

Southampton University Mountaineering Club

Leaders Regulations

The responsibility of the maintenance of the following regulations and the General Regulations lies with the committee and leaders within the club.

1. Leaders shall be appointed by the president who must know their ability.
2. Before climbing a leader must visually check the fastenings of a beginners belt/harness and knot attaching the rope to the harness.
3. The ratio for climbing shall not exceed one leader to two beginners. One intermediate may also accompany the group if available. (Intermediate may be defined as a person who has knowledge of rope and belay techniques and who has climbed before.)
4. All climbs should be completed on UIAA approved single ropes or two UIAA approved half ropes.
5. The leader must belay from the top of the cliff using at least two belay points whenever possible with a UIAA approved screw gate karabiners for all attachment points.
6. Two weekends at the beginning of the academic year will be designated as Freshers meets for instructional purposes.
7. Beginners must not lead any climbs unless the gear is pre-placed by the leader and the beginner is closely supervised and belayed by the leader.
8. All club equipment must be checked thoroughly by the gear officer before the start of every meet, however, the responsibility of the upkeep of the gear is passed to that of the user when handed out.
9. The meet leader shall check the prevailing weather conditions including wind direction before the meet and if necessary change the destination of the meet or cancel it.
10. The meet leader shall check the daily local weather forecast plus any local hazards (e.g. tides) and ensure that all groups are informed and properly equipped. The meet leader has the authority to cancel or curtail activities at any time should he/she consider that they constitute an undue risk.
11. A general First Aid Kit must be taken on all meets.
12. When climbing on sea cliffs:
 - a) A static rope should be placed around the bottom of the cliff in any place where the ledge is narrow. People should clip into this rope with a cow's tail in order to cross this section of cliff.
 - b) An emergency float must be taken to each crag.
13. For meets in wild or mountainous regions, members must submit their proposed route for that day in writing to the meet leader. Advice must be sought from the meet leader on the suitability of the route and they must ensure that the group equipment includes relevant map(s), a whistle and compass.