



Challenge 26 – Alcohol, Drugs and Smoking Policy

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Applies to: all young people, adult volunteers, staff, contractors, visitors and participants attending Challenge 26 (Central Yorkshire Scouts).

Purpose: to safeguard young people, protect everyone's health and safety, and ensure the event remains compliant with Scouts POR and UK law.

This policy is informed by the Scouts' published guidance on *Alcohol, drugs and smoking* and related safety/safeguarding materials from www.scouts.org.uk

1) Event stance (summary)

1. **Alcohol-free event:** No alcohol is to be brought to, sold at, or consumed at Challenge 26 by any person (adults or young people), at any time, on any event venue or campsite area under event control. The event takes place in a relatively small area where it is not possible to consume alcohol in a place where the effects are not visible to young people.
2. **Drug-free event:** Illegal drugs are prohibited. Possession, use, production, or supply of illegal drugs will result in removal from site and reporting to the police; alongside a Scouts safeguarding referral. So-called legal highs are also prohibited.
3. **Smoking & vaping:** Smoking and vaping are **not permitted except in designated smoking and vaping areas**. Discreet smoking and vaping areas are provided across the site. Smoking and vaping **must only** take place in these spaces and is not permitted anywhere else on site. Disposal facilities provided in smoking areas must be used. Under-18s must **not** smoke or vape as per [Scouts guidance](#). Smoking/vaping remains banned inside enclosed structures (including marquees/tents), and vehicles.



2) Alcohol

- **Challenge 26 is a 'dry' camp:** Alcohol is not to be consumed by anyone while on site or at any off-site activity under the control of the event.
- **Fitness for duty:** Adults must remain physically and mentally fit for their responsibilities (including next-day duties); alcohol consumption would undermine this and is therefore not permitted.

3) Drugs (including medicines)

- **Illegal drugs:** Anyone suspected of possessing or using illegal drugs will be removed from the site and the police will be contacted; UK HQ Safeguarding will be informed.
- **So-called "legal highs" and misuse of medicines:** These can be harmful and are not acceptable at the event. Concerns about misuse are safeguarding matters and must be reported following the Yellow Card.
- **Prescription/over-the-counter medicines:** These must be used only as directed. Leaders should continue to follow their Group's normal procedures for the safe storage/administration of medicines and medical consent. Scouts guidance on management of personal medications can be found [here](#).

4) Smoking and vaping

- **General rule:** Smoking/vaping is only permitted in designated smoking and vaping areas across the site.
- **Under-18s:** Young people must **not** smoke or vape as per [Scouts guidance](#). Any instance is a safeguarding concern and must be reported following the Yellow Card.
- **Locations where smoking/vaping is banned:** all enclosed or substantially enclosed spaces including **buildings, marquees/tents, and vehicles**, as per law and Scouts guidance. All other areas of the site except for designated smoking/vaping areas as per event policy.
- **Designated area:** Clearly signed smoking/vaping areas will be provided across the site, out of sight/smell of programme areas and camping areas. Anyone smoking or vaping **must only** smoke or vape in only these designated areas.
- **Waste:** Smoking waste must be disposed of using the facilities provided in each smoking area. Vaping waste must be taken home for safe disposal by the user.

5) Responding to concerns

- **Immediate safety first:** If someone appears under the influence or a situation poses risk, first remove the person(s) from proximity to young people. You must then report the incident in line with the relevant safe scouting card and inform the nearest member of the event management team or the event Admin point.
- **Illegal drugs:** Report to the event management team or the event Admin point. The event management team will support in making an immediate police report and safeguarding referral alongside dispatching ScoutMed to support the immediate welfare needs of the user.
- **Safeguarding:** Any concern about a young person or adult's substance use or welfare must be reported following the Yellow Card procedures.
- **Event sanctions:** Breaches of this policy may result in removal from site, role reviews or required renewal of training (for adult volunteers) at the discretion of the volunteer's District Lead Volunteer or the County Lead Volunteer. Where actions of adults clearly breach Scouts rules around safeguarding or use of alcohol, this could result in suspension of roles. For under 18's parents/carers will be informed and a safeguarding referral will be made.
- **Recording & reporting:** Incidents will be recorded and reported in line with Scouts' safety/incident reporting guidance.

Appendix A: Revision Log

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