

| Risk Assessment Form | | | | | |
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| Activity : Outdoor Bouldering | | Venues : Various | | | |
| Assessed by : Robert MacKenzie | | Date : 07/03/2025 | Review Due : 07/03/2026 | | |
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| | | Slightly Harmful | Harmful | Extremely Harmful | |
| Highly Unlikely | Trivial Risk | Tolerable Risk | Moderate Risk | | |
| Unlikely | Tolerable Risk | Moderate Risk | Substantial Risk | | |
| Likely | Moderate Risk | Substantial Risk | Intolerable Risk | | |
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| Hazard Description | Potential Injury/Damage | Persons at Risk | Control Measures | Risk Rating | Further action Required |
| Being involved in a road traffic accident | Collision with vehicle | Young people | Arrange for drop-off and collection points away from busy traffic where possible. | Moderate Risk | Warn young people of dangers. Responsible adults to supervise. If the parking spot beside the crag is next to a main road. Instructors will brief participants about sensible behaviour here to mitigate risk. |
| Attack or molestation | Physical/emotional abuse | Young people | MScot Child Protection Policy and Guidelines to be followed. Ensure at least 2 responsible adults with young people when possible. | Tolerable Risk | |
| Weather: rain, cold, sun, wind, fog | Exposure, sunburn, hypothermia, heat stroke | Young people and adults | Participants advised to bring appropriate clothing in pre-event communication. If raining/windy arrange to meet where there is adequate shelter. Get participants to bring sun screen and waterproofs. | Tolerable Risk | |
| Participants wandering off and going missing | Various | Young people | Code of Conduct & MScot Emergency Procedures to be followed during the session. Participants briefed on boundaries during session and to inform instructors or adults if they need to | Tolerable Risk | |

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| | | | leave these boundaries (eg to go to the toilet) | | |
| Equipment Failure | Trauma from fall | Young people and adults | All equipment checked prior to use. Personal protective equipment checked for correct fitting & monitored throughout activity by the MScot staff. | Moderate Risk | Remind participants to check their own equipment throughout the session. Instructors to monitor equipment throughout use for damage. |
| Fall from height | Trauma from fall | Young people and adults | Group to be briefed on risks of being at the top of the crag (if being there is necessary for session, eg descent off boulders). Instructors to ensure they have assessed and mitigated risk of falls when working at the top of boulders | Moderate Risk | Groups briefed on being cautious moving on top of boulders once 'topped out' and knowing descent routes in advance. |
| Falling Objects | Head injury, trauma | Young people and adults | Participants to be briefed on how to descend safely from the top of boulders. Including being careful moving around once topped out and making sure they are able to climb down the descent route or walk off from the top of the boulder. Use of helmets is at the discretion of the instructor, generally these will not be worn bouldering, as the risk of head injuries is low and no more likely than when bouldering or roped climbing indoors. | Moderate Risk | Instructors may choose to 'assign' a finishing hold on boulders deemed inappropriate for a participant to top-out on. Either down climbing or a controlled fall from this hold may be needed. |
| Falling off boulder problems | Trauma from fall | Young people and adults | This is to be expected during a bouldering session, however several mitigations are made to lower risk; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of boulder mats • Use of spotters • Briefing on 'falling technique' • Jumping off in control rather than falling off out of control | Moderate Risk | Participants are briefed on the above but ultimately, they can only reduce not eliminate the risk of injury from falling off boulder problems. |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of risk | | |
| Soft-tissue injury | Muscle strains | Young people and adults | Participants briefed on the need for a good warm-up prior to trying any challenging problems. | Tolerable Risk | |
| Tick-borne illness | Illness | Young people and adults | Briefing email contains warning to be wary of ticks at crag. Participant briefing includes mention of tick bites and appropriate removal. | Moderate Risk | Instructors to discourage participants from going into heavily vegetated areas, where there is a higher risk of picking up ticks. |
| Risk/Benefit Analysis | Bouldering has numerous physical and mental health benefits derived from working out how to 'solve' a climbing problem, often by learning from previous failures. These failures may include falling off boulder problems, this is to be expected in a bouldering session and the above assessment helps managing the risk inherent in falling off outdoor boulder problems. | | | | |