

Pennine Fell Runners - Code of Conduct

Explanatory information sheet

Since Pennine was founded, over 40 years ago, it has always been a friendly and welcoming club. “Although competitive and successful, Pennine Fell Runners actively enjoy their sport and believe that the social aspect of fell running should never be under-estimated. Hut weekends, handicaps and other specialist races all help to form a supportive framework in Pennine's calendar of events.”

The code of conduct takes this one step further by introducing clear expectations of how we treat one another, ensuring respect and inclusivity are at the heart of everything we do. It is a collective agreement of the standards that we, collectively as Pennine members, expect Pennine members to uphold, both now and in the future.

Although you may feel everything in the code of conduct is self-evident, someone else may not. For the same reason, we have a lot of information about safety on our website, even though it might appear to just be common sense. Having a code of conduct helps create clarity about acceptable behaviours and responsibilities, avoiding potential conflicts and misunderstandings. It would be unfair to expect people to intuitively know and embody these standards without them being clearly defined and circulated.

As a club, we draw guidance from the Fell Runners Association (FRA) and affiliate to England Athletics for further advice to clubs, liability insurance cover and eligibility to take part in the British Relays competition. Without liability insurance we cannot really put on any Pennine training, events, activities etc. A requirement of affiliation is that all our members agree and sign our Code of Conduct. The Pennine Fell Runners committee endorsed that requirement on its members from March 2025.

The Pennine Code of Conduct is built on well-established codes from the Fell Runners Association (FRA) and a couple of other clubs with whom we are in close contact as well as the template wording from England Athletics; we have also taken feedback from our own members on board in the wording. Many of the points in our code of conduct also appear in the FRA “Requirements for Runners” that you sign up to – on a form or online - whenever you enter a race.

The Pennine code of conduct was drafted within the Club and agreed by the Committee in March 2025; it was well received by many members within its first weeks of circulation.

The Pennine Fell Runners code of conduct for all members to read and sign is included as part of the online membership form.

Pennine Fell Runners – Code of Conduct

As Pennine is an England Athletics affiliated club, agreeing to this Code of Conduct is a requirement of membership and the Committee have made the decision to stand by it. Please read the code of conduct set out below and tick the box at the bottom to confirm you agree to abide by this.

Fell runners should...

1. Treat all others with the same respect and fairness that you wish to receive
2. Thank those who help you to participate in fell running
3. Respect diversity amongst fell runners
4. Act with dignity always
5. Always act if someone's behaviour falls below the expected standards of welfare in fell running
6. Uphold the same values away from fell running as you do when engaged in fell running.
7. Promote safety by:
 - entering races only if you have the experience and skills (e.g. navigational) necessary for the race
 - obeying any Rules for Competition
 - complying with any race safety requirements, including specified clothing and equipment
 - being able to recognise the signs of hypothermia, hyperthermia and hypoglycaemia and looking out for any signs of ill health, generally, in yourself and others
 - if you see someone in trouble, helping them, including raising the alarm and summoning assistance when needed, even if it costs you a race
 - if you retire from a race, following the organiser's retirement procedure.

Drafted and agreed by Committee in March 2025