

Code of Conduct - Aberystwyth Caving Club (ACC)

General responsibilities

1. Each member of the club is responsible for their own safety and that of the other members of the club. If in doubt, it is their responsibility to seek advice from an experienced member of the club.
2. Every member must purchase Club Sporty membership. If Club Sporty membership has been previously purchased through another Aberystwyth University club, or the person holds a three year policy that is still in effect, they will be responsible for supplying the caving club committee with their policy number. No member will cave or train until the committee hold a record of their policy number.
3. Each trip member must ensure that they are adequately clothed and safely equipped for the proposed activity. Appropriate clothing is as follows - caving undersuit/wetsuit/thermals, caving oversuit, wellington boots or appropriate footwear for training. Furthermore warm clothing, a towel and some food will be required once out the cave. Gloves, a balaclava, knee and elbow pads are optional. If in doubt, ask others for advice.
4. Every trip shall have an appointed leader or leaders. It is the responsibility of all trip members to establish who the trip leader(s) are. The trip leaders(s) shall ensure that a callout for each trip is left on a recognised caving club board, or to a responsible person. This should include the number on the trip, the cave system entered and routes being used, the time the trip departed and most importantly their expected time of return to the hut or car, and a 'call out' time.
5. Prior to entering any cave system the leader(s) should be aware of all hazards and be satisfied himself/herself/themselves by consulting weather forecasts for potential risk of flash-floods, and that it is safe to enter with respect to all other hazards. Each trip member must inform the trip leader if they cannot swim, in case deep water is likely to be encountered in the cave.
6. Each member of the club must ensure that their vision quality will not endanger themselves or others whilst caving or training. Each member is responsible for equipping themselves with glasses or contact lenses if necessary and must accept responsibility for these items.

Equipment

7. Members use ACC equipment entirely at their own risk. If any individual sees equipment that they believe to be unsafe or rigged in an unsafe manner they should speak to the trip leader or an experienced person nearby immediately.
8. Trip leader(s) will have prior knowledge of the cave system and if required have the relevant cave survey/rigging guide. Trip leader(s) must ensure each trip carries a 'leader kit' containing basic first aid, spare batteries and emergency equipment.
9. All members must wear suitable helmets when caving or training at height. Every trip member must carry a headlamp and personal survival aids (emergency survival bag, spare energy supplies e.g. oat bars).

Training

10. The committee will ensure provision for training in Single Rope Technique with help from the experienced cavers in the club. Before caving, participants must satisfy themselves that they are able to put on a harness and attach themselves to the rope in a safe manner appropriate for the technique being used.

Safety

11. Prior to entering any cave system or training area, all trip members must ensure they have received a safety briefing by the trip leader(s) including how long the trip is expected to take, what techniques are to be used, what kind of terrain to expect, general information regarding safe conduct and basic emergency procedures.
12. Prior to participating in club activities, members must inform the committee and the trip leader(s) if they have any medical conditions that should be known of. Furthermore, no member will cave or train if they believe themselves to be in an unfit state to do so (e.g. suffering from depression, heart condition, claustrophobia, under the influence of any drugs) It will be the individuals' responsibility to inform the trip leader(s) if they believe they are unfit to cave or train. It will be the trip leader's responsibility to keep such information confidential.
13. The committee and trip leader(s) will ensure that each trip has at least one First Aider. The committee will encourage all members to become familiar with basic first aid and to attend appropriate first aid courses.
14. The trip leader(s) have the right to cancel or curtail activities at any time if he/she/they consider conditions or circumstances (including fatigue, ability and morale of individuals) constitute an undue risk.

Participation Statement

"I recognise that caving and associated training are activities which present risks including a danger of personal injury or death. I am aware of and accept these risks, and will be responsible for my own actions and involvement."

I have read and understood the above ACC Code of Conduct and will conduct myself in the manner described.

Participant's signature: _____ Date: _____ Print name: _____

In an emergency my next of kin is: _____ Phone numbers: _____ / _____