



Review of Terrain Definitions within The Scout Association

Consultation Document:

Outline proposals prior to submission for approval by the Operations sub-Committee

Comments are welcome to the UK Adventure Team on all proposals contained within this document by **4th September 2016**.

To submit your comments please go to
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2930864/Terrain-Definition-Consultation-2016>

Introduction

The UK Adventure Team at Headquarters systematically reviews all activities to ensure its governance remains up to date and appropriate. All comments received from members of the movement on any of these activities are recorded and then included when it is time to review each specific activity in detail.

Any proposed changes to rules or guidelines relating to an activity must be carefully considered by relevant internal groups and committees at Headquarters.

Given the broad appeal of outdoor activities that currently make use of our existing Terrain Definitions, the UK Adventure Team is keen to share these proposals for consultation, so that they can be refined prior to being submitted to the Operations Committee for consideration.

Although it is accepted that the summer holidays are not ideal for conducting this kind of consultation, based on previous consultations which have taken place over the summer period we find that response rates don't differ greatly from those during term time. We are extremely grateful for everyone who takes the time to engage in this process and provide their feedback on the proposals below.

Background

During 2015 the review of Hillwalking identified that the current Terrain Definitions ([found in Chapter 9 of POR, rules 9.28-9.31](#)) needed to be reviewed and potentially updated to ensure that they were fit for purpose. Feedback received was clear that members felt that the current definitions could be simplified, made clearer and easier to operate across activities as well as bringing them in line with those used by other organisations.

In putting together this consultation document we have reviewed all thoughts sent to us by members of the movement so far, through ongoing feedback which was logged, feedback provided directly through the start-up survey and inputs via UK Technical Advisers. This document is a combination of all these views and thoughts rather than being the brainchild of any one individual, to hopefully update the Terrain Definitions in a way that will be a benefit to all.

The Proposals

Below you will find 6 proposals, each proposal refers an area of update relating to the terrain definitions and are all interconnected.

When providing feedback you can comment on each proposal, this is not intended to get a response identifying a preference of one proposal over another. If you have no comment on a particular proposal there will be an option not to comment in the feedback.

Proposal 1

To split out Cycling (including Mountain Biking) and Snowsports from the current Terrain Definitions and introduce specific definitions for these activities.

Notes:

- 1.1 Currently these activities all use the same terrain definitions, which may be more appropriate for Hillwalking.
- 1.2 The current terrain definitions would be retained for hillwalking, with minor updates.
- 1.3 Snowsports and Cycle terrains can be better reflected in the permits.

Proposal 2

Cycling definitions to be based on Mountain Biking Trail Classifications:

- Green Trail Centre Grading (Obstacles less than 20cm in size, where the route is rideable at walking speed and wheels are not required to leave the ground on descents) would be equivalent to Terrain 0.
- Blue Trail Centre Grading (Trails where obstacles are between 20cm and 30cm, drops no larger than 20cm, where the route is rideable at walking speed and wheels are not required to leave the ground on descents) would be equivalent to Terrain 1.
- Red, Black & Bike Park Trail Centre Grading (Trails where obstacles are bigger than 30cm and drops larger than 20cm) would be equivalent to Terrain 2.

Notes:

- 2.1 Titles of these terrains are still to be confirmed, along with exact wording.
- 2.2 The permit scheme would be updated to align to this better once these new definitions are embedded.
- 2.3 Cycling has one of the highest incident rates within activities allowed by The Scout Association.

Proposal 3

Snowsports definitions to be based on the following:

- Snowsports Beginner Environments (As per the current activities which fall outside the permit scheme.)
- Snowsports On-Piste (All areas defined as on-piste by international grading)
- Snowsports Off-Piste (All other areas)

Notes:

- 3.1 The permit scheme would be updated to align to this better at the time that these definitions are launched.

Proposal 4

Terrain 0 (Hillwalking) to increase the upper height restriction from 500m to 600m.

Notes:

4.1 600m is the more commonly used height boundary by Outdoor Centres and Local Councils across the UK.

4.2 Although this opens up some new areas, the other proposals below affect some areas below 600m.

Proposal 5

Terrain 1 would include terrain which “Is open, uncultivated, non-mountainous high or remote country known variously as upland, moor, bog, fell, hill or down.”

Notes:

5.1 This would bring this terrain type in line with the National Governing Body definition for this terrain type, the current definitions used by Mountain Leader Training UK can be found at <http://www.mountain-training.org/walking/skills-and-awards/hill-and-moorland-leader/faqs>.

Proposal 6

Terrain 2 would include terrain which is “Mountainous or Wild Country”

Notes:

6.1 This would bring this terrain type in line with the National Governing Body definition for this terrain type, the current definitions used by Mountain Leader Training UK can be found at <http://www.mountain-training.org/walking/skills-and-awards/mountain-leader/ml-award-faqs>.

How to Provide Feedback

Feedback is collected through an online survey, please give comments on any relevant proposals to the activities you are involved in. If you are only involved in one of the activities that is fine and if you would like to provide feedback on behalf of a group that is also acceptable.

Provide your online survey feedback [here](#).

The deadline for responding is Sunday 4th September.