

PRESS STATEMENT SENT ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTTISH SPORTS ASSOCIATION

For immediate use, 26th January 2016

Press statement from the Scottish Sports Association on the approval of Loch Lomond byelaws

Kim Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer of the Scottish Sports Association said:

“On behalf of our Outdoor Pursuits Group (OPG) members, we are very disappointed that the Scottish Government has decided to approve camping byelaws over large areas of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

“Our OPG members have always acknowledged that there are significant problems arising from certain roadside camping activities which take place along loch shores within the National Park. However, our OPG remains unconvinced that byelaws are the solution, and believe they will undermine Scotland’s much-prized access legislation. It is our OPGs’ belief that the major cause of these problems is the lack of sufficient camping provision and other measures to manage visitor pressure. Our Outdoor Pursuits Group, which represents Scottish Governing Bodies of sport involved in outdoor/adventurous activities, has called for investment in campsites, toilet facilities, litter collection, education programmes and traffic management. Our OPG has always felt that most visitors would be receptive to positive solutions-focussed management, and it is a great pity that the Park authority has instead gone down the road of heavy-handed enforcement.

“Our OPG will, however, continue to work with the Park authority, government, landowners, police and other recreation bodies to ensure that new camping provision is established and other measures are effectively implemented as soon as possible, so that the likelihood of the byelaws being used is minimised. Our OPG remains passionate about Scotland’s world-leading access legislation and will continue to work to provide opportunities for everyone to realise and benefit from the opportunities this legislation presents.”

Representatives of the SSA’s Outdoor Pursuits Group’s (OPG) member organisations commented on the proposals as follows:

Notes to editors

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/National-Park-byelaws-21ce.aspx>

The Scottish Sports Association is the independent and collective voice for Scottish Governing Bodies of sport. It represents members’ interests and currently has 52 full members and 21 associate members. The governing bodies of sport are responsible for the governance, development and delivery of their individual sports and provide a formal structure for the over 900,000 individuals in Scotland who are members of one of Scotland’s 13,000 sports clubs.

The Outdoor Pursuits Group consists of representatives from 20 of the SSA’s member Scottish Governing Bodies (SGBs) involved in outdoor and adventurous activities.

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