

# Risk Assessment 6: Top roping/bottom roping

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## Document History:

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## Scope:

This risk assessment covers all staff working for Foundry Mountaineering Club CIC Ltd, Foundry Catering Services Ltd and Foundry Climbing Coaching Ltd.

## Documentation Review

Yearly in April

## Who should read this document?

Staff

Instructors

Coaches

Hazard	The cause of the hazard	Who is at risk	Existing Precautions	Risk Level and impact
Fall from height/ground fall	Knot incorrectly tied	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs to highlight the importance of “checking knot” at the base of the wall.</li> <li>• Members sign to say they are competent thus onus of responsibility is upon them.</li> <li>• Guests signed in by Member thus onus of responsibility is upon the “Member” to follow the supervisor’s duties on the guest sign in form.</li> <li>• Potential new members questioned by staff regarding their competency level. If unsure of competency, then a demo is required. Membership type will be allowed at a level where staff feel the individual can safely adhere to the Conditions of Use.</li> <li>• If competency is not demonstrated staff not to allow unsupervised climbing.</li> <li>• New members sign online waiver to say they are competent.</li> <li>• Hall Monitoring by Club staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Instruction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors to hold NGB qualifications.</li> <li>• Instructors to brief climber and carry out pre climb checks to ensure climbers are safe to climb.</li> <li>• Instructors encouraged to teach the buddy system to their group.</li> </ul> <p><b>Offsite</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate route choice by instructor where safe anchors following best practice can be built.</li> <li>• Appropriate supervision by instructor/coach</li> <li>• Instructor to monitor area to ensure a falling climber cannot land on another person. Consider members of the public not in the group.</li> </ul>	Low Risk High Impact
	Belayer error	Staff Customers		Low Risk High Impact

		Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential new members questioned by staff regarding their competency level. If unsure of competency, then a demo is required. Membership type will be allowed at a level where staff feel the individual can safely adhere to the Conditions of Use.</li> <li>Conditions of use to guide members to use a belay device that they can operate with good practice and to seek instruction when learning to use a belay device new to them.</li> <li>If competency is not demonstrated staff not to allow unsupervised climbing.</li> <li>Member signs in their guest and are responsible for them at all times.</li> <li>Guests should always be supervised and backed up by member as per guest form.</li> <li>Hall monitoring by Club staff.</li> </ul> <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors to hold NGB qualifications.</li> <li>Max ratio of 1:9 Instructor to clients. Offsite 1:8</li> <li>Climbers should be supervised appropriately.</li> </ul>	
	Equipment failure (belay device, harness etc)	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hire kit is checked every time it is issued for signs of wear.</li> <li>Documented monthly check.</li> <li>Member's kit is their responsibility, staff will intervene if they see something suspicious/dangerous.</li> </ul> <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors to check kit prior to session. Where required kit should not be taken offsite. Kit identified as not up to standard to brought to management attention and quarantined. Kit should not be removed from the quarantine box by anyone other than management.</li> </ul>	Low Risk High Impact
	Hardware failure (ropes, anchor points etc)	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anchors are checked and documented biannually.</li> <li>Ropes checked and documented weekly.</li> <li>Ongoing assessment by staff and route setters.</li> </ul> <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructors to check kit prior to session. Where appropriate kit should not be taken offsite. Kit identified as not up to standard to brought to management attention and quarantined. Kit should</li> </ul>	Low Risk High Impact

			not be removed from the quarantine box by anyone other than management.	
	Spinning/breaking holds	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club ask members to report any problems with holds to reception.</li> <li>• Loose holds to be recorded on staff@ Google Drive account.</li> <li>• Loose hold file at reception/close route if required until staff can tighten hold safely.</li> <li>• Routes tested by setters.</li> </ul> <p>Offsite Appropriate route choice</p>	Low Risk High Impact
Jammed belay device	Hair/clothing caught in belay device	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hall monitoring.</li> <li>• Rescue procedure to be taught to staff and updated as appropriate.</li> <li>• Climbers should be instructed to keep long hair/loose clothing away from belay device.</li> </ul> <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision of groups.</li> <li>• Pre climb checks. (check for loose long hair and tie back as appropriate)</li> <li>• Briefing to climbers before activity.</li> </ul>	Low Risk High Impact
Head Injury	Head hits hold, wall, another climber or falling objects	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members are responsible for their own safety and those they sign in.</li> <li>• Helmets available upon request (see our helmet policy).</li> </ul> <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructors have NGB qualifications and training.</li> <li>• Supervision of groups.</li> <li>• Briefing prior to activity.</li> </ul> <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helmets to be worn by climbers, spectators and instructors when in areas considered at risk from falling objects. Instructor to manage those entering the identified area.</li> </ul>	Low Risk High Impact

Caving ladder for instruction use only				
Cave ladder	Cutting self-whilst using cave ladder	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to check climber is wearing long sleeves and trousers.</li> <li>Group leader told prior to day of activity to tell participants to wear long sleeves and trousers.</li> <li>Tape off the top of the ladder to avoid people going all the way to the top</li> </ul>	Low Risk High Impact
	Entanglement in ladder	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have ladder set up on releasable system (like a releasable abseil)</li> <li>Lower climber slowly</li> <li>Management to brief instructor prior to session on how to use and dangers to watch out for.</li> </ul>	Low Risk High Impact
	Swinging climber	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area around ladder to be cordoned off to avoid people getting hit by a swinging climber</li> </ul>	Low Risk High Impact
	Rigging the ladder	Staff Customers Instructors Coaches Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cordon off area whilst rigging/derigging</li> <li>To be rigged and derigged by experienced staff member</li> </ul>	Low Risk High Impact

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