

Grafham Climbing Club

Constitution and Rules

1. Name

- 1.1. The name of the Club shall be Grafham Climbing Club (GCC) Hereinafter referred to as "The Club".

2. Objectives of the Club

- 2.1. To promote the interests of climbing and mountaineering amongst members of the Club.
- 2.2. Provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and participate in climbing and mountaineering activities together.
- 2.3. To provide a safe environment for members to practice and learn new climbing skills.
- 2.4. To act on behalf of and in the interests of Club members.
- 2.5. Promote awareness of the need to maintain access, conservation and protection of the cliff and mountain environment.

3. Membership of the Club

- 3.1. Membership of the Club shall be open to anybody who meets our membership conditions and continues to uphold these at all times.
- 3.2. Membership conditions will be stated on the membership form.
- 3.3. In addition to 3.1 above membership of the Club shall only be open to individuals who recognise that climbing and mountaineering 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.
- 3.4. Having a membership shows that person can partake in unsupervised climbing, this is outlined in "conditions of use for the climbing wall".
- 3.5. Membership also allows that person to sign in two novice climbers.
- 3.6. By signing in novice climber(s) that member will take full responsibility for the novice's safety and behaviour throughout the whole session.

- 3.7. Novice climbers have a 2 week trial period to decide whether they will join the club. After that period they can no longer be treated as novices so therefore must join if they wish to carry on attending.
 - 3.8. Persons not holding a valid membership or without supervision may not partake in any climbing or belaying during a GCC session.
 - 3.9. Membership of GCC carries entitlement to a single voting right.
 - 3.10. Under 18s must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times during any climbing session.
 - 3.11. Under 18s must have "Disclaimer" signed by a Parent/Guardian.
 - 3.12. The Member can leave GCC at any time after the Committee are informed and all outstanding fees paid to GCC.
4. The Committee
- 4.1. The Club shall be managed by the Committee.
 - 4.2. The general management of the Club shall be entrusted to the club's Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, GWC Representative, Events Coordinator, Communications Officer and any other officer deemed necessary and voted in at an AGM. Hereinafter referred to as the "Officers".
 - 4.3. Voting for the election of Officers shall take place at the AGM. If the post of any Officer shall fall vacant after such an election, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding AGM.
 - 4.4. Officers shall serve for a term of no longer than one year unless re-elected at the AGM.
 - 4.5. The Chairman shall be entrusted with the general running of the club.
 - 4.6. The Treasurer shall account for any income and expenditure made on behalf of the Club and will present a written account of the club funds to the AGM for the past financial year.
 - 4.7. The Secretary shall take minutes at the AGM and make these available to the members of the Club.
 - 4.8. The Events Coordinator will lead the organisation of GCC trips and provide dates and costs of such trips at the AGM.
 - 4.9. The Grafham Water Centre representative (GWC) will be available at AGMs to ensure a good relationship between GWC and GCC. Also to liaise with GWC regarding events and programming.

- 4.10. The Officers will be aware that a representative of GCC may attend BMC meetings & AGM to represent the views of the Membership.
 - 4.11. The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the club rules, regulations or constitution.
 - 4.12. GCC Officers reserve the right to suspend members that persistently disobey the Constitution and Rules. A quorum of 3 members is needed to execute a suspension.
 - 4.13. A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be half the elected voting members.
 - 4.14. In addition to the AGM, the Committee shall hold at least 3 meetings a year.
 - 4.15. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional non voting members.
 - 4.16. 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. Management of the Club
- 5.1. The Club financial year is January 1st to December 31st, inclusive.
 - 5.2. The AGM and EGM will be held with a clear 14 days' notice to all members.
 - 5.3. The AGM will:
 - 5.3.1. Approve the minutes from the previous year's AGM.
 - 5.3.2. Receive reports from the Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary as appropriate.
 - 5.3.3. Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the annual accounts.
 - 5.3.4. Elect the Officers on the Committee.
 - 5.3.5. Agree membership fees.
 - 5.3.6. Consider proposed changes to the Constitution.
 - 5.3.7. Deal with other relevant business.
 - 5.4. 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 8.1 or 11.1.
 - 5.5. A quorum for AGM's will be 10% of the membership.
6. Club Subscriptions
- 6.1. Membership fee will be £30 per adult (over 18s), £25 student, £25 under 18s.
 - 6.2. Members that join part way through the year will pay a pro-rata fee as agreed by the Committee.

- 6.3. 6.3 Membership fees will be due on the 1st January of each year.
 - 6.4. All club monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the club.
 - 6.5. Any cheques drawn against club funds should hold the signature of the treasurer and up to two other officers.
 - 6.6. All members of the Club shall be jointly and severally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Club.
7. Rules of the Club
 - 7.1. The Committee shall have the power to set Club rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the Club's Constitution and the policies of the BMC.
 - 7.2. It is the Officers role to make members aware of any new rules.
8. Amendments to the Constitution of the Club
 - 8.1. This Constitution may be amended at an AGM or EGM by a two-thirds majority. Notice will be given to all members.
9. Child-Protection Policy
 - 9.1. The Club will adopt Grafham Water Centre's and Cambridgeshire County Council's child protection procedures.
 - 9.2. Where the above is not possible the BMC's child protection procedures will take over.
10. Discipline and appeals
 - 10.1. All complaints regarding the behaviour of Members should be presented and submitted in writing to the Secretary.
 - 10.2. The Committee will meet to hear the complaint within 21 days of a complaint being logged (unless there are special circumstances). The Committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership.
 - 10.3. The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the member against whom the complaint was made within 14 days of the hearing.
11. Effects of ceasing to become a member

- 11.1. On ceasing to become a member a person forfeits all right to and claim upon the Club and its property and funds.
 - 11.2. A person who has been expelled from the Club shall not be entitled to participate in any subsequent activity of the Club not to visit the Club's premises.
12. Dissolution of the Club
- 12.1. The Club can be dissolved by two-thirds majority vote carried out in accordance with Article 8 whereupon the Committee will arrange to discharge any equipment assets to Grafham Water Centre and monetary assets will be donated to charity (i.e. Mountain Rescue). Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all members.