

Risk Assessment Form					
Activity : Outdoor Lead Climbing		Venues : Various			
Assessed by : Robert MacKenzie		Date : 07/03/2025	Review Due : 07/03/2026		
		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		
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	

			leave these boundaries (eg to go to the toilet)		
Equipment Failure or anchor failure	Trauma from fall	Young people and adults	<p>All equipment checked prior to use. Personal protective equipment checked for correct fitting & monitored throughout activity by the MScot staff.</p> <p>In the context of trad lead climbing teaching, participants placement of gear will be supervised by the instructor. If the climber is leading independently (without an instructor in a position to intervene) the instructor will use a mixture of techniques (questioning, mock leads, real leads on very easy terrain) to ensure the climber is able to lead in a safe manner.</p>	Moderate Risk	<p>Remind participants to check their own equipment throughout the session.</p> <p>Instructors to monitor equipment throughout use for damage.</p>
Fall from height	Trauma from fall	Young people and adults	<p>Group to be briefed on risks of being at the top of the crag (if being there is necessary for session, eg group abseils or 'topping out').</p> <p>Instructors to ensure they have assessed and mitigated risk of falls when working at the top of crags during rigging</p>	Moderate Risk	Groups at top of crag will be supervised by either an instructor or responsible adult.
Falling Objects	Head injury, trauma	Young people and adults	<p>Helmets worn below and close to activity site. Suitable venue choice, away from loose areas.</p> <p>Group briefed to make sure they know to keep helmets on whilst climbing and hanging around at the bottom of the rock faces. Participants briefed to have empty pockets.</p>	Moderate Risk	<p>Participants warned that trad gear may be dropped and to shout 'Below' if this happens.</p> <p>Climbers briefed that loose rocks may be encountered when climbing.</p>
Belayer Error	Trauma from fall	Young people and adults	<p>Qualified instructor briefing & supervision.</p> <p>Abseiling to be managed by qualified individuals only.</p>	Moderate Risk	Belaying will be monitored throughout the day and participants will be backed up if felt they

					are not ready to be belay independently.
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.
Rethreading incorrectly when stripping route	Trauma from fall	Lead climbers	Re-threading is a vital part of becoming an independent sport climber. Participants learning this skill will go through a progression that may include ground demonstration/practice before rethreading on a route with direct supervision from an adjacent line before rethreading with less direct supervision.	Substantial Risk	<p>If an instructor feels someone is unable to perform rethreaded with less direct supervision or they are unaware of the risks they may choose to omit this skill from a session.</p> <p>Where this skill is covered, a comprehensive briefing will be given on the serious nature of rethreading incorrectly.</p>
Missing a clip on a route	Trauma from fall		<p>Participants will be briefed on the ground on the dangers of missing clips whilst lead climbing.</p> <p>Anyone new to lead climbing outside will be on routes significantly below their 'limit' of climbing ability</p>	Moderate Risk	Any participant that skips a clip will be asked to rectify this and not be allowed to continue climbing until this is done.
Inverting whilst taking a lead fall	Trauma from fall		Participants will be briefed before climbing about correct position of rope whilst clipping.	Moderate Risk	If any climber demonstrates poor rope position whilst clipping, instructor(s) will bring it up and aim to correct the error.
Incorrectly clipping (Back clip)	Trauma from fall		Participants will be briefed on the ground on correct clipping practice.	Moderate Risk	<p>If back-clipping is observed whilst climbing, instructor will point this out and either allow the climber to correct the back-clip or, if appropriate continue to the next clip before fixing the back clip.</p> <p>If they are unable to continue they will be lowered to the ground and have an explanation of back-</p>

					clipping, on the ground.
Incorrectly clipping (Z-clip)	Trauma from fall	Young people and adults	Participants will be briefed on the ground on correct clipping practice.	Moderate Risk	<p>If z clipping is observed whilst climbing, instructor will point this out and allow the climber to try rectify the clip before continuing.</p> <p>If they are unable to continue they will be lowered to the ground and have an explanation of back-clipping, on the ground.</p>
Hitting ledge when falling	Trauma from fall	Young people and adults	Appropriate routes will be chosen for leading with minimal risk of colliding with parts of the rock when falling.	Moderate Risk	Participants briefed about the risks of falling off on easy, ledgy ground.
Falling before first clip / runner	Trauma from fall	Young people and adults	<p>The first clip, and potentially second clips will be pre-clipped by instructor if deemed necessary for safety reasons.</p> <p>In a trad context, climbers will be made aware of the risks when climbing low-down with no runners and advised on modifying climbing style to this situation. This may include downclimbing, being more mindful of loose rock and generally climbing with more care.</p>	Moderate Risk	Participants briefed about the risks of falling off before the first clip / runner
Lead Belaying	Trauma from fall	Young people and adults	All Belay devices should be buddy checked by experienced participants and buddy checked by the instructor for inexperienced participants	Moderate Risk	Inexperienced participants will have roped backed up until they can demonstrated skilfulness in lead belaying
Risk/Benefit Analysis	Lead climbing in either sport or traditional contexts inherently has more risk than top-roping. However the ability to teach more complex risk assessment in participants who have suitable background knowledge is a skill that is worth developing despite these inherent but manageable risks.				