

MKHD u3a Position Statement

Sharing Group activities with 3rd party organisations

Issue

On occasion our interest group members need to belong to third party organisations to carry on their activity. This position statement seeks to clarify how these arrangements work in practice.

Background

This issue arose from a query raised by our Rowing Interest Group. This Interest Group rows at Birmingham Rowing Club (BRC) facility. In doing so they have to be members of BRC. By being members of BRC our members must adhere to their rules – including their risk assessments. The Group Leader questioned whether there was any point in there being a Rowing Group, as it was in essence controlled by BRC.

Our Position

MKHD u3a is committed to helping its members to develop. As such, it, in principle, supports the use of shared activities/Groups with 3rd parties to advance the education and personal development of its members.

However, the first question to consider is whether the “shared” activity is really a u3a activity. Where the activity is fully controlled by the 3rd party organisation then it cannot really be considered a u3a activity and, as such, is not a shared activity.

On the other extreme, where the activity is fully controlled by the Group Leader and the Group is merely using the facilities of the 3rd Party then it is clearly a u3a activity. Indeed, in situations where the Group members must be members of the 3rd party organisation and abide by their rules it can still be considered a u3a activity. In these situations, the activities can be shared activities.

The question of whether it is a u3a activity comes down to the level of control the Group Leader has over the activity. If they have a high level of control, then it can be considered a u3a activity: conversely a low level of control would suggest that it is not a u3a activity. Additionally, it is clearly a u3a activity if it is just restricted to u3a members (with members just using shared facilities).

Where it is a truly shared group, members could be covered by both insurances and the circumstances of any claim would determine which insurance was appropriate.

In light of this, and based upon the principles above, the MKHD u3a Executive Committee will decide on a case-by-case basis whether a particular shared activity is a u3a activity. Accordingly, it will examine and decide upon the insurance position on a case-by-case basis.

Operation of Shared Groups

When participating in a shared group the group leader should:

- consider if the 3rd Party's activities are consistent with the principles of the u3a movement (for example, any organisation that excluded membership on religious grounds would not be consistent with u3a principles and therefore could not constitute a u3a activity).
- operate as if it were a normal u3a Group, by preparing and adhering to our own Risk Assessments – these should complement rather than contradict the 3rd Party's rules/risk assessments.

Dated 22/11/2021

SignedRay Tier....Chair