

Colchester Climbing Club Constitution and Rules

1. **Name**

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be the Colchester Climbing Club. 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 To provide an opportunity for members of the Club to meet and participate in climbing and mountaineering activities together.
- 2.3 To act on behalf of and in the interests of Club members.
- 2.4 To 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 members of the public aged eighteen and over.
- 3.2 In addition to 3.1 above, membership of the Club shall only be open to competent climbers 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.
- 3.3 The Members have resolved that the Club shall affiliate to the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), and agree that they will become Club Members of the BMC, and that the Club shall pay the appropriate subscription on behalf of each Member included in the returned filed by the Club with the BMC, and, in the event of the BMC being wound up, shall pay the sum of not more than £1 on behalf of each Member included in a return filed by the Club with the BMC at any time within the preceding period of one year pursuant to the guarantee comprised in clause 6 of the Memorandum of Association of the BMC. The Members further acknowledge and agree that upon the Club being affiliated to the BMC and each becoming a Club member of the BMC that they will each be bound by the Memorandum & Articles of Association of the BMC.

4. **Management of the Club**

- 4.1 The Management of the Club shall be entrusted to the Club Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".

5. **Officers of the Club**

- 5.1 The elected Officers of the Club shall be the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Climbing Trips officer, Equipment officer, Walking trips officer, Website officer, and Social Media officer, as well as other such roles as

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may from time to time be determined by the committee and agreed upon at the AGM.

5.2 Voting for the election of Officers shall take place at the AGM.

5.3 Each officer must be re-elected each year.

6. **Committee of the Club**

6.1 The President of the Club will normally preside at and chair all meetings of the Committee (*or Club*) and shall be responsible for reporting to the Membership at the Club's AGM.

6.2 The Committee shall be composed of the Officers of the Club (*plus a number of elected members from the Club Membership if desired*).

6.3 The Committee shall be responsible for all correspondence relating to Club affairs and for announcing Committee meetings, and the production and distribution of minutes from those meetings. The Committee shall also be responsible for announcing the AGM and shall give at least 30 clear days' notice of such a meeting and its agenda. Items for inclusion should be submitted at least 45 days prior to the AGM. The Club shall keep records about the Membership of the Club and shall report to the MCI/BMC the size of the Membership.

6.4 The Treasurer shall be responsible and account for any income and expenditure made on behalf of the Club. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be responsible for the payment of the membership subscription to the BMC/MCI and the Insurance premium.

6.5 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional non-voting members.

6.6 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be half of the elected voting members. In addition to the AGM the Committee (*or Club*) shall hold at least four (*or another suitable number of*) meetings each year.

7. **Club Subscriptions**

7.1 The Committee shall have the power to set membership subscription levels for the Club on an annual basis.

8. **Child Safeguarding Policy**

8.1 The club does not provide membership to anyone below the age of eighteen, but nevertheless will adopt and comply with the BMC Child Safeguarding Policy in the event of any dealings or encounters with children or young people below the age of eighteen. The BMC's policy can be viewed at <https://thebmc.co.uk/safeguarding>

9 **Non members**

9.1 Non-members are allowed to use club facilities during designated wall sessions, and can attend walking trips, providing they follow the rules and guidelines set out by the club. Non-members shall not participate in any climbing related activities (for example, but not limited to: climbing,

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belaying, or bouldering) on outdoor trips organised by the club, unless they are BMC members or members of another BMC affiliated club.

10 Expulsion of members

- 10.1 If at any time the Committee considers that the interests of the Club require it they must invite a member to resign from the Club, by a letter specifying the reasons for their request and offering the member an opportunity to provide an explanation either in writing or in person and the date before which the reply should be received.
- 10.2 If the member concerned requests a meeting to provide an explanation, the committee must arrange a meeting at a suitable time and place and within a reasonable period of time and must provide the member with not less than seven days written notice of it.
- 10.3 The Committee must consider the explanation provided by the member in good faith and have due regard to all available evidence and may confirm or vary their original decision.
- 10.4 If the Committee confirms their original decision and the member concerned does not resign the Committee must submit the question of his expulsion to a Special General Meeting to be convened for the purpose, whether or not the member requests such a meeting.
- 10.5 Not less than four weeks' notice of the meeting must be given to all the members.
- 10.6 The Secretary must inform the member in question of the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the complaints against them in sufficient time to afford them a proper opportunity of offering their explanation.
- 10.7 At the meeting the member must be allowed to offer an explanation of their conduct verbally or in writing and if after that two-thirds of the members present vote for their expulsion they will immediately cease to be a member of the Club.
- 10.8 The voting at any such Special General Meeting must be by ballot if not less than five members present at that meeting so demand.
- 10.9 The Committee may exclude from the Club until the Special General Meeting is held any member whose resignation has been requested.

11 Effect of ceasing to be a member

- 11.1 On ceasing to be 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 nor to visit the Club's premises.

12. Rules of the Club

- 12.1 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.

13. Amendments to the Constitution of the Club

- 13.1 This Constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority. Either at the AGM, or via an online survey of the membership. Notice of any amendment to be made at the AGM must be delivered to the Secretary at least 45 days prior to the event.

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14. **Dissolution of the Club**

- 14.1 The Club can be dissolved by two-thirds majority vote, whereupon the Committee will arrange to discharge any assets to charity (e.g. *MCI Environmental Defence Fund, Mountain Rescue etc.*). Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all Members.

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