

## Risk Assessment for Leap of Faith High Ropes at Wild Place- By Chris Ireson 20th Jan 2020

### Read along with the 19 Covid risk assessment

#### For all activities:

Participants should remove all jewelry, scarfs and dangling clothing, remove the contents of their pockets. Tie back any long hair and remove any long piercings. They must wear closed toe shoes (no Crocs or sandals and wear shorts or trouser (no skirts). They will also complete course disclaimer.

#### Leap of Faith- Auto belay

Target group	All physically active groups
Time	5 to 10 minutes
Rationale / Outcome Benefits	Setting goals and pushing limits. High impact activity with huge feelings of success.
Group size	1 at a time
Staff	1 with another member of staff on hand.
Preparation	Daily check on auto belay and attachments- adjust the bag to the approximate height of the participants.
Procedure	

#### **When helping participants explicit consent to evacuation method MUST be given on all occasions.**

For vulnerable adults or children, prior to the instructor starting the evacuation process (i.e. before the instructor climbs the pole to offer support to the individual struggling to complete Leap of faith), the instructor must talk to the parent or guardian to explain what will happen next and the methods that will be taken to assist with evacuation. They should agree any action. They should keep them updated throughout the process. This will enable parents to help provide confidence and reassurance to the child and will assist the instructor. The procedure will be on a sign at the entrance and referred to in the introduction so participants and guardians can see and understand them.

#### **Climber Struggling to climb the pole**

1. Climber not able to climb all the way up – Encourage child to climb down or swing off the ladder and then try again if they wish to. If the child is near the platform encourage them to climb lower down before swinging off.
2. If the climber is struggling to downclimb explain to the parent/guardian that you will ascend to give them more encouragement and you may hold onto the belay rope to help with confidence, obtain permission and Instructor to attach himself to the ASAP, put on helmet and inform another instructor that he is ascending. Ascend and reassure the climber and encourage them to climb down.  
If instructor does hold onto the belay rope, ask the climber beforehand and obtain permission first.

#### **Climber nervous on the platform**

Ask the Climber if they would like to down climb or try the jump.

1. If they want to try the jump and if so move the bag closer, encourage them to put toes over the edge and focus on the bag and jump. If they still struggle ask if they would like you to come up and help?
2. If they want to down climb ask if they would like you to come up and help get down and ascend if required.

### **Climber need assistance on the platform**

1. Consent should be obtained by all climbers before any evacuation method is used. If the instructor/climber/ parent or guardian feels the climber needs instructor assistance then the instructor should ask the climber if he can come up to assist and gain consent.

If the climber is a child/vulnerable adult, the Instructor should say the following to the parent/guardian: "I will go up and check if they want to try the leap or to downclimb I can also offer them an assistance rope to help. I'll ask them what they want to do and go with that if that's ok.

2. Ascend, reassure the climber and ask the climber if they want to downclimb or to try the jump. If at any time the climber wants to downclimb encourage them to do so. Ask them if you can clip them onto the assistance rope and use if you have their permission (they remain on the auto belay). If the climber wishes to try the jump, ask them if they want to use the assistance rope - respect their wishes. The assistance rope is not to be used to pull the climber off the platform. If at any time they indicate verbally or non-verbally they do not want to jump encourage them to down climb. If in any doubt encourage the climber to down climb and try again later if they want.

### **Rescue lower where Climber does not want to jump and refuses to downclimb**

1. Reassure the climber and call a second instructor to assist. Ask the second instructor to tell other climbers to cease climbing and remain on the ground until further notice.
2. Second instructor to keep the parent/guardian informed. Explain that we that if the climber does not want to down climb we can lower on the rescue ropes. Obtain their consent and keep the climber and parent/guardian informed.
3. To lower bring the bag in close and if on the platform encourage them to sit, and hold onto the assistance rope.
4. If on the pole, ask them to hold onto the assistance rope and the second instructor to pull on the rescue rope while the 1<sup>st</sup> instructor helps them off. Climber to remain on auto belay at all times.

A record to be kept on the Record of Evacuation Method, REM form, whenever an instructor has ascended to Rescue lower, or has used a rope to assist with the leap of downclimb. Complete the Record of Evacuation Method REM Form.

Complete with climber's name, date and session, confirmation that explicit consent of climber was given and consent of the parent/guardian obtained if a child/vulnerable person involved. Record of Evacuation Method form should be completed and sent to Chris Ireson daily.

Should an incident occur in which immediate threat to life or limb occurs:  
 Lower the casualty to the ground  
 Give first aid  
 Radio or send runner to reception to Wild Places Customer Services, request type of assistance and equipment required.  
 Call emergency services  
 Call the emergency contact of the participant

Participants kit  
 Clothing suitable for weather  
 Boots or trainers  
 On the Leap of faith helmets should be worn.

**Hazard**

**Protective Measures**

Swinging back into pole

As the participant jumps then pull through as  
 Ensure that the bag is past 2<sup>nd</sup> support (limbers to have to  
 platform prior to self) through the belay device.

Landing on Participants

**Protective Measures**

Instructor on hand As the participant jumps ensure you are through the danger  
 Zone. Do not use the wire rope as a support (after the bag is on the 4<sup>th</sup> steel  
 support. Brief All participants through the belay device. stay in the safe zones  
 identified.

Friction

Adults to wear a jacket to avoid friction burn on arms.

**Totem Pole- All Aboard**

Target group

Any

Time

30 minutes per team of 4 - 16

Rationale / Outcome Benefits

A powerful activity for group bonding, shared achievement, trust, support and communication.

Group size

4 to 16

Staff

Must have onsite training by ERCA qualified Instructor & signed off as competent for the activity.

Preparation

Put belay ropes in place. Set up belay system. Belaying will normally be done via bell ringing with 1 bilayer pulling, 1 tailing and the instructor will also tail. A safety knot should be used once climbers the top and as required.

Specific Emergency Procedure	<p>Use fall arrest to ascend and assist.          f delegate 'crag fast' then pulling on rope will haul them off AS A LAST RESORT          Should an incident occur in which immediate threat to life or limb occurs:          Lower the casualty to the ground          Give first aid whilst a runner is sent to Wild Place Customer Services, request type of assistance and equipment required.          Call emergency services          Contact the emergency contact of the participant</p>
Equipment	<p>Gri-Gri's          Semi-Static Belay Ropes          Slings and Karabiners</p>
Trainer kit	<p>First aid kit          Harness and Helmet</p>
Delegate kit	<p>Clothing suitable for weather          Harness &amp; Helmet</p>

**Significant Hazards**

**Protective Measures**

Tangled ropes whilst climbing up or standing on top platform.

Careful briefing and verbal intervention to ensure that delegates climb up then stand with their back to the belayer: i.e. stand in the correct quadrant on the top platform.

Delegate falling away from their belayer whilst on the top platform.

Ensure that the rope is kept sufficiently tight.  
 Ensure that lean-backs are performed by those delegates facing each other in opposite quadrants in twos or fours.  
 A safety knot should be used once climber's reach's approx. 2 meters at the top and as required.

Rope-burn or muscle strain when falling back.

Ensure that rope is above arms and not under the armpits.

Delegates falling whilst being lowered

ALL lowering to be done by instructors only. Delegates must not lower using Gri-Gri's.

## Climbing Wall – auto belay

Target group	Any
Time	40-50 minutes per session
Rationale / Outcome Benefits	Personal challenge. Confidence Building.
Group size	1 to 20
Staff	Must have on-site training by ERCA qualified staff.
Preparation	Clip auto belay ropes in place at the base of the climb elements. Visual check the tape and karabiners. -Three pulls on the auto belay.
Specific Emergency Procedure	<p>If climber is stuck instructor to clip to auto belay (or emergency rope with 2<sup>nd</sup> instructor belaying.) Climb above the climber and pull on auto belay tape. Auto belay jam- unjam tape from hold if possible. I Inform the parent/guardian that you are going to climb up on another auto belay and help them to downclimb and if they are not able to downclimb, you will hold onto the auto belay and lower then down. Ask for their consent for this.</p> <p>Ascend and explain to the climber what you are going to do. If they agree, hold onto the auto belay rope, lift the auto belay rope slightly until they let go of the holds and let them glide down</p> <p>If they don't want to let go of the holds, call over another instructor and ask him to tell the parent/guardian where present that you are going to set up a rescue rope and ask for their consent. Instructor 2 set up the rescue rope. Inform the climber of what you are doing. Clip them onto the rescue rope and lower them down on that and the auto belay. Complete the REM form if a rescue rope has been used including if the climber has then downclimbed with rope assistance.</p>
Equipment	Belay Devices Dynamic Safety Ropes Slings and Karabiners
Trainer kit	First aid kit Harness and Helmet
Delegate kit	Clothing suitable for weather Boots or trainers Harness No helmets are worn on auto belay climbs due to the risk of helmet hang up. Helmets are worn on the auto belay leap of faith.
<b>Hazard</b>	
Climber falling on participant	Ensure all participants are aware that they do not stand on green mats as a climber will be above. Also, to be mindful that there are climbers around the site, and they should be aware of what is above them and listen to the instructor who

will point out any danger areas.

No-one to climb on any equipment/wall without being clipped on.

Ensure the Karabiners are clipped on to the harness.

Once the climber is on the ground, unclip them and clip the auto belay to the mat.

Ensure the participants are aware that only the instructor will clip or unclip the climbers.

Helmet hang up when on the auto belays

No helmet to be worn on the auto belayed climbing due to the risk of the helmet catching on one of the holds causing strangulation.

Climber snagged on hold

Ensure no scarfs or wraps are worn to reduce hang up risk. Smaller hold without big jugs used on course construction to reduce risk.

Climber scared to climb down

All climbers to try practise climb at start and to demonstrate using the auto belay from 2/3 metres high. Encourage climbers to down climber if they struggle.

Climbers climbing before an instructor clips

Informed at the 1nitail brief & and the wall brief not to climb unless clipped in. Demonstration given. Mats in place to cover the climb in-between climbers. Only the instructor or trained clippers to clip in.

### **Crate Stack Challenge**

Target Group:

Any

Time:

30 minutes to 1 hour

Qualifications:

Site specific training by an ERCA qualified instructor  
There must be a holder of a current First Aid certificate on site.

Ratio:

1:12 with 1 staff on session

Pre-session Check:

Visual check.  
The pilot lines need lowering and the ropes checked and set up. These must be static ropes.  
All karabiners and belay devices will need to be checked  
Harnesses and helmets need to be fitted and checked.  
Crates set up ready.

Briefing and kitting up

It is the instructor's responsibility to ensure the physical and emotional safety of the participants.  
Participants must be kitted up in a waist harness and helmets all fitted correctly.  
All participants must wear helmets at all times whilst on the activity.  
The belay is set up using the Ground anchor creating a direct system.  
Instructors should be familiar with the belay devices used for the activity (gri-gri).  
For all children's groups a decision by a senior instructor or Manager must be made and recorded if it is felt desirable for the group to belay and lower. They will need to demonstrate how to belay and also how to lower. This must take place before the session starts.

The activity must be stopped if there is a risk of thunder, lightning and or high winds developing.

The Instructor should consider stopping the session in very wet conditions.

#### Instructing and supervising the session

This should be a positive and enjoyable experience for the participants. Participants where possible should be given the choice of whether they want to attempt a challenge and also how far up they wish to go. We operate a system of "Challenge by choice". All participants must be attached to a safety rope and usually will be tied to the harness. The belayers must be directly supervised by the instructors (if the instructor is not actually belaying) and will need direct assistance when lowering participants from the crate stack.

Demonstrate how the crates link together

Offer different solutions for building the stack – four crates three crates, wider are more stable. The normal is 3 crates each layer up to ten high (maximum).

Belay ropes need to be kept tight at all times, no need to give slack. Once those people off the floor building the stack are at least 5 crates high, then an overhand knot should be put in the dead rope to prevent any slippage through the gri-gri whilst the stack continues to be built.

Crate giver must stay on the floor and pass crates as far as they can.

On completion of crate stack –

1. Control the safety ropes by locking off the gri-gri with a slip hitch or overhand knot to prevent any rope movement.
2. Collapse crates away from belayers
3. Remove crates from landing area
4. Controlled lower of participants

If the group are having a second go then develop the session by blind folding one participant or reduce the base of the stack to 2 crates. Remember to swap the group around. Review the session at the end – this does not have to be a major review.

#### Ending the session

Ropes removed from crate stack and replaced with pilot lines.

All the crates will need to be stored

All equipment returned to stores and checked

Any issues recorded in incident log

#### Significant Hazards

#### Protective Measures

Tangled ropes whilst climbing up or standing on crates.

Careful briefing and verbal intervention to ensure that delegates climb up then stand with their back to the belayer. Ensure the climbers do not twist round each other.

Crates falling on participants

Participants to stay in the safety zone.  
Participants to pass the crates from the front of the tower and to avoid left and right hand side.  
Once the crates cannot be passed up by hand they should be sent up on a rope.  
If participants are to pull the tower away from the bottom using the rope, they should stand in

the safe zones and as far away from the tower as possible.

Rope-burn or muscle strain when falling back.

Ensure that rope is above arms and not under the armpits.

Participants falling whilst being lowered

ALL lowering to be done by staff. Delegates must not lower using Gri-Gri's. Redirect on karabiner if adults are being lowered to reduce rope decent speed.

## **Giant Swing**

### **Activity Preparation**

1. A visual check of the integrity of the element and all equipment must be made prior to use in accordance with the inspection and maintenance of equipment guidelines and the daily Pre-session Ropes Activity Checks.

### **Activity Set-up**

#### **Seat Set-up**

1. Each of the two/three seats should be attached to the bar, facing away from the hauling pole, with 1.5mtrs slings, with a screw gate karabiner at the top and a triangular maillon at the bottom.
2. The Hauling yoke should be attached with the short rope attached to both the lower maillons on the central seat attachments and one each of the longer ropes attached to the lower maillons of the outer seat attachments
3. The umbilical ropes should be attached to the bar. Two for each person- yellow on the outer seats and red tape on the middle.
4. The quick release should be attached to the apex of the hauling yoke.

#### **Hauling system set-up**

1. The hauling wire should not be snagged on anything and should pass through the speed roller attached with a green sling to the pole.
2. The hauling rope attached to the fence with a plastic loop. This stops the swing going to high and the plastic loop will break if the rope snags on the swing.
3. The cover on the electric winch should be removed and the electric winch plugged in.
4. The hauling clip on the steel rope should be clipped to the back of the haul cable with the quick release attached to the hauling yoke on the steel bar.
5. The participants should be winched upwards. The winch should be stopped when the black foam cover (top of the haul yoke to level with the 1<sup>st</sup> block. (approx. 1.5 metres from the very top) the rope near the pulley with at least 1.5 meters of wire left.
6. Check other participants are not in the swing areas, the cart is out of the way and both gates are closed.
7. Countdown and pull the rope. Ensure the winch controls are not left near the public.

#### **Check List:**

- Customers attached with two umbilical ropes, in Swing harness and blue rope across them.
- Hemet on and customer sat with bums back in seat.
- Area clear, kart clear and no one in the area expect the instructor how should be in the corner near the gate.
- No twist in cable, start winch

- Arms up
- Stope min 1.5mtrs from top
- Final check of area- release.

### **Significant Hazards**

### **Protective Measures**

Fingers in winch

Do not hold the wire.  
 Ensure the red safety cut out button on the winch operational switch is always depressed when the winch is not in use.  
 If the site is left at any time, the power should be turned off and the winch unplugged.  
 Ensure no participants go near the winch or the operational switch.

Fowling of release rope

The instructor should be stood Behind the swing near the 1<sup>st</sup> gate. Ensure that the steel wire is not fouled/caught in any way before use and that the wire runs smoothly onto the drum.

Safety on the swing

Ensure there is four-point check of the harness:

1. Both umbilical's attached
2. Arms in
3. Helmet on and bum back
4. Blue safety rope connected

Loading kart must be removed well out of the line of the swing's course.

Ensure that participants have their hands below Helmets to be worn and participants to face forward prior to release of the swing.

### **Generic course risk assessment & Site Rules**

The Course remains locked when there is no instructor present.

Only participants, instructors or helpers allowed on the course.

Equip & brief all participants before accessing the course and all participants complete a disclaimer.

All participants to wear closed toe shoes. Trousers or shorts to be worn - no skirts.

Long hair tied back, and dangling earrings removed.

Listen to your instructor & do as asked.

Only the instructor is to clip and unclip the auto belays.

All lowering to be done by instructors. Participants must not lower using Gri-Gri's.

Instructors to ask about alcohol and drug use prior to activity and exclude those under the influence from participating.

The minimum age for this activity is 5 years. The maximum weight is 130kg/21 stone.

## **Health and Safety Policy**

The Leap of Faith Course has been designed and built to the European Rope Course Association (ERCA) standards. All staff site specific trained and signed off by ERCA Instructors. All staff are trained in emergency procedures and adhere to strict onsite health and safety regulations. There will always be a qualified first aider on site. All employees DBS vetted.

1. Leap of Faith recognises and accepts its legal obligations (under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all applicable regulations made under it) to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all its employees, persons in training, partners, contractors and temporary workers ("Employees") and the health and safety of visitors, clients, young people and other persons who attend or use our premises or Ropes Course and who may be affected by its work ("Participants").
2. In accordance with its legal obligations, Leap of Faith has carried out a risk assessment of its activities, equipment, facilities, building and all other related arrangements where matters of health and safety may be involved. Leap of Faith will apply the necessary measures identified in its risk assessment and adopt all other reasonably practicable measures (within the limits of available resources) to:
  - 2.1 reduce hazards and the risk of personal injury to its Employees and Participants arising out of its activities;
  - 2.2 maintain a safe and healthy place of work; and
  - 2.3 reduce hazards and the risk of damage to its property.
3. In particular, Leap of Faith shall:
  - 3.1 continue to identify hazards and assess risks to health and safety;
  - 3.2 provide and maintain safe plant, equipment and systems of work that are free of risk to health;
  - 3.3 maintain any place of work under its control (including access and egress) safe and free of risk to health;
  - 3.4 provide safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances;
  - 3.5 provide adequate and appropriate information, instructions, training and supervision;
  - 3.6 consult with all the Employees on health and safety matters;
  - 3.7 liaise with contractors and other employers where necessary;
  - 3.8 monitor, inspect and review the implementation of this Policy;
  - 3.9 review and update this Policy annually.
4. To this end, proper implementation and application of this Policy by everyone is paramount. Employees are required to comply with the terms of this Policy and any related arrangements or policies from time to time in force; take all reasonable steps to protect their own safety and that of other Employees; and co-operate with management in the implementation of this Policy.

5. The ultimate responsibility for overseeing the implementation of this Health and Safety Policy rests with High Zones T/A Leap of Faiths Director, Chris Ireson.