

## MCI Training Policy

The Mountaineering Council of Ireland's strategic goal for mountain training, as set out in our 2005-2008 Development Plan, is:

**“To co-ordinate the development, promotion and delivery of hillwalking and climbing training.”**

Training within mountaineering in Ireland embraces six basic strands. All come within the remit of the MCI, though MCI's role will vary from one strand to another:

1. Leader/instructor qualifications training and assessment;
2. Formal personal skills training (e.g. Mountain Skills);
3. Informal personal skills training (e.g. winter & Alpine mountaineering)
4. Non-qualification “tailor-made” training particularly for clubs;
5. Support for interested and talented young participants to progress within the sport;
6. Coaching for competitive climbing/bouldering.

While the MCI is a 32-county body, mountain training qualifications are administered by two training boards – Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe (BOS) in the Republic of Ireland and Mountain Leader Training NI (MLTNI) in Northern Ireland. BOS is a sub-committee of the MCI and MLTNI is part of the Sport Northern Ireland. Discussions have taken place recently between BOS and MLTNI about the possible formation of a single mountain training board for the island of Ireland. BOS has a wider remit than MLTNI as it administers a personal skills course for hillwalkers as well as leadership training. BOS is also engaged in the promotion of non-accredited training, skills development and safe practice within the sport of mountaineering.

*\* **MCG** Mountaineering Co-ordination Group (Mountaineering Council of Ireland, British Mountaineering Council, Mountaineering Council of Scotland & Mountain Leader Training UK). **ISC** Irish Sports Council **SNI** Sport Northern Ireland, **Coaching Ireland** Formerly National Coaching & Training Centre*

**The following points outline the MCI's policy towards delivering our strategic goal for mountain training:**

1. The MCI devises policy, establishes award structures, designs syllabi and sets standards for the accreditation of providers of mountain training in the Republic of Ireland, through its mountain training board, BOS;
2. The MCI will, through representation on MLTNI, input to the development of mountaineering leadership training and assessment schemes in Northern Ireland;
3. MCI's main function is not to deliver training, but to provide the structure and support to ensure that people in all parts of Ireland have easy access to quality-assured mountain training to meet their needs;
4. The MCI will employ a suitably qualified and properly resourced Training Officer to underpin delivery of our strategic goal for training;
5. MCI will encourage hillwalkers and climbers to take personal responsibility and adopt safe practices in keeping with the adventurous ethos of our sport;

6. MCI will promote a culture of skills development, self-reliance and continuous improvement amongst participants in climbing and hillwalking.
7. Hillwalking and climbing are activities suited to lifelong participation. MCI encourages responsible participation by people of all ages and all levels of ability;
8. As an all-island NGB, MCI favours a uniformity of training policy, structures and qualifications across the island. The MCI will work towards the achievement of such uniformity;
9. The MCI aspires towards the development of regional centres of excellence for mountain training throughout the island of Ireland;
10. The MCI through its mountain training board, BOS, will recognise appropriately qualified individuals to deliver its suite of training schemes;
11. The MCI will establish and support a network of voluntary training officers within member clubs;
12. The MCI will work with these accredited providers and clubs in order to ensure regular availability and good geographic distribution of training;
13. Under the guidance of MCI, BOS will develop a quality assurance and moderation system for our award schemes.
14. The MCI is committed to incorporating the principles and practices of sports coaching within mountain training in partnership with other bodies (such as Coaching Ireland, ISC, SCNI and MCG\*).
15. The MCI has a role in the design and delivery of innovative training for emerging aspects of our sport in partnership with international governing bodies for mountaineering.
16. Responsible use of the environment is central to all MCI mountain training activities.
17. The MCI will only become directly involved in the delivery of mountain training when adequate provision is not in place or where a new scheme or initiative is in development.
18. The MCI will provide a regular discussion forum at MCI gatherings to embrace the views of hillwalkers and climbers on mountain training.
19. MCI will engage in ongoing research on participation in BOS schemes in order to assure continued relevance to present and future needs of the broader mountaineering community.
20. The MCI will review and assess its management of mountain training on an ongoing basis.