

## **Clubs, Huts, Meets and the current Covid-19 Restrictions**

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With government rules, regulations and guidance changing regularly it can be difficult for clubs to keep up with what they are allowed to do. This article summarises the BMC's understanding of the constraints on club meets and access to huts, based on information available at the date of publication. Please remember to check for local changes that may affect your club.

### **Huts – England**

- Any individual who resides in a Tier 3 area in England may not travel to a mountaineering hut unless it is within their Tier 3 area.
- Where the hut is located in a Tier 3 area travel to it is not permitted.
- Where the individual resides in Wales – those who reside in local lockdown areas from now, and from the whole of Wales between 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to the start of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November - may not travel to any hut in England. The situation from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November is not yet known.

### **Huts – Wales**

- Until 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October travel to huts located in a local lockdown area in Wales is not permitted, and those huts must be closed.
- Until 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October individuals who reside in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 area in England are not permitted to travel to Wales.
- From 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to the start of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November travel to huts in Wales is not permitted. Huts in Wales must be closed during this period.
- The situation from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November is not yet known, so some huts may need to remain closed for longer.
- The position is yet to be clarified regarding whether volunteers are permitted to access a hut to undertake emergency maintenance, particularly if they have a distance to travel. The BMC has raised this question with the Welsh Government and received an assurance that it will be reviewed before the regulations are published.
- The BMC is seeking confirmation that financial support will be available for huts in Wales covered by the small business rates relief scheme. Details, once published, will be available at: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>

### **Club Meets (Outdoor) – England**

- The process for access to outdoor activity has not changed – clubs must continue to follow the [BMC guidance](#) if organising any outdoor climbing, walking or scrambling meets.
- Those living in Tier 3 areas should not travel outside of the Tier 3 area and club meets should be adjusted accordingly. Numbers on the meet should be carefully considered by the club, being mindful of local sensitivities.
- Those living in Tier 1 or Tier 2 areas should not arrange meets in Tier 3 areas.
- From 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to the start of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, club members living in Wales will not be permitted to attend meets in England, regardless of where the organising club is based.

### **Club Meets (Outdoor) - Wales**

- Up to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, those living in a local lockdown area in Wales are not permitted to travel outside of that area. For other areas in Wales, the requirement to follow the BMC guidance when organising club meets remains.

- From 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to the start of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November exercise is only permitted from home, and only with members of your own household. Club meets should therefore be suspended for clubs based in Wales during this period.
- Clubs based in England must not organise meets in Wales between 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and the start of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November (nor in areas with a local lockdown up to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October).
- The situation from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November is not yet known, so any meets planned to take place after this date will need to be flexible in case the updated regulations do not permit it to happen.

### **Club Meets (Indoor Climbing Wall) – England**

Access to indoor climbing walls will vary depending on the location of the wall and where the member resides.

Those living in Tier 3 areas:

- should not travel outside of the area and should only access indoor walls in that area.
- should not meet with other households indoors, therefore significantly reducing the opportunity for clubs to arrange indoor climbing meets.
- may have all indoor leisure facilities (including walls) closed, but this is a local decision and clubs will need to check for their local area.

Those living in Tier 2 areas, or attending a wall in a Tier 2 area:

- should not arrange meets at a wall in a Tier 3 area.
- should not meet with other households indoors, therefore significantly reducing the opportunity for clubs to arrange indoor climbing meets.

Those living in Tier 1 areas:

- should not arrange meets at a wall in a Tier 3 area.
- are still able to arrange indoor climbing wall meets if they following the guidance provided by the relevant wall and adhere to a maximum of 6 people in a group (the “Rule of 6”).

### **Club Meets (Indoor Climbing Wall) - Wales**

- From Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October until the start of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November the message from the Welsh Government is to undertake exercise from home only, and only with members of own household. Indoor climbing walls will be closed during this period.
- All clubs must suspend meets at indoor climbing walls in Wales between 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and the start of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November.
- The situation from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November is not yet known, and climbing walls do not know what local restrictions they may have from this date. Any meets planned to take place further into November will need to be flexible in case the updated regulations do not permit all climbing walls to re-open.

For the current position in Scotland please go to the [Mountaineering Scotland](#) website.

### **Useful links**

[BMC article about the Welsh “circuit break” lockdown](#)

[BMC article about the Tier system in England](#)

[Welsh Government article about the “circuit break” lockdown in Wales](#)

[Details about the covid19 alert levels in England](#)

**Quick reference guide of what clubs can and can't do,  
from 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

	<b>I reside in ...</b>			
	<b>Tier 1 area, England</b>	<b>Tier 2 area, England</b>	<b>Tier 3 area, England</b>	<b>Wales – whole of the country</b>
<b>Can I organise or attend an outdoor club meet?</b>	Yes, if following <a href="#">BMC guidelines</a> . Do not go to Tier 3 areas in England or to Wales.	Yes, if following <a href="#">BMC guidelines</a> . Do not go to Tier 3 areas in England or to Wales.	Only if staying within the Tier 3 area. Must still follow <a href="#">BMC guidelines</a> .	No
<b>Can I organise or attend an indoor climbing meet?</b>	Yes, but only with other people from Tier 1 areas. Rules at the climbing centre must be followed, including the “Rule of 6”.	No – households may not meet indoors	No – households may not meet indoors	No – climbing walls will be closed
<b>Can I travel to a club hut?</b>	Only if it is in England in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 area. Maximum of six people from two households (“Rule of 6”) maintaining social distance.	Only if it is in England in a Tier 1 or Tier 2 area. Maximum of one household.	No	No
<b>Can we have a club meet in a pub or café?</b>	Yes, if keeping to the “Rule of 6” and only with people from a Tier 1 area	No – households may not meet indoors	No – households may not meet indoors	No – pubs will be closed