

#### Rule 9.4: Risk Assessment

Leaders should carry out risk assessments before and during every activity. All activities must be undertaken in accordance with the Association's Safety Policy (see [Chapter 2](#)).

Further details are contained in the factsheet [FS120000 Activities - Risk Assessment](#) available from the Scout Information Centre

Note: A risk is the chance that someone could be harmed by a hazard.

POR: Chapter 2: Key Policies

It is the policy of The Scout Association to provide Scouting in a safe manner without risk to health, so far as is reasonably practicable.

The Association believes that this responsibility ranks equally with the other responsibilities incumbent upon those providing Scouting activities and functions.

It is the responsibility of all those involved in Scouting to seek, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that:

all activities are conducted in a safe manner without risk to the health of participants;

the provision and maintenance of equipment and buildings for Members and others is safe and without risk to health and adequate for their welfare;

information, instruction, training and supervision is provided with the object of ensuring the health and safety of all those involved in Scouting activities or who may be affected by them;

appropriate arrangements are made to ensure safety and the absence of risks to health in connection with the use, transport, storage and handling of equipment, and substances which are inherently or potentially dangerous.

#### Rule 9.77: Other Activities

There are many opportunities for Members to take part in potentially hazardous activities which are not specifically covered in the activity rules and for which there is no National Governing Body. Before undertaking an activity of this nature the Leader concerned must:

assess the risks involved;

ensure that the Members concerned are physically and mentally able to cope with the activity;

ensure that all equipment used fits the participants and is suitable for the activity;

obtain the approval of the Home District/County Commissioner

### Rule 37 Rules Applicable to All Activities

The following Rules apply to all activities carried out anywhere in the world (see [Rule 45.4](#)).

#### Rule 37.1 Responsibility

All participants in activities must have received proper training, be suitably equipped and briefed about the nature and scope of the activity, be of an appropriate age and be subject to authorised supervision.

The District Commissioner is responsible for approving all activities. This will usually be by means of an informal system agreed between the District Commissioner and each Group Scout Leader. For special events and activities, such approval will be granted by a

County, National or Chief Commissioner, as appropriate. There are additional requirements for those activities which fall within the scope of the Association's Adventurous Activity Authorisation Schemes (see [Rule 37.2](#)).

During an activity, provided that it forms part of a properly planned training programme, persons over the age of 18 years, who have been authorised to supervise an activity in accordance with these Rules, may delegate responsibility to another Member of the Movement or helper who may lead and exercise full control over parties of Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Venture Scouts. Such delegation should only be made to those who have sufficient training, experience and maturity of judgement to exercise responsible leadership in the anticipated conditions and as provided in these Rules. For Beavers Scouts it is highly recommended that for indoor activities there should be a ratio of one adult to six Beaver Scouts and for outdoor activities a ratio of one adult to four Beaver Scouts.

Leaders should be aware of the need to supervise all Members of the Movement in their charge in the locality of the activity being undertaken, including those not actively involved in the activity.

Leaders should always be aware of the effect of changing weather conditions on any activity and, if necessary, should curtail the activity in the interests of the safety, health and well-being of those taking part.