

BCA statement on Peer to Peer Training

February 2024

Throughout the long history of caving in the UK, there has always been a strong focus on peer-to-peer caving within a recreational environment. BCA are committed to this stance and encouraged clubs to offer training within their clubs and to others if suitable.

The HSE define competence as the combination of training, skills, experience and knowledge that a person has and their ability to apply them to perform a task safely. This deliberately does not mention qualifications and BCA agrees entirely.

Within recreational caving clubs have a responsibility to check that leaders of novices on their trips are suitably competent, as per the above definition. This not only will ensure that trips are safe but also enjoyable for group members to hopefully inspire them to a lifetime of caving.

For those in a recreational setting, including but not limited to those in university clubs, there are several avenues available to develop your skills.

- Club run training events - Clubs are encouraged to offer training for their members. This is a major benefit of club membership and clubs who offer training are often the most successful
- Regional training events - These are run regularly by most region with a huge range of topics
- Council of Higher Education Caving Clubs training events - University clubs are actively encouraged to utilise training on offer from CHECC, their representative body. CHECC are able to arrange additional bespoke training if required on a wide range of topics tailored to student caving

Signed Russell Myers (BCA Chair)

Steve Gray (BCA Training Officer)

Amelia Oliver (CHECC Training Officer)

Insurance statement

Often there are liability fears around those without qualifications leading trips and offering training. The BCA public liability insurance that is available as a benefit to members is valid in this instances. This includes cover for training and leading offered by clubs and bodies such as CHECC for up to £20 million (as of October 2023 - please check FAQs for latest limits of insurance). These bodies should ensure they've done reasonable due diligence so that any individual offering training on behalf of their organisation is suitable to run that training.

The insurance protects the insured (BCA members) from being sued by third parties (either members of the public or other BCA members - due to having members to member cover) for injury or damage to property caused by the insured's actions.

This policy is aimed at covering BCA members recreationally and not for commercial operations (I.e paid instructors, who should ensure they have their own arrangements in place).

For further information please check out the FAQs at <https://british-caving.org.uk/our-work/insurance/insurance-faqs/> or email the insurance manager at Insurance@British-Caving.org.uk.

Signed Josh White
Insurance Manager