



Risk Document for Climbing Activities

Activities covered by this document:

- Rock Climbing (outdoors)
- Artificial Climbing Structures & Indoor Walls
- Bouldering
- Weaseling, Rock Hopping and Scrambling (lowlands)
- Tyrolean Traverses

All instructors must remain within the remit of their qualification unless a documented 'in house' training and assessment has been completed with the appropriate technical advisor.

All leading instructors must be 1st aid qualified on a course of no less than 16 hours. A first aid kit appropriate to the activity and group numbers should be present on all activities.

Helmets must be worn by all participants and instructors during activities.

Rock Climbing

Minimum Qualification for leading instructor: Single Pitch Award + 1st Aid Qualification.
Assistants must be a minimum of SPA trained.

Supervision ratio: 1:8, where an assistant is present ratio rises to 2:16.

A leading instructor can only have one assistant operating within the ratio, i.e. a 17th group member would require a 2nd leading instructor making 3 staff in total.

Artificial Climbing Structures & Indoor Walls

Minimum Qualification for leading instructor: Single Pitch Award or Climbing Wall Award + 1st Aid Qualification.

Where lead climbing is to take place an SPA or CWA + Leader bolt on must be present.

Assistants must be a minimum of SPA trained/CWA trained.

Supervision ratio: 1:8, where an assistant is present ratio rises to 2:16.

A leading instructor can only have one assistant operating within the ratio.

Most indoor walls have their own health and safety policy and requirements for outside instructors. All indoor climbing activities must happen in accordance with the owner's policies.

No unroped climbing will occur more than 1.5m from the ground & harnesses should not be worn when bouldering or warming up.

Bouldering

Minimum Qualification for leading instructor: Single Pitch Award + 1st Aid Qualification.
Assistants must be a minimum of SPA trained.

Supervision ratio: 1:8, where an assistant is present ratio rises to 2:16. A leading instructor can only have one assistant operating within the ratio.

Care must be taken over the choice of venue and individual routes. A landing should be appropriate or suitably protected with spotters or bouldering mats.



Weaseling, Rock Hopping & Scrambling (lowlands)

Minimum Qualification for leading instructor: Single Pitch Award Trained & Mountain Leader Trained (or WGL trained) + 1st Aid Qualification.

Assistants must be a minimum of ML/WGL trained and have relevant experience.

Supervision ratio: 1:8, where an assistant is present ratio rises to 2:16. A leading instructor can only have one assistant operating within the ratio.

Tyrolean Traverses

Minimum Qualification for leading instructor: Single Pitch Award or CIC + 1st Aid Qualification & in house trained by Peter Knight or Andrew Waring.

Assistants must be a minimum of SPA trained.

Technical Advisor: Peter Knight, SPA, CIC

Supervision ratio: 1:8, where an assistant is present ratio rises to 2:16. A leading instructor can only have one assistant operating within the ratio.

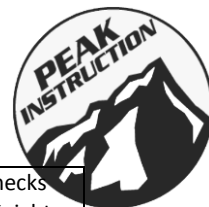
Risk Assessments

The following risk assessment is only to be used as a guide. An instructor is required to work at all times within the remit of their qualifications and use good, sound judgement to back up a dynamic risk assessment.

Participants are our responsibility from 'vehicle to vehicle' unless a formal goodbye or handover has taken place.

All climbing/weaseling activities:

Hazards. Injury	To Whom	Control Measures	Notes
Rock fall <i>Head injury</i>	All	Participants to wear helmets at all times when below rock faces and in immediate area. A designated 'safe' area should be given where appropriate. 3 rd parties advised to remain a safe distance from climbing activity.	Group briefing
Groundfall, unroped climbing & scrambling <i>Various injuries or Death</i>	All	All unroped climbing to take place under close supervision. Participants to be spotted where appropriate. Use of bouldering mats where appropriate.	Experienced, qualified staff to judge level of supervision and safeguarding required. Appropriate choice of venue and route.
Falling from height <i>Severe injury or Death</i>	All	All participants to be supervised at crag tops. Participants close to edge must be attached to a belay system. Instructors must be attached to belay system whilst 'top belaying' & safeguard themselves whilst rigging	Group briefing
Climber falling, impacting rock. Roped climbing <i>Various injuries</i>	Participants	Good belaying practices. Close supervision. Ground anchors where appropriate	Group briefing. Experienced, qualified staff to judge level of supervision and safeguarding required.



Equipment failure <i>Various injuries</i>	All	Equipment checked before use and faulty/damaged equipment removed from service immediately. No smoking in PPE	Regular equipment checks carried out by Peter Knight. Equipment to be checked immediately prior to use by leading instructors.
Entrapment in rock <i>Minor injury / Panic</i>	Participants	Suitable route choices avoiding known problem routes Avoid holes when group member size in doubt	Experienced staff, passing on information.
Entrapment in equipment <i>Minor injury</i>	Participants	Releasable abseil systems Hair and loose clothing secured away from descender or belay device	Group briefing
Rope burns <i>Minor injury</i>	Participants	Speed limited by safety rope on abseils. Controlled lowering of climbers.	Gloves available
Weather <i>Hypothermia, hyperthermia, heat injuries</i>	All	Weather forecast obtained before hand and appropriate safety equipment carried.	Pre course information
Other users <i>Poor relations</i>	All	Avoid busy areas and consider moving to different location. Not using some climbing routes	
<i>Other Minor Injuries</i>	Participants	1 st aid kit carried on all activities	Advise visit to GP/A+E where appropriate
Biological & Chemical agents <i>Infection</i>	Participants	Remain vigilant and avoid known areas used as toilets.	Encourage groups to tell instructor if they see litter
Abrasive rock, Weaseling <i>Minor injuries</i>	Participants	Long sleeved tops and full length trousers should be worn by all participants	Advise participants but accept that over 18's may choose to take part anyway
Grit in eye <i>Eye injury</i>	Participants	Eye wash carried in 1 st aid kit	Group briefing

Tyrolean Traverse Specific

Water Hazard <i>Drowning</i>	All	Appropriate venues used where the water level is acceptably low Appropriate rescue procedure	Use of specific sites only
Tyrolean Failure <i>Major injuries</i>	Participants	Tyrolean activities undertaken in accordance with the tyrolean safety document	Site specific training with staff



<p>Climber impacting ground due to rope stretch on take-off</p> <p><i>Various injury</i></p>	<p>Participants</p>	<p>Appropriate venues used where take-off and landing are as free from hazards as possible.</p> <p>Careful test of rope stretch before crossings</p>	<p>Use of specific sites only</p>
<p>Clutch & plummet from descender</p> <p><i>Burns or impact injuries</i></p>	<p>Participants</p>	<p>Prior brief and practice.</p> <p>Bell ringing belay from an assistant may be used.</p>	

Reviewed 31/5/2014