

ABMG
ASSOCIATION of BRITISH
MOUNTAINBIKE GUIDES



HANDBOOK

First Edition September 2017

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Acknowledgements

The ABMG Handbook has been written to bring together the wide range of information that has been created in running the scheme for the benefit of Trainee Guides, Trainer/Assessors and ABMG Administration. Acknowledgement is given to the many unnamed persons who have contributed to this handbook.

Can any noticeable errors or omissions in this first handbook please be directed to the ABMG Administrator. Appropriate amendments will then be made prior to a 2nd edition being published.

ABMG Administrator

Sept 2017

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the ABMG Association

ABMG is an Executive Member of, EO-MTBing the European Organisation of MountainBike Instructor-Guides (www.a-bmg.co.uk), which is the body that coordinates the standard qualification level of ten national mountainbike guide associations.

The Association of British Mountainbike Guides ABMG is the UK's National Association and is responsible for:

- Bringing together, in partnership, the UK's leading mountain bike Governing and Awarding Bodies to oversee and deliver the National and internationally recognised ABMG Guides Award.
- Forming the ABMG Executive Panel from representatives of the Member Organisation's, who oversee the management and running of the Association; Who come under the jurisdiction of the Constitution and Articles of the ABMG.
- Training and assessing mountain bike guides in all aspects of leading, guiding, instructing and coaching mountain bike activities.
- Partnership and regular meetings with EO-MTBing eo-mtbing.eu (the European Organisation of Mountain Bike Instructor-Guides), ABMG offers professional standards for services offered by their members.
- Promoting safety, enjoyment, and current best practice in mountain bike activities worldwide.

This handbook consists of a syllabus and a supplementary set of notes for Candidates, Trainer-Assessors and Administration. It is supported by the ABMG Policy Document, which details the Association's operating procedures. Along with the ABMG Course Training Plans, which support the effective delivery of the scheme.

Membership

ABMG members represent an association of Mountain Bike Guides who work nationally and internationally. A British Mountain Bike Guide is also an EO-MTBing Guide. This ensures all ABMG members hold parity across the world for mountain biking activities.

The ABMG has three categories of membership:

Cat 1. Organisation Member. An Organisational Member ascribes to the aims and objectives of the ABMG and is accepted as contributing to those aims.

Cat 2. Trainee Guide Member. A Trainee Guide Member is an individual who is training towards the full ABMG qualification and the EO-MTBing carnet. Category 2 Membership requires a minimum of Level 2 mountain bike Leader award plus overseas module, or higher.

Cat 3. ABMG Guide Member. An ABMG Guide Member is a fully qualified ABMG Guide with the EO-MTBing carnet.

The ABMG and its members are 'non-political' and committed to working in the interests of Mountain Biking and Mountain Bikers at home and abroad.

Scope of the scheme

The scheme comprises of three main stages focused on developing individuals towards the ABMG Guide qualification which holds equivalency with the EO-MTBing Award. The scheme is trained and assessed through a core syllabus and accredited internationally by EO-MTBing through their scheme.

- ABMG Trainee Guide Status.
- ABMG Guide Training Course.
- ABMG Guide Assessment Course & EO-MTBing Examination

The ABMG Trainer Assessor award is an appointment that requires a further period of training and assessment and is for more experienced Guides who have already completed the scheme.

Outcomes and criteria

Qualification outcomes depend on the following criteria:

- A candidate's logged experience in cycling.
- A candidate's practical riding skills and supporting theoretical knowledge.
- A candidate's demonstrated guiding and leadership skills.

Limitations and liabilities of all courses are described in the 'Course Descriptions' section of each relevant ABMG CTP.

Application Process for Trainee Guides

Qualifying as an ABMG Guide begins with candidates applying for Trainee Guides status using the application form on the www.a-bmg.co.uk website.

Potential candidates are expected to already be highly experienced mountain bikers with additional overseas experience, plus at the least a recognised Level 2 Leader-Coach qualification (plus Overseas and Expedition Module). Accreditation can be given for previous experience and qualifications gained through other recognised National Awarding Bodies. An applicant must be able to show a diverse and high technical standard with a variety of mountain bike terrains, some of which may be classed as remote. Wider experience and competence in hillwalking and mountain environments, typical of the localities that many of the trail Centre's are located is essential.

Applications are vetted by the ABMG Panel for trainee status. Once accepted on the scheme, an ABMG Trainee Guide is invited to join the ABMG as a Trainee Guide and is then mentored throughout the process by one of the highly qualified ABMG Trainers from a background of world class riders, ABMG Tutors, and high-performance coaches.

Training

Training courses are an integral part of the ABMG scheme. They can be taken as stand-alone courses or integrated into the Trainee Guides training in modular delivery. Training courses give candidates a clear idea of standards required for the assessment. All candidates must attend the two-day Guides Training Course.

Exemption from Training

Experienced Candidates who already have exceptional previous experience may seek exemption from attendance on an ABMG training course. An application for exemption from any aspect of training within the scheme must formally write to the ABMG Administrator for approval. However, it must be stressed that before an individual applies for exemption, they should consider that the benefits that the training course provides in introducing candidates to the requirements necessary for ABMG holders. It will include material that might be unfamiliar even to experienced candidates.

Assessment

The trainee guide can apply for assessment once they have completed all relevant training and development identified by their Trainer Assessor Mentor. To avoid assessment familiarity, candidates cannot be assessed by their own ABMG Mentor.

Currency of the Awards

All awards are only valid whilst the award holder maintains an up to date log book and is working within the limitations of the award, plus their own skills and experience. In addition, all activities are expected to be appropriately risk managed, with all risk areas identified. Insurance and First Aid is the responsibility of the award holder and must remain current. Further advice on all aspects of awards, risk management and the maintenance of training currency is available on the ABMG website.

Revalidation

The ABMG Guide Award is only valid for three years. Award holders that hold awards coming up to the three-year point must apply for a Revalidation Report by forwarding their current logbook and qualifications to the ABMG Administrator.

Anomalies

Any anomalies with either the ABMG core documentation or any mountain biking activities supported by its delivery scheme should be directed as soon as possible to the ABMG Administrator.

Appeals

All ABMG members and candidates have the right to appeal, (see ABMG Policy Document). If there are any discrepancies with any aspect of training or assessment, the ABMG Administrator should be written to direct. If the appeal is directly related to the ABMG Administrator, an alternative member of the Executive of the ABMG must be written to.

Supporting Documents

This handbook is supported by the ABMG Policy Document which details the Association's Operating Procedures, along with the ABMG Course Training Plans, which support the effective delivery of the scheme.

ABMG website and log

The ABMG website, Handbook and logo are copyright. Current ABMG members (Organisations and qualified Guides) may use the ABMG logo and carnet (as issued) on their own websites and appropriate displays but must not sublet to any other individuals or organisations.

Handbook (further information)

This handbook offers further information and references for candidates in the following sections of this document. Further supporting information can be found on the Information Page of the ABMG Website (www.a-bmg.co.uk). The sections related directly to Trainers and Assessors are provided in a separate annex and are only available to Trainer/Assessors. For any further information, please contact the ABMG Administrator using the following contact details:

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