Risk Assessment for Rock Climbing & Auto Belays

Reviews

Completed By	Revision Date	Approved By	Approval Date
S.Hamlin	15/01/2021	Shaun Mackin	15/02/2021

Risk level		Action required/approval
Medium	Some chance or an incident or injury requiring first aid	☑ Document controls in planning documents and/or complete this Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment. ☑ Consider obtaining parental/carer permission.

Minimum Supervision

Partner Belay 1x qualified Activity Instructor to maximum of 2 belay lines
Auto Belay 1x qualified Activity Instructor to maximum of 8 lines
1 x group teacher/supervisor are present to assist with student behaviours

Recommendations

Rock Climbing Partner Belay age 13 years+
Rock Climbing Auto Belay age 8 Years +

Qualifications

All Apex staff and contractors hold at a minimum ,one of the following qualifications /skills sets or other recognised skill sets/qualifications from another jurisdiction, along with mandatory First Aid/ CPR and QLD Blue Card, working with children check.

. Staff trained for correct use of “Gri-Gri” safety device lowering rock climbing .
- Certificate 3 Outdoor Recreation specialising in Rock Climbing & Abseiling Natural or Artificial Surfaces
- Certificate 4 Outdoor Recreation specialising in Rock Climbing & Abseiling Natural or Artificial Surfaces
- Diploma Outdoor recreation specialising is Rock Climbing & Abseiling Natural or Artificial Surfaces
- Perform Vertical Rescue also Haul system abseil only.

Through the use of well maintained equipment, training and accredited staff and sound operating procedures and policies Apex Camps control the “real risks” associated with this activity

In assessing the level of risk, considerations such as the likelihood of an incident happening in combination with the seriousness of a consequence are used to gauge the overall risk level for an activity. The matrix below has been used as a guide to assist with developing the risk assessment:

Likelihood	Consequence				
	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Critical
5 Almost Certain	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
4 Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Extreme
3 Possible	Low	Medium	High	High	High
2 Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
1 Rare	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium

Risk Level	
Low	Little chance of incident or serious injury.
Medium	Some chance of an incident and injury requiring first aid.
High	Likely chance of a serious incident and injury requiring medical treatment.
Extreme	High chance of a serious incident resulting in highly debilitating injury.

Minimum Equipment/Facilities

First aid kit suitable for activity

Communication system
Electronic and other equipment that can be damaged by water is to be carried in water resistant containers.
Leaders are responsible for determining the equipment to be carried by all participants. The following communication equipment should be appropriate for the activity and area of operations.

- ❑ Phone-line at location
- ❑ Mobile phone
- ❑ UHF Radio

Sun Safety equipment (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, shirt etc)

Appropriate clothing and footwear (no singlets, skirts, short shorts, thongs, crocs etc)

Gloves, backpacks to carry equipment, edge protectors to protect ropes from abrasion damage

Leader will inspect the area and ensure its soundness before commencing the activity

Equipment use and maintenance log to be kept and documented each session

Drinking water (students should not share drinking containers)

Spare equipment to be available in case of emergency

Vehicular access to within a reasonable distance of the activity in case of emergency

Minimum Equipment/Facilities

Harness and helmet for all participants in line with the following standards and practises.

- Harnesses and helmets specifically designed for rock climbing/abseiling, and compliant with he International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA), European Committee for Standardisation standard or equivalent.
- Harnesses to be worn at all times during activity, and to be connected by a safety line (rope or tape) to an appropriate anchor point or belay where exposure to a fall exists
- Harnesses to be retired by manufacturer's nominated expiry date
- Helmets to be of the correct size and fit
- Helmets to be worn and secured throughout any activity session where students are exposed to typical climbing/abseiling hazards
- Helmets to remain on students until completion of the activity.

Safety ropes, harnesses, slings and all other safety equipment (karabiners, slings and chocks), manufactured specifically for rock climbing/abseiling, used according to the manufacturer's specifications and accepted abseiling practises and conforming to the Australian Standards and UIAA specifications.

An approved certified Rock-climbing structure or a rated anchor system eg eyebolt at a existing outdoor climbing area

All practises and processes are adopted from the Queensland Adventure Activity Standards

Hazards and Control Measures

Listed below are the indicative hazards/risks and the control measures.

Hazards/Risks	Control Measures
Biological material • Bodily fluids (e.g. blood, sweat, saliva)	• Comply with HLS-PR-004: Infection Control and Management of Prescribed Contagious Conditions and Infection Control Guidelines. Students with open cuts and abrasions are to be removed from the activity and treated immediately. If bleeding cannot be controlled completely, the participant should not be allowed to return the activity. All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood should be treated as potentially infectious. • Have sufficient and suitable containment material (bandages, etc) available • Ensure that personal items are not shared.
Environmental conditions • Weather • Surfaces • Surrounds	• Assess weather conditions before and during activity (e.g. temperature, storms) • Check and assess surrounds for loose items, debris and hazards and suitability of participants. • The location should allow safe access to the staging areas • Visibility and access to be considered before choosing routes
Equipment • Equipment failure	• Use, maintain and store equipment according to manufacturer's specifications • Conduct regular equipment checks prior to start of sessions. Particular attention to fastening systems when removable rope systems are in use • Check for worn or faulty equipment, and adhere to manufacturer's guidelines for life of equipment • Ensure all safety equipment is in place and in good condition and discard immediately if not suitable • Provide instruction in safe rappelling methods and use of equipment • Supply all equipment in a clean and serviceable condition • Ensure wet equipment is dried before storing • Students must not engage in lead climbing • Soft fall mulch to be contained at the bottom of the climbing wall
Heights • Falling from vertical surface	• Use a partner belay system appropriate to the age and activity, with supervision at all times • The fitment of automatic safety device "gri gri 2 " to be fitted to each rope line • The fitment of dual automatic locking devices "Tri Lock carabiner" to be fitted to each person • Back up safety system to be used with a prussik connected to a backup belayer when partner belaying • Participants to be instructed on belay technique and supervised by two instructors at all times. • Ratio of participants to not exceed the number of Rope Lines or Auto Belay lines in use as recommended by QORF. • Safety rope to be kept taught on climber at all times under supervision from instructors

Ratios & Age	• Apex Ratio: 1:10, Partner Belay 1x qualified Activity Instructor to maximum of 2 belay lines or Auto Belay 1x qualified Activity Instructor to maximum of 8 lines
	• Maximum number of participants: 25
	• Age limitations: 8+ years of age
	  • Partner belay systems age 13 years and over
	  • Auto belay system age 8yrs to 12yrs

Hazards/Risks	Control Measures
Physical exertion • Strains and sprains • Exhaustion and fatigue	• Have appropriate warm-up and warm-down activities • Follow progressive and sequential skills development • Have ice packs available • Continuously monitor students for signs of fatigue and exhaustion • Continuously monitor students for fear and/ or hesitancy, or loss of balance
Students • Special needs • High risk behaviours • Medical conditions • Student numbers	• Obtain parental permission including relevant medical information • When students with medical conditions are involved, ensure that relevant medical/ emergency plans and medications are readily available (insulin, Ventolin, Epipen,etc) • Refer to individual education plan/Educational adjustment plan/Behaviour management plan and other student documents. • Where necessary, obtain advice from relevant advisory visiting teachers or specialist teachers • Ensure there is adequate adult supervision • Ensure long hair is tied back before participating in the activity • Students who are actively participating in the activity, to be seen by at lease one adult at all times • Jewellery can be a serious hazard when undertaking many activities. All forms of jewellery should be considered in terms of the risk it presents for each activity. Procedures are in place the dissuade or protect (e.g. tape) the wearing of jewellery accordingly.

Emergency Procedures	Teacher/group leader responsibilities	Participant Briefing Instructor should cover:	Participant Requirements
1.Effect Rescue as required. 2.Conduct First Aid as required. 3.Contact Emergency Services via mobile phone, radio. 4.Depending on injury: Stabilise patient and await ambulance or remove patient to appropriate site to recover. 5.In the event of serious injury, suspend activity until incident can be investigated	• Inform & liaise with Activity Staff regarding any potential issues with group (behavioural, disabilities, injuries) • Listen to activity briefings and assist Staff in procedural aspects of session as required, such as helping students to belay under supervision of Activity Staff • Monitor & take charge of behavioural issues if needed and attend to any pre-existing medical conditions	•Challenge by Choice Philosophy •Session Objectives •OH&S Brief •Safety Brief •Equipment Familiarisation •Skills Demo & Practice	•sunscreen, insect repellent •medication (if relevant) •water bottle •fully enclosed shoes, hat •minimum of sleeved shirt that covers midriff when arms are raised •shorts/leggings that preferably cover knees (to prevent grazes) •hair tied back, jewellery removed