



**Kandersteg**  
International  
Scout Centre

# UK REGULATIONS at KISC - Winter

February 2019

# TO ALL GROUPS OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION (UK) VISITING KANDERSTEG INTERNATIONAL SCOUT CENTRE

## UK SCOUTS AND WINTER ACTIVITIES AT KANDERSTEG

Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) is one of the most popular international destinations for UK Scouts. KISC and the UK Scout Association have been working together to ensure that your Alpine activities are conducted under the stipulations of UK activity rules. The purpose of this document is to clearly inform you of the procedure for activities while staying at Kandersteg International Scout Centre. It is crucial that you read the following.

### What is the situation for UK groups in Kandersteg?

- When you arrive in Kandersteg, a leader will have to sign 'KISC's General Terms and Conditions' on behalf of the whole group. This named leader is then responsible for all the actions while here.
- Members of staff in Kandersteg, who come from many countries, are trained and assessed in leading snowsport activities based on KISC operating procedures and standards.

The UK Scout Association have consulted with Kandersteg and are happy that these standards meet the required standard. UK groups can therefore be confident that using KISC led activities fulfil the requirements of the UK Scout Association. The KISC staff will work closely with all groups prior to activities to ensure that they are fully prepared.

### What is the situation for UK groups taking part in activities lead by KISC Staff?

- When taking part in activities overseas the rules of the UK Scout Association allow for host country Scout leaders to lead activities for UK Scouts following the rules of the host country (POR Rule 9.64 e). This includes Kandersteg staff leading activities following the KISC rules and operating procedures. UK groups therefore do not need to follow UK activity specific rules (such as group sizes) when taking part in KISC led activities.
- For all activities a leader from the Scout Association (UK) must be present and be prepared to halt the activity if they have any safety concerns.

## What is the situation for UK groups taking part in activities booked by KISC with external companies?

- KISC works with various external activity providers, who run activities such as high ropes parks and professional ski lessons. KISC only works with companies who comply with Swiss law, required activity-specific permissions and whose staff are qualified to the level required in Switzerland.
- KISC works with some external companies who provide equipment rental – e.g. ski equipment. If groups choose to rent this equipment, they must follow UK activity rules as outlined in chapter 9 of POR.
- KISC offers some activities which are not well known in the UK and may not have any regulations. In these cases it is usually possible to find a similar activity as a comparison.

## What is the situation for UK groups doing activities on their own?

- KISC has a large international team led by the Deputy Director for Programme, who can offer advice and help you plan your activities. We urge you to use their knowledge and expertise as much as possible.
- It is up to you as a group to check that you are following all the relevant regulations of the Scout Association (UK), especially with regard to necessary Snowsports permits.
- All groups staying at KISC must complete a Route Card and leave it with the Staff. It is your responsibility to ensure that your planning comes within the rules of The Scout Association (UK)

If you need help or advice when planning your visit please contact The Scout Association Headquarters on 0208 4337100 or [info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk).

## Further notes

- Plan your programme thoroughly and contact the Programme Staff to discuss what you would like to do and please follow the booking procedure as stipulated on [www.kisc.ch](http://www.kisc.ch) and the General Terms & Conditions.
- Walking maps of the area around Kandersteg are available – aim to buy and use these. KISC can send you one in advance if you wish and put the cost on your bill.
- If you are still not clear about the current UK rules, contact your ACC Activities or The UK Scout Association at UK Headquarters.

KISC and The Scout Association (UK) work together to ensure that the activities guided by KISC Staff meet the standards and expectations of Scouts from the UK.

Alpine activities are adventurous and challenging - we all know that accidents can and do happen but with sensible preparation, the risks are minimised. However, these activities are rewarding, fun, team building and can provide memories that last a lifetime. We believe that KISC offers the safest programme we can and look forward to welcoming you to Kandersteg

Yours in Scouting



Felipe Marqueis  
Director  
Kandersteg International Scout Centre

March 2019

Yours in Scouting



Jess Kelly  
National Safety Manager  
UK Scout Association

March 2019

# THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION (UK) WINTER ACTIVITY CLASSIFICATION

## Introduction

The purpose of this sheet is to clarify the situation with regard to UK leader led skiing, snowboarding, ice climbing, winter hillwalking, sledging and snowshoeing in the area around Kandersteg International Scout Centre. It is specifically to give detailed information to allow UK groups to relate and compare, using the UK terminology, the situation in Kandersteg with that of the United Kingdom. KISC led snowsport activities follow KISC rules and operating procedures as detailed on page 1. These snowsport classifications are for unguided / self-guided activities only.

## Winter hillwalking

There are a range of hillwalking routes around Kandersteg, some which can be led by a summer hillwalking permit holder and others require a winter hillwalking permit holder. KISC provide a winter kit list which all groups are recommended to follow for winter hillwalking activities.

Some routes are defined as winter conditions and the following guidance followed, and some summer conditions (those where there is no snow underfoot). For these the guidance in the summer document should be followed.

The leader is responsible for assessing the terrain and routes for the winter hillwalking activity.

For consistency the Scout Association has advised that the following popular winter hillwalking routes under normal conditions are considered the following:

- Kandersteg and the Hoh - **Terrain 0**
- Oeschinensee Gondola to lake- **Terrain 1**
- Sunnbuel to Gemmipass - **Terrain 2**

Anyone wishing to lead hillwalking activities in these areas must have the relevant permits for winter conditions.

All other routes should be assessed by the leader and the environment defined in line with Policy, Organisation and Rules. The person leading activities in these areas must hold the relevant permit and follow all other rules as per the activity. Snowshoes or skis are needed to avoid going deep into the snow and avalanche equipment must be carried if heading into "backcountry terrain".

## Snowshoeing

There are a few popular snowshoe tours which takes place on well-marked and groomed paths around local Ski Resort. This activity is considered winter hillwalking and relevant permits will be required. Based on the height above sea level compared to the height of Kandersteg Village it is agreed that a Terrain 1 Winter Hillwalking permit would be required to lead this activity. Anyone wishing to lead this activity must also have experience with leading and participating in snowshoeing activities.

Note: All groups staying at KISC must complete a Route Card and leave it with the Staff. It is your responsibility to ensure that your planning comes within the rules of The Scout Association (UK)

## Snowsports

### Sledging

When sledging the leader is responsible for the safety of the group.

When sledging the leader is responsible for assessing the grade, and therefore requirements, of the slope. For consistency the Scout Association has advised that the following popular sled runs under normal conditions are considered the following:

- Kandersteg Village Run - **Terrain 0**
- Oeschinensee Sled Run - **On Piste**
- Gemmipass Winter Trail - **Off Piste Terrain 1**

This means that Scouts sledging on the Kandersteg Village Run are required to follow the guidelines provided within FS120424 Winter Sports and those taking part on the other runs must be led by someone holding the relevant level of Snowsport Permit for the area.

### Skiing / snowboarding on nursery slopes

Skiing and snowboarding on nursery slopes falls outside of the permit scheme but must be lead following the guidance provided within FS120424 Winter Sports.

### Downhill skiing / snowboarding (excluding nursery slopes)

When downhill skiing / snowboarding the leader is responsible for assessing the grade, and therefore requirements of the slope. The leader is responsible for the safety of the group. All controlled ski areas are considered On Piste, while staying within the marked and controlled snowsport area. KISC works with and provide information about the following ski areas: Kandersteg, Adelboden, Lauchernalp and Elsigentalp.

Snowsports taking place on piste will require an on piste snowsports permit and those off piste will require an off piste snowsports permit to the relevant terrain level. The leader is responsible for ensuring that all UK policies are followed when undertaking this activity.

## Cross country skiing

There are a range of cross country ski trails in the Kandersteg and Sunnbuel areas, Kandersteg can provide full details of these routes and suitability for different groups.

Where cross country skiing takes place outside of Terrain 0 it is required to be led by someone holding the relevant level of snowsports permit, where there are designated and groomed routes / paths then this would be classified as on piste and all other areas would be classed as off piste.

## Ski touring

There are areas near KISC to undertake ski touring, leaders wishing to undertake this activity must have the relevant off piste snowsports permits and be experienced in the environment they choose. KISC can provide advice on suitable areas to do this activity.

## Ice Climbing

Nearby areas such as Oeschiwald, Oeschinensee, Gasterntal and Stock offers a variety of ice climbing routes depending on current conditions. All ice climbing routes require a Natural Lead Ice Climbing Permit, and if undertaken as a multi pitch activity would require the Multi Pitch Ice Climbing Permit. The weather can present particular dangers for ice climbing, and should be taken into consideration carefully by the activity leader.