

High Adventure Climbing, Abseil, Bouldering and Weaseling Risk Assessment

**Last Review of this risk assessment: 13/04/2023**

Minimum Leader qualification:	RCI/SPA/CWI Qualified, Site specific assessment or suitably experienced. At any Non- High Adventure walls instructors must carry proof of their RCI and first aid qualifications and adhere to all rules of the climbing wall.				
Max group size with Leader:	15 & Maximum of three active lines. (onsite, bouldering & weaselling) 12 & Maximum of three active lines. (Single pitch crags)				
<b>All Instructors should be making dynamic risk assessments on the day taking into account the weather conditions, the group's ability &amp; any other factors that may change.</b>					
<b>Essential equipment</b>					
<b>Personal:</b> Helmet, Harness, Appropriate footwear, weather appropriate clothing.					
<b>Group:</b> Helmet, harness, appropriate footwear, weather appropriate clothing, rack, static ropes, dynamic ropes.					
<b>Instructor; onsite:</b> phone, first aid kit, knife <b>Offsite:</b> phone, first aid kit, group shelter, torch, hot drink (colder weather), extra water (hotter days), emergency food, whistle, knife, spare emergency clothing for group (cannot supply for full group, must have a some basics. EG: hats, gloves, etc..)					
Activity/ Process/ Operation	What are the Hazards to Health and Safety	What Risks do they pose and to whom?	Risk Level	What precautions have been taken to reduce the risk?	Risk Level Achieved
			H/M/L		H/M/L
Setting up for activity	Slips, trips and falls while rigging.	HA staff	H	All rigging to be undertaken by qualified staff; or experienced staff under supervision Helmets to be worn when on or near crag. Protect self when in exposed positions	M
	Indoor leading	HA staff	M	Only experienced staff to lead climb or belay for leaders	L
	Items falling from above	All staff and participants	H	Whilst setting up – look for loose objects Helmets to be worn inside the climbing area at all times. Make the group aware that items can fall from above and enforce keeping helmets on at all times.	M

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Injury due to equipment failure.	All staff & participants	M	All equipment regularly inspected according to policies.	L
			Staff trained in inspections and procedures.	
Inappropriate use of equipment.	All participants	H	Thorough group briefing and supervision	M
			Equipment not to be left unsupervised	
Loose clothing, hair or equipment getting caught.	All staff and participants	H	Check for appropriate clothing, tie hair back, tuck away loose hoodie toggles etc. Tuck away all loose ends on harnesses to eliminate snag hazards.	M
			Staff appropriately trained in rescues.	
			Extended figure of 8 descenders used during abseils.	
			Monitor clothing and equipment for loose ends and snag hazards	
Weather related injuries.	All staff and participants	M	Check weather forecast	L
			Groups clothing to be checked prior to session, warm clothing, waterproofs, sun protection, etc	
			All participants to be monitored for signs of hypothermia, hyperthermia or heat stroke. Take drink & snacks for extended sessions.	
Strangulation from the helmet.	All Participants.	M	When lowering a close eye must be kept on the climber to ensure that they are not getting caught on anything.	L
			The climber must get into the abseil position before descending the wall so the head is pushed away from the wall.	

During the

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During the activity.

			NO HELMETS should be worn while indoor bouldering.	
Pulled and torn muscles	All participants	M	Warm up prior to starting the activity.	L
			Sensible route choice to be taken.	
Climbing too high while bouldering	All participants	M	Group briefing on the dangers of climbing too high	L
			Good supervision of the group	
Participants refusing to descend.	All participants.	M	Appropriate staff training.	L
			Staff training in appropriate rescues.	
Falls from height.	All staff and participants	H	Anyone off the floor above safe bouldering height to be belayed or attached to a suitable safety system.	L
Falling from bouldering problems.	All participants.	H	Brief the group on how to appropriately and safely get down from the bouldering problems.	M
			Make sure that no one but the spotters are standing below the climber so they have a clear space to land.	
			Use spotter to assist the climber if they fall from the bouldering problem.	
Sharp objects inside weaselling holes.	All staff and participants.	M	An instructor must always check each weasel before sending the group through.	L
Participant getting stuck in a weaselling hole.	All participants.	M	Instructor should check challenger are suitable before sending group through.	L
			If someone does get stuck coach them out of it, if you can't help them out call centre for help.	

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				Instructor to brief the group before hand on not to push them selves into any holes, only go through what you fit through.	
	Cuts, bruises and scrapes.	All staff and participants.	H	Encourage that the group wear long sleeves and trousers to reduce the chance of them getting injured.	
De rigging.	Slips trips and falls while de-rigging.	HA Staff	M	Helmets must be worn throughout. Always stay attached to an appropriate safety line until you are fully de rigged.	L
	Falling from the crag.	HA Staff	M	Helmets must be worn throughout. Always stay attached to an appropriate safety line. Appropriate training and assessment.	L

**The following Risk Assessments are site specific. All site specific Risk Assessments only have addition information specific to the site. The Risk assessment above still applies to these sites, the following is additional information.**

**Earl Crag.**

Activity/ Process/ Operation	What are the Hazards to Health and Safety	What Risks do they pose and to whom?	Risk Level	What precautions have been taken to reduce the risk?	Risk Level Achieved
			H/M/L		H/M/L
Setting up	Slipping on the mud while rigging.	HA Staff	M	Always wear appropriate footwear.	L
				Helmets must be worn throughout.	
				While rigging you must always be attached to an appropriate safety line.	
	Getting down to the climbs.	All staff and participants.	M	Select the most appropriate and safe route down.	L
				Use spotters where needed.	

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During the Activity.	Incorrect rigging and set up of ropes.	All participants	M	If the instructor is site specific trained they must always set up exactly as they have been trained and assessed to do so.	L
	Slipping on the mud while waiting to do the activity.	All participant and staff	M	Ensure that you assign the group and appropriate place to gather while they wait, that is not on a slippy area. Brief the group to make them aware of the ground conditions and to be sensible and safe.	L