



## GUIDANCE FOR ALPINE CLUB MEETS

Members would like to see more alpine meets being organised by the club, and this is a priority in the club strategy 2025-30. Club meets provide very good opportunities for members to meet other members and to build personal experience and confidence. Over time, they can provide members, particularly younger and/or newer members, with better opportunities to join other club trips through references. Club meets help to build a sense of community.

Some meets might be relatively small (between 10-20 members) but one or two might be large. The meet in Argentiere, for example, might have up to 50-60 people.

At some meets, it might be possible for members to bring their partners. Partners may join the social elements of a meet but are not able to take part in ski touring activities with club members. This is to ensure that we don't invalidate our combined liability insurance or increase our duty of care.

Regardless of size, a club meet is about members skiing together, in self-formed groups, under the principles of self-responsibility, a duty of care to others, and participative leadership. Individual participants take full responsibility for any activities they undertake during the meet.

For larger meets, there might be some pre-arranged groups organised by approved club leaders and experienced members. This is particularly helpful when there is a wide range of ski touring abilities at the meet, especially newer and/or less experienced members.

### Organisers

To encourage safer ski touring and help meet our duty of care, meet organisers need to (note that this list doesn't cover things like accommodation, travel options, etc):

- **Developing the proposal**
  - submit a proposal for the meet which is then assessed by the tour secretary and tour programme coordinator. The grades for the meet should be appropriate for the location.
- **Planning the ski touring part of the meet**
  - Ensure that all those attending have completed a tour application form, with references, and have submitted ICE information.
  - Have a good look through the list of people attending, and their skills and experience (expressed through the grades they have assigned to themselves on their application forms) and review how that fits with the possible tours in the

area. If there is a mix of grades and experience, look at the option of identifying people who are club leaders or experienced members and see if they could run some pre-arranged tours (particularly for newish or less experienced members).

- Gather information about tours in the area and their grades, and circulate to those attending.

- **Running the meet**

- Hold a briefing on the first evening which includes updates on snow, avalanche and weather conditions, possible routes, and the tracking of groups going out and returning.
- Ask all members of ski touring groups to do a group check of essential equipment (including group kit) and perform a physical transceiver check at the start of each tour.
- Check that all day tours offered to or created by members fall within the grades and technical limits for the meet.
- Ensure that there is a process for tracking groups going out and their return, including group members and their plans.
- Ensure that there is at least one “manned” contact number during the meet in case of any issues. For a larger meet, this might be someone in the valley base who isn’t skiing and it might also be sensible to have two contact numbers. For a smaller meet, the meet organiser might need to be contactable by phone all day (if this is possible). The contacts should have ICE information to hand for each participant.
- If there is a major incident, the club’s [\*\*adverse incident handling procedure\*\*](#) must be followed.

## **Participants**

Club meets are a great way of meeting other members and organising day tours with them. Some participants may be newer members of the club or less experienced, so a supportive approach is very important at a meet. Following our guidance will help to ensure safer ski touring and a more enjoyable experience. At the meet, it’s very important that everyone adopts these basic safety principles:

- Follow our guidance on [\*\*member organised activities\*\*](#) and our [\*\*code of conduct\*\*](#)
- **Match your skills to the right tour** - it’s essential that you choose a day tour that matches your skills, experience and level of confidence, and takes into account the prevailing snow, avalanche and weather conditions. Make sure that all those involved in a self-formed group do an assessment of group experience against the tour objectives and expected conditions.
- **Work as a team** - everyone should play an active role in the team by working together, talking to each other, agreeing objectives, and building a consensus.
- **Plan ahead** - check snow, weather and avalanche conditions, and the terrain you’re going into.
- **Check equipment** - check transceivers, avalanche safety kit, etc before heading out and know what to do in an emergency.
- **Check medical/rescue insurance and ICE information** – and make sure that each person has this information with them.

- **Check and adapt to conditions on the day** - look for signs of avalanche risk, be willing to adapt your plans and ski within your skills and experience.
- **Exercise a duty of care** - to others in the group and to other ski tourers at a level commensurate with your own current skill and experience level.
- **Report back in** - let the organiser know where you're going and when you return.
- **Review the tour and share information about conditions.** On return from a day tour, have a chat about how the tour went and share information about conditions and advice for the next day's activities. In a meet that is spread across several accommodations, you might need to use something like OAK or WhatsApp.

Play safe and have a great time!

### **Version control**

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