

LOW ROPES COURSE

The safety procedures and risk assessment are based on the fact that the participants in the activity are of average ability. Before commencing the activity the camp staff will ensure that the participants are aware of the dangers and procedures to follow. It may be necessary if any participants are disabled then supervisory staff will be required to oversee the activity. The safety level must not be compromised, but steps will be taken to ensure that those less capable can take a full and active part in the activity.

Instructor Adult Leaders will be in charge of their own group and will be pre-trained prior to the activity. The camp staff will be fully conversant with the course and will ensure that the course is set up in such a way that the elements are suitable for the participants' age, size and ability. The participants will be instructed by the camp staff prior to commencement.

Ratio Instructor/participant Not fixed; but should be limited to a number that the adult leaders can adequately control this will depend on age and behaviour of the participants. The recommended number of participants is 20.

Protective Equipment. Helmets, which must be suitably sized, will be worn at all times and will be securely fastened with a chin strap. Suitable clothing including footwear should be worn. Clothing should not be loose and give some protection against cuts and grazes in case of a fall, shoes should fit securely.

Maintenance Before use a full 'sweep' of the area will be done to clear the area of any hazards; e.g. bottles, glass, large stones, animal faeces. These should be removed and disposed of. The Instructor will on a daily basis check all connectors [maillons and D shackles] are screwed up sufficiently i.e. above finger tight. Tensioning knots will be checked to ensure that they are tied off correctly. All of the equipment, but especially ropes, will be checked for signs of damage, abrasion, rotting, chafing, wear or vandalism at least once weekly. The equipment will be subject to a full Safety Check on an annual basis; this will be done by a competent person and will ensure full structural safety and integrity.

The following rules will apply.

- ✚ Where necessary a system of spotting either by a leader or buddy will be followed. The participant will be followed by an attentive person who in the event of a fall will be ready to partially catch them. The intent is not to fully catch but to break the fall, and in particular to protect the head by breaking the fall. The spotter can be at a particular hazard or can follow a vulnerable person round the course.
- ✚ Care will be taken when lifting or carrying [see section 15.3]
- ✚ Chain walk ~ the ropes must not be swung wildly
- ✚ Travelling tyre ~ participants should not stand on top of tyres as they could then touch the pulley/cable causing injury to fingers or hands
- ✚ Swinging Log ~ the log should not be swayed wildly from side to side due to the danger to persons in the vicinity. Participants must not hold onto the shackles or steel wire holding the log as there are potential entrapment points

- ✚ Crossed ropes ~ If grape vine is not used then a spotter [see above] should be used due to the danger of falling off
- ✚ Tyre Traverse ~ Participants should not stand on top of tyres due to increase distance for falling. The foot should be placed at right angles to the rim and not 'inside' the tyre rim as in the case of a fall the foot could be caught inside the tyre.

Further advice can be found in the Low Ropes Course ~ Activity Instructor Guidance.

BRADLEY WOOD SCOUT CAMP HANDBOOK

LOW ROPES COURSE ~ 14.5

RISK	PERSONS AT RISK			CONTROLS TAKEN TO MINIMISE RISKS	Probability	Consequence	Score	RISK
	Young persons	Spectators	Staff/leaders					
Finger Entrapment	✓		✓	Training Given prior to commencement. Instructors vigilance	6	4	24	Medium
Falls	✓			Instructors vigilant. Training given prior to activity	6	4	24	Medium
Collision with swinging log	✓		✓	Instructors vigilant. Training given prior to activity	6	6	36	Medium/High
Injury to arms ,legs, fingers	✓			Instructors vigilant. Training given prior to activity	8	4	32	Medium/High
Head Injuries due to falls collisions with equipment	✓			All participants will wear correct fitting helmet fastened with chin strap	6	6	36	Medium/High
Interference with participants	✓			Rules prohibit interference. Leaders will ensure rules kept. Persons misbehaving will	2	4	8	Low
Equipment Failure	✓		✓	Regular and session checks will be done Annual maintenance	2	6	12	Low/Medium
Manual handling injuries	✓		✓	Moveable platforms are lightweight, small persons will be assisted if necessary	2	4	8	Low
Spectators misbehaving	✓	✓		Camp staff and leaders will ensure behaviour is within acceptable bounds	2	4	8	Low
Vandalism	✓	✓	✓	Normal site procedures	6	4	24	Medium
Foreign objects on course	✓		✓	Site checked prior to each session	2	2	4	Low
Persons hit whilst on appliance	✓	✓		Track to be cleared before next participant. Area fenced off	2	4	8	Low
Failure to follow rules	✓		✓	All adults and participants made aware of rules before session begins	2	4	8	Low