

CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

INFORMATION FOR PILOT YOUTH CLUBS

The BMC has launched a new model for clubs that focus upon delivering activity for under 18-year-olds. These clubs, referred to as Youth Clubs, will share some similarities with the existing network of affiliated clubs but will have some distinct differences to ensure these clubs provide the best possible environment for the young people. The clubs will incorporate all parts of the climber/walker pathway from introductory/beginner through to social/recreational and to competitive/performance.

The aims of the Youth Clubs

- To create volunteer-led, not-for-profit clubs where young people can come together to climb and hill-walk in a supportive and secure environment.
- To provide young people with the skills needed to be competent climbers and/or hill-walkers.
- To ensure the young people understand the risks associated with mountaineering activities and the steps they can take to safeguard themselves, their friends and other climbers/walkers.
- To provide environments where young people can develop their social skills.
- To introduce young people to other mountaineering activities including outdoor climbing and scrambling.
- To provide a pathway where young people can choose whether to participate recreationally, and/or enter competitions, and/or embark on leadership awards.

This document will provide you with more details about the Pilot Youth Club programme, what is expected of the clubs, what the clubs will receive for being part of the programme and some details about club affiliation.

PILOT YOUTH CLUBS

In preparation for the full launch of the programme there will be “Pilot Youth Clubs” selected to help to finalise the details of the programme.

Pilot Youth Clubs will be supported to gain affiliation of the BMC and will then be able to take advantage of the full range of existing BMC-affiliation and membership benefits, plus the additional benefits designed for the youth clubs. The pilot clubs will be invited to work with BMC staff to identify further benefits that would be the most suitable for them. [see below for more detail about the benefits]

Clubs wishing to become a Pilot Youth Club need to submit an expression of Interest form found [here](#).

The Pilot Youth Clubs...

- may focus on recreational/social activities, competition/performance activities or both.
- will be run predominantly by volunteers, such as by parents, local instructors/coaches, and/or other local climbers or walkers., and will be run on a not-for-profit basis.
- will become affiliated to the BMC, and meet the requirements as stated in the BMC Articles.
- will have a constitution (or similar governing document) and associated club rules and policies – the BMC will provide templates for these.
- must be able to evidence that those leading sessions are competent to deliver the activity.
- will encourage and support older members (16yrs+), the parents/carers or older siblings of the club members, and other local advocates to undertake awards such as the *Indoor Climbing Assistant*, *Lowland Leader* and/or *Foundation Coach* awards.
- will be permitted to contract or employ a coach/instructor to lead sessions.
- are expected to run regular training sessions. “Regular” will be determined by each club, but likely to be a minimum of weekly club sessions during term time with some additional holiday provision during school breaks.
- are likely to have an age focus within the 11-18-year-old range, although the focus for each club will be determined by local-need.
- may be an exit-route from other activities (such as NICAS), as an entry-route to other activities, or as a club offering the full pathway from novice to competent and experienced participant.
- may be formed as a youth-section to an existing adult club.
- where possible, will link with a local club as this will provide an exit route for the older members, an opportunity for joint events and a potential source of competent volunteers.
- when based at a local climbing wall, will be developed in partnership with the wall to enhance any existing wall offering and prevent potential conflict between club and wall.

What does a club get for being a pilot youth club?

Well, apart from the warm glow from knowing the club is a trailblazer as one of the first BMC Youth Clubs, there are many benefits to being a Pilot Youth Club.

During their preparation for affiliation, the club leaders will be able to access

- dedicated support from a wide-range of BMC staff
- guidance documents to help you to run and grow your club

- template documents, such as a constitution and codes of conduct, to help you to set up your club in the best way possible
- support in producing a development plan

Once affiliated the club will be able to

- access the full range of affiliation benefits available to all affiliated clubs, including
 - access to training courses at no cost or reduced cost for club members.
 - access to the club webinar programme.
 - extension to the Combined Liability Insurance benefit that covers club leaders in the delivery of club activities.
- access additional benefits for being a Pilot Youth Club, including
 - bespoke support from a wide-range of BMC staff.
 - support for 5-days-worth of instructor, coach and leader training.
 - access to free Safeguarding Awareness training for all club coaches and instructors (including assistant leaders) plus the Safeguarding Officer(s).
 - access to free DBS checks for all club coaches and instructors (including assistant leaders).
 - access to free Time to Listen training for the Safeguarding Officer(s).
 - support to apply for external funding to aid the club in delivering its activities.
 - bespoke webinars delivered for the leaders within Youth Clubs.
- offer its members
 - a reduced membership rate for the under 18's in the first year of only £10. This is a discount of 62% on the equivalent individual rate for those already a BMC individual member*, the ongoing discount for under 18-year-old club members is c37% of the equivalent individual membership fee. [Those who are already a BMC Individual member will be able to claim a refund against the fees already paid]
 - access to training and support opportunities, many only available to BMC members.
 - the full range of BMC club membership benefits.

What does a club need to do to become a Pilot Youth Club?

To be a pilot youth club you will need to agree to

- Work with BMC staff to get your club to a position to be accepted as an affiliated club.
- Maintain the affiliation in the future.
- Support the volunteers and leaders within the club, utilising the support from the BMC.
- Understand that not everything will be working perfectly! For those clubs fortunate enough to be in the pilot phases there will be lots of benefits, but as it is the first time the BMC will have provided this type of offer there are likely to be a few hitches.
- Complete a case study to help future clubs understand the different types of clubs that are available, share good practice and help clubs identify potential pit-falls.
- Participate in a monitoring and evaluation process after 3-months, 6-months, 9 months and 1-year.
- Work with BMC staff to improve the affiliation model, the affiliation (club) benefits and membership (club member) benefits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Affiliation - benefits

As members of BMC-affiliated clubs, all the club members will have access to all the existing benefits of BMC club membership, plus there are the additional benefits through the combined liability insurance policy that are provided to club leaders.

There will be wide support and advice available from the staff including the Club Development Manager, Climbing Development Manager, Hill-walking Co-ordinator, Safeguarding Manager, Diversity & Inclusion Manager, England Talent Manager and the Membership Services specialists.

In addition, the BMC will be able to provide support to the clubs with, or support to access external funding for:

- Training for club leaders in running a club.
- Safeguarding Awareness Training, Time to Listen (for the Safeguarding Officer), DBS checking
- Training for volunteers wishing to undertake, such as
 - Indoor Climbing Assistant
 - Foundation Coach awards
 - Climbing Wall Instructor Training and Assessment
 - Lowland Leader Training and Assessment
 - FUNdamentals.
 - First aid
 - Mental health
 - Inclusion.
- Purchasing club equipment (such as harnesses, helmets, belay plates, etc.).

NB: The financial and staff support will only be available to affiliated clubs. The value of the financial support will be determined by the needs of the club and the budget available. An allocated number of 5 training days will be available per affiliated club.

A library of resources will be available, and further developed over time, for the club leaders to access. These resources will include documents, web articles, recorded presentations, webinars and in-person training opportunities.

Initially, the guidance support will include:

- Template constitution
- Template role descriptions
- Template codes of conduct
- Managing risk guidance
- Safeguarding policy with Safe Recruiting guidance
- Template complaints and grievance policy
- Evidencing competence guidance