

# Activity updates: pre-launch check

## Background

As part of our ongoing review of the rules and guidance to manage activities this document proposes changes to a number of activities. In each area members of the Programme Assurance Team along with the Volunteer Head of Compliance have undertaken consultation and research ahead of the proposals being provided for pre-launch checks.

Where a proposal relates to a change in POR both the Safety and Operations Committees have approved these changes. The Operations Committee have approved updates to a number of rules which are outlined below.

**Note:** All POR wording can be found in Appendix A starting on page 3. Unless otherwise referenced factsheets and web guidance will be available at launch of these revisions in January 2021.

All proposed changes are designed to remove unnecessary barriers, ensuring they remain safe while making them easy for Leaders to operate.

Following this pre-launch check the intention is to publish them and go live in January 2021. Until this date when the updates are published the current rules (September 2020) continue to apply.

The pre-launch checks in place this year relate to the following topics:

1. Adult groups in adventurous activities
2. Externally led activities'
3. Kite surfing
4. Other activities
5. Terrain definitions
6. Water skiing

## Providing feedback

If you have any comments or concerns about these changes – how they might be better understood or put into practice, or anything that doesn't make sense or isn't workable – please let us know via the [online survey](#). You can submit your comments until **midnight on 13 December 2020**.

**Note:** Please read the proposals carefully and only provide feedback on the areas which you feel will cause issues in the safe delivery of Scouts locally.

### 1. Adult groups in adventurous activities

It is proposed that POR rule 9.8 Adult Groups in Adventurous Activities be updated to reflect how all activities involving adults be managed, moving away from the risk acknowledgement statement and moving to adults confirming their understanding of the risk assessment for the activity. The guidance FS120087 will be updated to support this revised approach.

### 2. Externally led activities

It is proposed that POR rule 9.9 Use of External Centres and Instructors be updated to confirm that rules in Chapter 9

apply to all activities with the exception of those which explicitly relate to scout only delivered activity, such as the nights away permit scheme and the adventurous activities permit scheme. In addition it is proposed to list the minimum level of public liability insurance required by external providers within POR rule 9.9.

### **3. Kite surfing**

Key changes to the management of kitesurfing include updating the National Governing Body title where referenced. Note this is only a name change with no change to the qualifications listed.

### **4. Other Activities**

Following the updates to the risk assessment process launched in August 2020 it is proposed that POR rule 9.77 Other Activities be updated to clarify that documenting and communicating is a key part of the risk assessment process. In addition an update has been proposed to clarify which Commissioners or nominees are required to approve the activities from taking place. These proposed changes should provide no operational changes for members, just seek to clarify and reinforce the existing processes.

### **5. Terrain Definitions**

It is proposed to update the terrain definitions listed in POR rules 9.28 Terrain Zero, 9.29 Terrain One and 9.30 Terrain Two, updating the words "mountainous steep ground" to provide more clarity for those with less experience of hillwalking, this will also be supported by more detail with the guidance FS120426 Terrain Zero Activities. It is proposed that those operating in Terrain Zero must follow the guidance in FS120426 Terrain Zero Activities, this provides more detail about the different types of activities which may take place, from activities in the local park to those more rural and remote activities. In addition Rule 9.30 Terrain Two is proposed to be updated to clarify the use of ropes.

As part of this review the proposals were tested with a wide range of members, including those with no hillwalking experience and those with permits and assessor roles, Commissioners and advisers. This feedback helped to shape the proposals and guidance. In addition to the updated rules and guidance FAQs will be provided and training materials updated to reflect and reinforce the changes.

### **6. Water skiing**

Key changes to the management of water skiing include updating the equivalent and assessor qualifications to reflect the updated National Governing Body title and qualifications titles.

## Appendix A – POR Proposals – Adult Groups

Changes are identified in red and underlined.

Chapter 9 – Activities	
Current	Proposed
<p><b>Rule 9.8 Adult Groups in Adventurous Activities</b></p> <p>a. An adventurous activity is defined in Rule 9.7a.</p> <p>b. Where any participant in the activity group is aged under 18, Rule 9.7 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme will apply. Rule 9.7 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme may also be applicable to groups with network Members aged over 18 years, with additional needs, disabilities or lifelimiting conditions who have additional support to access Scouting.</p> <p>Note: for Network members aged 18-25 years who are unable to independently understand and/or sign an acknowledgement of risk and consent form, please contact Scout Insurance Services for further guidance.</p> <p>c. Rules within Chapter 9 regarding adventurous activities should be taken as guidance except Rules 9.3 – 9.6, 9.9, 9.12 and 9.64 (except a) which must be followed irrespective of age.</p> <p>d. Any activity that is banned applies to all age groups.</p> <p>e. Each activity must have a co-ordinator.</p> <p>f. Each participant must sign an acknowledgement of risk statement and have read the guidance set out in the fact sheet <a href="#">FS120087 Adult Groups in Adventurous Activities</a>.</p>	<p><b>Rule 9.8 Adult groups <u>undertaking activities</u></b></p> <p>a. <u>Members over the age of 18 participating in activities must follow the rules laid out in Chapter 9, with the exception of rules 9.7, 9.26, 9.33b and c, 9.35, 9.36 a.</u></p> <p>b. Where any participant in the activity group is aged under 18 <u>or any adult with additional needs, disabilities or life-limiting conditions who have additional support to access Scouting, all rules in Chapter 9 apply, including</u> Rule 9.7 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme.</p> <p>c. <u>When members over the age of 18 undertake activities covered by rules 9.7, 9.26, 9.33b and c, 9.35, 9.36 a, members can choose an appropriate management system for these activities, members may choose to follow existing systems such as the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme or may put in place other controls.</u></p> <p>d. Any activity that is banned applies to all age groups.</p> <p>e. Each activity must have <u>someone designated as leader in charge. This is not a role but a set of tasks someone must ensure are undertaken, full details on the leader in charge can be found here.</u></p> <p>f. Each participant must <u>understand and accept the risks involved in the activity and the control measure in place to manage these risks. This can be done through sharing of risk assessments and briefings, the leader in charge must be satisfied that everyone understands this before the activity can start.</u></p> <p><u>Further guidance on the management of activities for groups over the age of 18 can be found in FS120087 Adult group activities.</u></p>

Current	Proposed
<p data-bbox="105 152 703 188"><b>Rule 9.9 Use of External Centres and Instructors</b></p> <p data-bbox="105 264 719 439">Delivery of activities using an external provider can enrich the programme, but a number of factors require consideration. This rule intends to provide a structure to support leaders in making informed decisions about the suitability of external providers.</p> <p data-bbox="105 479 735 1048">a. When external providers are used for the delivery of activities for members of The Scout Association the external provider must hold a relevant accreditation or qualification for the activity they are delivering (e.g. AALA Licence, Adventure Mark Accredited Provider, Government Agency, National Governing Body qualifications) as well as adequate insurance cover. These criteria are subject to frequent change and up to date guidance on the above can be found in the A-Z directory at <a href="http://scouts.org.uk/a-z">scouts.org.uk/a-z</a>. As the standards and criteria for the delivery of activities overseas are very varied it is not possible to provide specific guidance for each country and activity. Leaders therefore need to check the suitability of providers themselves and this rule supports that process with additional guidance.</p> <p data-bbox="105 1088 695 1263">b. When using external providers overseas, the guidance for activities overseas must be followed (FS120085). If the leader in charge feels that the activity is not safe then the activity should be stopped immediately.</p>	<p data-bbox="759 152 1358 188"><b>Rule 9.9 Use of External Centres and Instructors</b></p> <p data-bbox="759 282 1374 456">Delivery of activities using an external provider can enrich the programme, but a number of factors require consideration. This rule intends to provide a structure to support leaders in making informed decisions about the suitability of external providers.</p> <p data-bbox="759 497 1398 1030">a. When external providers are used for the delivery of activities for members of The Scout Association the external provider must hold a relevant accreditation or qualification for the activity they are delivering (e.g. AALA Licence, Adventure Mark Accredited Provider, Government Agency, National Governing Body qualifications). These criteria are subject to frequent change and up to date guidance on the above can be found in the A-Z directory at <a href="http://scouts.org.uk/a-z">scouts.org.uk/a-z</a>. As the standards and criteria for the delivery of activities overseas are very varied it is not possible to provide specific guidance for each country and activity. Leaders therefore need to check the suitability of providers themselves and this rule supports that process with additional guidance.</p> <p data-bbox="759 1070 1398 1245">b. When using external providers overseas, the guidance for activities overseas must be followed (FS120085). If the leader in charge feels that the activity is not safe then the activity should be stopped immediately.</p> <p data-bbox="759 1285 1398 1384"><u><a href="#">c. External activity providers must provide evidence of holding a public liability insurance policy which covers their activities to a minimum level of 5 million pounds.</a></u></p> <p data-bbox="759 1424 1398 1599"><u><a href="#">d. Members when using external activity providers are required to follow all rules relevant to the activity as contained within Chapter 9, with the exception of any which explicitly relate to the delivery of Scout-led activity.</a></u></p>

Current	Proposed
<p><b>Rule 9.28 Terrain Zero Definition</b></p> <p>Terrain Zero describes terrain which meets one of the following criteria:</p> <p>a. Meets all the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● is below 500 metres above sea level; and</li> <li>● is within 30 minutes travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as a farm) or another means of summoning help (such as a telephone box); and</li> <li>● contains no element of mountainous steep ground (routes or areas where the average person would need to regularly use their hands at least for balance if not for actual progress. This does not stop people from using their hands as an aid to confidence.)</li> </ul> <p>or:</p> <p>b. Is a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic.</p> <p>Further information about delivering activities in Terrain Zero can be found in <a href="#">FS120426 Terrain Zero Activities</a>.</p>	<p><b>Rule 9.28 Terrain Zero Definition</b></p> <p>a. Terrain Zero describes terrain which meets one of the following criteria:</p> <p><u>i.</u> Meets all the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● is below 500 metres above sea level; and</li> <li>● is within 30 minutes travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as a farm) or another means of summoning help (such as a telephone box); and</li> <li>● <u>has no steep slopes or rocky terrain, where a slip may result in a fall</u> (routes or areas where the average person would need to regularly use their hands at least for balance if not for actual progress. This does not stop people from using their hands as an aid to confidence.)</li> </ul> <p>or:</p> <p><u>ii.</u> is a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic.</p> <p><u>b.</u> <u>Activities undertaken in Terrain Zero must follow the guidance in <a href="#">FS120426 Terrain Zero Activities</a>.</u></p>
<p><b>Rule 9.29 Terrain One Definition</b></p> <p>Terrain One describes terrain which meets all of the following criteria:</p> <p>a. Meets any of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● is below 800 metres but more than 500 metres above sea level or;</li> <li>● is more than 30 minutes but less than three hours travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as a farm) or another means of calling help (such as a telephone box).</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● contains no element of mountainous steep ground (routes or areas where the average person would need to regularly use their hands at least for balance if not for actual progress. This does not stop people from using their hands as an aid to confidence.)</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <p>b. Is not a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic.</p> <p>and</p> <p>c. Is not Terrain Two as defined by Rule 9.30.</p>	<p><b>Rule 9.29 Terrain One Definition</b></p> <p>Terrain One describes terrain which meets all of the following criteria:</p> <p>a. Meets any of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● is below 800 metres but more than 500 metres above sea level or;</li> <li>● is more than 30 minutes but less than three hours travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as a farm) or another means of calling help (such as a telephone box).</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>has no steep slopes or rocky terrain, where a slip may result in a fall</u> (routes or areas where the average person would need to regularly use their hands at least for balance if not for actual progress. This does not stop people from using their hands as an aid to confidence.)</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <p>b. Is not a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic.</p> <p>and</p> <p>c. Is not Terrain Two as defined by Rule 9.30.</p>
<p><b>Rule 9.30 Terrain Two Definition</b></p> <p>Terrain Two describes terrain which meets all of the following criteria:</p> <p>a. Meets any of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● is over 800 metres above sea level or;</li> <li>● lies more than three hours travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied (such as</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rule 9.30 Terrain Two Definition</b></p> <p>Terrain Two describes terrain which meets all of the following criteria:</p> <p>a. Meets any of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● is over 800 metres above sea level or;</li> <li>● lies more than three hours travelling time from a road which can take an ordinary road-going ambulance or a building which is occupied</li> </ul>

<p>a farm) or another means of calling help (such as a telephone box), or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contains an element of mountainous steep ground (routes or areas where the average person would need to regularly use their hands at least for balance if not for actual progress. This excludes climbing activities but may include areas where ropes are used for confidence and security.)</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <p>b. Is not a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic.</p>	<p>(such as a farm) or another means of calling help (such as a telephone box), or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>has steep slopes or rocky terrain, where a slip may result in a fall</u> (routes or areas where the average person would need to regularly use their hands at least for balance if not for actual progress. This excludes <u>the planned use of ropes but ropes may be used to give confidence, or in an emergency situation. This also excludes climbing activities.</u>)</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <p>b. Is not a road, or path adjacent to a road, on which you would expect to see traffic.</p>
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Current	Proposed
<p><b>Rule 9.77 Other Activities</b></p> <p>There are many opportunities for Members to take part in activities which are not specifically covered in the activity rules. Before undertaking an activity of this nature the Leader concerned must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assess the risks involved;</li> <li>ensure all Members' physical and/or emotional wellbeing can meet the requirements of the activity;</li> <li>ensure that all equipment used fits the participants and is suitable for the activity;</li> <li>obtain the approval of the Home District/County Commissioner.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rule 9.77 Other Activities</b></p> <p>There are many opportunities for Members to take part in activities which are not specifically covered in the activity rules. Before undertaking an activity of this nature the Leader concerned must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assess the risks involved, <u>document and communicate this to all involved;</u></li> <li>ensure all Members' physical and/or emotional wellbeing can meet the requirements of the activity;</li> <li>ensure that all equipment used fits the participants and is suitable for the activity;</li> <li>obtain the approval of the <u>relevant</u> District/County Commissioner <u>or their nominee.</u></li> </ul>