

NEW SOUTH WALES CLIMBING CODE OF CONDUCT

The Australian Climbing Association of New South Wales Climbing Code of Conduct establishes the standards that all climbers are recommended to adopt in regard to their climbing activities. Climbing refers to all styles of outdoor climbing in NSW including, but not limited to, Traditional Climbing, Sport Climbing, and Bouldering.

1. Access

- 1.1. Climbers must inform themselves of the governing rules and laws that apply to each climbing site. Existing access restrictions and agreements are to be observed.
- 1.2. Climbers must act with courtesy, dignity and integrity in order to foster the trust of the general community.
- 1.3. Approval from owners or guardians of private property is to be obtained before entering or crossing over such property.
- 1.4. Sites of cultural, artistic, geological and historical significance are to be respected according to the applicable rules.
- 1.5. Climbers must carefully consider the consequences of their actions on the environment and the enjoyment of future visitors to the site.

2. Impact

- 2.1. Climbers must operate under a Leave No Trace (LNT) philosophy to minimise impact at climbing sites.
- 2.2. Climbers must not top rope through fixed equipment; top rope through your own gear to avoid excess wear on fixed gear.
- 2.3. Climbers must use existing access tracks and not leave way marks.
- 2.4. Climbers must help protect wildlife. Do not disturb nesting birds.
- 2.5. Climbers must not remove existing vegetation from a cliff or climbing site.
- 2.6. Climbers shall minimise use of Chalk. Climbers must minimise tick marks and brush chalk carefully before you leave the route in accordance with LNT principles.
- 2.7. Climbers must not climb on wet sedimentary rock as it weakens and is liable to break.

3. Traditions

- 3.1. Avoiding climber conflicts ensures better climbing. Respect established climbing traditions related to specific sites. Seek clarification on what is acceptable best practice at the site.
- 3.2. Climbers shall not modify existing climbs. This includes retro bolting, chipping holds and adding holds. Preserve climbs in the spirit of the first ascent. Do not modify a climb without the express permission of the first-ascent party, or failing that as an option, through community consensus.

4. Waste

- 4.1. Climbers must LNT. Pack out what you take in and if you see rubbish left by other users take it out too.
- 4.2. Climbers must use toilets where provided. In sensitive areas, carry out human waste. If these options are not available, bury human waste in accordance with regulations for the site.

5. Camping/Parking

- 5.1. Climbers must camp in designated areas only and keep campsite clean
- 5.2. Climbers must park in designated parking areas only.
- 5.3. Climbers shall only light fires in designated fireplaces in well-cleared areas. Observe all fire restrictions
- 5.4. It is illegal to collect firewood in the region's national parks, state conservation areas and nature reserves.

6. Safety

- 6.1. Climbers shall keep bystanders out of the potential fall zone.
- 6.2. Climbers shall keep noise levels to a minimum ensures that all climbers can communicate with each other.
- 6.3. Dogs are not permitted at many climbing sites in NSW. If dogs are permitted it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure they are kept leashed and quiet so they do not distract other climbers. Dog waste must be collected and disposed of appropriately.
- 6.4. Climbing is an inherently dangerous activity. The climber assumes total responsibility for their own safety and decision making. The land holder accepts no responsibility.
- 6.5. When climbing in remote areas complete route intentions and leave with a responsible individual.