The Bushcraft Club - Tool Work Policy

This policy is aimed at laying out best practices for members when using sharp or potentially harmful implements when engaged in bushcraft activities. If you are seen to be using a tool which may be harmful to yourself, someone may point this out . Please don't get offended by their concern. If you are doing something which could be deemed dangerous to others, someone *will* point this out to you. If you are repeatedly seen to be doing things which are dangerous, it may jeopardise your involvement in future events.

Here are the general guidelines for cutting tools:

- After using a tool, please replace the sheath or cover over it and put it in a position people will not trip over it
- Avoid cutting towards yourself with a tool. However, there are methods which involve doing so, please be careful when using them.
- Avoid placing tools into the ground or into wood where they are a hazard
- Never throw a tool at anything or to someone
- When light is failing, avoid using a cutting tool. This includes by the fire or under torch light.
- Avoid moving around with a sharp tool exposed.
- Carry your own personal first aid kit for possible cuts and minor injuries.
- Avoid lending a tool to someone else. If you do, demonstrate to them how to use it or explain any obvious hazards a different tool model might have.
- A sharp undamaged tool is safer than a blunt one. Keep your knife in good order to avoid injuries.
- Try to ensure you are using the right tool for the job. If unsure, ask someone.
- If there are children or non-members around, do not leave tools around where they can be picked up
- Ensure when passing a blade that both you and the person you are handing it to are at minimum risk of being harmed by the blade. There are several techniques for this.
- Wear suitable clothing when using tools. e.g. jeans and runners may not allow you the best freedom of movement
- Do not use a badly damaged tool which may cause injury e.g. an axe with a loose head

This policy is a general guideline. Please ensure that as a member you are familiar with it and implement it as best you can.