

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL

1. The purpose of National Council (“the Council”) is to act as a representative body of the BMC Members and to consult with the Board, constructively challenge the Board, and to hold the Board to account on the BMC Members' behalf as applicable [Secs 16 & 17 of Ref. 1].
2. The Council recognises the commitment made by its Councillors. It seeks to build a relationship founded on the values of the British Mountaineering Council, creating opportunities for Councillors to apply and develop their diverse knowledge, skills & experience. In return, Councillors should uphold and be an exemplar for these values, and conduct themselves in a manner that is above reproach.
3. This Code of Practice provides Councillors with a set of ethical standards, basic guidelines & general expectations concerning their work. It should be read in conjunction with relevant BMC policies and management regulations.
4. The ethical standards expected of Councillors are based on the Nolan principles:
 - a. Act solely in terms of the interests of mountaineers [BMC Object 4.1.1 in Ref. 1].
 - b. Act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. This should be done in an open and transparent manner.
 - i. Information should not be withheld from BMC Members unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing, whilst respecting the need for confidentiality when given access to privileged information (which includes but is not limited to Board papers and matters of a personal nature relating to staff).
 - c. Be truthful and act with integrity. Disclose conflicts of interest in the Register of Interests Form and at the start of each meeting, in accordance with the Conflicts of Interest Policy [Ref. 2].
 - i. A conflict of interest may occur when your interests or activities affect your ability to make objective decisions for the BMC. For example: financial gain or benefit (including accepting gifts & hospitality), whether direct or indirect, that might influence or appear to influence your judgement; conflicting loyalties, such as affiliations with competitors, customers or suppliers; working with close relatives; having an intimate relationship with another member of the BMC who can influence your decisions; serving as a board member of another organisation.
 - ii. Personal interests do not necessarily preclude anyone from volunteering, but it is important that such interests are declared to and understood by the BMC.
 - d. Be held accountable to BMC members for their decisions and actions.
 - e. Demonstrate leadership within the BMC and when acting on its behalf through behaviours that embody, actively promote and robustly support these principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.
5. Accept personal and collective responsibility for the success of the Council through: team work and collaborative decision making, regular attendance at meetings, discharge of duties in-between meetings, acting in accordance with standards to promote effective & productive meetings [Ref. 3], and the Councillors' role description [Ref. 4].

References

1. Articles of Association of the British Mountaineering Council.
2. Conflicts of Interest Policy as set down in the Management Regulations (C19).¹
3. Standards for Meetings, Management Regulation C2, National Council, updated June 2006.¹
4. Role Description for Councillors (in press).

Note 1. See: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-management-regulations>