



Low ropes – Risk Assessment

The document shows the risk assessment ratings for each identified hazard. The score for the likelihood of its happening is multiplied by the score of the severity of the injury.

(For example, likelihood 2 multiplied by Severity 5 = 10 medium).

This Risk assessment identifies the risk control methods that have been put into place to reduce either the Severity or Likelihood of an accident.

Hazard	Who	Existing Risk Value	Action to prevent	New Risk Value
Slips, Trips & Falls (Ground height)	Participants Instructors Leaders	5*5=25 High	Helmets to be worn always inside the compound. Be made aware of any steps or objects on the ground. Shoe laces to be tied up. Appropriate Footwear to be worn inside compound. Clear Briefing/Instructions, full understanding. No running in the compound.	2*4=8 Med
Slips, Trips & Falls (off floor)	Participants Instructors Leaders Spectators	5*5=25 High	Helmets to be worn always inside the compound. Be made aware of any steps. Shoe laces to be tied up. Appropriate Footwear to be worn inside compound. Clear Briefing/Instructions, full understanding. Participants leave the ground must be spotted at all times by a minimum of 2 people. Under supervision of qualified/trained personnel only. 3 participants maximum to be moving on any elements at any one time. Fence posts near any elements protected. Soft ground areas, with flooring to be checked for sharp objects. Participants explained not to jump for end of elements. No Jumping/bouncing on wires. Demonstration of how to use elements. Demonstration of how to spot someone, group training to be done. Participants will only carry on if the instructor is confident that the spotting techniques can be used safely. Use of more than 2 spotters where necessary. Instructor to spot where necessary.	3*4=12 Med
Failure of equipment	Participants Instructors Leaders	5*5=25 High	Equipment is tested and inspected at manufacturing. A bi-weekly inspection is done by qualified/trained staff. Maximum of 2 people on each cable at one time. Before/During use inspection done by instructor. 6 monthly PPE inspections done by trained/qualified staff.	1*5=5 Low
Failure of structure	Participants Instructors Leaders Spectators	5*5=25 High	Arborists report on tree elements. Bi-Weekly visual inspection from ground level by qualified/trained staff. Periodical Policy of de-tensioning cables. Before/During use inspection done by instructor. 6ft Fenced area for compound. Manufacture design to back up each element where possible.	1*5=5 Low

			Structural inspections carried out after any wind factors 5 or above.	
Entanglement	Participants Leaders Spectators	5*5=25 High	Ensure all Long hair is tied up/back as appropriate. Non-loose clothing to be worn. Helmets to be worn always inside the compound. Clear Briefing/Instructions, full understanding. Thick synthetic rope used, to lessen the risk of entanglement. Participants leave the ground must be spotted at all times by a minimum of 2 people. Under supervision of qualified/trained personnel only. All Participants/Leaders/Spectators are informed not to touch any of the cables with their hands. Equipment is tested and inspected at manufacturing. A bi-weekly inspection is done by qualified/trained staff. Before/During use inspection done by instructor. Each element can be explained on how to be used. (demo if necessary – dependent on group)	2*5=10 Med
Entrapment	Participants Instructors Leaders Spectators	5*5=25 High	Participants explained to enter from the correct side of the element. All Participants/Leaders/Spectators/Instructors to be made aware to keep feet away from element when being used. Group management. All Participants/Leaders/Spectators/Instructors to be made aware not to put anything in any of the thimbles/D-links/Tensioners/Halos/any part of the structure.	2*5=10 Med
Falling objects	Participants Instructors Leaders Spectators	5*5=25 High	Helmets to be worn always inside the compound. Clear Briefing/Instructions, full understanding. 6ft Fenced area for compound. Arborists report on tree elements. Spectators to be away from the elements while in use. Participants leave the ground must be spotted at all times by a minimum of 2 people. Under supervision of qualified/trained personnel only.	2*4=8 Med
Behavioural Problems	Participants Instructors Leaders	5*5=25 High	Clear Briefing/Instructions, full understanding. Yellow/red card system. Ratio's 12:1 maximum. Group leader must be present to control group behaviour. Site behavioural policy.	2*5=10 Med
Wildlife	Participants Instructors Leaders	5*5=25 High	No food permitted in the compound. Compound checked before/during use. Allergies (controlled by group leader) Pest control where appropriate.	1*5=5 Low
Weather	Participants Leaders Instructors	5*5=25 High	Activity not to be used in lightning weather. Activity not to be used in strong winds. No running in the compound. Clear Briefing/Instructions, full understanding. Appropriate lighting when required.	1*5=5 Low
Environment	Participants Leaders Instructors	5*5=25 High	Floor Covering to be made safe by raking the activity before use if needed Activity on a slope with good drainage for wet weather and stagnant waters. Close perimeter fencing to be aware of. Instructors aware of/trained to deal with inclement weather Arborist report every 2 years	1*5=5 Low
Covid-19 Instructor Contact (Positive)	Participants Leaders Instructors	5x5=25 High	1m distance if instructed Where not possible, face masks to be worn	5*2=10 Med
Covid-19 General Contact/Arrival			Removed	

This risk assessment is written in accordance with the operating process and procedures.

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Reviewed by: Stuart Whythe

Position: Deputy Centre Manager / Programmes Manager

Date: 01/2025

Qualifications: ERCA Qualified Traditional Instructor

ERCA Low Ropes Instructor

BTEC Health & Safety Level 2

Risk Assessment CPD

Likelihood of Occurrence	Severity of Harm
0 = Never	0 = No Harm
1 = Unlikely	1 = Bumps & Bruises
2 = Possible	2 = Small Cuts & Lacerations
3 = A chance	3 = Broken/Fracture of Bones
4 = Likely	4 = Loss of limb
5 = Certain	5 = Fatality

		Severity				
		*	1	2	3	4
Likelihood	1	1	2	3	4	5
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	5	5	10	15	20	25

Levels of Acceptance	
1-6 Low	= Acceptable
7-10 Medium	= Monitor
11-12 medium	= Re-evaluate
13-25 High	= Not acceptable