



**Associated Clan MacLeod Societies
Dunvegan, Isle of Skye**

Chief Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod
Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye, Scotland

Torquil Donald Macleod
Chief of the Lewes

John Macleod
Chief of the Macleods of Raasay

Code of Conduct

Ratified by ACMS Council 28th February 2026

This Code of Conduct applies to everyone taking part in activities organised by the **Associated Clan MacLeod Societies** (ACMS) including volunteers, adult participants, and young people aged under 18. It forms part of, and should be read in conjunction with, the ACMS Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.

Our Code of Conduct reflects the principles of the **Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014**, including the promotion of children's wellbeing, commonly expressed through the GIRFEC¹ wellbeing indicators: *Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, and Included*.

In Scotland, anyone under the age of 18 is legally considered a child. When 16–17-year-olds are present in a group that is primarily young people over 18, additional care and safeguards are required. This Code helps ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities and helps create a safe, respectful environment for all.

1. Our shared values

We aim to create an environment where everyone feels:

- Safe
- Respected
- Included
- Supported

All participants and volunteers are expected to act responsibly and to look out for one another, particularly younger participants.

2. Respectful behaviour

All volunteers and participants must:

- Treat others with courtesy, respect, and fairness
- Respect personal space, privacy, and differences in background or culture
- Avoid behaviour that could make others feel uncomfortable, excluded, or unsafe
- Follow reasonable instructions given by organisers or activity leaders
- Act in a way that promotes the wellbeing and safety of children and young people at all times

3. Appropriate conduct around children and young people

When children and young people are present:

- Adults must maintain clear and appropriate boundaries at all times

¹ Getting it Right for Every Child

- One-to-one situations with a child should be avoided and must be open, observable, and justifiable
- Physical contact must be appropriate, proportionate, and consensual
- Communication (including digital communication) must be transparent, respectful, and related to the activity

4. Behaviour that is not acceptable

The following behaviour is not permitted:

- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation
- Discriminatory or abusive language
- Sexualised behaviour, comments, or jokes
- Favouritism or giving inappropriate attention to a child or young person
- Taking photographs or recordings of children without prior permission
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while responsible for children
- Any behaviour that puts someone's safety or wellbeing at risk

5. Looking after each other and raising concerns

If you are worried about:

- Someone's safety
- Someone's behaviour
- Your own or another person's wellbeing

You should speak to the identified Safeguarding Lead or an organiser as soon as possible.

Concerns will be taken seriously, handled discreetly, and dealt with in line with Scottish safeguarding requirements.

6. Compliance

Failure to follow this Code of Conduct may result in:

- Being asked to stop certain behaviour
- Removal from activities
- Review of volunteer roles
- Referral to appropriate authorities where required

7. Why this matters

Scottish law places a strong emphasis on **wellbeing, safety, and prevention of harm**, not just responding to problems after they occur. This Code reflects that approach and helps ensure that local and international participants understand what is expected while taking part in ACMS activities in Scotland.

8. Our commitment

All volunteers and participants share responsibility for creating a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment where everyone involved, and especially our younger participants, feel that their wellbeing is actively supported.

9. Acknowledgment

I confirm that:

- I have read and understood the Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct of the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies
- I understand that, in Scotland, anyone under the age of 18 is legally considered a child
- I agree to act in a way that supports a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants
- I understand my responsibility to maintain appropriate behaviour and boundaries, and to raise any concerns about safety or wellbeing with the organisers

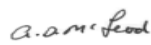
I agree to follow these requirements while taking part in activities organised by the **Associated Clan MacLeod Societies**

Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	

(For participants under 18)

Name of participant under 18	
Their signature:	
Parent/Guardian's name:	
Parent/Guardian's signature:	
Date:	

Code of Conduct ratified by: ACMS Council
Date: 28th February 2026
Safeguarding Lead: Kevin Tolmie, G&P Coordinator

Signed by: 
Name: Alasdair McLeod
President ACMS 2023-26

Next Review Date: February 2030 Council meeting or earlier if required

The ACMS Code of Conduct is set for review at the date specified above and once approved by Council should be signed and dated by the President of ACMS