

FAIRPLAY OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE RISK ASSESSMENT

HIGH ROPES – Lower and Upper Cow's Tail Traverses

HAZARD	AT RISK	DEGREE OF RISK	ACTION TO CONTROL RISK	COMMENTS
HEAD INJURY	CLIENT INSTRUCTOR	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helmets are issued to all participants, staff member and are also worn by instructors. The fitting of helmets is checked by the instructor prior to and throughout the session. Helmets may only be removed if outside the area of the activity and or the instructor has given permission. 	
FALLING OFF WHILST ON/ AT TOP OF COW'S TAIL TRAVERSE	CLIENT/ INSTRUCTOR	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasise risk during pre-session briefing Ensure correct staff to student ratios. Maximum ratio 15:1 Clear, concise briefing Correct use of Auto Belay device Instructor to directly supervise transfer of the climber from the Auto Belay device to the Cow's Tail Trolley and Cow's Tail back to Auto Belay again. Instructor to use Auto Belay when ascending and descending. Instructor to be attached using own Safety Line. whilst on platforms 	

PHYSICAL INJURY	CLIENT	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cow's Tail rope lengths should be short enough to prevent the climber falling onto equipment / ground Instructor is a qualified first aider and carries a first aid kit. Instructor checks all group members medical conditions PRIOR to the session via the Group Medical Form 	
PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY	CLIENT	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group members to be encouraged but not put under unreasonable pressure and forced to complete an activity against their will. 	
CLOTHING / HAIR CATCHING IN EQUIPMENT	CLIENT	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long hair tied back Clothing secure Rescue equipment available to hoist and release 	(Discussed with VERTEX 15/16 April 2019)
INJURY FROM JEWELLERY	INSTRUCTOR CLIENT	MEDIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group members are instructed to remove all loose jewellery before session. Group members advised of the risks associated with taking part in the activity with jewellery in place. 	
BECOMING DETACHED FROM ROPE AND FALLING TO THE GROUND	INSTRUCTOR CLIENT	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to warn of touching Karabiners and have continuous observation. Use the correct equipment/knots for attaching group members to the system. 	

HARNESS COMING UNDONE / FALLING OFF	INSTRUCTOR CLIENT	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maillons to be tightened with spanner prior session when attaching DMM bridge. • Instructor continues to re-check harness throughout the session, particularly if removed or adjusted by the group member. 	
EQUIPMENT FAILURE	INSTRUCTOR CLIENT	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All running gear is stored in a safe and dry area. • Session leader to check rope before drawing equipment. • All other equipment to be checked before use. 	
WEATHER	INSTRUCTOR CLIENT	LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity stopped / cancelled if weather presents significant risk e.g. lightning, high winds 	

This risk assessment is reviewed annually or earlier if necessary