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| **Name of Activity** | Climbing Wall - Operation | **Date of Risk Assessment** | 20.5.24 | **Name of who undertook this Risk Assessment** | Tracey Murrell  John Gibson  Graham Thorpe |
| **Date of Next Review** | May 2026 |

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| **Hazard Identified? / Risks from It?** | **Who is at Risk?** | **How are the risks already controlled?**  **What extra controls are needed?** | **What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?** |
| ***Hazard*** *– something that may cause harm or damage.*  ***Risk*** *– the chance of it happening.* | *Young people*  *Leaders*  *Visitors?* | ***Controls*** *– Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.* | *Keep* ***checking*** *throughout the activity in case you need to change it…or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.* |
| **Incorrect raising of wall**  -Risk of toppling  -Risk of wall collapse / failure | Participants, Instructors, spectators | Ensure all critical tower function elements are inspected daily prior to use:-  -Ensure each of the two ram overflow reservoirs for each auto-belay cable system is empty of fluid / oil as this could indicate a bleed from the harness ram system.  IF FLUID / OIL PRESENT DO NOT USE THE RESPECTIVE AUTO-BELAY CABLE STSTEM  -Ensure each harness cable hydraulic gauge indicates 80-90 (as this is equivalent of holding weight of 23 stone).  -Ensure each of the wall assistor rams have pins in place with retaining clips and no damage is visible  -For each of the auto-belay cables, pull until stops are reached for a total of 10 times, to flush air air out of the system  -Ensure each auto-belay cable is fitted with a recovery rope and released, to ensure full range of cable movement  -Ensure the tower has a slight lean forward (best observed from the RHS of tower) to ensure participants does not hit the tower upon descent. | Note – if any of the listed items do not comply. Do not use tower and contact a trained set up instructor. |
| **Impact with ground upon decent**  -Risk of Leg injury | Participant, instructor | Ensure crash mats are in place prior to use |  |
| **Descending climber onto spectator**  -Risk of general injury | Participant, instructor | Ensure no spectators are no the mat whilst climbing tower is in use.  Instructors to be mindful of descending climbers to ensure they are not in the path of decent of the climber |  |
| **Inadequate supervision of activity**  -Risk of general injury | Participants, Instructors | Ensure TWO trained instructors are present at all times  \*One to supervise harness fitting  \*Once to supervise auto-belay operation  Ensure each instructor is wearing a herness before commencing the session (in case rescue of participant is required) |  |
| **Falling equipment or personal belongings whilst climbing the wall**  –injury from falling items | Participants, spectators | Ensure all participants do not carry anything in pockets that could fall out onto waiting climbers or spectators.  **No helmets required by climbers due to entrapment issue** |  |
| **Incorrectly fitting harness system**  -Risk of falling  -Risk of equipment failure  -Risk of participant panic | Participants, Instructors | Ensure suitably sized harnesses are given to the participant and that they are correctly worn.  When done up, the participant should NOT be able to pass a fist down the front of the harness.  Leg loops should be close fitting  Personal Harnesses can be used (for Leaders only) but a Harness Declaration Form must be used AND signed off by a member of the site team prior to commencing climbing | Note – Full body harnesses are available for smaller children  Note – Harnesses should be inspected every 90 days and recorded in the Operations manual. If a harness does not have an up to date record - do not use |
| **Incorrectly fitting / tightening of harness**  -Risk of snagging on hand holds | Participant | Ensure each participants harnesses are checked by the instructor prior to use.  Ensure excess harness webbing is fed into retaining loops and if required lopped back and forth through the loop to reduce the amount of freely hanging webbing |  |
| **Snagging of loose items / hair**  -Risk of entanglement  -Risk of strangulation  -Risk of tower impact | Participants, Instructors | Ensure loose clothing is tucked in  Ensure long hair is tied back  All jewellery and watched that potentially could snag on a climbing hand hold should be removed  Neckers should be removed or tucked into clothing | Removed jewellery / watches should be given to the leader / organiser present and not the instructor. Boyd Activity centre will not be held accountable for damage or loss of valuables during the activity |
| **Improper usage of climbing tower**  -Risk of falling  -Risk of collision injury with tower | Participants, Instructors | -Ensure each participant is given a safety brief on the correct usage of the climbing tower and expected conduct required.  Ensure all participants understand the need not to tamper or unattach the carabiner clip from the harness during climbing.  Ensure Safety Rules sign is displayed during the activity | If poor behaviour issues are identified, the participant will be removed from the activity, and upon the discretion of the instructor may not be allowed to continue |
| **Collision with climbing wall and/or ground on descent**  –Collision impact injury to any part of body | Participants, Instructors, spectators | Ensure correct climbing methods and let participants have the chance to understand how Auto belay system works in relation to their climb.  Ensure safety matting in the climbing zone, and ensure spectators and instructors do not pass underneath a participant climbing |  |
| **Exposed arms / legs**  -Risk of limb abrasion on handholds | Participants, Instructors | Long sleeves should be worn by participants & instructors  Shorts should not be worn by participants & instructors  Open toed shoes must not be worn by participants & instructors |  |
| **Failure of Auto-belay to allow decent**  -Risk of panic | Participants | If auto-belay does not decent, check if object has become jammed in belay mechanism. Implement rescue protocols as per the Operating manual  For younger / lighter children, attach a secondary lone to the harness so that the instructor can aid decent |  |
| **Participant unable to descend due to anxiety / fear**  - of panic | Participants | Ensure participants are shown the auto-belay operation especially the rate of descent.  If participant is unable to descend, Instructor to initially try to talk them down. If this is not successful, instructor may need to climb up to the participant and descend together. |  |
| **Injury when dealing with rescue scenarios**  –Entrapment, arm injuries, slipping & tripping | Participants, Instructors | -Ensure all emergency climber recovery procedures are explained clearly through training and practiced at regular intervals.  -Have emergency plan in place for frozen/jammed Auto belay |  |
| **Unsuitable weather – high winds, lightening, storms, freezing temps and very hot weather.**  -Injury due to collision,  -Weather exposure | Participants, Instructors | Training to cease in winds of 25mph or higher, or is storm or lightening approaches. Anemometer available for use in harness box.  If weather is too cold for hands to work correctly cease activity  If weather is too hot, monitor dehydration, sunburn heat stroke, lack of concentration etc  Supervising leaders should take a break every two hours when supervising the activity.  Indoors also consider adequate light, ventilation, extreme temperatures. Ensure appropriate breaks | Use of weather apps to be used if required |
| **Exposed mechanical parts**  -Risk of entanglement | Participants, Spectators | Area behind tower should be cordoned off to prohibit unauthorised access.  Oly trained instructors should need to go behind the tower (for pre use checks etc..) |  |
| **Use of helmets on Auto Belay towers**  -Risk of Entanglement with hand holds when descending | Participants | Typically, helmets are not used on Auto-belay systems due to the greater risk from helmets catching on hand hold when descending.  On review of the tower used ay Boyd, we concur that helmets should not be used for this reason. |  |
| **Incorrect climbing technique (use of tower edge)**  -Risk of cuts from exposed fibreglass & exposed bolts | Participants, Instructors, | Ensure all participants are instructed to use the hand holds for climbing and not the edge of the tower itself. |  |
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| ***Review****:*  *26.2.22 – Original Issue*  *14.6.22 - Inclusion of breaks for supervising staff running activity*  *17.9.22 – Addition of use of leaders own harnesses and the declaration requirements*  *10.2.23 – Referece to helmets in response to POR change 9.34*  *20.5.24 – Review. Reference to the crack identified on the main mechanism, Not deemed critical at this time (reviewed by J Gibson)* | | | |