Code of Conduct

As an SCC member you are expected to:

- Treat our club members with consideration and respect. SCC has a zero-tolerance policy towards any abusive, threatening, or harassing behaviours shown towards our club members.
- Take personal responsibility and act in a way to reduce the possibility of contributing harm to others. All members have a legal duty of care to others and are required to read and accept the **Duty of Care Guidance** (detailed below).
- Show respect towards our hosts and the general public by behaving in line with our **Accommodation and Crags Guidance** (detailed below), and comply with the specific rules set by the gyms, huts, campsites, or other premises that we visit.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct

- Suspected breaches of the code of conduct must be reported to the committee and will be further considered and investigated by the committee if the committee deems this to be in the interest of the club.
- The committee will determine if sufficient guidance or intervention has been given to a member in breach of the code of conduct, and give further guidance if the committee deems that this is an appropriate response.
- If the committee determines that a member's behaviour breaches the code of conduct or does not align with the interests of the club, the Committee will follow the Discipline and Appeals process set out in section 19 of the **Constitution**.

Duty of Care Guidance

As an BMC affiliated club, SCC members commit to the traditional ethos of personal responsibility and acceptance of risk in UK Mountaineering activities, as set out in the **BMC Participation Statement**. This ethos also includes a duty of care to other people.

In practice, a 'duty of care' means that we should take actions to reduce the possibility of contributing harm to others.

To enable open and inclusive access to mountaineering activities and learning, BMC clubs do not require their members or their officers to have mountaineering qualifications. Members arrive with many different levels of skill and experience, and voluntarily take responsibility for novices or people with less experience than themselves.

Within this context, it is important to be mindful that:

- If you take on the role of introducing or mentoring novice mountaineers, make sure that the objective is well within your own technical capabilities and experience.
- Make sure that the objective could reasonably be expected to be within the mental and physical capacities of the group

A duty of care applies proportionately to the more experienced member, however all members have a duty of care relevant to their participation. For example:

- If you are leading a route, make sure that it is reasonably within your own technical capabilities, and that those following you have the reasonable capacity to follow safely
- If you are belaying a climber, belay appropriately and do not recklessly endanger their wellbeing
- If you find loose rock or debris, do not purposefully throw or dislodge it in a way that may cause danger to those nearby
- If you are walking on difficult terrain or near cliff edges, do not run, crowd others, or behave recklessly or in a way that may cause someone to fall or have an accident

The above examples are not exhaustive and the overall principle of a duty of care should be applied.

A duty of care to others is recognised and enforced as a matter of UK Law, and the local laws of any countries we visit as part of SCC activities. If a person breaches their duty of care to others, they may become liable to legal action and penalties. If our members are found to have breached their duty of care to others, this may also result in their dismissal from the club.

For more detailed information, please also read the BMC guidelines linked below:

BMC - Risk, Responsibility, Duty of Care and Liability Club Guidelines

Accommodation and Crags Guidance

As a club we often come into contact with members of the public, especially when on club meets. It is important to maintain the good reputation of the club as losing this could, for example, lead to difficulty in booking huts and campsites for further meets. In addition to this, we consider it to be important to maintain a friendly, welcoming atmosphere within the club both for old members and new.

While we appreciate that many of these points may seem like common sense, it would be helpful if members could read these guidelines and ensure they are representing the club in a positive way.

Accommodation:

When at a campsite or in a hut:

- Try to keep noise down after hours (i.e. after 11pm or the time set by the site);
- Try and restrict the use of bad language and especially if in a family area;
- Keep to a reasonable-size area, to avoid sprawling over the whole site or building;
- Ensure that litter is taken care of;
- Drink responsibly; and
- Generally be considerate of other members and the public.

At the crag:

When at the crag:

- Keep gear in a small area, rather than spreading out over an excessive area;
- Avoid being too noisy or disruptive;
- Generally be considerate of other members and the public.

These are basic guidelines for the purpose of ensuring that the reputation of the club is upheld. Members who are unable to act within these guidelines may be issued with a warning, either verbally or in writing, and repeat offenders may be sanctioned. Possible sanctions include being banned from attending meets for a suitable period of time, or, in particularly severe cases, expulsion from the club.