adventurous activity?

An adventurous activity is defined in the Scout Association's POR (Chapter 9) as:

- Hill walking and off road cycling (in Terrain One and Two)
- Climbing and Abseiling (except bouldering)
- Caving
- Snowsports (in Terrain One and Two); (except artificial and nursery slopes);
- All water activities on Class B1, B2, B3 and A waters (except swimming) and all motorised water activities on Class C waters
- Hovercrafting

Terrain definitions and water classifications can be found through the Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR), Chapter 9.

<http://www.scouts.org.uk/documents/por/Chap09Sept09%20v1.pdf>

Procedure if any participants are under 18

If any member of the group participating in adventurous activities is under the age of 18 then The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) must be followed for the whole group. View the rules and regulations here;

<http://www.scouts.org.uk/documents/por/Chap09Sept09%20v1.pdf>

Procedure if all participants are over 18

When all participants are aged over 18 most of the Scout Association rules for Adventurous Activities become guidance only.

Guidance is an important word and therefore the rules should not be totally disregarded. Activities will be required to be risk assessed before they occur (see the 'Risk assessing an evening' factsheet for an idea of how to risk assess an event) and therefore group size, leadership, experience and necessary equipment should all be guided by the Scout Association regulations for under 18 year olds. Inadequate preparation and risk assessments may nullify insurance.

If not following the Scout Association under 18 rules exactly then each participant must sign an acknowledgement of risk declaration before taking part in the activity. This is found here: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs120087.pdf>

There is nothing stopping a group made up entirely of over 18 year olds

following POR exactly. If this is the case there is no necessity to sign the above acknowledgement of risk.

If you are organising an activity and are unsure if it is classified as an 'adventurous activity' please contact the SSAGO exec (exec@ssago.org.uk) well in advance of the event. Similarly, if you are unsure as to whether the variations being made from the recommendations in POR are suitable please ask the SSAGO exec in plenty of time. The National executive can have activity ideas and procedures checked by people at the Scout Association HQ if necessary to ensure they will be fully insured with the plans made. This can however, only be done if enough time is allowed between asking for help and the planned activity date.

Necessary paperwork to submit to SSAGO

When taking part in adventurous activities it is a requirement that SSAGO is informed at least 3 days before. This is done by submitting the 'Adventurous Activity Notification Form' found in the resources section of the SSAGO website. This requires details of the venue where the activity will be carried out, a full list of names of those taking part and whether they have signed the acknowledgement of risk form.

Once this form is completed it should be sent to the SSAGO Notifications Manager (notifications@ssago.org.uk). Clubs may be asked to provide a copy of their risk assessment of the activity to ensure they are fully prepared.

An 'InTouch' System

Every SSAGO activity is required to have a suitable InTouch system in place. This ensures that someone, either within the group or a Third Party, has a copy of the emergency contact details of everyone taking part

in order to contact the necessary people in the case of an emergency. The designated person should be left with the SSAGO Emergency Procedure Policy found in the appendix of the 'InTouch Policy Document'. For full information on the system please see the 'InTouch' Policy Document in the resources section of the SSAGO website.