

Risk assessment

Name of Section or Activity	Bouldering Including Indoor and Outdoor Bouldering	Date of risk assessment	9 th December 2020	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Danny Bain
		Date of next review	September 2025		

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<i>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.</i>	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way the activity is carried out.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Slips, trips & Falls – Injury	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor / Leader to check area is clear of obvious trip hazards prior to commencing the activity. Any movable hazards to be moved. All participants to wear suitable footwear for terrain 	
Inexperience / lack of compliance - Broken Bones, Bleeding, Concussion	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group to receive standard Skills Coaching by Instructor / Leader Instructor / Leader to monitor ability and support climber where necessary. At least one Instructor / Leader is to monitor the climbers at all times 	
Falling from height – Broken Bones, Bleeding, Concussion	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Participants must wear correctly fitted helmets. Helmets are to be checked by Leaders prior to commencing climbing At least one Instructor / Leader is to monitor the climbers at all times Safety briefing to include the instruction for climbers to 'Jump Out' if they are falling or coming off the boulder Bouldering Mats to be used to reduce risk of injury Climbers are to be 'Spotted' when using routes that are challenging for the climber. 	
Sharp Objects / Rocks – Cuts, Infection	Climbers & Instructors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable sturdy footwear is to be worn whilst transiting to the climbing site. Check area for hazardous rocks and sharp objects before climbing. Consider moving to a different climb if sharp rocks are unavoidable. 	
Slippery Surfaces – falls, injuries	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to check notoriously slippery spots, especially after rain and brief participants about hazardous areas should they exist. Suitable sturdy footwear is to be worn whilst transiting to the climbing site. Climber is to be spotted whilst bouldering across slippery spots 	

Additional information can be found in the [Safety Checklist for Leaders](https://scouts.org.uk/safety) and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Damage / failure of equipment – Falls from heights, injuries,	Climbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough checks of equipment should be carried out every term and a visual check prior to each use. • Equipment to be checked for damage prior to use; any damaged equipment is to be reported to the QM and not used • Equipment only to be checked by a competent Instructor / Leader 	
Falling Rocks – Injury Concussion	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants are to wear correctly fitted helmets while near the rock face • Instructor / Leader to check for loose rocks or other objects that could fall during the activity. Change the climbing venue if it is deemed too dangerous • Any non-climbers should be standing away from the climbing areas 	
Weather – Sunstroke, Hypothermia, Sunburn,	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather to be checked prior to commencing and during the activity; activity to be modified to suit weather conditions. • Correct Clothing for weather to be checked prior to commencing activity i.e. Waterproofs, Sun hat, Coat, Hat etc. • Regular breaks are to be incorporated into the session to rehydrate • Sun Cream to be worn and carried when required. 	
First Aid	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one leader to hold a current first aid qualification and to have easy access to a first aid kit suitable for the activity. 	
Behaviour	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural expectations of all persons involved in the activity to be briefed before the activity commences. • 1-1 support to be provided for any participants with learning, behavioural or physical disabilities. 	
Supervision	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision of YP to comply with Ratios listed on Activity permit and POR • Clear responsibilities are to be outlined in the briefing to Leaders and Participants 	

Additional information can be found in the *Safety Checklist for Leaders* and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Checked by Line Manager	Tris Cocks GSL 10 th January 2021	Checked by Executive	Lesley Dingle Group Chair 23rd March 2021
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Version Control

Date	Version	Changed by	Comments
9 th December 2020	1	Danny Bain	Initial Version
28 th August 2023	1.1	Paul Woodward	Reviewed
10 th November 2024	1.2	Paul Woodward	Reviewed
17 th February 2026	1.3	Paul Woodward	Reviewed