

Derwent Mountaineering Club

Club Climbing Safety Etiquette

The following guidelines are intended to inform both new and experienced members of the behaviour and safety standards expected of members on Club meets. This etiquette, combined with training opportunities and other initiatives, underpins our drive to create a stronger safety culture within the Club.

When climbing with the DMC you are an ambassador for climbing and the Club and we ask you to be mindful of your behaviour towards other climbers and other outdoor users.

1. **Permission to question** - regardless of experience and qualifications everyone has permission to constructively challenge or question their partner or another Club member if they have concerns (especially regarding safety) whether at the commencement or during a climb.
2. **Buddy checks** – buddy checks should be the norm: check yourself, check your buddy, your buddy checks you. It's ok to ask "can you check me; can I check you?"
3. **Double-check your safety** before you commit to the system (eg: re-check your knots and protection before starting a pitch, weighting an anchor etc.).
4. **Communication** – agree your communication protocol and signals with your partner in advance including the circumstances under which you would abort a route.
5. **Skills + experience** – consider yours and your partner's in relation to the routes you are planning to do.
6. **Helmets** – wear one as the norm unless you have made a considered judgement not to do so (and we recognise that not everyone wishes to wear a helmet).
7. **Keep in touch on meets** - if climbing away from the main group, please advise the meet coordinator or another Club member of where you envisage climbing and when you envisage completing your climb(s). In any event, if possible, communicate any issues to other Club members.

Notes:

- (i) *This etiquette was put together following a member discussion as to how we might establish a stronger safety culture within the Club.*
- (ii) *Following consultation with all members, this was approved at the DMC Cttee on the 10/3/22.*
- (iii) *This etiquette will be reviewed annually.*