

Activity Risk Assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	High Ropes Inc. all elements Hertfordshire Scout Activity Centres- Phasels Wood Activity Centre	Date of risk assessment	October 2024	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Katy Pearce EM HCSC Reviewed by: Doug Stack ACM HCSC
		Date of next review	October 2025		

Hazard- what could go wrong?	Who is at risk?	Assessment of risk	Control measures in place	Remaining risk using control measures
Injury caused by falling from height	Participants, instructors	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe systems and procedures are in place, approved by independent technical advisor. Climbers are always roped on whilst on the activity. All PPE correctly fitted at start of session and 'Good to go checks' are carried out before climbing. Anyone standing/waking forward of the belay wire, must be wearing a correctly fitted helmet at all times. All instructors are trained, and their competence is assessed in line with our Standard Operating Procedure. 	Low
Participants becoming stuck	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors are trained in how to rescue participants. Instructors run their sessions, utilising 'challenge by choice' and 'comfort zone' offering options for participants to set their own level of challenge. 	Low
Unsupervised use of equipment	Participants, Leaders	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The high ropes compound is locked whenever the area is unsupervised. 	Low
Failure due to weight	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should an instructor have a concern of a participant's weight they shall ask them directly. Questioning will be done privately away from earshot of the group. If harnesses cannot fit participants correctly they cannot participate in the activity. 	Low
Injury caused by entrapment i.e. hair	Participants, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors are positioned in direct supervision. 'Good to go checks' are carried out by instructors prior to leaving the ground which include making sure all hair is tied back and loose clothing tucked in. When descending participants are instructed to use their feet and hands to fend off from the elements minimising the chance of getting their harness/helmet caught. 	Low

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All descents must be controlled. 	
Injury caused by collision with elements	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are instructed to sit back in their harnesses and hold onto their rope. Instructors should wait until participants are stable before lowering. Participants should be encouraged to use their hands and feet to protect themselves from collision with elements. 	Low
Injury from Metal Splinters	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are instructed to not touch any metal wires with their hands while on the course. 	Low
Entanglement with element	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are instructed to stay on the outside of elements and not climb through or around elements. 	Low
Injury from crates (crate stacking element)	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the base for crate stacking, have sufficient separation from belayers. Limit stacking to 15 crates high. If limit is reached, participants are encouraged to push the tower over, in a controlled manner, away from themselves and other participants. Participants can only pass crates to others by physically handing them or using the poles provided. Crates are not allowed to be thrown. Only one crate can be passed at a time with only one other participant present in the fall area. Participants are told to remain vigilant and must always face the stack. 	Low
Injury from broken and cracked crates (crate stacking element)	Participants, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly equipment checks are carried out. Routine visual inspections are completed and signed for at the start of the day and before each session. 	Low
Weather	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre Management Team/Lead Instructors must check weather at start of day and monitor throughout. Sessions must be stopped if wind speeds exceed 24mph, dependant on location. If crates become too slippery, session must be stopped immediately. Sessions must be stopped immediately in thunder and lightning, and wait for 30 minutes after end of storm, before re commencing. 	Low

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions to be cancelled in extreme hot or cold temperatures. 	
Uncontrolled groups of young people	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Group leader is responsible for managing the groups behaviour as stated in the booking terms and conditions. 	Low
Self-led sessions/ equipment	Participants, Leaders	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leader is responsible to ensure that those with own permits/qualifications must have completed and signed a Self-Led Activity Registration Form for the activity. Up-to-date permits/qualifications must be uploaded. Supervising adult must be shown the activity area/activity equipment by centre staff before commencing the activity or been provided an alternative method. An additional competent adult should be present supervising individuals that are not engaged on the activity. Those with own permits/qualifications are responsible for their own risk assessment in addition to this risk assessment. When using own equipment individuals are responsible for their own risk assessment. In addition individuals must provide evidence of appropriate equipment records and must be set-up and run to HCSC standard operating procedures. 	Low
Clients with additional abilities/pre-existing health issues	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leader must provide information about significant medical requirements and additional needs during the booking process. Instructors should discuss any needs with group leaders before the session is started. Lead instructors/management should review information and make any specific adaptations, determined with an individual risk assessment. Group leader is responsible for having access to essential medication i.e. inhalers. Participants with a history of injuries should be warned about the physical nature of taking part in this activity and have read the activity information before starting. 	Low
Novice participants	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratio of 2 instructors and at least one competent adult per 15 participants. Safety briefing given at the start of the session to identify the specific hazards and safety rules to follow and reinforced throughout. 	Low
Failure of equipment	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly equipment checks are carried out. Routine visual inspections completed and signed for at the start of the day and before each session by the activities team. 	Low

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the activity equipment has a defect during use, the activity must be stopped immediately until repairs are completed, safety checks carried out and verified so activity can recommence. This must be recorded appropriately. 	
Poorly maintained activity area	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual external independent inspections are carried out. Monthly activity area checks are carried out. Routine visual inspections completed and signed for at the start of the day and before each session by the activities team. If the activity area has a defect during use, the activity must be stopped immediately until repairs are completed, safety checks carried out and verified so activity can recommence. This must be recorded appropriately. 	Low
Misuse of equipment	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear briefing is provided at the start of the session. Instructors to follow safe systems they have been taught. 	Low
General Injury	Participants, Leaders, Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups are responsible for their own first aid. Groups must have someone adequately trained and have a suitable first aid kit. Additional first aid kit and defibrillator are available at reception/activity and key staff on duty to offer further support if required. Those with NGB qualifications must hold a valid first aid qualification (if a requirement). 	Low