

Risk Assessment - BFOC Roped Activities

Date of Assessment: 13th March 2024- Charlotte Russell

Last Review date: 6th March 2026 - Fran Cains-Ward

Next Review date: 6th March 2027

Description of Area: Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre

Risk Assessment Matrix

Severity / Likelihood	1 Rare	3 Possible	5 Almost Certain
1 Insignificant	1	3	5
3 Moderate	3	9	15
5 Catastrophic	5	15	25



Severity: How severely could the hazard hurt someone or cause damage?

Catastrophic: Injury would require expert medical attention, and has the potential to be fatal

Major: Injury would require the participant to stop doing the activity, medical treatment is beyond the skills of a basic first aider

Insignificant: Minor injury requiring simple first aid or no treatment.

Likelihood: How likely is it to happen?

Almost certain: Expected to occur in all circumstances.

Possible: Might possibly occur at some time

Rare: May occur only in exceptional circumstances

Definitions:

Risk Score:

Risk Score	Risk Level	Action Required
20-25	Extreme	Immediate action required
12-16	High	Action plan required
6-10	Moderate	Specific monitoring or procedures required
1-5	Low	Manage through routine procedures

This Risk Assessment is to be used in conjunction with the Generic Activity Risk Assessment Document.

Generic

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Fall from height	Being injured from a fall	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All instructors are trained in approved procedures and their competence assessed. ● All instructors are trained to ensure all PPE is in working order and fitted correctly. ● Instructors to manage the speed of the climber ensuring they only climb at the speed the instructor can belay safely. 	5	1	5
Falling of objects from height	Being struck by falling equipment causing injury/ bruising or breaks	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All participants and instructors as well as leaders will wear a helmet when in a compound or designated activity area. - This does not apply to indoor climbing, as there is a higher risk of the helmet causing strangulation by getting caught on a hold and as there are no concurrent activities occurring during climbing sessions the risk of an object falling from height is considered less of a hazard than strangulation by helmet. ● Activities will be set up in line with the SOP and instructor training. ● Participants are told to remove objects from pockets ● Routine visual inspection is completed by the instructor. ● Quarterly checks of activity bases and equipment are completed. 	4	2	8
Helmet catching on descent/ascent	Strangulation	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants are not required to wear helmets for indoor climbing. However, due to the proximity of other activities near the other roped activity areas, helmets must be worn, as the risk of falling objects is considered a greater hazard than potential strangulation from the helmet. ● For other activities, particularly outdoor climb, Instructor to only lower participant when they are facing towards the wall/ activity to avoid helmet getting caught. 	4	1	4

Abseil

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Unsupervised access to abseil	Falling from height	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gates are locked at top of abseil tower when left unattended. • The door at the bottom of both the tower and the wall are locked when left unattended. 	3	2	6
Entrapment	finger/ hair entraps in figure eight device	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are briefed to keep their hands low and away from the figure of 8 device. • Participants are to tie hair up and/ or tuck it away. • Participants are briefed on how to descend. • Instructors are trained on how to perform a rescue if an entrapment occurs. 	2	2	4
Participants inverting and falling out of their harness due to ill-fitting equipment.	Major injury, possible death, from fall	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Instructors trained in correct use & fitting of sit harnesses. • Staff check participants harness before and during the session to ensure that it's tight around the waist. • Participants without defined waists must wear full-body harnesses or sit and chest harnesses (with bridge sling and carabiner). 	3	2	6
Falling from stairs	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stair users must ensure they hold the handrails when climbing. • One person per flight of stairs at any one time. • Nervous or frozen participants can be supported by a safety rope if required. 	4	2	8
Rope Burns	Burns from moving ropes	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor to control the speed the participant is lowered. 	2	2	4

Climbing

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Helmet catching on hold	Strangulation	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are not required to wear helmets for indoor climbing. However, due to the proximity of other activities near the outdoor climbing area, helmets must be worn, as the risk of falling objects is considered a greater hazard than potential strangulation from the helmet. For outdoor climb Instructor to only lower participants when they are facing towards the wall to avoid helmet getting caught. 	4	1	4
Participants inverting and falling out of their harness due to ill-fitting equipment.	Major injury, possible death, from fall	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Instructors trained in correct use & fitting of sit harnesses. Staff check participants harness before and during the session to ensure that it's tight around the waist. Participants without defined waists must wear full-body harnesses or sit and chest harnesses (with bridge sling and carabiner). 	3	2	6
Climbers climbing too high	Creating a fall factor resulting in injury	All Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to brief the group on how high they can climb. 	2	2	4

Crates

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Participants struck by falling crates	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor's brief participants on how to stack the crates appropriately and a boundary is set to not enter until it's safe to stack more crates. 	2	2	4
Crates falling into adjoining activities	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure towers are built with a short axis of crate facing belay teams so crates fall away from belay teams. Everyone in the compound and adjoining activities must wear a helmet. Limit the height of the tower to 20(Field 1+2)/15(Field 3+4 and Forest 1+2) crates high to prevent crates falling into other compounds. Forest crates have a net to stop crates from falling into another activity. 	2	2	4

Wooden Platform	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grip strips are added to the crate stacking platform. Instructors brief participants that platform may be slippery when wet. 	3	3	9
Crates placed on uneven ground	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors brief participants to make sure crates are stable before stepping onto them 	3	3	9
Falling crate	Being struck by falling equipment causing injury/ bruising or breaks	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the Generic risk of falling objects: Instructors brief participants to not lift the stacks of crates Instructors are taught an appropriate lifting technique in accordance with manual handling techniques. If instructors are unable to comfortably lift the stack of crates they are advised not to. 	4	2	8

Gladiator Challenge

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Metal wires holding up activity	Metal splinters	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants instructed to not use the metal wires to ascend the activity. 	2	2	4
Collision with activity equipment	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct all participants to sit back in their harness and to lower once the obstacle is stable. Instructor to instruct participants to use their hands and feet to keep themselves away from the obstacle. 	2	2	4

Indy

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Metal wires holding up activity	Metal splinters	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants instructed to not use the metal wires to ascend the activity. 	2	2	4
Collision with activity equipment	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct all participants to sit back in their harness and to lower once the obstacle is stable. Instructor to instruct participant to use their hands and feet to keep themselves away from the obstacle. 	2	2	4
Ladder	Minor Injury / Fall	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EN131 ladders used for ascent, users must follow guidance when ladder is in use. Participants are on belay when ascending the ladder. 	3	1	3

Jacob's Ladder

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Collision with activity equipment	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct all participants to sit back in their harness and to lower once the obstacle is stable. Instructor to instruct participants to use their hands and feet to keep themselves away from the obstacle. 	2	2	4
Metal wires holding up activity	Metal splinters	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants instructed to not use the metal wires to ascend the activity. 	2	2	4
Manual handling due to aiding each other up	Minor Injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are briefed on the correct methods of helping each other up the element: Roman Handshake, The Proposal and hand stirrup/ Boost. Ropes can be used in this activity for participants to help themselves up, if ropes are used no loops are to be created. 	2	2	4
Forest JL -Manual handling when lowering and raising obstacle	Back / minor injury	Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bottom two Jacob's ladder rungs are to be removed when leaving the activity area, using appropriate manual handling techniques. The single rung can be left attached throughout the day but be removed overnight. This is to be done by a minimum of two people using appropriate manual handling techniques. 	3	2	6

Leap of Faith

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Participant swinging into pole	Minor injury from impacting pole, broken bone, sprains, strains head injuries	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to ensure participant is belayed according to SOP and training. If participants want to descend from below 2m they must climb down. Participants were told to be aware of the pole when they swing, and to keep their hands/ feet ready to push off. All participants wear helmets. 	3	2	6

Zip Wire

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Injury from wire ropes	Minor finger hand injuries, deep cuts	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants briefed not to touch the zipwire and to only hold the ropes attached to them. 	3	2	6
Onlookers colliding with zip wire participants.	Major injury, broken bones, muscular injuries	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helmets worn at all times by all participants and instructors, to protect from collision with participants feet, as they go down the zip wire. Clearly defined waiting area as briefed by the bottom zip instructor. All onlookers to stay out of the landing area of the zip wire and to be monitored by instructors at all times. 	3	1	3
Tripping when taking rope back to top zip	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to brief the group on how to take the rope back to top zip safely. Instructor to dynamically assess walkway for slip and trip hazards at start of the session. 	2	1	2
Fall from height when using A-Frame Ladder for assisted lower	Minor Injury, broken bones	Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ladder must be used on a stable surface in line with EN131 guidance (printed on ladder). Ladder must be stabilised by additional adult. Instructor must descend in tandem with participant lower. Instructor must halt descent if in risk of destabilisation. 	3	1	3