



To: Assistant County/Area Commissioners (Activities)  
County/Area Air Activities Advisers  
Regional Activities Advisers (Scotland)

Copy: UK Technical Adviser (Flying)

Direct line: +44 (0)20 8433 7138  
Direct fax: +44 (0)20 8433 7114  
email: [jess.kelly@scout.org.uk](mailto:jess.kelly@scout.org.uk)

1 August 2008

Dear Colleague

**Re: Hovercrafting Activity Rule Changes**

We are writing to advise you of changes to the Rules within Policy Organisation and Rules relating to hovercrafting activities. A summary of these changes is provided below and the full details are on the following page of this letter.

Summary: Rule 9.7(a) has been changed and  
Rule 9.21 has been changed

These changes are the consequence of much consultation with the Hovercraft Club of Great Britain (HCGB) and with those Groups within the Movement who are currently actively taking part in hovercrafting. The consultation principally agreed that hovercrafting will now be incorporated within the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme.

It has been agreed that Rule 9.7(a) will be changed to include hovercrafting as part of the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme; and that Rule 9.21 be amended to define the operating rules for hovercrafting as a Scout activity.

In support of these changes the following documents will be available:

- FS120750 – Hovercrafting
- AC120903 – Assessment checklist for Hovercrafting (Land)
- AC120904 – Assessment checklist for Hovercrafting (Water)

A transition period has been agreed which will begin immediately, but must be concluded by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. This is principally to allow Assessors to be trained and appointed and also allow Members who currently operate hovercrafting activities to gain a Hovercrafting Permit.

We would be grateful if you would disseminate this information as widely as relevant, but particularly to Advisers involved with air activities.

Should you have questions relating to this, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details above.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Thelwell  
UK Adviser (Activities)

Jess Kelly  
Programme and Development Adviser

**The Scout Association**

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW

Tel +44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax +44 (0)20 8433 7103 email [scout.association@scout.org.uk](mailto:scout.association@scout.org.uk) [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

Patron HM The Queen President HRH The Duke of Kent Founder Robert Baden-Powell OM Chief Scout Peter Duncan

Incorporated by Royal Charter Charity No. 306101





Current Rule	New Rule
<p><b>Rule 9.7: Adventurous Activities Permit Scheme</b></p> <p>a. These rules apply to the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hill walking and off road cycling (in Terrain One and Two);</li> <li>• climbing and abseiling (except bouldering);</li> <li>• caving;</li> <li>• snowsports (in Terrain One and Two); (except artificial slopes and nursery slopes);</li> <li>• water activities (except swimming and those that take place on Class C Waters).</li> </ul> <p><b>Rule 9.21: Hovercrafting</b></p> <p>a. Members may undertake experience, instruction or solo hovercraft flights in accordance with factsheet <i>FS120708 Hovercrafting available from the Scout Information Centre.</i></p>	<p><b>Rule 9.7: Adventurous Activities Permit Scheme</b></p> <p>a. These rules apply to the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hill walking and off road cycling (in Terrain One and Two);</li> <li>• climbing and abseiling (except bouldering);</li> <li>• caving;</li> <li>• snowsports (in Terrain One and Two); (except artificial slopes and nursery slopes);</li> <li>• water activities (except swimming and those that take place on Class C Waters); and</li> <li>• <u>Hovercrafting.</u></li> </ul> <p><i>All Rules regarding Hovercrafting are for implementation by Counties between 1st September 2008 and 31st December 2009. During this time, where these Rules have not yet been implemented locally, reference should be made to the Hovercrafting Rules in October 2007 version of POR.</i></p> <p><b>Rule 9.21: Hovercrafting</b></p> <p>a. <u>Helmets must be worn by all those taking part in all organised Scout hovercrafting events, except in the case of 9.21b.</u></p> <p>b. <u>A Sikh wearing a Turban may choose not to wear a helmet. This does not apply to a Sikh wearing a Top Knot.</u></p> <p>c. <u>Buoyancy aids must be worn at all times when on board a hovercraft.</u></p> <p>d. <u>Remote cut offs must be fitted to all single seat craft being used for training.</u></p> <p>e. <u>Hovercrafting over water may only take place on Class C, B1 or B2 waters (as defined in Rule 9.44b).</u></p> <p><i>All Rules regarding Hovercrafting are for implementation by Counties between 1st September 2008 and 31st December 2009. During this time, where these Rules have not yet been implemented locally, reference should be made to the Hovercrafting Rules in October 2007 version of POR.</i></p>