

# WRITTEN SAFETY RULES AND ADVICE

YOU MUST READ THESE WRITTEN SAFETY RULES AND ADVICE BEFORE YOU TAKE PART IN THE SOCIETY'S BONFIRE NIGHT CELEBRATIONS OR JOIN THE SOCIETY AT ANY OUTMEETING. READING AND COMPLYING WITH THESE RULES MAY REDUCE (BUT NOT ELIMINATE) THE RISK THAT YOU WILL HAVE A SERIOUS ACCIDENT.

Participants must be Members of the Southover Bonfire Society Ltd ("the Society"). Members may join the Society's Processions and enter the Members area at the Society's Fire Site, and attend outmeetings as part of the Society's invited contingent. You are responsible for your own safety and the safety of your possessions, and the safety of others, including children under your supervision. You must follow these Written Safety Rules and Advice.

## **CONTRAVENTION OF THESE RULES MAY LEAD TO IMMEDIATE EXCLUSION FROM ANY PROCESSION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIETY'S DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

### PROCESSION:

- Dress in sensible shoes – no trainers. Costumes should be fire-proofed, either with a proprietary product or borax mixture.
- The Society marches in ranks of three, with a gap of one metre between ranks – the Marshals will assist you in forming ranks.
- You must obey the direction of Marshals who can be identified by either a red or blank sash.
- All children under the age of sixteen must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. If you have more than one child with you put them in the rank in front of yourself where you can see them at all times or put them in the centre with parents either side of them.
- Children in prams or push chairs are not permitted within the Procession.
- Torches must only be lit when directed by Marshals.
- The outer ranks should hold torches in their pavement hand. The centre rank should hold their torch straight up rather than to the side.
- Spent torches are dropped, by outer ranks in the gutter, by the centre rank in the gap between the centre and outside ranks. Torches are then picked up by nominated members and disposed of in our barrels which are normally located at the rear and following the processions.

### FIREWORKS:

- The throwing of any type of firework or use of marine flares both within the Procession and into the crowds or otherwise acting in a way which may cause physical harm to others will result in immediate expulsion from the Procession and disciplinary action by the Society.
- The use of Chinese fire crackers is restricted to suitably experienced and qualified adult members;
- The society accepts no responsibility for injuries or damage caused by the following: Torches / illuminated pieces / fiery pieces / street effigies / fireworks / flares / crackers.

### GENERAL:

We expect Members to be tolerant of and respectful to all fellow Members regardless of colour / creed / religious ideals / or lifestyles.

Any Member considered being under the undue influence of alcohol and or drugs may be refused further participation.

Any Member displaying threatening verbal, physical or other anti-social behaviour may be refused further participation.

It is the responsibility of all Members to wear the current Membership Badge and to have their Membership card when marching with the Society and attending the Members area at the firesite. (Please avoid being asked to leave on account of a lapsed memory.)

If you agreed to supervise a Junior Member, both you and they are responsible for ensuring that they follow these Written Safety Rules and Advice. You must be in the vicinity of the Junior Members you agreed to supervise at all times and you must be able to see them at all times. If you agreed to supervise one or more Children, both you and they are responsible for ensuring that they follow these Written Safety Rules and Advice and they must be under your direct supervision at all times. If you are seen not following these Written Safety Rules and Advice, you will be either given a warning or asked to leave the Procession or Fire Site immediately with your Membership badge and card forfeit, in which case you will not receive any refund.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
RISK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & DISCLAIMER**

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT: TO BE READ & SIGNED BY ALL ADULT AND SENIOR MEMBERS

1. I, hereby apply to become a Member of Southover Bonfire Society Ltd (“the Society”) and wish to participate in the Society’s Processions and enter the Members’ area at the Society’s Fire Site (“the Activities”) on the Bonfire Night and attend outmeetings, and other Society events.
2. I am at least eighteen years old.
3. I agree to undertake the Activities in accordance with the Written Safety Rules and Advice that I have received with this document and the oral instructions given to me before undertaking the Activities. I agree to follow the instructions of the Society Marshals.
4. I understand that the Activities consist of taking part in a flaming torch lit procession during which fireworks may be let off and attending the Members’ area for a Bonfire and Firework Display. I understand that there is a risk of injury when undertaking such activities.
5. I acknowledge and agree that I am responsible for my own safety and the safety of my possessions while undertaking the Activities and acknowledge that I will not be supervised by any Society personnel.
6. In the unlikely event of an accident or loss or damage to my personal effects; I acknowledge that the Society will not be liable for any direct or indirect loss, damage or injury arising from or in connection with the Activities (except for death or personal injury caused by the Society’s negligence) and I waive all and any claims against the Society in this respect.
7. I certify that to the best of my knowledge I do not have a medical condition which might have the effect of making it more likely that I will be involved in an incident which could result in injury to myself or others.

TO BE COMPLETED IF YOU HAVE UNDER EIGHTEEN YEAR OLDS ACCOMPANYING YOU

8. I, parent or guardian of the Child(ren) listed below wish that /those Child(ren) to become Member(s) of the Society and to participate in the Society’s Processions and enter the Members’ area at the Society’s Fire Site (“the Activities”) on the Bonfire Night and attend outmeetings, and other Society events.
9. I agree that I am responsible for the children in my care and undertake to ensure that he/she/they undertake the Activities in accordance with the Written Safety Rules and Advice that I have received with this document and the oral instructions given to me before undertaking the Activities. I agree to follow the instructions of the Society Marshals.
10. I understand that the Activities consist of taking part in a flaming torch lit procession during which fireworks may be let off and attending the Members area for a bonfire and firework display. I understand that there is a risk of injury when undertaking such activities.
11. I acknowledge and agree that I am responsible for the safety supervision of the Child(ren) named below and the safety of our possessions while undertaking the Activities and acknowledge that we will not be supervised by any Society personnel. I will ensure that all the under sixteen year olds will remain in the same section of the Procession as I am in so that I can supervise their behaviour.
12. In the unlikely event of an accident involving the Child(ren) listed below, or loss or damage to his/her/their personal effects. I acknowledge that the Society will not be liable for any direct or indirect loss, damage or injury arising from or in connection with the Activities (except for death or personal injury caused by the Society’s negligence) and I waive all and any claims against the Society in this respect in respect of the Children in my care.
13. I certify that the Child(ren) do not have a medical condition which might have the effect of making it more likely that he/she/they may be involved in an incident which could result in injury to him/her/themselves or others.