



# The Baden-Powell Scouts' Association

## Safety Policy Statement



*It is the intention of the Baden-Powell Scouts' Association (B-PSA) that all of its members should have the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of Scouting activities in complete safety.*

In order to achieve this every member has a responsibility to act with care and forethought, not only to ensure their own safety, but also to make sure that no one else comes to harm, either through actions or omissions.

Of course, leaders will have the responsibility of making sure that the activities that they organise are carried out in a safe manner. This should be done with accepted good practice and with due consideration of current 'Health and Safety Legislation'. More adventurous activities will need to be planned with reference to advice from recognised governing bodies and other expert opinion.

Before any activity or event takes place, the adults who will supervise or lead the activity will carry out a risk assessment. This should be done with the support and consultation of the Group Scout Master (GSM), who is responsible for promoting safe practice within the Group. If there is any doubt about the arrangements for a particular activity, the Area Commissioner (AC) or Headquarters Commissioner (HQ Comm.) for the appropriate section should be consulted.

The purpose of the risk assessment procedure is to ensure that B-PSA policy is carried out in as much as:

- Leaders are competent, suitably experienced and whenever practicable, qualified to supervise the activity in question.
- Activities are matched to the age, experience and abilities of the members taking part.
- Sufficient planning and preparation is carried out to insure that the activity can be completed safely.
- Consideration is given to the suitability of time and location for the activity.
- Adequate first aid provisions are in place.
- There are sufficient registered adults (at least one of whom is Warranted) for the number of children (of either sex) expected to take part.
- Contingency or back-up plans are made in advance in case of accident or unforeseen circumstances. Any equipment being used is maintained in good order and appropriate to the activity and its participants.

From time to time the B-PSA will issue notes for guidance relating to safety issues. Notes covering risk assessment, catering and camping are available.

The B-PSA recommend that leaders consult the following documents and follow the requirements laid down therein when they plan any adventurous activities. It will be the responsibility of the leader in charge of such activities to ensure they are carried out in accordance with such requirements.

***Safety in Outdoor Education*** – HMSO, ISBN 0112706908

***Safe Practice in Physical Education*** – BAALPE, ISBN 1871228115

Other reference sources:

**Health and Safety Executive** – [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

**B-PSA Safety Advisor**

## **Supervision**

The B-PSA expects all adults and leaders acting on its behalf to be suitable role models for its members. Furthermore all adults having significant contact with children must be registered with the B-PSA and have a suitable CRB clearance.

It is the responsibility of the GSM to ensure that all registered adults working within their Group are aware of the requirements and responsibilities laid out in Policy, Administration and Rules (PAR) and all other B-PSA policies. Application can be made to the Training Team, through your Assistant Area Commissioner Training (AAC Training), to arrange suitable support for in-experienced registered adults.

No registered adult should ever be alone in supervising children, except in an absolute emergency. The numbers of leaders required to supervise specific activities are laid out in PAR, taking into account age, gender, and other needs. For some activities particular experience and or qualifications may be needed. Your AC can advise you on these matters.

Even when the nature of training requires some independent activity, leaders should have some means of checking progress at timely intervals, as well as a secure way for the Scouts to get help if needed.