

# Risk Assessment for Leap Of Faith



## Reviews

Completed By	Revision Date	Approved By	Approval Date
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Risk level		Action required/approval
<b>High</b>	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/carer permission.

### Minimum Supervision

Supervision for Leap of Faith consists of :

1 x qualified Apex Activity Instructor for Leap of Faith

Minimum 1 teacher/supervisor is to be present to assist with student behaviours.

Ratio 1:25 Apex Staff.

### Recommendations

The activity is recommended for participants who wish to challenge themselves mentally and physically in an encouraging environment with support from their peers.

### Requirements

Participants must be a minimum of 12 years of age or grade 7 or higher.

Maximum weight of 120 kg's SWL "safe working load" per participant.

All participant with Special needs and/or medical conditions must disclose this information to Apex Camps before arriving at camp.

### Note

The platform is 10 meters high, participants will make a leap of 1.5 meters to the suspended buoy.

### 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
- Certificate in Lead Top Rope Climbing Artificial Surfaces

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
- 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 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
- Full-body harness to be the correct size and fit
- 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 high ropes, used according to the manufacturer's specifications and accepted high ropes 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
- Belay device (JAG) Apex Camps Primary rescue system is the use of a Petzl Jag.

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><b>Biological material</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bodily fluids (e.g. blood, sweat, saliva)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Have sufficient and suitable containment material (bandages, etc) available</li> <li>• Ensure that personal items are not shared.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environmental</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weather</li> <li>• Surfaces</li> <li>• Surrounds</li> <li>• Trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 <a href="https://australianaas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Challenge-Courses-GPG-v1.0.pdf">https://australianaas.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Challenge-Courses-GPG-v1.0.pdf</a></li> <li>• Check and assess surrounds for loose items, debris and hazards and suitability of participants.</li> <li>• Consider hazards associated with types of fencing material, gates and other infrastructure.</li> <li>• Overhanging tree branches are pruned back to remove potential hazard</li> <li>• Rain, lightning and climatic conditions that could potentially affect the safety of the participant and activity instructor</li> <li>• Participants to be advised to drink water, apply sunscreen and wear appropriate clothing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment failure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use, maintain and store equipment according to manufacturer’s specifications</li> <li>• Conduct equipment checks on helmets and full-body harnesses.</li> <li>• Check for worn or faulty equipment, and adhere to manufacturer’s guidelines for life of equipment</li> <li>• Ensure all safety equipment is in place and in good condition and quarantine immediately if not suitable</li> <li>• Supply all equipment in a clean and serviceable condition</li> <li>• Ensure wet equipment is dried before storing</li> <li>• All equipment /PPE are periodically inspected by a competent inspector conforming to AS2316</li> <li>• Provide specific (written and verbal) training in and awareness of safety requirements.</li> <li>• All equipment/PPE are free from chemical contamination</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ropes Course</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspections</li> <li>• Checks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily prestart Ropes course condition check to be carried out and documented by competent person</li> <li>• Quarterly Inspection condition check to be carried out and documented by competent person</li> <li>• Annual Ropes Course inspection to be carried out by licenced Industry expert IAW AS3216</li> </ul>

<b>Hazards/Risks</b>	<b>Control Measures</b>
<b>Heights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow progressive and sequential skill development</li> <li>• Conduct pre course safety brief</li> <li>• All participants will be safety checked by instructor before entering onto the course</li> <li>• Pre-activity planning will consider the maturity and ability if the group.</li> <li>• Activity instructor must use an approved belaying technique to ensure the participant is safe at all times.</li> </ul>
<b>Incorrectly fitted Personal Protection Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors will demonstrate correct fitment of harness and helmet</li> <li>• All harnesses and helmets will be checked by instructor. Students will form a line and will be moved to a designated area to wait once student has been checked.</li> <li>• If participant must remove harness and or helmet during the session, they will be safety checked before re-entering the course</li> <li>• PPE provided will appropriate to the participant</li> <li>• PPE periodically checked to ensure all is in good working order.</li> </ul>
<b>Incorrect Belay Technique</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualified Apex Instructors are the only persons permitted to carry out manual belaying during this activity and follow strict manual belay technique.</li> <li>• A participant will be required to be a backup belayer to assist the instructor.</li> </ul>
<b>Fear/ psychological damage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the participant 'freezes" on the leap of faith the instructor will talk them through climbing down or to complete the leap from wherever they are on the course. It is possible for participants to only climb part way up the course and complete the leap from where they are comfortable.</li> <li>• Pre-activity planning will consider if the leap of faith is suitable for the maturity and ability of the group.</li> <li>• The leap of faith is a challenge by choice activity.</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency rescue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 amount of time.</li> <li>• Access ladder is at the activity for effective use as required in an emergency</li> <li>• Activity will cease in the event of an emergency</li> <li>• All activity instructors conducting and supervising the High Ropes course are competent in High Ropes Course rescue</li> </ul>

Hazards/risks	Control Measures
<p><b>Physical exertion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strains and sprains</li> <li>• Exhaustion and fatigue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have appropriate warm-up and warm-down activities</li> <li>• Follow progressive and sequential skills development</li> <li>• Have ice packs available</li> <li>• Continuously monitor students for signs of fatigue and exhaustion</li> <li>• Continuously monitor students for fear and/or hesitancy, or loss of balance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special needs</li> <li>• High risk behaviours</li> <li>• Medical conditions</li> <li>• Student numbers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain parental permission including relevant medical information</li> <li>• When students with medical conditions are involved, ensure that relevant medical/ emergency plans and medications are readily available (insulin, Ventolin, Epipen, etc)</li> <li>• Refer to individual education plan/Educational adjustment plan/Behaviour management plan and other student documents.</li> <li>• Where necessary, obtain advice from relevant advisory visiting teachers or specialist teachers</li> <li>• Ensure there is adequate adult supervision appropriate to the participants medical or special need</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

Emergency Procedures	Teacher/group leader responsibilities	Participant Briefing Instructor should cover:	Participant Requirements
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Effect Rescue as required.</li> <li>2. Conduct First Aid as required.</li> <li>3. Contact Emergency Services via mobile phone, radio.</li> <li>4. Depending on injury: Stabilise patient and await ambulance or remove patient to appropriate site to recover.</li> <li>5. In the event of serious injury, suspend activity until incident can be investigated</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform &amp; liaise with Activity Staff regarding any potential issues with group (behavioural, disabilities, injuries)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Monitor &amp; take charge of behavioural issues if needed and attend to any pre-existing medical conditions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Participant Briefing Instructor should cover:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenge by Choice Philosophy</li> <li>• Session Objectives</li> <li>• OH&amp;S Brief</li> <li>• Safety Brief</li> <li>• Equipment Familiarisation</li> <li>• Skills Demo &amp; Practice</li> </ul> <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"> <li>• sunscreen, insect repellent</li> <li>• medication (if relevant)</li> <li>• water bottle</li> <li>• fully enclosed shoes, hat</li> <li>• minimum of sleeved shirt that covers midriff when arms are raised</li> <li>• shorts/leggings that preferably cover knees (to prevent grazes)</li> <li>• hair tied back, jewellery removed</li> </ul>