

## BOYS' BRIGADE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB – GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT

### ABSEILING

HAZARD	WHO MAY BE HARMED	RISK LIKELIHOOD	RISK CONSEQUENCE	CONTROL MEASURE
<b>WEATHER</b>				
General	Group			Meet Organiser and Activity Leader(s) to check weather forecast prior to meet and brief the group.
Cold and/or wet	Group	H	H	Activity Leader(s) to brief participants in advance of the activity commencing on suitable clothing. Activity Leader(s) to check that all participants have suitable clothing prior to commencing the activity. Activity Leader(s) must always wear appropriate clothing in order to run the activity safely.
Sun	Group	H	M	Activity Leader(s) must ensure that group aware of the dangers relating to the sun, i.e. heatstroke and sunburn. Activity Leader(s) to ensure that the team have suitable clothing, e.g. long sleeves, trousers and hat and apply sun cream if required.
Lightening and/or storms	Group	L	VH	Activity Leader(s) not to do this activity in any serious storm. If caught out during a lightening storm, then the Activity Leader/Ass Activity Leader must cease the activity immediately and seek out appropriate shelter.
High Winds	Group	M	M	Activity Leader(s) to monitor weather and suspend or cancel session when wind conditions cause safety to be affected.
<b>TERRAIN</b>				
Falling Objects	Group	L	VH	Activity Leader(s) to visually check the wall/rock face for any loose items before each session. A hazard area must be established and clearly identifiable, and where helmets must be worn. Helmets must always be worn whilst taking part in this activity except when outside the hazard area. Activity Leader(s) to brief participants at the start of the session about the purpose and rules of the hazard area.  Activity Leader(s) to brief accompanying adults to assist in the management and supervision of these rules.

Falling Objects (Continued)	Group	L	VH	Activity Leader(s) are to brief participants not to have any objects in their pocket and to verbally check before each individual abseils. Activity Leader(s) to brief participants not to walk under those participants when abseiling is in progress. Activity Leader(s) to brief the accompanying adult(s) about where to stand, how to help and to assist in ensuring the participants keep their helmet on.
Fall whilst ascending or descending from abseil area	Group	L	VH	Activity Leader(s) to brief all participants on how to safely approach the abseil area and how to leave the area. Activity Leader(s) to ensure the path/route to the abseil area can be safely ascended and descended by All.
Fall from top of abseil area	Group	L	VH	Activity Leader(s) to be constantly secured at top of abseil areas and more than one Activity Leader to be present when more than one participant is at the top of the abseil. If transferring from the top of a climb to an abseil, the participant must be secured to a safety rope at all times and where appropriate, belayed. Activity Leader(s) to ensure that there is ample area space for participants to be secured to abseil rope prior to commencing abseil. Activity Leader(s) to attach a belayed safety line to all participants to ensure abseil descent is always controlled. Participants are brought to the top of the abseil area by a supervising adult(s) and ideally attached to an anchored safety line at all times. Activity Leader(s) to assess all potential abseil areas before use.
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>				
Harness and helmet incorrectly fitted	Group	M	VH	Activity Leader(s) to brief all participants on the correct fitting of all climbing equipment prior to starting. Activity Leader(s) to check each individual before they climb.
Belaying	Group	M	VH	Only qualified/approved Activity Leader(s) are permitted to belay participants who are abseiling and all descents to be on a safety line and descents to be slow and controlled.
Faulty Equipment	Group	VL	VH	Equipment is to be thoroughly checked and recorded on an annual basis prior to or during AGM weekend or other suitable occasion – where necessary Equipment Officer to make recommendations at meeting on any equipment to be purchased/replaced. Activity Leader(s) to check all equipment on a regular basis and prior to and at the end of each session any defects identified should be reported to Club Equipment Officer. Equipment to be stored in appropriate conditions between use to ensure it remains in good condition and working order.

Misuse	Group	VL	VH	Activity Leader(s) will hold the appropriate qualification or under the discretion of the qualified Leader have appropriate and evidenced experience in the activity ideally an Assistant Activity Leader(s) gaining experience towards acquiring a professional qualification. Activity Leader(s) within the BBMC supervising this activity must hold the SPA qualification or if indoors the CWA and ensure the Club follows the standard operating procedures for any centres we use or indoor climbing walls.
Inversion	Group	VL	VH	Activity Leader(s) to brief the participants on how to avoid inversion. Activity Leader(s) to continually monitor the participant as they ascend and descend. Appropriate fitting harnesses should be worn by Young People.
<b>EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)</b>				
Hair, clothing or jewellery trapped in equipment	Group	L	M	Activity Leader(s) to brief all participants to tuck away loose clothing and long hair prior to climbing. Activity Leader(s) are to brief participants to remove jewellery prior to climbing. Activity Leader(s) to visually check every participant prior to each ascent.
Handhold snagging helmet during descent	Group	L	H	Any prominent spikes that could snag a helmet during descent will be turned upside down. All descents are to be slow and controlled.
Clipping into gear loops	Group	L	VH	Activity Leader(s) to ensure that all participants have been clipped into the 'tie-in' point before ascent.
<b>OTHER</b>				
Structural Failure	All	VL	VH	Climbing/Abseiling rock faces are to be visually inspected by Activity Leader(s) before use. Artificial structures should be inspected and certified by an Independent Engineer.
Unauthorised Access	All	M	VH	Activity Leader(s) to brief participants on arrival reference not going onto any activity without a suitably qualified BBMC Leader or centre staff. No ropes are to be left prepared and unattended.

**The Boys' Brigade Mountaineering Club gratefully acknowledges and thanks Mr John Haslam, Mr Doug Wright, Mrs Janet Jenkinson and especially Mr Dave Mayo of Chase Training Solutions for providing material for the production of this risk assessment.**