

# Joint Adventurous Activities with Girlguiding UK



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These rules are for use by Scouters and Guiders when members of both The Scout Association and Girlguiding UK take part in adventurous activities.

## Introduction

Joint activities are part of the programme for both The Scout Association and Girlguiding UK, especially the Explorer/Network Scouts and Senior Section. The following rules are designed to ensure responsible leadership in these activities.

Scouters and Guiders should recognise the responsibility they have towards their members, giving them the encouragement and the protection required by their age and experience, but at the same time recognising the fact that young people need opportunities to exercise responsibility in the management of their own affairs. This is especially true in the Senior Sections, but as a principle it should also be kept in mind when working with other age ranges.

The following rules and guidelines have been designed on the basis of the existing rules that each Association sets for its members in relation to adventurous activities. They are the basic rules recognised by the two Associations for joint participation in these activities. Failure to follow these safety rules could lead to accidents. In the interest of safety, the person in charge of an activity may at any time insist on stricter requirements than those listed.

For activities not included in these joint rules, Scouters and Guiders should refer to the rules of their own Association. If only one Association has a relevant rule, that rule should be used for the

purpose of joint activities. For joint adventurous activities not included in the rules of either Association, Leaders should refer to the safety rules of the national governing body for advice and guidance, in consultation with the relevant Commissioner and Adviser. In cases of doubt, reference should be made to the headquarters of the two Associations.

The insurance arrangements and cover available for activities vary for each Association. Scouters and Guiders must therefore be aware of their own Association's insurance requirements.

## Responsibility of Commissioners'

The responsibility for approving joint activities rests with the appropriate Scout Association District or County Commissioner (depending on who is organising the activity) and the appropriate Girlguiding UK County Adviser – normally the Outdoor Activities Adviser unless there is an Adviser appointed for the activity concerned, eg boating.

Their approval must be obtained by the Scouters and Guiders involved before any members undertake joint adventurous activities within their programme. The approval is given to the Scouters and Guiders in charge who will remain responsible to the appropriate Commissioner or Adviser.

In certain circumstances, the appropriate Scout Commissioner and Guide Adviser may give approval for adequately experienced and competent Scouters and Guiders jointly to carry out specific activities for a defined period and/or area before seeking renewal and approval. This is

particularly relevant for Joint Units or Joint Groups.

### **Leaders' responsibilities**

Where Scouters or Guiders themselves do not have the specialist skills required for a particular activity, this leadership must be delegated to a suitably qualified person who has been approved by the appropriate Scout Commissioner or Guide Adviser. While the activity instruction is delegated the responsibility for the young people remains with The Scout Association and Girlguiding UK, as appropriate.

A suitably experienced or qualified young person from either Association may lead a group with the permission of their Scouter or Guider and Scout Commissioner or Guide Adviser.

Activity leaders, once approved, should work on the basis of mutual consultation and wherever possible offer joint leadership in these activities. These consultations with 'opposite numbers' form an important aspect of the leadership role. However, the Scouter or Guider in charge of the activity must:

- Ensure a risk assessment has been carried out on the relevant activity.
- Provide for the parent or guardian of each member aged under 18 essential details about the activity.
- Ensure that written consent is obtained from a parent or guardian before a Girlguiding UK participant under 18 years old can take part in any adventurous activity.
- Obtain from members of the party or their parents or guardians;
  - the phone number of their next of kin/guardian for use in the case of emergency.
  - details of any health issue or disability that they should be aware of.
- Appoint a reliable person as the home contact, who is not related to any member of the party. The home contact must be in possession of;

- the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the next of kin of all members of the party.
- the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Home Scout and Guide Commissioners (or their nominee).
- details of how to contact the party, in the area of activity.
- details of the Host Scout and Guide authorities, if the activity is away from the home area.

The action taken by the home contact will depend on the type of accident or emergency. (A factsheet on Home Contacts (FS120078) is available from The Scout Information Centre.) For example, a coach that is going to be late will only require the parents meeting the coach to be notified.

### **Accidents or Emergencies**

In the event of an accident or emergency the leaders or a member of the party must arrange for:

- Rescue service procedures to be initiated.
- The home contact to be told about the accident/emergency and given the name(s) of the member(s) of the party requiring assistance.

The home contact will then:

  - Inform the next of kin/guardian of the participants(s) involved.
  - Contact the appropriate Commissioners, or nominees, giving names and telephone numbers of the next of kin/guardian of those who require assistance.
  - Maintain the links already established with the appropriate Commissioners or nominees.
  - Notify the Host Scout and Guide authorities of the accident/emergency.

### **Over-riding Controls**

The camping schemes of each association must be followed.

The appropriate Scout Commissioner or Guide Adviser in any area where adventurous activities take place, or any other authorised representative, has an over-riding authority to direct that any particular activities must be postponed, stopped or cancelled, if in their view, this is essential in the interests of safety.

Laser war games, paintball, bungee jumping, towed inflatables behind powered watercraft or hang gliding may not be undertaken as joint activities.

### **Use of commercial centres and instructors**

A Scouter or Guider intending to use a commercial provider of adventurous activities must ensure that, if appropriate, a valid Adventurous Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) licence has been issued to the provider when any participant is under 18.

AALA was set up to implement the Adventure Activities Licence Regulations 1996, which affect some activities in certain circumstances. These include caving, climbing, cycling, pony-trekking, skiing, walking and watersports.

When professional instructors from outside The Scout Association and Girlguiding UK are engaged for any adventurous activity not subject to the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 1996, they must be qualified to the level recommended for the activity by the appropriate national governing body or Government agency. It is the responsibility of the leaders concerned to check that the qualifications are held.

The Scouter or Guider in charge of the activity must also be satisfied that the person(s) providing the instruction or leadership are adequately insured.

Before entering into any agreement for the provision of such services which includes an indemnity clause (ie where it is assumed that the hirer will be responsible for damage, injury or loss), the agreement must be referred to each Association's headquarters.

### **Adult Groups**

All groups consisting entirely of adults (i.e. over 18 years old) taking part in adventurous activities (as defined in *Policy, Organisation and Rules* 9.7a) must use the Rules of The Scout Association (*Policy, Organisation and Rules* 9.8)

### **Activities in A – Z Order**

The list below is provided to help Scouters and Guiders running joint activities and to avoid them having to work to two sets of specific rules. This does not negate the need for members of both Associations to follow the general requirements as set out in *Policy, Organisation and Rules* or *The Guiding Manual*.

If an activity leader is appropriately qualified under the rules of one Association then, for the purposes only of joint activities, he/she will be accepted by the other Association as meeting their requirements.

### **Aerial Runways**

Use The Scout Association rules (*Policy, Organisation and Rules* 9.41).

Note: The only people who may use an aerial runway constructed by Guides/Scouts are members of both Associations, or of an overseas Scout Association or Guide Association.

### **Air Activities**

Use The Scout Association rules with the exception of hang gliding, (see above). (*Policy, Organisation and Rules* 9.10 – 9.21).

### **Boating/Water Activities**

Use Girlguiding UK rules with the exception of rowing/pulling, when either rules can be used. (*Guiding Manual* chapter 8 page 124 - 143 and *Policy, Organisation and Rules* 9.42 – 9.47).

### **Caving**

Use The Scout Association rules. (*Policy, Organisation and Rules* 9.35).

### **Climbing and Abseiling**

Use Girlguiding UK rules. (*Guiding Manual* chapter 8 page 145 - 146).

### **Walking and Mountain Biking in Moors, Hills and Mountains**

Use the rules of the Association to which the person in charge of the activity belongs or is representing. (*Guiding Manual* chapter 8 page 166 - 173 and *Policy, Organisation and Rules* 9.26 – 9.32).

### **Shooting**

Each Association should refer to their own rules. (*Guiding Manual* chapter 8 page 155, *Policy, Organisation and Rules* 9.37).

### **Skiing**

Use Girlguiding UK rules. (*Guiding Manual* chapter 8 page 155 - 156).

### **Swimming**

Use Girlguiding UK rules. (*Guiding Manual* chapter 8 page 158 - 166).

### **Further Information**

*Policy, Organisation and Rules* is available from The Scout Information Centre 0845 3001818 or the web site at [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk).

The *Guiding Manual* is available from *Guiding Essentials* on 0161 941 2237 or at [www.guidingessentials.org.uk](http://www.guidingessentials.org.uk)