

Risk Assessment for Mid Ropes & Flying Fox



Reviews

Completed By	Revision Date	Approved By	Approval Date
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Risk level	Action required/approval
High Likely chance of a serious incident and injury requiring medical treatment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Document controls in planning documents and/or complete this Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider obtaining parental/carers permission.

Minimum supervision

At least 1 x qualified Activity Instructors are to be present to run Mid Ropes
 At least 2 x qualified Activity Instructors are to be present to run Mid Ropes & Flying Fox.
 1 group teacher/supervisor are present to assist with student behaviours.

Qualifications

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.

- Perform vertical rescue
- Certificate 3 Outdoor Recreation specialising in Conduct High Ropes
- Certificate 4 Outdoor Recreation specialising in Conduct High Ropes
- Diploma Outdoor recreation specialising in Conduct High Ropes

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)

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

Equipment use and maintenance log to be kept or 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 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.
- Lanyards are to be of a correct length to ensure that in the event of a fall only one lanyard is loaded. There should be sufficient gap between the two lanyards when loaded to ensure entrapment and pressure on the neck and /or head between the lanyards does not occur. Lanyards to be constructed from a single strand of material static or dynamic rope.
- The lanyards and connecting hardware has adequate load ratings for persons using the equipment.
- Each leg of the twin lanyard arrangement is constructed from a single rope or piece of webbing so that there are no loops in which the user can be caught
- Do not tie knots in sling webbing. Knots are likely to reduce the strength of the webbing and increase the risk of failure

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

- Safety harness connected by a safety line to an appropriate anchor point or belay
- High ladder which can reach any anchor point that the participants are connected to. All elements are reachable by a high ladder as being the quickest rescue method.

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
<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 conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather • Surfaces • Surrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess weather conditions before and during activity (e.g. temperature, storms) Sessions to be cancelled in Session Cancellation: Lightning, storms, and heavy rain. Strong Winds over 63 km/h as advised by AAAS https://australianaas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Challenge-Courses-GPG-v1.0.pdf • 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 • Consider hazards associated with types of fencing material, gates and other infrastructure.
<p>Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment failure • Burns from ropes and wires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 used • 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 • Use trained, competent spotters • Supply all equipment in a clean and serviceable condition • Ensure wet equipment is dried before storing • Check equipment before use • Provide specific training in and awareness of safety requirements. • Have high ladder ready to remove participant immediately if any equipment issues arise.
<p>Heights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falling from ropes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have appropriate lead-up activities before students use the ropes course • Follow progressive and sequential skill development . Explain use of lowering device from fox. • Use, maintain and store equipment according to the manufacturer's specifications.
<p>Ratios & Age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum participant numbers: 25 • Minimum number of Visiting Group Leaders: 1 • Mid Ropes active participant ratio: 1:9 • Mid Ropes and Flying Fox combo: 1 extra instructor added to manage flying fox element. • Age Limitation: Grade 4 and above

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 • 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"> • Special 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 • Ensure long hair is tied back before participating in the activity • Students who are actively participating in the activity, to be seen by at least 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 to cover and 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 	<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