



Activity Risk Assessment – Group Climbing (‘bottom-roped’)

Mountain Circles recognises that using suitably qualified Instructors greatly reduces the inherent risk of this activity, therefore all staff are qualified/trained to, or above the required level for this activity. Instructors will be aware of emergency procedures for each specific venue. Industry recognised Instructor : Group ratios are always observed for the specific activity.

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Who it effects</i>	<i>Unmanaged Risk</i>	<i>Control Measures</i>	<i>Managed Risk</i>
Instructor falling from Crag top whilst rigging	Instructors	High	The Instructor will use a safety line whilst rigging and be anchored throughout the process if required.	Low
Injury from falling objects	Group and Instructors	High	Helmets will be fitted and worn throughout the duration of the activity. Extra care should be taken and alternative venues considered after/during heavy rain, strong winds or any known recent rock falls. Other users should be monitored and resting climbers sat back from the crag with helmets kept on.	Medium
Injury due to wrongly fitted equipment	Group	High	Instructor will allocate the correct sized equipment. A brief as to how to fit will be given and equipment checked before the activity begins.	Low
Instructor fall during	Instructor	Low	Instructor should use a chosen	Low

demonstration			climber and rope team to make a demonstration whilst ensuring they are operating safely. Instructor should not act as the climber during the demonstration unless another instructor is belaying.	
Entanglement or Entrapment	Group	High	Advise hair to be tied back and jewellery and loose clothing to be removed/taped over. Correct body position should be included in the activity briefing, and specific hazards pointed out.	Low
Rope Burn	Group	High	Correct body position included in brief. Speed of descent controlled by belayers. Descending climbers instructed not to hold the moving rope. Belayers use at least one other as back up/tailling.	Medium
Falling from the Crag top/from height.	Group	Medium	The group will be briefed about the risk of falling, allocated a safe place to remain whilst waiting and managed appropriately when not climbing. If windy or slippery and wet then extra care should be taken. It is usually not necessary for the group to be near the Crag top during a 'Bottom-roped' session other than when roped and climbing. Correct rope systems used for rigging and belayers coached and monitored in line with best practice. Crag with safe base areas selected for group sessions. Correct Group : Instructor ratios observed.	Low
Equipment Failure	Group and	High	Equipment checked	Low

	Instructor		for wear, excessive wear recorded and equipment retired where necessary. Good practice observed when rigging and rope protectors used if needed. Rigging monitored during the activity.	
Minor Slips and Trips.	Group and Instructors	Medium	Crags with suitable approaches, base areas, gear up areas, selected. Recent weather conditions taken into consideration. Crags with steep base areas or exposed drops at its base should not be used for group sessions.	Low
Exposure related issues, Hypo/Hyperthermia, dehydration, sun-burn etc.	Group and Instructors	Medium	Group to be correctly clothed and equipped. Instructor should have spare layer/group shelter, water, sun cream. Group should be continuously monitored.	Low
Other users	Group, Instructors and other users	Low	Venue assessed on arrival, if busy or there is concern about other users then another Crag/area should be considered. Helmets should be worn at all times. Group should be briefed about the possibility of other users and the correct conduct explained and monitored. Other users coordinated with.	Low

[Updated by Paddy Cave (MIC) on 01-05-2013.]