

# Naturist Beach Code

## A British Naturism Briefing Paper - Malcolm Boura - May 2007

This beach code is intended to give some simple common sense guidance as to behaviour. Fundamentally the standard expected is the same as for anywhere else but with a more sensible dress code. However we do have to be aware that nudity does, for many people, make the effect of inconsiderate behaviour much worse.

The text of the code has to be reasonably brief so we give both clarification and explanation in this briefing note.

## Naturist Beach Code

### (Place Name Edition)

Naturists don't need this code but not everyone knows how to be a naturist.

Please:

- Only the dress code is different
- Avoid being a nuisance
- Respect people's space
- Do not be an exhibitionist
- Avoid confronting or approaching textiles
- Any sexual activity is just as unwelcome and just as criminal as in any other public place
- Naturists are a trusting and trustworthy bunch but the criminals know that, so safeguard your valuables
- Always report crime whether as witness or victim

*In England and Wales, naturism in appropriate places is legal but breaches of the code can be offences and penalties in recent years have included fines, ASBOs, imprisonment and lifetime bans from all naturist beaches. Naturist use of the beach will also be put at risk.*

Who to phone:

**999** - Crime in progress or person in danger

**nnnn nnnnnn** - Non-urgent calls to the police

**nnnn nnnnnn** - Other local contact. e.g. lifeguard (and availability)

Any problems? Please tell us! If we don't know about it then we can't do anything about it.

Thank you.

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The ambiguity in the title is deliberate. It is both a beach code for naturists and a code for naturist beaches.

The place name should be included if the code is customised in some way, for example with local telephone numbers, hazards or other information.

Respecting peoples space is an important concept. On a crowded tube train the minimum acceptable space is tiny. On an uncrowded beach it is many tens of metres. If somebody gets too close to somebody else then it will make them feel uncomfortable and it can be an offence.

Exhibitionism is a word that means many things to many people. In some societies a woman with hair showing is an exhibitionist whilst in others it is a nude woman who puts on a mini skirt. We define it as behaviour which is intended to attract attention. Walking down the beach to go for a swim or playing cricket is not exhibitionism but waiting until a textile is passing is. Strategic choice of sunbathing spot could also be exhibitionism.

Most textiles are at least tolerant of naturism and naturists but a few are nervous of nudity. Confronting them is inconsiderate and will probably make them even more nervous, or worse. If they want to chat then they will approach you. Otherwise just let them come to terms with nudity in their own time. If textiles sit down in an area which is obviously well used by naturists then there is no need to hide from them but don't impose your nudity on them.

Public place sexual activity is both very offensive to most people and a serious criminal offence. It takes place at most reasonably remote locations, especially dunes, and at some less remote places. When it occurs near a naturist beach it provides an excuse to try and ban naturism.

When a social group feels unable to report crime then crime flourishes. Naturists have been pushed into that position in some areas but we must fight back. Criminal activity should always be reported to the police.

We are just as entitled to protection against criminal acts as any one else. It is rare that naturists are the victims of hate crime but if it happens then it must be reported.

If you report an offence, there is a problem at a beach or you think that a problem may be developing then please let us know. The sooner we know about it the easier it will be to do something about it.

If a localised version of the code is required then please get in touch with us, either by post or email to [rlo@british-naturism.org.uk](mailto:rlo@british-naturism.org.uk)