

RISK ASSESSMENT: Zip Wire

Completed by: Activities Management Team

Date: 18/12/2025

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What is the Hazard?	Who may be harmed?	How might people be harmed?	Risk Rating			Control Measures in Place	Remaining Risk		
			Probability	Severity	Risk		Probability	Severity	Risk
Falling From a Height	Participants	Bruises, to death (impact with ground)	4	5	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All instructors are trained by a ropes course trainer and assessed by the technical advisor. All staff are periodically monitored to ensure compliance with procedures. All participants are provided with a suitable climbing harness. The instructor explains how to fit the harness correctly and participants are checked before being connected to Zip Wire that the harness is fitted correctly. Whilst on the Zip Wire the participant is appropriately connected to a safety rope, at all times. The instructor is responsible for lowering the participant from the activity. Instructor is in control of descent rope. Three main points are described and demonstrated to the participant whilst being attached to the Zip Wire system and warned not to perform any until directed by the 'catching' instructor. Slippery knot put in just after Rigs to prevent participant lowering before reaching instructor. Participant connected to platform safety rope until fully connected to trolley safety and descent rope, and 'catching' instructor is ready to receive. Ladder is locked away following final session of the day or laid down flat between sessions. 	1	5	5
Slips, Trips and Falls	All	Cuts, bruises and grazes	2	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All equipment not being used is put away in the store or stored neatly to the side. Participants warned about potential hazards. All participants must be wearing sensible footwear (closed toe shoes). 	1	1	1
Strangulation	Participant	Broken neck, bruising, rope burn	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loose items of clothing (e.g. Necker's) are removed. All equipment is checked that it is fitted correctly. Instructor trained in appropriate rescue techniques. 	1	5	5

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Objects Falling from a Height	All	Bruises, contusions and concussion.	4	4	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All persons in the fenced area and Zip Wire runway must wear a helmet at all times. All structural elements are physically checked and recorded during 3 monthly inspections, as well as visually from the ground prior to the start of a session. All participants are to remove everything from their pockets before they put on their climbing harness. Footwear must be appropriate and securely fastened. Participants are warned not to stand directly under the Zip Wire structure. 	1	2	2
Exposure/ Hypothermia and Sunburn	All	Sunburn, high temperature and dehydration.	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and participants must have suitable clothing for the weather and activity. Both staff and clients to drink plenty of water. Sun cream applied when needed. Wooden shelters in activity area. 	1	2	2
Adverse Weather	All	Sunburn, high temperature, dehydration	2	4	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the first sign of thunder and lightning continue until the flash to bang is no less than 30 secs, at which point the activity stops immediately. The activity may continue 30 minutes after thunder is last heard. If there are high winds, then the activity will stop and anybody off the ground will be safely lowered down. This decision will be made by the Activities Co-ordinator or combination of Duty Manager and Lead Instructor/s. Refer to 'Adverse Weather' policy 	1	4	4
Group Behaviour	Participant	Loss of control of the group, participants being distracted/not listening.	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group leaders are to ensure that the group is under control at all times. Instructor is to stop the session if participant behaviour becomes dangerous. Instructor to check with group leader at the start of the session for any neurodiverse participant's and make sure control measures are in place to appropriately manage their needs. 	1	2	2

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Unauthorised Access	All	Accessing the activity at height without PPE or qualified supervision.	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All access points to be locked when the activity is not in use. • Only authorized persons have a key to the area. • Any access points to have sign stating, 'No Access to Unauthorised Persons.' • Ladder is locked away following final session of the day or laid down flat between sessions. 	1	4	4
Entrapment	All	Compression/ crushing injuries	3	3	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose jewellery to be removed, long hair tied back and loose clothing to be secured. • Instructor is trained in adequate rescue technique for the activity, as well as a level 2 rescuer being available onsite for a rescue. • Rope is correctly coiled and flaked over the forearm. • Instructor to demonstrate and monitor correct use of Rig. 	1	3	3
Impact from Rider	All	Bruises, contusions and concussion.	4	3	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure route under wire is clear, instructor at the bottom of the wire to signal. • Instructor will not begin to launch if it is not clear. • Rig on descent rope is tightened to ensure the rider does not hang too low. 	1	3	3
Equipment Failure	All	Cuts, Lacerations, Death	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment is visually checked by the instructor prior to being used. Items deemed to be faulty are removed from use immediately, logged and placed in the quarantine bin. As per policy 5.3 faulty or damaged equipment. • 6 monthly inspections to be completed and logged by a PPE inspector having attended a 'Competent Person' course 	1	4	4
Human Error	All	Instructor complacency and/or loss of focus could result in putting everyone at risk.	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All instructors are trained by a ropes course trainer and assessed by our Technical Advisor for roped activities. • All instructors are regularly monitored to ensure procedures are complied with. • All instructors are aware of where risk assessments and operating procedures are stored. • Where possible, instructors to only work the same session twice in one day. • Instructors made aware of any changes to activity, via activity change sheet. 	1	3	3

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Impact With Rear Pole	Participant	Bruises, contusions and concussion.	3	4	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum weight limit for activity is set at 100 KG / 16 Stone. • Natural stop for the activity is a gravity stop two thirds down the wire. • Descent rope is shortened prior to launch to prevent impact with the ground. 	1	4	4
Structure Failure	All	Cuts, bruises, grazes, broken bones, multi-skeletal injury, death	3	5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily visual inspections of structure carried out during set up and logged on sheets. • Detailed 3 monthly structure checks carried out and recorded. Areas of concerns to be inspected by technical expert. • Annual inspection undertaken by an independent competent person. 	1	5	5

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Level	Likelihood Factor	Severity Description
1	Very Unlikely	Insignificant – No injury or No First Aid required.
2	Unlikely	Minor – Minor injuries requiring first aid such as cuts, grazes, bruising.
3	Fairly Likely	Moderate – Injuries resulting in up to three days' absence from work.
4	Likely	Major – Injuries resulting in a week or more absence from work, for example broken bones, deep cut etc.
5	Very Likely	Catastrophic – Amputations or Death.

Remaining Risk Level	Description
1-5	Very low, minimal risk, control measures more than adequate
5-10	Low, control measures satisfactory
10-15	Medium, control measures adequate
15-20	High, control measures need further consideration
20-25	Very high, intolerable, stop Job