
Factsheet:

19: Doing Adventurous Activities with your Club

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1. Overview:

This briefly outlines the requirements when undertaking adventurous activities as a SSAGO member. Full details can be found in the 'Activity Guidelines & Nights Away' Policy Document which can be found in the resources section of the SSAGO website.

2. What is an adventurous activity?:

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

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

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

3. Procedure if all participants are over 18:

When all participants are aged over 18 groups may follow The Scout's 'Adults Groups undertaking Activities' guidance which exempts groups from some of the restrictions of POR.

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.

Where an activity is being completed following the 'Adult Groups' guidance it is important that all participants understand the risks and safety measures required. This should include sharing the risk assessment with participants and allowing them to discuss and

suggest changes to it with the risk assessment. The designated Leader in Charge of the activity should be happy all participants agree and understand before the activity starts.

There is nothing stopping a group made up entirely of over 18 year olds running activities following the 'Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme' or 'External Providers' 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 and risk assessment are suitable please ask the SSAGO Exec in plenty of time. The National executive can have activity ideas, risk assessments 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.

4. Procedure if any participants are under 18:

If any member of the group participating in adventurous activities is under the age of 18 then Adventurous Activities must be run in line with the 'Adventurous Activities Permit Scheme' or 'External Providers' exactly.

If multiple groups are taking part of the activity it's possible to have some groups running under the 'Adventurous Activities Permit Scheme' (or 'External Providers'), including all under 18s, and others using 'Adult Groups undertaking Activities'. If this is the case each group should have a designated leader in charge, who is a permit holder or externally qualified person for those groups. It should be clear to all participants who their designated leader in charge is and to the leader in charge which participants they are responsible for supervising. It is strongly recommended these groups stay separated and the risks of this are assessed in the risk assessment. It should never be the case that a permit holder or externally person is supervising a group exceeding their qualifications.

5. Necessary Paperwork

When taking part in adventurous activities it is a requirement that SSAGO is informed at least 7 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 Exec (exec@ssago.org). Clubs may be asked to provide a copy of their risk assessment of the activity to ensure they are fully prepared. Once submitted it should be assumed that the activity can go ahead, although the SSAGO Exec may ask for restrictions or changes if they feel it is required.

Certain activities require additional notifications. These include:

- Activities taking place outside of the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man - The SSAGO Exec requires a minimum of 2 months notice as this has to be passed to our insurers.
- Activities to which scouts or guides from abroad are invited to visit - The SSAGO Exec requires a minimum of 2 months notice as this has to be passed to our insurers. This should be sought before the visit is confirmed.
- Activities involving over 100 participants - The SSAGO Exec requires a minimum of 2 months notice and a brief outline of the event structure and plans.
- Creative Activities intended for public performance (Staged & Musical performances)- The SSAGO Exec should be notified as soon as possible
- Air Activities (including hovercrafting) - The SSAGO Exec should be notified using the standard adventurous activities notification. The scouts information centre should be notified using the following form:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d211477d42e64c5187a7b15af8201828>

When undertaking Shooting activities it is strongly recommended to get a declaration participants are not subject to Section 21 of the Firearms Act 1968.

No firearms may be bought or owned by a SSAGO Club unless the SSAGO Exec have approved this and ensured that possession and use complies with all statutory requirements and applicable byelaws.

All boats owned or on long term loan to SSAGO Clubs must have a unique identifier clearly marked on the craft. Members should be identifiable as part of The Scouts or Girlguiding while on waters controlled by the Canal and River Trust, unless they have made their own access arrangements. All boats should have appropriate marine insurance cover.

6. 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. Guidance can also be sought from Factsheet 43 'InTouch Systems'.