

Risk Assessment Activity – High Ropes

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen				Assessed:	Next Review Date
					10/09/2022	10/01/2023
<p>Overview: The three High Ropes courses have an annual inspection which is carried by High Times Technical Consultants that ensure the courses are in safe working order. Regular monthly inspection checks are also carried out on equipment by activities staff as well as a quarterly structural check. All rope techniques, together with equipment and its life inspection procedures are established and overseen by a Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor (WMCI) Chief instructor. Staff are in-housed trained using NGB recognized techniques and all other instructors are RCI, CWI or ERCA qualified. An examination to check competency of full-time staff is completed on each staff member by the external and independent Technical Advisor. This process is periodically checked and validated by the Technical Advisor and senior staff members do continual monitoring throughout the year. Preferred Staff to Client ratio is 2:12 and a maximum of 2:16 under supervision (under instruction 1: 1 instructor to climber ratio).</p>						
Hazards	Groups of People at Risk from the Hazards Identified	Probability	Severity	Risk Category	Control Measures	
Structural Failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	Fatal	Low	High Ropes Courses have an external annual inspection. Quarterly structural checks are carried out.	
Falling objects	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Major	Medium	Group briefed to empty pockets. All equipment at top of the elements is secured. Guests briefed on how to stand if objects fall to protect themselves.	
Unauthorized access to High Ropes Courses	Instructors, staff, guest/participants and general public	Very likely	Fatal	Low	Fencing surrounds High Ropes courses with a dedicated gate. There is 'no access' signs on the surrounding fencing and participates are told not to	

					entered fenced activity areas without staff. All staples and ladders are locked away when area is not in use and instructors are not present.
Rope burns	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Group briefed on correct clothing. Instructor supervises guests contact with rope. Instructors are trained in safe lowering practices of lowering slowly and smoothly.
High level fall	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Fatal	Low	Detailed in-house training & assessment are carried out on staff to ensure safe practice is used for activities. Instructors ensure correct use of all equipment. All PPE checked and recorded monthly. See supporting documents for safety practices. A clear briefing on when participants can start an activity. Instructors ensure participants are wearing all PPE be for partaking in the HRC.
Environmental Hazards	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very likely	Fatal	Medium	All participants are briefed on proper clothing for the current weather conditions. High Ropes Courses not used or sessions cancelled in the event of thunder & lightning (activities can resume 30mins after last thunder was heard) or winds above force 9 (50mph)
Slips, trips and falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Minor	Medium	Maintenance of site, instructor visually checks area upon arrival. General brief and group management is provided by instructors ensure play is safe.

Soft tissue injury	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Instructor aware of group's capabilities. Warm up/warm down as needed.
Physiological effects	Guest/participants	Very unlikely	Major	Low	Instructors aware of groups needs and medical issues. Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participates choices and be sensitive and adapt to participates reactions to the activity they are invited to participate in.
Stress / Panic Attack	Guest/participants	Likely	Major or traumatizing	Low	Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participates choices. Instructors will air on the side of caution if participants start to panic or have strong emotional reaction to the activity the instructors will react quickly to ensure the level of stress is brought back down to acceptable level. This should help ensure the activity runs well for all those involved.
Helmet suspension (caught on an element)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Major	Medium	Lowering practices taught that prevents helmets catching e.g. slow careful lowering of participants in the correct position.

