

Newcastle Ramblers Bushwalking Club

Rule on Leaders and Participants

Members of the Club participate regularly in daywalks, overnight and extended bushwalks, camping, cycling, canoeing, abseiling and other activities. These are all referred to here as the 'activity'. Participants must ensure that on the day they are fit, suitably equipped and the activity is within their capabilities. If a medical problem occurs whilst on the activity, such as blisters, cramps or shortage of water, they should tell the Leader. They must expect to be able to undertake the activity in a timely manner and should bring a sense of humour and adventure. Remember that our Leaders are all volunteers, be patient and treat them kindly! Overall, the group on an activity should be able to expect the safe, timely, harmonious and enjoyable completion of the activity.

This Rule should be read in conjunction with the Club's Constitution, other rules, and guidelines which can be accessed from the Club web site.

Objectives

The objectives of this Rule are to state the roles and responsibilities of Leaders and Participants.

A. Leaders

1. The Leader devises and plans the activity and proposes its grading for inclusion in the Club program.
2. The Leader in his or her discretion may limit the number of persons on an activity and may decline to accept a person as a participant.
3. The Leader will, before the activity commences, go through the Risk Assessment checklist with all the participants.
4. The Leader has the right to decline a person participation in an activity (or if it is a multi phase activity, in part of it) if the Leader
 - a) has concerns about the person's capacity to complete the activity safely, harmoniously and in a timely manner, or
 - b) is of the opinion that the person's involvement will compromise the group's capacity to complete the activity in a safe and timely manner.

B. Participants

1. Anyone wishing to be a Participant in an activity must record their name on the Walks/Activity Sheet at a Club meeting or contact the Leader well in advance to record their wish to participate. If they subsequently decide that they cannot participate, they must notify the Leader promptly.
2. Participants must meet at the designated assembly place and be ready to depart on the activity at the time nominated by the Leader for departure.
3. Participants are responsible for ensuring that they understand the nature of the activity and its risks, have the necessary equipment, first aid kit and provisions and that on the day are physically fit for the grading of the activity. They must bring with them any medications, such as puffers, that they might need.
4. Participants must inform the Leader if they have any medical conditions, phobias, disabilities or impairments that could affect their capacity to participate or affect the Group's timely completion of the activity. This may be done by private communication with the Leader before the activity commences.

C. General

1. Participants must follow the instructions of the Leader. They must not leave the activity prematurely without the Leader's knowledge and agreement.

2. The Leader and all participants are to be treated in a polite and courteous manner. Abuse, threats or harassment are not acceptable.
3. If a Participant fails to comply with a reasonable instruction from the Leader, is disruptive, abusive, threatening or offensive, or persistently and wilfully acts in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Club, upon report by the Leader, action may be taken by the Club Management Committee to counsel the person, censure the person, or initiate action under the discipline provisions of the Club Constitution.

Adopted by the Management Committee

28 November 2011