



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Nelson–Tasman

Tuakana Teina

Health and Safety Policy for Outdoor Pursuits

Purpose: To ensure mentors, mentees and parent/guardians are prepared for outdoor activities, understand the risks involved and are able to ensure the safety of themselves and the child or young person while involved in these activities.

Skills/ Knowledge Competencies of Mentor

- Knowledge of acceptable clothing, equipment and tramping procedures
- Knowledge of land access requirements
- Risk management
- Trip planning
- Weather forecasting
- Navigation
- Survival
- First aid

For Hunting:

- Current holder of a firearms licence
- Understand firearms and firearm safety
- Understand the legal requirements of 'immediate supervision' of unlicensed shooters
- Experience from previous hunting trips
- Hunting skills and experience relevant to the target species and hunting environment

Before the activity

- For each outing, verbal consent must be granted by the parent/ guardian
- The nature of the risks and management strategies must be disclosed to the parent/guardian
- Obtain all information on the mentees health and fitness, ensure that they are carrying any personal medication e.g. asthma inhaler
- Obtain mentees emergency contact details
- Obtain weather forecast information and ensure that the weather is suitable for the planned activity
- If hunting, the match relationship must have been active for at least 3 months, and a copy of the current firearms licence shall be provided to the mentoring co-ordinator
- If hunting, obtain any necessary permission for land access and to hunt

Emergency plan

- The mentor responsible must carry emergency equipment including food, a first aid kit, and a communication device
- The mentor must leave intentions with a reliable person (can be parent/guardian of mentee), including expected return time, bad weather alternative, expected route and expectations regarding calling for help if necessary
- People have a plan of who to contact in an emergency and in what order
- The mentee is prepared in case of an emergency

Preparing mentee for the trip (responsibility of parent/ guardian and mentor)

- Teach, demonstrate and supervise the appropriate use of clothing and equipment for the trip
- Check that the mentee has suitable equipment
- Check that the mentee has suitable food and drink
- Ensure that the mentee and the parent/ guardian are aware of where they are going, what they will be doing, and what to do if they don't return at the pre-advised time.

For Hunting:

- Brief mentee on the safe usage, transport and security of firearms in the context of the planned hunting trip
- Ensure mentee has a clear understanding of the hunting plan
- Ensure mentee is wearing high visibility clothing (hi-vis jacket) for any hunting activity other than water fowl
- Ensure mentee is wearing hearing protection (earplugs)
- Ensure firearms are in a safe condition and sighted in

During the activity (mentor responsibilities)

- Ensure that trip is at a pace that suits the mentee
- Ensure that the mentor and mentee stay together at all times
- Stop at all known hazards e.g. creek crossings, steep areas, and make appropriate decisions based on all available information
- Review the plans if conditions are unfavourable or if the mentee is unwell
- Monitor the weather and ensure that there is a plan for bad or unexpected weather

For Hunting:

- Ensure the Arms Code, relevant codes and hunting regulations are observed.
- Ensure that the mentee is under 'direct supervision' when holding or using firearms.
- Only one firearm per licence holder, with the mentee not carrying it

After the activity

- Debrief the trip with the mentee and parent/ guardian including;
 - How the trip went
 - Incidents (follow up on them)
 - Suggestions for future trips
- Report to mentoring co-ordinator where appropriate
- If hunting, check, clean and store firearms safely

Key risk factors

Mentors must act in a way that eliminates, isolates, or minimises:

- Death or injury from shooting
- Injuries e.g. from falls
- Hypothermia
- Drowning e.g. from rivers
- Hyperthermia
- Blisters and other foot injuries
- Death or sickness due to medical emergencies
- Sunburn
- Emotional trauma, particularly resulting from failure to clean kill an animal.

Over and above all, the paramount consideration should be around the safety and wellbeing of the mentee.

Organisations for further reference

Department of conservation

www.doc.govt.nz

New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association (NZDA)

www.deerstalkers.org.nz

New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (NZMSC)

www.mountainsafety.org.nz

• Date Implemented	Date of Last Change	Next Review Date	Policy approved at
July 2017	May 2020	May 2023	12 May 2020