

Risk Assessment – Bouldering

Baseline	X	Site Specific		Vulnerable Person		Temporary		Version	2020.1.1	Date of issue:	04/02/2020
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Operation Notes:

- Supervision ratio is 1 Activity Leader to 15 participants
 - During ‘free-bouldering time’ there will be a maximum of 8 active boulderers each with a partner who can spot where necessary
 - ‘Free-bouldering time’ is defined as any time the group is permitted to climb any part of the wall without specific challenges / tasks being set
- Internal Technical Advice from the Group Activities Manager
- Structure and equipment must be managed as per the Equipment Management System / regime including all operational and annual inspections
- Impact mats should be provided at the base of the wall, or a horizontal line marked above which participants’ feet must not go, or holds positioned to limit how high participants can climb
- Structure must be secured against casual access

Qualifications/ Competence:

- Activity Leader to be trained to in-house syllabus. Refresher training as directed by Coaching sessions. No special requirements for Chief Instructor
- All Activity Leaders must have frequent coaching as per the Coaching Guidelines.

Risk – Benefit Statement: There is very low risk of minor grazes, bruises and sprains but high levels of participation in physical activity making the risk acceptable.

Hazard Description and activities giving rise to risk	Who may be harmed	Control Measures	Risk Rating
Uneven floor surface – through gaps forming between impact mats and causing twisted or sprained ankles	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that mats do not have gaps between them at the beginning of the activity and make adjustments as needed throughout the session • Where impact mats are being used a suitable covering maybe applied to prevent falling between • Check that the landing areas are free from any obstructions 	Very Low
Falls from height causing impact injuries	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate spotting techniques and enforce their use with participants • Discuss falling / landing techniques at the start of the session • There will be a maximum of 8 active boulderers each with a partner who can spot where necessary • Ensure spotters understand what to do when a climber is above them (on the roof for example) • Watch for climbers going too high and intervene if they do • Activity Leader to stand in a position of maximum visibility 	Very Low
Collisions with other participants	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Leader to stand in a position of maximum visibility • Space out climbers and ensure they give each other plenty of room • Stop the activity if climbers are getting too close 	Very Low
Sprain / strains	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A warm up is required at the start of the session • Discuss falling / landing techniques at the start of the session 	Very Low