

Risk Assessment for Possum Glider

Reviews



Completed By	Revision Date	Approved By	Approval Date
George Merritt	30/08/2022	Laura Juniper	18 January 2023

Risk level	Action required/approval
Medium Some chance or an incident or injury requiring first aid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Document controls in planning documents and/or complete this Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider obtaining parental/carer permission.

Minimum Supervision

Supervision for Possum Glider consists of :
 1 x qualified Activity Instructors for Possum Glider
 Minimum 1 teacher/supervisor is to be present to assist with student behaviours
 Ratio 1:25

Recommendations

The Possum Glider is recommended for 5+ years.

Requirements

Maximum weight of 100 kg's per participant
 All participant with special requirements, individual needs and/or medical conditions must disclose this information to Apex Camps before arriving at camp.

Note

The Possum Glider involves the "possum" being fit into a full body harness and are pulled up by other participants known as "donkeys" who are running in the opposite direction whilst attached to a belay line. Possum Glider is a great activity for participants who are looking to get out of their comfort zone.

Qualifications & Skills

All Apex activities 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.

- Certificate III or IV Outdoor Recreation specialising in Conduct High Ropes
- Certificate III or IV Outdoor Recreation specialising in Supervise High Ropes

All Apex activities staff and contractors must be confident and signed off in performing a high ropes vertical rescue using equipment provided at Apex Camps (JAG)

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

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
- UHF Radio

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

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

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)

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

Access ladder

Minimum Equipment/Facilities

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

- Harnesses and helmets specifically designed for Rope Activities, and compliant with the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA), European Committee for Standardisation standard or equivalent.
- Harnesses to be retired by manufacturer's nominated expiry date
- Harnesses to be sized and fitted correctly.
- Helmets to be of the correct size and fit
- 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.

A suitable equipped rescue pack, including, but not limited to:

- An additional safety rope, equivalent in length to twice the height of the highest element or belay wire or anchor point
- Knife
- Pair of pliers or multi grips
- Two-three steel karabiners
- Instructor tails /claws
- Chest harness
- 2-3 prusik loops
- 2-3 alloy or steel karabiners
- Belay device
- Pulley
- Safety harness connected by a safety line to an appropriate anchor point or belay

All practises, processes, systems are adopted from the Queensland Adventure Activity Standards (QORF) and AS 2316.

Hazards and Control Measures

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

Hazards/Risks	Control Measures
<p>Biological material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodily fluids (e.g. blood, sweat, saliva) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather • Surfaces • Surrounds • Trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Consider hazards associated with types of fencing material, gates and other infrastructure. • Overhanging tree branches are pruned back to remove potential hazard • Rain, lightning and climatic conditions that could potential affect the safety of the participant and activity instructor
<p>Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment failure • Rope burn • Being struck by swinging participant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use, maintain and store equipment according to manufacturer's specifications • Conduct equipment checks on helmets and Edelrid Smart Belays prior to start of each session. • Conduct equipment checks on rescue equipment before the activity commences. • Check for worn or faulty equipment, and adhere to manufacturer's guidelines for life of equipment • Ensure all safety equipment is in a dry place and in good condition and quarantine immediately if not suitable • All equipment /PPE are periodically inspected by a competent inspector conforming to AS2316 • Provide specific (written and verbal) training in and awareness of safety requirements. • All equipment/PPE are free from chemical contamination • Activity to be conducted only be qualified instructors who are competent in the use of all equipment and who have been instructed in the Safe Operating Procedures. Use of trained • Participants briefed on positioning of hands and use of karabiners / descending device etc.
<p>Ropes Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections • Checks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily pre start Ropes course condition check to be carried out and documented by competent person • Quarterly Inspection condition check to be carried out and documented by competent person • Annual Ropes Course inspection to be carried out by licenced Industry expert IAW AS3216
<p>Heights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have appropriate lead-up activities before students use the ropes course • Follow progressive and sequential skill development • Conduct pre course safety brief • All participants will be safety checked by instructor before entering onto the course

Hazards/Risks	Control Measures
Incorrectly fitted Personal Protection Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors will demonstrate correct fitment of harness and helmet • Harness and helmet fitment will be double checked by the Activity Instructor • If participant has to remove harness and or helmet during the session they will be safety checked before entering onto the course • Assess participants competency to correctly use the Edelrid Smart Belay prior to allowing the participant on the course • PPE provided will appropriate to the participant
Fear/ Psychological damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the participant ‘freezes’ on this activity it is possible to talk them through it. • The participant always has the option to stop and to be brought down when they have personally reached their comfort zone.
Emergency rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency rescue kit checked and ready to use before start of activity • In the event of a participant needing rescuing or lowering the instructor to follow height rescue procedure from the SOP “Standard Operating Procedure” in the most minimal of time. • Access ladder is at the activity for effective use as required in an emergency • Activity will cease in the event of an emergency • All activity instructors conducting and supervising the High Ropes course are competent in High Ropes Course rescue

Hazards/risks	Control Measures
<p>Physical exertion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strains and sprains • Exhaustion and fatigue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particular/ individual needs • High risk behaviours • Medical conditions • Student numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 appropriate to the participants medical or special need • 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 to dissuade or protect (e.g. tape) the wearing of jewellery accordingly.

Emergency Procedures	Teacher/group leader responsibilities	Participant Briefing Instructor should cover:	Participant Requirements
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge by Choice Philosophy • Session Objectives • OH&S Brief • Safety Brief • Equipment Familiarisation • Skills Demo & Practice <p>• There are always variable factors in any activity that is undertaken. There is a contingency plan in place in the SOP related to the activity the instructor should refer to in such a case.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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