



INVICTA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HILL WALKING AND MOUNTAINEERING

Event name	IMC "Have a go" event	Event location	
Event description	Hill walking, mountaineering, wild camping, scrambling	Event base	
Event dates		Scout sections involved	All leaders from any section, Network, Explores, Scouts
Event Leader	Neil Pickford (ML Summer)	Risk Assessment written by	Neil Pickford, Judy Young (IMC Team Leader)

All IMC Hill Walking Activities follow Scout Association POR. The following information has been taken from POR where it is relevant to Hill walking and should be observed and followed at all times. (Note: *The numbering system in POR chapter 9 was updated in April 2023*). All of this information can be found on TSA website should it be required.

Activity	POR Rules	Further Guidance	Scouting Permit Required	Extra Third Party Insurance	Notification (HQ) Required
For All Activities	9.1 All activities 9.1.1 InTouch 9.1.1 Emergency Procedure 9.2 Nights away 9.4 Risk Assessment	FS120000 Risk Assessment FS120007 Joint Adventurous Activities with Girlguiding UK FS120075 InTouch FS120081 Activity Information Form Purple Card Safe Scouting and Emergency card Procedures Checklist Staying safe - Safety Checklist for Leaders			
Over Night	9.21 Nights away permit scheme	FS120800 Nights away and safeguarding NAN Form	Nights away permit		
Activity Permits	9.7 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme	FS120100 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme FS120103 Commissioners' Guide			
Adult Groups	9.8 Adult Groups in Adventurous Activities	FS120087 Adult Groups in Adventurous Activities			
Hillwalking	9.12.6 Party Size 9.12.7.1 Terrain Zero Definition 9.12.7.2 Terrain One Definition 9.12.7.3 Terrain Two Definition 9.12.8 Hill Walking and Off Road Cycling – Permits 9.12.9 Hill Walking and Off Road Cycling - Safety	FS120077 Emergency Card FS120409 Route Plan FS120454 Hillwalking	Yes in Terrains One and Two (Personal, Leadership, Supervisory) Wilderness First Aid per walking party	No	No



In addition to the following Risk Assessment:

- In all cases, routes are planned to suit the ability of the group and individuals in it.
- In all cases, walking parties are the control and management of assessed and scout qualified group leaders, unless operating under Adults in Adventurous Activities.
- In all cases, Group Leaders need to be carrying out a dynamic risk assessment in an ever-changing environment.
- An event First Aider will check regular medication has been taken at appropriate times during the day and inform Group Leaders of any changes to medication from that supplied with the application.
- A nights away permit holder is required for all events and their permit must be appropriate to the activity.
- A NAN form must be completed and submitted (within seven days) prior to all events.
- If wild camping, party leaders must camp within the scope of their permit and the Landowner's permission should be sought.
- An In-touch system must be put in place by the event organiser.

Alternative activities:

The IMC may also include alternative activities within a hill walking event. In such circumstances the activity will be bought-in from a commercial supplier and thus subject to the Risk Assessment and Insurance provided by that supplier. Activities may include:

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| • Canyoning | • Gorge walking | • Coasteering | • Caving |
| • Horse riding | • Skiing & Snowboarding | • Mountain Biking | • Via Ferrata |

The IMC may also run **joint events with the County Climbing Team**. In such cases Group leaders will still be responsible for getting their members to and from the activity site but technical competence for the activity will be handed over to suitably authorised instructors and subject to the Risk Assessment specific to climbing activities, such as:

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| • Single-pitch and multi-pitch rock climbing | • Single-pitch and multi-pitch ice climbing | • Bouldering | • Abseiling |
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Contingency:

In the event that the planned Hill Walking or Mountaineering activity has to be curtailed for any reasons stated in the Risk Assessments, then a safe alternative will be devised by the Activity leaders according to their permit and experience. Examples of which might include: a walk in Terrain 0; low-level skills tuition such as navigation or rope work; a visit to a local tourist attraction. If no viable alternative is considered possible, the trip will be abandoned and all participants will return to Kent (assuming it is safe to do so). Very rarely, generally due to extreme adverse weather, the Event leader, in conjunction with the permit holders, may decide to cancel the trip in advance. In this case, no alternative activity will be considered.

A note on applications.

The application form for all IMC events, captures the usual personal and Next of Kin information as well as asking for relevant and/or previous experience of Hill Walking. We also ask for: Current medication or treatment; Any disabilities; Any Allergies / sensitivities; Any behavioural issues, Any special dietary requirements; Any specific cultural needs. There is an automated system in place for any applications made by under 18s, which asks the applicant's section leader to confirm that they believe the applicant to be suitably fit and able and can provide themselves with the necessary equipment. Adult leaders can only submit an application if they confirm that they have checked that their Mandatory Ongoing Learning is up-to-date and supply their Scout Association Membership Number.



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WEATHER CONDITIONS

Winter refers to when winter conditions, including snow and ice, prevail or are forecast and cannot be defined by a time of the year (hence its inclusion). Snow/ice cover is not the only defining feature: severe cold, high winds and shortened daylight hours should also be considered (This is the Scout Association definition and not that of Mountain Training).

Hazard: Risk	Who is at risk?	Likelihood/ Seriousness	Control Measures	Review and Revise
Adverse Weather: <i>Difficulty walking, Wet clothing, delay, coldness, lightning, flash flooding,</i>	All Participants	Possible Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Weather reports assessed, and interpreted for Mountain conditions on daily basisAppropriate plan selected for the outing, considering the current and expected weather conditionsConsideration made of any water hazards that may be encountered and changes likely with conditions	
Cold Weather: <i>Hypothermia</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious <i>Very serious/ fatal in winter</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continual review of weather conditions and of objectives by group leaderAppropriate clothing and footwear worn and spares carried by all membersSufficient Food and fluids carried by all members.Instructor awareness and vigilance of participant's condition.Appropriate emergency equipment carried - shelter as a minimum	
Hot Weather: <i>Eye damage, sun burn, dehydration, heat exhaustion</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Very Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sunglasses and hat worn on bright daysSunscreen for face and lipsPlenty of fluid - check each group member before leaving base	
Poor Visibility: <i>Getting Lost</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leaders suitably experienced and authorisedEach group member carries a map, compass and whistleWhole group briefed about the day's route & route card left with responsible personMobile telephone carried	
Poor Visibility: <i>Group separation</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Members briefed before leaving base on times when this could happen - poor visibility, summits when there could be more groups and/or members of the publicGroup leaders and seconds to regularly conduct head count.	
High Winds: <i>Difficulty walking</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Group leaders to check weather forecast and plan route accordinglyMembers briefed before leaving baseTurn around or take alternative route if required	
Reflection from Snow: <i>Snow blindness, sun burn</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Brightness of light monitored by group leaderSunglasses to be included in winter kit list and used when requiredSun cream to be carried and applied to exposed skin and lips if necessary	



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TERRAIN & UNDERFOOT CONDITIONS

Hazard: Risk	Who is at risk?	Likelihood/ Seriousness	Control Measures	Review and Revise
Walking on – steep ground / uneven paths / wet rock or grass <i>Slips, Trips and Falls causing injury</i>	All Participants	Likely/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate footwear MUST be worn and leaders may refuse to take on the hill any participant with inappropriate footwear. Vigilance from the instructor monitoring student's technique. Good route choice to avoid serious consequences of a hazard High risk areas highlighted to group, and managed effectively. 	
Walking on steep ground: <i>Rock Fall or dislodging loose rocks stones from above</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of hazard by group leaders including possible problems caused by other hill walkers as well as members of own party Avoid loose areas and route planned to take party away from known areas of rock falls. If necessary re-plan or delay route Control of the group to avoid risk Direct and brief party to ensure no stone throwing / trundling. If area cannot be avoided helmets must be worn. 	
Scrambling on steep ground: <i>Rock Fall from above, Slips, and Falls causing injury</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrambling on graded routes may only take place if the Group Leader has the appropriate endorsement on their permit from their DC or CC Leaders must never exceed the grade in their permit Helmets must always be worn on any graded scramble 	
Snow and Ice: <i>Slips, trips and/or falls</i>	All Participants	Very likely/ Very Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ice axes, Crampons and Helmets supplied to all members of the group Individual knows how to attach crampons to own boots or crampons fitted under supervision at base before the walk begins. Helmets must be worn on steep ground or when using an ice axe Members of group given opportunity to walk in crampons and use ice axes on flatter ground before encountering steeper ground 	
Snow & Ice: <i>Avalanche, Ice & Rock Fall</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Fatal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past conditions and forecast interpreted before going onto the hill to determine the safest route for the prevailing conditions. Requires approval from senior instructors Continuous dynamic assessment of actual conditions on the hill. Use of helmets in high hazard areas 	
River Crossing: <i>Falling into Water</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River crossings to be avoided as far as possible. An extended route is preferable. Only crossing of small / minor streams with minimal consequences should be considered Leader must select suitable crossing points and safeguard crossing of all group members In winter any soaking should mean immediate abandonment of the route and return 	



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EQUIPMENT

Hazard: <i>Risk</i>	Who is at risk?	Likelihood/ Seriousness	Control Measures	Review and Revise
Badly fitting or incorrect boots for the terrain/activity: <i>Blisters or twisted ankles</i>	All Participants	Very likely/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals footwear to be checked before leaving Kent to ensure suitable for terrain• Individual to apply plaster/blister plaster from own first aid kit after cleaning wound (All injuries to be checked and redressed, if necessary, on returning to base)	
Overweight bags: <i>Injury or curtailment of the activity</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individuals kit to be checked before leaving site to ensure suitable for terrain. If considered overweight, measures taken to lighten the load or share it between other group members	
Equipment Failure: <i>Injury or curtailment of the activity</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All equipment checked before and after use. Use and inspection of equipment recorded by County Quartermaster• Equipment replaced at timescales laid down by manufacturer• Participants using own equipment to be checked by Group Leader for suitability and serviceability• If necessary, the activity may have to be curtailed if an equipment failure causes an unacceptable safety risk	
Equipment Loss (or forgotten): <i>Injury or curtailment of the activity</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants equipment to be checked by Group Leader before embarking on the activity• If necessary, the activity may have to be curtailed if an equipment loss causes an unacceptable safety risk	
Winter equipment: Ice axes and crampons: <i>Injury caused by the above</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leaders are trained and assessed in managing groups who are using these tools• Group given warning of hazards when walking together• Equipment checked before issue to ensure not damaged• Instruction on how to safely carry ice axes and crampons on rucksacks• Instruction provided by experienced leaders in how to use equipment, ice axe arresting and walking using crampons	

EMERGENCIES: BENIGHTMENT, INJURY, MEDICAL ISSUES

In all cases:

- Ensure that a route card including ETA is left on site or with a responsible adult.
- Ensure that all leaders know the procedure in the event of an overdue party or emergency so support can be given if necessary.



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Emergency scenario (Due to illness, injury or benightment): <i>Delay, cold, trauma</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emergency cards should be carried by all participants who should be briefed on how to use themLeaders must carry mobile phone and know procedure for contacting emergency servicesLeaders should carry contact details for other parties on the event and contact if delayed or involved in an emergencySee below regarding suitable food, shelter and First Aid for emergency scenarios	
Injury: <i>Group being delayed or getting cold. Evacuation of injured person required</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least one party member must have suitable First Aid training and a comprehensive First Aid kitLeaders must consider the welfare of the whole party and not just the injured person	
Illness: <i>Group being delayed or getting cold. Evacuation of ill person required</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Medical information required by event organiser and group leaderIndividuals carry own medication - group leader must be informedExtra warm clothing carried to be used in the event of an enforced stopGroup shelter carried to be used in the event of an enforced stopHot drinks and snacks eaten in the event of an enforced stopEmergency rations to be carried by all participants	
Darkness: <i>Group being delayed, getting lost, or a member suffers a trip / fall</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Experienced and qualified group leaders to reducing risk of getting lost or overdue.Sun set time known by all groups before leaving baseGroup all carry head torches and spare batteriesRealistic plan for the day with cut short options.	
Wildlife: <i>Delay, injury, illness</i>	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wild or farm animals may be encountered on the hills. They are unlikely to interact with humans although cattle are a possible hazard and if necessary an alternative route may be required to bypass an inquisitive herd.Check for ticks in sheep farming areas and use appropriate device to remove. Seek medical attention if become unwell due to tick bite.Rarely, Adders may be encountered on heathland but do not attack except in self-defence and are easily avoided. Seek urgent medical attention if bitten by any snake	
Other hill walkers:	All Participants	Possible/ Serious	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If assisting another party on the hill, leaders must consider their own group first (see all of the above points)	