

Risk Assessment 8: Lead Climbing

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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 needs to view this document?

Staff

Instructors

Coaches

Hazard	The cause of the hazard	Who is at risk	Existing Precautions	Risk Level and impact
Fall from height	Falling before 1 st clip/first gear placement	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Setters put easy climbing to 1st clip. There should be a “good hold” to clip from until at least 3rd clip. (setters will see this in the setting SOP) ● Rubber crumb flooring reduces impact from a fall. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appropriate supervision of the group to ensure safety checks are completed prior to climbers leaving the ground. ● Choose a route within the climber’s limits. ● Briefing to highlight hazards and how to manage them. ● Pre clip the 1st clip or spot the climber to 1st clip. ● Be attentive while belaying plus good rope management. ● Instructors hold appropriate qualifications. ● Instructors/Coaches are responsible for making a risk assessment whether the belayer needs a weight bag due to a weight difference between the belayer and the climber. <p>Off site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instructor to pre-clip the first clip with a clip stick if required. ● On trad routes first gear placement to be low ● Spotting to be considered where appropriate. 	Medium Risk High Impact

	Lowering off the end of the rope	Climber Belayer Instructor Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members have registered to acknowledge they have the relevant competency for the activity. Members have registered to acknowledge they understand the risks of climbing. Hall monitoring. When questioned members to be advised that a 30 meter rope is required to lead climb at the centre Members not to be on the red matting if they are not climbing. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rope length to be checked to ensure it is appropriate. Only designated lead ropes to be used in instructional sessions Working area to be kept clear of spectators or public to the best of the instructors ability. <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rope length to be checked to ensure it is appropriate. Knot to be tied into the end of the dead end of the rope. Working area to be kept clear of spectators or public to the best of the instructors ability. 	Low Risk High Impact
	Equipment failure	Climber Belayer Instructor Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metal and quickdraw checks performed bi-annually. Quick draws attached to the sub-structure of the wall. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors to check personal kit and ropes prior to session. Kit identified as not up to standard to be brought to management's attention and quarantined. Kit should not be removed from the quarantine box by anyone other than management. <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors to check kit prior to session. Where required kit should not be taken offsite. Kit identified as not up to standard to be brought to management attention and quarantined. Kit should not be removed from the quarantine box by anyone other than management. 	Low Risk High Impact

	Belayer error	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members have registered to acknowledge they have the relevant competency for the activity. Members have registered to acknowledge they understand the risks of climbing. Hall monitoring. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate supervision of the group to ensure safety checks are completed prior to climbers leaving the ground. Choose a route within the climber's limits. Briefing to highlight hazards and how to manage them. Pre-clip the 1st clip or spot the climber to 1st clip. Be attentive while belaying plus good rope management. Instructors hold appropriate qualifications. Instructor to make a risk assessment as to whether the belayer needs a weight bag. <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climber's experience to be considered when starting to teach lead climbing outdoors. Supervision of novice belayer as appropriate 	Low Risk High Impact
	Large distance between bolts or gear placements	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members have registered to acknowledge they have the relevant competency for the activity. Members have registered to acknowledge they understand the risks of climbing. Hall monitoring. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose the appropriate areas of the centre when teaching someone to lead. <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climber's experience to be considered when starting to teach lead climbing outdoors. Appropriate route knowledge and choice. 	Low Risk High Impact

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clipstick used where necessary. • Quickdraws extended where necessary. • Good practice taught to groups where lead belaying is required. 	
	Holds breaking causing uncontrollable fall	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Off site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate route knowledge and choice. • Helmets to be worn by climbers. • Instructors keep the area around the session clear of the public as best they can. 	Low Risk High Impact
	Hold Spinning	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds are bolted to the wall. • Setters pin holds with screws if they believe it's necessary. • Spinning holds are reported to a member of staff, these are recorded on the Drive and fixed. If they can't be fixed then the line is closed until it can be fixed. 	Medium Risk High Impact
	Placed equipment failure in the event of a fall. Protection coming out of placement.	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction in placing protection with competence demonstrated. • System taught for assessing placements. • Instruction on correct belay position. • Progression of safety measures (top roping, self lining) as appropriate. • Checking of equipment prior to use including FCC and customer equipment. • Regular and recorded checking of instructional equipment. • Staff Qualifications and Training. • Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. • Helmets to be worn by all participants. 	Low Risk High Impact

	Insufficient protection placements available on a route.	Climber Belayer	Offsite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate route choice. • Staff Qualifications and Training. • Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. • Helmets to be worn by all participants. 	Low Risk High Impact
	Self-Lining Error. Equipment failure or misuse.	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	Off site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rope protection used. • Specialized equipment used. • Appropriate venue and route choice. Use of known venues and routes. • Staff Qualifications and Training. • Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. • Helmets to be worn by all participants. 	Low Risk High Impact
	Second climbing before belayer (Lead Climber) is ready. Communication error.	Climber Belayer	Off site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching of correct climbing calls. • Where possible choose venues where the instructor can see both leader and second. • Staff Qualifications and Training. • Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. • Helmets to be worn by all participants. 	Low Risk High Impact
	Unsafe belay anchor at top after leading.	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	Off site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor checking of belay anchor. • Staff Qualifications and Training • Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. 	Low Risk High Impact

	Inversion when falling due to legs getting caught behind the rope.	Climber	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members have registered to acknowledge they have the relevant competency for the activity. Members have registered to acknowledge they understand the risks of climbing. Hall monitoring. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction on leg placement. Staff Qualifications and Training. Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. Helmets to be worn by all participants. <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction on leg placement. Staff Qualifications and Training. Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. Helmets to be worn by all participants. 	Low Risk High Impact
	Being pulled into the wall when the climber falls.	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members have registered to acknowledge they have the relevant competency for the activity. Members have registered to acknowledge they understand the risks of climbing. Hall monitoring. Guide members to gain correct instruction prior to starting to learn to lead. Guide spectators to not go in the areas marked with a red matt. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction on where to stand when belaying. Instruction on correct belaying stance. Staff Qualifications and Training. Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. Helmets to be worn by all participants. <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction on where to stand when belaying. 	Low Risk High Impact

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction on correct belaying stance. • Staff Qualifications and Training. • Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. • Helmets to be worn by all participants. 	
Head injury	Impacting wall Impacting another person Falling objects	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members have registered to acknowledge they have the relevant competency for the activity. • Members have registered to acknowledge they understand the risks of climbing. • Hall monitoring. • Guide members to gain correct instruction prior to starting to learn to lead. • Guide spectators to not go in the areas marked with a red matt. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors have appropriate qualifications • Brief clients to acknowledge risks • Assess that the client has enough climbing experience prior to starting to learn to lead. • Follow best practice to teach lead climbing by making use of top ropes/auto-belays when necessary. <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helmets to be worn when delivering outdoor lead climbing sessions. • Instructor to be aware of the working area and manage those people entering the area. • Appropriate location and route selection. • Instructors carry a first aid kit. • For more serious injuries, the instructor will call for emergency services. 	Low Risk High Impact

Climber unable to move	Unmanageable rope drag	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members have registered to acknowledge they have the relevant competency for the activity. Members have registered to acknowledge they understand the risks of climbing. Hall monitoring. Guide members to gain correct instruction prior to starting to learn to lead. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors have appropriate qualifications Brief clients to acknowledge risks Assess that the client has enough climbing experience prior to starting to learn to lead. Follow best practice to teach lead climbing by making use of top ropes/auto-belays when necessary. <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruction in appropriate extension of protection. Instruction in using half ropes when appropriate. Staff Qualifications and Training. Appropriate Instructor to Participant ratios. 	Low Risk High Impact
Falling from height resulting in injury to climber or another person	Uncontrolled fall	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members have registered to acknowledge they have the relevant competency for the activity. Members have registered to acknowledge they understand the risks of climbing. Hall monitoring. Guide members to gain correct instruction prior to starting to learn to lead. Guide spectators to not go in the areas marked with a red matt. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors have appropriate qualifications Brief clients to acknowledge risks 	Medium Risk High Impact

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess that the client has enough climbing experience prior to starting to learn to lead. Follow best practice to teach lead climbing by making use of top ropes/auto-belays when necessary. <p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to carry first aid kit to manage grazes and small cuts. For more serious injuries, instructor to call for professional help 	
Equipment failure	Fixed climbing gear breaking off wall	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metal checks performed bi-annually. Quick draws attached to the sub-structure of the wall. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors to report any climbing gear missing or damaged to club management. <p>Off site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate location and route choice. Instructor to be aware of the latest news regarding areas of concern. Instructor to inform community forums if unsafe equipment is found. 	Low Risk High Impact
	Placed gear	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach	<p>Offsite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors to check kit prior to session. Where required kit should not be taken offsite. Kit identified as not up to standard to bring to management's attention and quarantined. Kit should not be removed from the quarantine box by anyone other than management. 	Low Risk High Impact
Climber falling on another person	Uncontrolled fall caused by belayer error or incorrectly tying into a harness	Climber Belayer Instructor/coach Member of public Spectator	<p>Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs to prompt climbers to check knots and to operate a "Buddy System" Guide members to gain correct instruction prior to starting to learn to lead. Guide spectators to not go in the areas marked with a red matt. Hall monitoring to move spectators that are in areas where there is a risk. 	Low Risk High Impact

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Storage of members belongings to be done in areas that are out of the danger areas ● In the case of an incident where there is a chance of an uncontrolled fall, staff move people away from the area where a climber could fall. ● Members have registered to acknowledge they have the relevant competency for the activity. ● Members have registered to acknowledge they understand the risks of climbing. <p>Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instructors are aware of where their group is and manage them to ensure that members of the group don't stray into areas of danger. ● Instructors to closely supervise groups to ensure that climbers are tied in correctly and belaying is following best practice. Instructors should ensure that they back up novice lead belayers. ● Instructor to manage the working area and to be aware of those entering the area. <p>Off site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instructor to manage the working area and to be aware of those entering the area. 	
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