



CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNTAINEERING INSTRUCTORS

This CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT (the Code) sets out the rights and duties of a member of the Association of Mountaineering Instructors (the AMI) when acting within the fields of competence set out below. In this Code the term "Instructor" is used to mean a full member of the AMI. The term "Client" is used to mean an individual, group or body with whom the Instructor has a professional relationship, whether for remuneration or as a volunteer. "Participant" is used to refer to any person taking part in an enterprise under the control of an Instructor.

FIELDS OF COMPETENCE

I(i) An Instructor who holds the Mountain Instructor Award (MIA) may undertake all mountaineering activities, including all aspects of rock climbing, but excluding mountaineering on snow and ice covered terrain. If the instructor also holds the Winter Mountain Leader Award, mountain walking in winter conditions may also be undertaken.

I(ii) An Instructor who holds the Mountain Instructor Certificate (MIC) may undertake all mountaineering activities in summer and winter conditions, including all aspects of rock climbing, snow and ice climbing and winter mountaineering.

I (iii) A Trainee member of the Association who holds a Mountain Leader Award and has attended a MIA training course. A Trainee member may undertake mountaineering activities covered by awards held. In addition a Trainee member may undertake other mountaineering activities under supervision of an MIA, MIC or British Mountain Guide.

NOTE: These awards are more fully defined in the syllabus for each award published from time to time by Mountain Leader Training UK (MLTUK). This Code should be read in conjunction with MLTUK's "National Guidelines for Climbing and Walking Leaders".

ARTICLE 1: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INSTRUCTOR

1(A) The Instructor may instruct the activities referred to in the field of competence for the award or awards held. In giving instruction the following will be given due consideration:

1(A)(i) The Instructor will establish the physical, psychological and technical needs and abilities of the Client and will plan the enterprise accordingly.

1(A)(ii) The Instructor will choose the most appropriate teaching method in the circumstances.

1(A)(ii)(a) The Instructor may lead the rope or group.

1(A)(ii)(b) The Instructor may allow the participant to progress by being placed in an apprentice situation, whilst remaining under the direct supervision of the Instructor.

1(A)(ii)(c) Further progression may involve the participant leading a rope or climbing on a rope independent of the Instructor. Participants may be allowed to choose and navigate walking routes independent of the Instructor. In all cases the Instructor shall be satisfied that such independence does not occasion an unacceptable risk to the student.

1(A)(iii) The Instructor shall ensure that Participants are clear as to the meaning of instructions given, particularly where the instructions relate to safety.

1(A)(iv) wherever possibly the Instructor shall discuss any decision to abandon or change a route or plan with the Client or Participant. However, in the interests of safety the Instructor shall make the final decision.

1(A)(v) The Instructor shall not leave Participants alone in the mountains or on a route unless this was the agreed plan or it is necessitated for the purpose of seeking rescue. In such cases the Instructor shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the Participants.

1(B) CONSULTANCY

The Instructor may undertake the role of technical consultant to a Client, advising on aspects of mountaineering within the Instructor's field of competence.

1C SUPERVISION OF TRAINEES

The Instructor may supervise trainee instructors in order to allow them to gain quality direct experience prior to being assessed for an award. The trainee will have undertaken appropriate training for the activities to be undertaken.

The Instructor will be responsible for assessing the experience of the trainee and for making final decisions concerning the appropriate deployment of the trainee (e.g. choice of route). Clients must be informed of the exact status of the trainee instructor including their formal qualifications and level of experience.

In such cases the supervising instructor retains full responsibility for the enterprise.

ARTICLE 2: THE STATUS OF THE INSTRUCTOR

2(A) SELF EMPLOYED

The Instructor may undertake work for Clients and will agree individual terms for the enterprise undertaken. The Instructor may work as part of a team on a self employed basis, but in such cases the Instructor must retain autonomy in decision-making.

2(B) EMPLOYED

An Instructor may be employed on a salaried basis and will follow the instructions of the employer, except when the instructions conflict with the Instructor's professional judgement as to the safety of Participants.

NOTE: An Instructor shall decline to participate in any project that, in the Instructor's professional opinion, would occasion an unacceptable risk to the physical or psychological safety of the Participant. In such cases the Instructor may wish to seek advice and support from the Association.

ARTICLE 3: GENERAL PROFESSIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

3(A) RISK

Mountaineering, by its nature, involves an element of risk and such risks must be accepted by the Client. The Instructor shall endeavour to ensure that the Client and Participants are made aware of the risks involved in the proposed enterprise.

3(B) EQUIPMENT

The Instructor shall use suitable equipment, which shall be appropriate for the task, and subject to a routine maintenance programme.

3(C) MOUNTAIN CONDITIONS

The Instructor shall keep informed as to conditions in the mountains, using appropriate weather, snow and avalanche forecasts.

3(D) TECHNICAL SKILLS

The Association recommends that its members follow the guidelines listed below regarding continuing professional development: -

- (i) Keep up-to-date with current safe practice and techniques relevant to the areas in which they professionally operate.
- (ii) Keep a record of their personal and professional mountaineering and associated experience.

3(E) ADVICE

An Instructor shall respond courteously and helpfully to all requests for advice and information about mountaineering matters. Instructor should offer help and advice to aspirant instructors and to professionals from another area. However, the Instructor should be aware of the possible legal implications of giving advice.

3(F) RESCUE

In the event of an accident an Instructor shall endeavour to render such assistance as is possible to those in need. However, by giving assistance neither the Instructor nor the Participants should be caused unnecessary risks to their safety. It must be remembered that the Instructor's first duty is to the Participants.

3(G) ENVIRONMENT

By example, advice and vigilance the Instructor shall encourage cleanliness in the mountains, the proper use of access routes and observation of voluntary access restrictions. At all times the Instructor shall display proper respect for the mountain environment and shall abide by the policies of the respective Mountaineering Councils.

ARTICLE 4: INSTRUCTOR/CLIENT RELATIONS

4(A) YOUNG PEOPLE

When working with young people (under the age of 18 years) it must be remembered that the Instructor may be acting in loco-parentis, and will need to have particular regard to their safety and welfare. The Instructor should be clear as to the extent of the responsibilities involved and should ensure a clear transfer of responsibility at the commencement and conclusion of the enterprise.

4(B) TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

The Instructor shall ensure that the terms of engagement are fully agreed with the Client. In particular agreement should be reached between the Instructor and the Client as to the planned objectives, fees, expenses, equipment and number of participants.

4(C) ENCOURAGEMENT OF SELF-RELIANCE

The Instructor shall ensure that the Client is taught the relevant safety precautions, and shall endeavour to encourage the development of a spirit of self-reliance and initiative.

ARTICLE 5: RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INSTRUCTOR AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

5(A) RELATED ORGANISATIONS

The Instructor shall endeavour to maintain cordial, co-operative relations with mountain centres, the representatives of professional bodies, landowners, rescue organisations and the mountaineering public.

5(B) SUPPLIERS

Co-operation with the manufacturers and retailers of clothing and equipment is based on principles of loyalty and reciprocity. It is to be conducted in a spirit of partnership and courtesy

5(C) NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES

The Instructor should, wherever possible, co-operate with MLTUK, the Home Nation Training Boards, The British Mountaineering Council, the Mountaineering Councils of Ireland and Scotland, the Sports Councils and public bodies in general.

ARTICLE 6: PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

6(I) INSURANCE

The Instructor shall hold suitable insurance for civil liability for professional negligence. If the Instructor does not hold such insurance it must be confirmed that the organisation for which the Instructor is working does hold appropriate insurance. The Instructor shall advise the Client as to the extent of insurance cover held and as to whether the Client should consider obtaining further accident cover.

6(II) ADVERTISING

Where the Association's name or logo is used for promotion or marketing purposes, such promotion must be clear, honest and contain no falsehoods or misrepresentations that might bring the Association into disrepute. Only full members may use the logo to advertise, and then only to advertise activities for which they are qualified. Full members may use the logo to advertise courses directed by a member of the Association where such courses are staffed in accordance with National Governing Body guide-lines.

6(III) ENHANCEMENT OF THE PROFESSION

An Instructor shall, at all times, seek to enhance the status of the profession of mountaineering instructor and the public perception of it. Instructors shall avoid any behaviour that may bring the Association into disrepute.

6(IV) DISPUTES BETWEEN INSTRUCTORS

A dispute between Instructors may be referred to the Association and will be decided with reference to this code.

6(V) EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

All members of the association shall ensure that they will act at all times in a manner that reflects a positive approach to equal opportunities and the elimination of discrimination.

6(V1) BREACHES OF THE CODE

An Instructor who fails to fulfil the obligations contained in this code or who behaves in such a way as to bring the Association into disrepute may be required to account to the Association and may be made subject to sanctions imposed by the Association.