

Risk Assessment - BFOC Roped Activities

Date of Assessment: 13th March 2024

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Description of Area: Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre

Risk Assessment Matrix

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



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

Generic

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely- hood	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 	4	2	8
Falling of objects from height	Being struck by falling equipment causing injury/ bruising or breaks	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participant and instructors as well as leaders will wear a helmet when in a compound or designated activity area. Activities will be set up in line with the SOP and instructor training. Participant are told to remove objects from pockets or ensure the pocket is securely fastened. Routine visual inspection is completed by the instructor. Quarterly checks of activity bases and equipment are completed. 	4	2	8

Abseil

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely- hood	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. Door at 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"> Participant are briefed to keep their hands low and away from the figure of 8 device. Participants are to tie hair up and tuck it away. Participant are briefed on how to descend. Instructors are trained on how to perform a rescue if an entrapment occurs. 	2	2	4

Participant inverting and falling out of sit 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. 	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 stair at any one time Nervous or frozen participants can be supported by a safety rope if required. Near miss and incidents must be logged and reviewed. 	4	2	8

All Aboard						
Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely-hood	Risk Rating
Collision with pole	Minor injury from impacting pole/ staples, 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. 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
Participant mis-using the rig when instructor is on the other side of the all aboard	Fall from height	All users	Instructor to tie off rig once climber has reached the platform plus tying a secondary knot at least 1.5m away from the rig.	4	2	8

Cargo net						
Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely-hood	Risk Rating
Entrapment in the net	Minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor are trained on how to run session, ensure they pay attention to the climbers especially when lowering them 	3	2	6

Climbing						
Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely-hood	Risk Rating
Helmet catching on hold	Strangulation	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to only lower participant when they are facing towards the wall to avoiding helmet getting caught 	3	1	3
Climbers climbing too high	Creating a fall factor resulting in injury	All Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to brief group ensuring an understanding of were the top of the climbing wall is 	2	2	4

Crates						
Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely-hood	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 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 tower to 20 crates high to prevent crates falling into other compounds. Forest crates has a net to stop crates from falling into another activity 	2	2	4
Broken crates	Cuts, bruised, minor injury	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crates are checked regularly, and any broken ones are removed and replaced 	2	2	4

Gladiator Challenge

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely-hood	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
Forest Gladiator - Manual handling when lowering and raising obstacle	Back / minor injury	Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacle to be lowered / raised from the ground using an appropriate hoisting system 	3	2	6

Indy and Wobbly Log

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely-hood	Risk Rating
Slip, Trip over Wire whilst belaying	Minor Injury	Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to ensure they are belaying the same side as the obstacle. 	2	2	4

Jacob's Ladder

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely-hood	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 obstacle is stable. 	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 Stirrup/ Boost. Ropes and slings can be used on the activity for participants to help themselves. 	2	2	4
Forest JL - Manual handling when lowering and raising obstacle	Back / minor injury	Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obstacle to be lowered / raised from the ground using an appropriate hoisting system 	3	2	6

Leap of Faith and Ball Jump

Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely-hood	Risk Rating
Customer 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

For Forest Loff - Participant mis-using the rig when instructor is on the other side of the leap of faith	Fall from height	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to tie off rig once climber has reached the platform plus tying a secondary knot at least 1.5m away from the rig. 	4	2	8
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Zip Wire						
Hazard	Potential outcome	Persons	Controls	Severity	Likely-hood	Risk Rating
Injury from wire ropes	Minor finger hand injuries, deep cuts	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff trained in safety procedures for activity. Participants briefed not to touch the zipwire and to only hold the ropes attached to them. Wire ropes inspected quarterly by a qualified and competent inhouse staff in addition to annual inspection by an external body. 	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. 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 instructor 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 group on how to get 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
Zip 3 + 4 - collision when both zips are operating at the same time	Major injury, broken bones, muscular injuries	All users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground zip instructor to ensure no cross overs between the zip wires (one coming down whilst one taking rope back up). 	3	1	3