Southampton University Mountaineering Club

Risk Assessment

Southampton University Mountaineering Club and its members recognise and accept the BMC Participation Statement:
"Climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."

Activity/Task	Sport Climbing
Assessor (Position)	Jessie Brice (Safety)
Date	09/08/2018

Activity Description	Climbing on pre-bolted crags, purposely designed for the activity of sport climbing. As the bolts are pre placed, the only equipement needed are quickdraws, a single sports rope and a belay device. Lead climber is required to know how to set up a sport lower off
Additional Notes	Novice lead climbers to be shown the dangers of back clipping and Z clipping prior to first sport lead outdoors.

All risk assessements are to be checked and signed off by the Club's Safety Secretary and President (or Vice President if necessary), except where either of these persons is the assessor in which case the other must still check and sign. Completed risk assessments should be held by the club and where necessary by the Student Activities Office in SUSU.

Checked by (Position)	Tom Mackie (President)
Date	19/03/2019
Checked by (Position)	Phoebe Crane (Vice-President)
Date	20/03/2019

	Inherent Risk		**Residual Risk**

Hazard	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk	Controls	Likelihood (1-5)	Severity (1-5)	Risk
Loose rock falling from height, this could lead to mild to severe impact, causing injuries, especially to head.	3	5	High	Visual inspection of crag made prior to climbing, to ensure rock is safe for climbing. Care to be taken during climb to prevent loose rocks from being pulled off, or loose rocks being dislodged. At the top of the climb care should be taken to avoid kicking stones over the crag. 'Below' to be shouted if any object of any size is knocked down. Particular care taken to notes in guide books and UKC in regard to loose rock. Avoid climbing in areas known for loose rock where possible. Helmets to be worn at all times near the crag.	2	3	Low
Injury from falling below first bolt and ground falls from low bolts due to excess rope.	4	3	High	Belayer to spot the lead climber prior to clipping first bolt to prevent serious injury in the event of a fall. Consider use of a clip-stick if the first bolt is significantly high. Ensure that the belayer is competant in lead belay technique, else supervision by an experienced member is recommended if there is any doubt on the matter. Ensure there is not a signifcant weight difference between the lead climber and belayer, unless the belayer is experienced in catching falls, and is suffiently anchored.	2	2	Low
Fall from height causing injury	3	4	High	Climbs completed on UIAA approved ropes. Rock protection arranged to best common practice (Eg. additonal gear if bolting is sparse.)	3	3	Medium
Failure of gear, leading to ground falls, resulting in severe impact injuries or fatality.	3	4	High	All gear to be checked for corrosion, or evidence of wear and damage prior to climbing. Periodic, thorough checks of all club gear to be completed by the Gear sec. Gear is to be bought from a reputable retailers, and must be 3 sigma rated. As per BMC guidelines, metal gear to be replaced every 10 years, soft gear every 3. Gear that has exceeded its graded use, or is suspected to be unsafe is to be retired immediately. Record to be kept of high rated UIAA falls, for all ropes.	2	4	Medium
Injury from fall due to bolt failure	2	4	High	Overall visual inspection of bolts prior to climbing for signs of degrading, eg. rust streaks, discolouration, especially in coastal regions where salt accelates the weathering of bolts. Any bolts found to be unsuitable are to be backed up and not relied upon. Guide books and UKC should be consulted and any areas noted for old bolts should be avoided, unless it is known for certain they have been rebolted.	1	4	Low
Injury from missuse of equipment, including belay devices, quickdraws, bolts, slings etc.	3	4	High	Ensure belayer is competant in the use of the belay device, with supervision of an experienced member if there is any uncertainty. Long hair shouyld be tied back and loose clothing etc should be tucked away. Climbers should be aware of the correct way to use quickdraws, and know to avoid grabbing bolts, or putting fingers in bolts or quickdraws. Clipping should only be undertaken from a secure stance. Climber is to be proficient in placing and removal of quickdraws. If quickdraws are dropped 'below!' is to be shouted by the climber.	2	3	Low
Injury occuring through incorrect technique, including back clipping, z-clipping, foot tangled in rope.	3	4	High	Both climber and belayer should be aware of back clipping and z- clipping and know how to rectify it. If belayer notices the climbers foot is infront of the rope, which could lead to entanglement they should inform the climber.	3	3	Medium
Incorrect belay stance, resulting in slips, trips or falls possibly causing the belayer to release the dead end of the rope.	3	4	High	Belayer to be practised in a good belay stance. Anything in the area that can be cleared to prevent trips or falls should be cleared. and the most suitable belay spot should be located. Belayer to wear suitable foot wear to prevent slipping over in wet conditions.	3	3	Medium
Rope running over sharp rock, cutting it.	3	4	High	Longer quickdraws can be used to prevent the rope running over sharp rock, or in extreme cases, the use of a rope protector.	2	4	Medium
Members suffering cold/ damp/ exposure related condtions, such as hypothermia.	2	4	Medium	Members are responsible for ensuring they have adequate warm/ water proof clothing that is suitable for the condtions and duration of the time climbing outside. Kit lists will be made available for those unfamilar with the kit required.	2	2	Low

Fall occuring to the conditon of the rock, such as damp, icy or windy conditons	3	4	High	Overall inspection of the crag to ensure that it is safe to climb on. No climbing to take place in rainy/ icy conditons.	2	3	Low
Entanglement	2	1	Low	Appropriate clothing to be worn, no jewellery to be worn.	2	3	Medium
Previous medical conditions	3	4	High	Ensure that members of climbing party are aware of any previous medical conditions, and are aware of any action that may need to be taken. Climbers participate at their own risk.	3	2	Low
Strain	2	2	Low	Appropriate warm and cool down excerises to be undertaken	1	2	low
Dehydration	2	2	Low	Drink water throughout	2	2	low