



Risk assessment form (H&S)

Name of assessor(s)	Karl Watson	Group / Establishment:	SSE Outdoors
Date	January 2022		

What is the workplace / activity / equipment / conditions (delete as appropriate) being assessed: Climbing is in a gravelled area enclosed by fencing and a gate. The wall is purpose built and can accommodate two groups at any one time. Equipment for climbing is stored inside the structure.	How was the assessment done? e.g. desktop exercise, site visit, in consultation with employees, managers, safety representatives? On-site assessment by Senior Instructor (RCI), Lead Instructor (CWI) & Technical Advisor, Pete Goldsmith (MIC)	Next review date:
		January 2023
		Mobile reception / nearest landline
		Average / main office / ODC

Who could be harmed, and how?	What is already being done to control the risks?	*Risk Rating Severity x Likelihood			What further action is recommended to reduce risks further?	Action by whom?	Date action due	Date action done
		S	L	S x L				
All participants – being hit by an object from above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helmets to be worn whilst in gravelled area Safety brief given to all Continuous monitoring of participants Continuous encouragement, guidance during the activity Accompanying staff to assist with group Pockets to be emptied at the start of the session Clothing and footwear to be secure 	3	1	3				
All participants – climbing without being attached to the safety rope / failure to follow safety brief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to maintain good group control at all times Group encouraged to monitor and check each other Instructor to check each participant before they leave the ground Calm control at all times 	5	1	5				

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety brief given to all Continuous monitoring of all Continuous encouragement for all throughout the session Check, check system in place and taught to all School staff to assist with continuous monitoring 							
All participants – falls due to safety equipment failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only centre equipment to be used Manufacturers guidelines to be followed for storage, use and replacement Equipment checks to be carried out in line with SSE Outdoors equipment management procedure Equipment to be checked at the start of every session, by instructor leading the session Damaged / worn equipment to be placed in the 'dead bin' in the High Ropes shed and corresponding defect form filled out Harness, helmet, attachment to rope and all hard ware to be checked before each participant leaves the ground Check, check system in pace to encourage multiple responsibility for safety checks by all participants Instructor to check belay system before climber leaves the ground Standard climbing calls to be used where possible and taught to the group 	5	1	5				
All participants – Falls due to operator error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved systems of belaying to be used in line with NGB & centres procedures Instructor must be in control of lowering participants; this can include the instructor tailing the rope and allowing participants to operate the belay device. Only if participants have demonstrated they are safe and sensible enough 	5	1	5				

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	to do so <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the GRIGRI+ device needs to have the panic function overridden due to participant not being heavy enough, then only the instructor to complete the lower (in line with manufacturers guidelines) Continuous observation of all participants Continuous encouragement for all Check, check system in place Support staff to help assist with group management 							
All participants – slips, trips, falls on ground or stairs/steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety briefing for all & activity briefing Walking expected at all times Group to be monitored and controlled when moving around activity base 	1	2	2				
All participants – clothing or hair entrapment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOP to be followed with regard to clothing and foot wear Staff training to refresh rescue techniques at stages throughout each season 	2	1	2				
All participants – psychological scarring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge by choice model for all involved Every participant may change their mind, as long as it is safe to do so, at any time during their turn Instructor training with regard to 'soft skills', different methods of communication and facilitation Clear and age appropriate demonstrations from the instructor to the group where needed Set small targets, with an increased target if growth in confidence is observed Celebrate all success 	3	2	6				
All participants – misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety brief given to all Continuous monitoring of all participants 	3	2	6				

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or damage to equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expectations and instructions on correct use of all equipment Equipment checks at the start and finish of every session Equipment stored correctly and in line with manufacturers guidelines Reporting of faulty equipment Regular equipment inspections in line with equipment management procedure 							
All participants – poor behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor training and competent at leading groups Safety briefing given to all Continuous monitoring of groups throughout session Reinforcement of safety brief throughout the session Early intervention Session ceased if instructor deems it unsafe to continue. Due to poor behaviour or external factors School staff to assist with group management 	3	2	6				
All participants – poor weather, high winds, electric storms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather forecast to be checked at the start of each day and throughout if needed Weather will be reported in morning briefing Cease session if in any doubt of bad weather, to include electric storms. Recommended no closer than 2 miles away, 2 seconds after lightening to thunder Alternative activities to be used if weather conditions are not suitable. 	2	4	8				

* [Click here](#) for guidance in calculating Risk Rating. Rate the **severity** of the potential harm (between 1-5, where 5 is fatal) and the **likelihood** of the harm occurring (again 1-5 where 5 is very likely). Guidance is at [HS 004](#).

Please now pass this assessment to your manager for approval

Name of assessor's manager:	Ack Moore	Date:	21/2/22	Manager's comments	
Signature:					