

Warminster Adventure Sports Club – Constitution

1. NAME

1.1 The name of the Club shall be The Warminster Adventure Sports Club hereinafter referred to as "the Club".

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

2.1 To promote the interests of climbing, mountaineering, caving, kayaking and all types of adventure sports amongst members of the Club.

2.2 To provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and participate in adventurous sporting activities together.

2.3 To act on behalf of and in the interests of Club members.

2.4 To promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the river, cliff, mountain and countryside environment.

2.5 To take part in and support the work and activities of appropriate national organisations, such as the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), British Canoe Union (BCU), British Caving Association (BCA) etc. should the club elect to join these organisations. The club will affiliate to the relevant organisation to obtain insurance for the members, unless equivalent alternative insurance provisions are made.

2.6 To increase access to "adventure sports" in the Warminster and West Wilts area and to be as inclusive as possible.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLUB

3.1 Membership of the Club shall only be open to anyone hereinafter referred to as "the Membership".

3.2 In addition to 3.1 above membership of the Club shall only be open to individuals who recognise that climbing, caving, kayaking, mountaineering and other adventurous sports are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Members shall be aware of and accept these risks and agree to be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

3.3 People under the end of 18 may only become members and attend club events if a parent or guardian is also a member and is present at the same club event.

3.4 All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the Club will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the Club has adopted.

3.5 Members will pay membership fees, as determined at the Annual General Meeting.

3.6 The Club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat all Members equally within the context of Club activities, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.

3.7 The Club is committed to all Members having the right to enjoy club activities in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.

3.8 All Members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.

3.9 The Club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to club disciplinary procedures.

4. COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB

- 4.1 The Management of the Club shall be entrusted to the Club Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".
- 4.2 The Committee shall all be Members of the Club.
- 4.3 The Committee shall be composed of the Officers of the Club and only these posts are entitled to vote.
- 4.4 The Officers of the Club shall be the Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Development & Communications Officer, Equipment Officer, Welfare Officer and the Training & Safety Officer hereinafter referred to as "the Officers". Designated club members who co-ordinate a specific activity within the club (including but not limited to climbing, paddling, caving...) may also be voting committee members.
- 4.5 No Officer shall serve for a term longer than five years. All officers will retire each year but will be eligible for re-election.
- 4.6 Voting for the election of Officers shall take place at the AGM. If the post of any Officer should fall vacant after such an election, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding Annual General Meeting
- 4.7 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional non-voting members.
- 4.8 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be half of the elected voting members. In addition to the AGM the Committee shall hold at least three meetings each year.
- 4.9 The Committee will be responsible for adopting new policy, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the club.
- 4.10 The Committee will have powers to appoint any advisers to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business.
- 4.11 The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules/regulations/constitution. The Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings.
- 4.12 The decision of the Committee on the interpretation of this constitution and of club rules shall be final and the Committee is empowered to deal with any matters not covered.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

- 5.1 The AGM shall be held once per calendar year and notified to Members with 28-days' notice.
- 5.2 The AGM will: • Approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM. • Receive reports from the Chairman and Secretary. • Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the Annual Accounts. • Receive a report from those responsible for certifying the Club's accounts. • Elect the Officers on the Committee. • Agree the membership fees for the following year. • Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution. • Deal with any other relevant business.
- 5.3 Nominations for Officers will be sent to the Secretary a minimum of 14 days' prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them to the Members at least 7 days before an AGM. Only nominations proposed by 2 full members of the Club will be accepted.
- 5.4 Proposed changes to the constitution shall be sent to the Secretary a minimum of 14 days' prior to the AGM, who shall circulate them to the Members at least 7 days before an AGM.
- 5.5 All Members present in person have the right to vote at the AGM. Each Member will have one vote and all matters shall be determined by a simple majority except any proposal pursuant to clause 10.1 or to clause 11.1.
- 5.6 The quorum for AGMs will be 20% of the membership.

5.7 The Chairman of the Club shall be entitled to vote on all matters and in the event of a tie shall have a casting vote at general meetings.

5.8 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing to the Secretary supported by at least 10% of the Members. The Committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the Committee members.

5.9 All procedures for an EGM shall follow those outlined above for AGMs.

6. CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

6.1 Subscriptions will be set annually and agreed by the Members at the AGM.

6.2 The club treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club.

6.3 The financial year of the club will run from 1st of April and end on 31st of March.

6.4 All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.

6.5 An audited statement of annual accounts will be presented by the treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.

6.6 Any cheques drawn against club funds should hold the signatures of the treasurer plus up to two other officers.

6.7 All members of the Club shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club.

7. COMPLAINTS

7.1 All complaints regarding the behaviour of Members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary.

7.2 At least two members of the committee (a sub-committee) will discuss written complaints within 14 days of a complaint being lodged. The member against whom the complaint was made shall be notified in writing within 7 days and may submit their response to The Committee prior to their meeting. The Committee has the power to take appropriate action including the termination of membership.

7.3 The outcome of a hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 7 days of the hearing.

7.4 If an appeal is made against any decision arising from the complaint, the full committee should consider the appeal within 14 days of the Secretary receiving the appeal.

8. EFFECT OF CEASING TO BE A MEMBER

8.1 On ceasing to be a Member a person forfeits all right to and claim upon the Club and its property and funds.

8.2 A person who has been expelled from the Club shall not be entitled to participate in any subsequent activity of the Club nor to visit the Club's premises.

9. RULES OF THE CLUB

9.1 The Committee has the power to set Club Rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the Club's Constitution and the policies of any other organisation, such as the BMC, that the club elects to join.

10. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

10.1 The Club can only be dissolved by two-thirds majority vote at an AGM. Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all Members if the assets of the Club are not sufficient. The Committee will arrange to discharge any remaining assets by donating to Charity or to another organisation with similar aims and objectives with a beneficial area within the Warminster BA12 postcode.

11. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB

11.1 This Constitution can only be amended by a two thirds majority of those Members attending the AGM. Notice of any amendment must be delivered to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM.

DECLARATION

This Constitution was last updated by the Club on 24th September 2023.

Warminster Adventure Sports Club – Rules

1. Club Members shall sign for club equipment that they use and also undertake to use it entirely at their own risk.
2. All official club activities shall be included in the club published programme (whether on the website or via e-mail or both).
3. Club renewal subscriptions must be paid in December of each year.
4. Loan of Club Equipment to Members: If a club member wishes to borrow club equipment for their personal use outside of club activities, they should have suitable experience or qualifications to ensure that they can use it safely without placing themselves or others at risk. The member must contact the club Training & Safety Officer with their request, within a reasonable timescale, who will then make a decision whether or not the member may borrow the equipment. If the loan of equipment is approved, completion of any forms and collection of any payment on behalf of the Treasurer, is required. The club equipment must be looked after and cared for properly and any loss or damage beyond reasonable wear and tear must be paid for by the member in accordance with the club rules. All equipment is to be cleaned, dried and inspected appropriately prior to being returned to storage.
5. Members are expected to act in a responsible manner wherever and whenever involved in Club activities.
6. Members and their guests must not knowingly behave in a way which causes offence to other members whenever and wherever involved in Club activities. In accordance with items 3.7 to 3.9 of the club constitution members must not intimidate, harass, abuse or discriminate against fellow club members. The club encourages family participation in club activities. When families are present, WASC members and guests will behave in a respectful and appropriate manner. It is for the parents to decide what is appropriate for their own children.
7. Members using their own equipment must ensure that it is in a safe condition, and must cease to use it when told to do so for safety reasons by an officer of the Club.
8. Under 16's must be supervised, and belayed (when climbing), by a parent or legal guardian who should be aware of, and accept, the risks inherent in climbing (or other adventurous activities) and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.
9. For younger children with small waists and little hip definition, a full body harness is mandatory.
10. Smoking, drinking and narcotic use is not permitted if it is undertaken in a way that it may either cause damage to equipment or pose a risk to other members of the club. For example: smoking next to climbing equipment or drinking prior to going canoeing.
11. Equal Opportunities Policy The WASC should ensure that all people, irrespective of Gender, Sexual orientation, Nationality, Race or ethnic origin, Religion or belief, Marital status, Age, Disability or ability, should be encouraged to partake equally in the full range of adventure sports enjoyed by members of the Warminster Adventure Sports Club and will be treated equally and fairly by all while taking part in club activities.

12. Welfare and Child Protection Policy

All members of the Warminster Adventure Sports Club fully recognise the contribution all members make to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. We recognise that all members have a full and active part to play in protecting those who take part in our activities from harm.

All members accept that the WASC should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social and physical development of the individual. The WASC

recognises that, in the modern age, it is typical for adventurous activities, like climbing and kayaking, to be enjoyed at professional outdoor centres or on trips organised by educational establishments. Typically, when a child has this experience he/she is at a distance from their parents/carers. The WASC believes that to assist with community development it is useful for children and their parents/carers to take part in these activities both together and alongside other families. For this reason, persons under 18 are only allowed to take part in WASC organised events if a parent/carer is also taking part or, at a minimum, is present observing but not directly taking part.

If a club member has any questions or concerns regarding their well-being or that of any other member, the initial point of contact is the Welfare Officer.

13. Any advice or instruction given by a Club member is at his/her discretion and is the responsibility of that member solely. The Officers and other members of the Club are not responsible for ensuring the quality and accuracy of advice given by members. The recipient should accept that the Club member giving advice may not be a technical expert but an amateur with some experience who is happy to impart his/her knowledge. It is the responsibility of the recipient to ascertain the validity of any advice given.

14. It is the collective will of the membership to jointly cover the costs of the club and its events. The Club: Expects members who indicate their intention to attend activities/meets pay the costs as outlined in the activity/meet information sheet/email, preferably in advance. Indication is defined by confirmation in writing or by way of payment. Expects that non-attendance at a club event is not a reason for a refund or credit, unless the space is directly filled by another person. Expects that the committee manages the financial risk of meets, particularly of making a loss, by setting and amending the surplus sum applied to each individual meet.

15. Potential Members and Guests Activity Participation. Potential new members are welcome to attend 2 'taster sessions' which is limited to one day events, e.g. local climbing sessions, before membership fees must be paid. Any member wishing to bring guests or potential members to a club activity must contact the activity organiser beforehand and all guests/potential members must complete a membership/acceptance of risk form before participating. If the guest/potential member is under the age of 18 and their parent will not be present then an "In loco parentis" form must be completed to ensure that the parent or guardian is aware of and accepts that the club activities are potentially hazardous. Anyone who has not fulfilled these requirements will not be allowed to participate.