

## MOBILE CLIMBING WALL RISK ASSESSMENT

Assessed by: Lauren Bean

Date of Assessment: 12/12/24

Date of Review: 31/12/25



| Hazard  | Risk   | Persons at Risk                           | Initial Rating |             |        | Actions   | Rating After |
|---|--|---|----------------|-------------|--------|---|--------------|
|   |  |   | Severity       | Probability | Rating |   |              |
| Equipment Failure<br>(Harnesses, Carabiners, PPE, Auto-Belay) | Falling leading to Serious Injury, fractures, or possibly death. | Participants<br>Instructors               | 4              | 2           | 8      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All PPE to be checked at the start of each day, prior to use by a trained staff member.</li> <li>Daily checks to be carried out on the wall by, or supervised by, a staff member trained on climbing.</li> <li>6 month and 12 month inspections and thorough examinations undertaken in line with LOLER, PUWER, WAHR regulations by competent persons.</li> <li>Maximum user weight of 18 stone for auto-belays</li> </ul> | 4            |
| Incorrect fitting of harness                                  | Falling leading to Serious Injury, fractures, or possibly death. | Participants<br>Instructors               | 4              | 2           | 8      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harnesses to be checked by a trained staff member prior to each climb.</li> </ul>  | 4            |
| Falling objects   | Head injury, bruising, cuts, grazes.                             | Participants<br>Instructors<br>Spectators | 3              | 2           | 6      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants shoes must be secure</li> <li>Climbers to remove loose items from pockets and unsecured jewellery.</li> <li>Only soft toys to be used for 'rescue' games</li> <li>Area to be clear when any additional climbing equipment is carried to the top of the wall, for example, ropes, tools, carabiners unless they are secured and remain secured throughout the work</li> </ul>                                  | 3            |
| Contact with wall during climbing and lowering                | Head injury, cuts, bruises, grazes.                              | Participants<br>Instructors               | 2              | 3           | 6      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety brief given to all climbers.</li> </ul>   | 2            |

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| Climber becoming 'hooked' on holds | Choking, strangulation, serious injury or death.               | Participants<br>Instructors               | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helmets should not, in usual circumstances, be worn while using solely the auto belay.</li> <li>Instructors must be vigilant</li> <li>Long hair tied back</li> <li>Loose clothing tucked away.</li> <li>Excess webbing left loose (ie, not creating a loop) or tucked away carefully to not create a lopp</li> <li>Correct fitting of PPE</li> <li>Appropriate route setting</li> </ul> | 4 |
| Tripping on harness webbing        | Broken bones, minor injury                                     | Participants<br>Instructors               | 3 | 2 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessively long webbing must be tidied away but in such way to not create and additional snag hazard.</li> </ul>   | 3 |
| Climbers descending on to others   | Bruises, cuts, head or body injury.                            | Participants<br>Instructors<br>Spectators | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting climbers or spectators should usually be outside of the climbing area.</li> <li>Consider the use of barrier</li> </ul>  | 2 |
| Traversing                         | Falling from a low height. Bruises, cuts, head or body injury. | Participants<br>Instructors               |   |   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good briefing by instructor. Appropriate spotting, with regarding to size of climbers and those spotting. Instructor in good observational position. All hardware removed form harnesses. Floor area clear of obstructions. Auto belays/tracers kept out of the way.</li> </ul>   |   |

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| Jewellery getting caught on rope/rock.                             | Injury to fingers                                       | Participants                              | 1 | 4 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants must be asked to take rings off prior to the start of the session/climb and other loose or dangly items tucked away or removed.</li> </ul>  | 4 |
| Incorrect 'clipping in' (auto-belays)                              | Falling, serious injury, death, broken bones            | Participants<br>Instructors<br>Spectators | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unqualified instructors to be supervised at all times.</li> <li>Carabiners to be doubled checked that they closed and clipped in correctly.</li> <li>Participants encouraged to check their own carabiner</li> <li>Instructors encouraged to 'buddy check' when working with others</li> </ul> | 4 |
| Lack of/poor supervision   | Minor injury, Serious Injury, fractures, or death.      | Participants<br>Instructors               | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor must be trained (and assessed where appropriate) to the minimum standards for the type of activity.</li> <li>NGB Qualifications checked</li> </ul>  | 4 |
| Additional metal work used for assisted climbing                   | Bruises, cuts, head injury.                             | Participants<br>Instructors<br>spectators | 2 | 3 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helmets may be worn by instructors and helpers.</li> <li>Participants may also wear a helmet and this should be encouraged when using a manual system in addition to the auto belay.</li> </ul>  | 2 |
| Incorrect knot tying/ Use of inappropriate knots. (roped climbing) | Falling leading to Serious Injury, fractures, or death. | Participants<br>Instructors               | 4 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants must be tied in using a figure of eight knot or Clipped in with a locking carabiner and figure eight on a bight only.</li> <li>All belaying to be backed up by instructor.</li> <li>Instructor and peer/buddy checks used</li> </ul>  | 4 |

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| Being pulled into the Wall whilst belaying.<br>(roped climbing) | Causing falling climber  | Participants<br>Instructors | 4 | 1 | 4  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are made aware of potential hazards and where appropriate taught to belay with the aid of a ground anchor.</li> </ul>   | 4 |
| Hands or hair caught in a belay device.<br>(Roped /Accessible)  | Minor Injury   | Participants<br>Instructors | 4 | 2 | 8  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students belaying must be shown the correct procedure for belaying and briefed on the potential hazard of getting their hand caught. Long hair should be tied back.</li> </ul>   | 3 |
| Lowering on pulley systems<br>(accessible)                      | Friction burns, faster than planned decent for the participant | Participants<br>Instructors | 4 | 3 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider use of a belay device for lowering, particularly with heavier participants or with those with complex needs where the risk of anything but a very slow and controlled decent could cause harm. Belay device or descender should be appropriate for the static rope.</li> <li>Consider the use of a separate manual belay instead or in addition to the autobelay for decent.</li> <li>Gloves</li> </ul> | 4 |
| Transfers<br>(accessible)                                       | Falls, injuries, falling out of a wheelchair                   | Participants                | 4 | 3 | 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek guidance from participants or carers on the best way to approach transfer. Limit the amount of time somebody is out of either system when hoists are used and ensure they are supported during that time if they have limited upper body control.</li> </ul>  | 4 |
| Teddy Recue/Ball games  | Head injury from falling objects                               | Participants<br>Instructors | 3 | 3 | 9  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only suitably light toys or balls to be used such as foam balls or small 'happy meal' soft toys.</li> </ul>  | 3 |

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| Lighting/storms/<br>high winds                | Burns,<br>electrocution,<br>serious injury or<br>death           | Participants<br>Instructors<br>Spectators | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit to be lowered in case of suspected electrical storm (if storm appears suddenly, all persons to leave area immediately - at least 15 metres away).</li> <li>Unit not to be raised or lowered in winds above 20 mph. Unit not be used in winds above 30 mph.</li> <li></li> </ul>  | 4 |
| Finger<br>entrapment                          | Injury to fingers  | Participants                              | 3 | 2 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If participants attempt to use hangars hooks as (hand) holds they must be advised not to do so. Eye bolts removed from the bottom of the wall and replaced with cord/hold and new termination.</li> </ul>   | 3 |
| Unsupervised<br>access                        | Falling, cuts,<br>bruises, serious<br>injury, possibly<br>death. | Public                                    | 4 | 2 | 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the wall is left in an insecure area, the climbing wall should be lowered, the lower section covered or supervision (not necessarily an instructor) provided to ensure nobody climbs.</li> </ul>   | 4 |
| Structural Failure<br>of the climbing<br>wall | Serious injury or<br>death                                       | Participants<br>Instructors<br>Spectators | 4 | 1 | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily pre-use checks completed every day before use.</li> <li>6 month and 12 month inspections and thorough examinations undertaken in line with LOLER, PUWER, WAHR regulations by competent persons.</li> <li>Maintenance schedules completed as per the owner's manual.</li> <li>Road elements of the climbing wall serviced and inspected by a suitably experienced mechanic.</li> <li>All defects to be reported</li> </ul> | 4 |

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| Marquees | Head injury,<br>bodily injury                                | Participants<br>Instructors<br>Spectators | 3 | 3 | 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marquees to be staked or weighed down.</li><li>• Marquees not used in high winds with weights only</li><li>• Participants monitored to reduce the risk of pins being pulled</li></ul>                                       | 3 |
| Weather  | Sunburn, heat<br>exhaustion,<br>extreme weather,<br>exposure | Staff+<br>Participants                    | 3 | 2 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure a shaded area is available during hot weather</li><li>• Encourage the use of sun cream and sun hats.</li><li>• Allow water breaks</li><li>• Move activity inside or stop in extreme weather/lighting storm</li></ul> | 3 |