

Dingle Hillwalking Club (DHC) - Code of Conduct

The DHC *Code of Conduct* is largely based on recommendations from Mountaineering Ireland. It is intended to promote responsible behaviour and to provide a framework for conflict resolution should the need arise. All DHC members should acquaint themselves with this Code and when participating in DHC events you agree to abide by these guidelines.

Respect

DHC is an inclusive club and members are expected to treat each other with courtesy and respect. Any behaviour that marginalises, intimidates or excludes others is unacceptable.

Safety and Responsibility

Hillwalking can be dangerous and may result in personal injury or death. You should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for your own actions and involvement. Participation in Club activities is not an automatic right and can be restricted by the Committee based on skill, experience, health and other mitigating factors. Members must abide by any guidelines that may be set out in accordance with Mountaineering Ireland's advice and policies.

Alcohol and Substance Use

Club members shall follow the law in relation to alcohol and illegal drugs; and shall display leadership and good example. Club members shall not present themselves at club walks or other club events while under the influence of alcohol or any illegal/non prescription drug.

Communication

Communication between members should be open and honest and any concerns, issues or feedback should be shared constructively. Members should aim to actively participate in club activities and meetings; and to share knowledge and skills with others, fostering a supportive learning environment. Members accept that photographs taken on club walks may be used in the DHC website and other social media.

All communication of an official nature within the club must be done in writing - letter or Email. Any member with concerns should raise the matter with the committee.

Privacy

DHC takes the protection of personal data seriously and in accordance with the legislation. The Club Membership Application Form collects information which is shared only with Mountaineering Ireland (MI) for the purpose of maintaining membership and insurance cover. It allows MI to provide you with access to an online portal where you can login and update your personal details and privacy settings.

DHC maintains a membership list and a walk attendance list which may be held by the Club for up to 6 years for insurance purposes. A membership form will have to be completed every year.

A Walk Report, which describes the walk and the list of those walking, is circulated to all club members after almost every walk.

Conflicts

Members should address conflicts or grievances respectfully following the Club's complaints procedure if necessary.

Respect for the Environment and Local Communities

Hillwalking mostly takes place on privately owned land and due to the goodwill and tolerance of landowners. DHC members should recognise that each one of us shares in the responsibility to protect access by helping to maintain positive relations with landowners and the local community where we walk. Many of our walks take place in sensitive natural environments and it is important to minimise environmental impact. Members should keep within existing path lines where possible, avoid leaving litter and follow any specific guidelines provided by the Club and for the areas where walking.

Voluntary Club Leaders

DHC always needs new people willing and able to help out and will support and encourage anyone interested in developing the necessary skills. Leaders must lead by example and put the welfare of everyone first and foremost. Leaders should be respected for the role they are taking on and members should follow their instructions for the safety of the group.

Committee Members

Committee members are nominated at the AGM in accordance with the Club Constitution. They must be willing to operate in an impartial and transparent manner, always putting the best interests of the Club first.

Hiking Requirements

For safety reasons you should have the following

Essentials - if these requirements are not met you may not be allowed to join the walk for your own safety.

- Good hiking boots with ankle support
- Rucksack
- Waterproof clothes, hat and gloves
- Packed lunch and water
- Bivi/survival bag
- Whistle

Recommended

- Gaiters
- Small torch
- Spare clothing
- Walking sticks
- Personal first aid

Note

Breaches of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, suspension or termination of club membership. Members are encouraged to report serious violations of this Code of Conduct to the Club Committee.