

Option A

New Articles of Association proposed by National Council, the Executive Committee and the ORG.

Key points

The new Articles as recommended by National Council ensure the BMC:

1. Meets the highest standard of governance appropriate for the organisation;
2. Retains the core value of being a representative body;
3. Has a modern constitution fully compliant with the Companies Act 2006, and;
4. Remains the umbrella body for mountaineering and is eligible to receive public funding.

- **Highest standard of governance**

The National Council Recommended Articles are compliant with the Sports + Recreational Alliance Principles and the Code for Sports Governance; the two 'gold standards' in sporting governance. They have been developed in conjunction with the ORG, in order to implement their recommendations where possible, and with input from the BMC Areas and Members.

- **Role as a representative body**

The new Articles ensure a majority of Board Members are BMC Members of at least 12 months standing, and that a majority of Board Members are able to be elected by the Members. The Articles ensure National Council – the Member's representative body – retains a strong voice in "holding the Board to Account", has clear methods to engage with and challenge the board (through a Memorandum of Understanding) and the ability to call a General Meeting. In addition a list of Reserved Items ensure matters of key interest to members are always decided by the membership and their representatives.

- **Companies Act compliance**

The ambiguities in the current Articles, and the changes in Company Law since they were issued means they are not fit for purpose in 2018 and beyond. The new Articles have been written to remove the ambiguities, improve clarity and to comply with current laws.

- **Umbrella body status and eligibility to receive public funding**

As the body responsible for the distribution of public funds Sport England have stated that "... the tier decision for NGBs reflects the nature of the relationship, the type and length of the relationship and also the important leadership role NGBs play within the sector... National Governing Bodies who have received, and continue to receive, funding over a period of years, and are an established partner of Sport England are categorised as Tier 3 organisations." The new Articles are fully compliant with Tier 3 of the Code for Sports Governance and ensure the BMC's ongoing status as the umbrella body for mountaineering activities.

Moving Forwards

The National Council Recommended Articles represent a consensual starting point from which the BMC can move forward; as accepted by a majority of the original proposers of the Revised Articles (Tier 1). The BMC will be stronger and better by focusing on being an umbrella body for all mountaineers with transparent and clear governance that allows Members, Volunteers and Staff to work collaboratively to ensure the best outcomes for all Members.

The proposers of the new Articles are:

BMC National Council, the BMC Executive Committee (Board of Directors) and the Organisational Review Group.