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## **Safety Precaution in Scout Pioneering**

*Pursuant to the circular re-categorization with effect from 1 January 2018, this Circular substitutes Special Circular No. 09/2014 issued on 15 June 2014 with contents unchanged.*

Scout Pioneering is one of the most popular scouting activities, it is anticipated that fatal accidents may occur from time to time such as falls, drowning, etc. In order to maintain safety at an optimum level, it is important that one has to be aware of the safety precautions and understands the potential risks that may occur during the activity. In view of this, the Association set up a working committee in May last year to review the existing safety precautions. A report was submitted in November to which the Chief Commissioner Council had discussed and considered the recommendations in the report.

Having considered the rationality and feasibility of the recommendations stated in the report, the Association finalizes the following guidelines:

### **A. Existing effective safety precautions:**

Scout pioneering in water should follow the instructions given by the local scout activity centre, all participants are required to pass a water test and wear life jackets throughout the activity.

### **B. Be effective from 1st July 2015, the followings should also be observed:**

1. In situations that require movement of body up and down at a level two metres or more, the participant must be protected by a belayer using the "Top Rope Belay Technique";
2. All activities at a height two metres or more, participants must be protected by a safety belt if there is no working platforms and guard-rails, the free end of the safety belt should be fastened to a fixed anchor. If this is not possible, the free end of the safety belt can be fastened to the pioneering project at a firm place;
3. Activities at a height less than two metres, participants can also be protected by a safety belt same as above, or by spotters as a kind of free hand protection;
4. Participants should wear safety helmet when doing pioneering at high place or when there is someone working above;
5. There should be at least one person trained in a 30-hour first aid with pass (recognized by the Commissioner for Labour) to stay within the pioneering activity;
6. The leader to participant ratio should not be less than 1:8 in all pioneering activities / workshops / training courses with an exception to non-risk activities and lectures.

### **C. Arrangement during the transition period of the above guidelines**

1. Before 1st July 2015

From now on till 30th June 2015 is a transition period, this allows the Association to train existing leaders who hold pioneering certificate note 1 and grant them a Certificate on Pioneering Safety Workshop. The above guidelines should be implemented once a leader has obtained such certificate.

## 2. Be effective from 1st July 2015

- a. The above guidelines will be implemented by 1st July 2015 for all pioneering activities taking places in the scout activity centres including Tai Tam Scout Centre, Gilwell Campsite, Pak Sha Wan T.W.C. Sea Activity Centre, Tung Tsz Scout Centre, and those scout activity centres where pioneering equipment and facilities are available for members to borrow.
- b. Minor pioneering projects (tabled below) that are usually built during Group gathering and camping are not restricted by the above guidelines, but leaders should still ensure members to play safely.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Projects</b> <sup>note 2</sup>
Tower and Lifting	Ten-minute Tower, Derrick.
Bridge and Crossing	Commando Bridge, Patrol Swing Bridge (vertical spar is fixed with guylines), Swamp.
Raft (build on land only)	Bamboo and Spar Raft, Catamaran, Sausage Raft, Coracle, Oil Drum Raft, Outrigger Raft, Tarpaulin Raft.
Fun and Game / Camp Gadgets	Bouncing Bazooka, Flaming Bolt Launcher, Guided Missile Launcher, Scout Staff Ballista, Skylite, Wigan Flagstaff, Skylon Weathercock, Trestle, Land Yacht, Secret Weapon, Counter-Balance Gate, Camp Gadgets: shoes rack, notice board, patrol camp gate, camp table, etc.

note 2: References of the named projects can be made to the latest version of “*Pioneering Project 先鋒工程*” published by the Association.

## 3. The Association has the following follow-ups for the above guidelines

- a. To purchase safety equipment and accessories

The Association will be purchasing sufficient personal protective equipment, including safety belts, safety ropes, safety helmets, carabiners, etc., to allow eligible leaders to borrow from. The equipment will be placed in the Programme Branch, Training Branch, Leadership Training Institute, Tai Tam Scout Centre, Gilwell Campsite, Pak Sha Wan T.W.C. Sea Activity Centre, and Tung Tsz Scout Centre. The equipment is expected ready for use by 1st August this year. Members who wish to borrow safety equipments are required to produce appropriate certificates (see below).

- b. To provide training

- i. In order that the existing pioneering certificate holders <sup>note 1</sup> know how to correctly use personal protective equipment and to be able to be a belayer, the Training Branch is going to run “Pioneering Safety Workshops” to cope with the new policy. Upon completion of the Workshop, leaders are eligible to borrow safety equipment by producing the certificate.
- ii. Safety aspects like belaying, use of personal protective equipment, etc. will be added to the future pioneering courses run/ recognized by the Training Branch. Certificate obtained from these pioneering courses are equivalent to the existing pioneering certificate <sup>note 1</sup> plus certificate from the Pioneering Safety Workshop.

Note 1: Leader pioneering certificate means certificates from pioneering training courses of the Scout Skill Courses and the Scout Accreditation Scheme (levels 1 to 3), and pioneering proficiency levels 1 to 3 of the Scout Accreditation Scheme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason NG', written in a cursive style.

(Jason NG)  
for Chief Commissioner