

High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

To use this risk assessment:			Severity Factor & Remaining Risk Assessment		
1) Read the Generic risk assessment, THEN 2) Read the Element specific risk assessment for the activity			The following descriptors are used in each risk assessment. Note that a MEDIUM residual risk is used to show that a hazard requires dynamic risk assessment and deliberate management within the session by the instructor.		
 Systematic Controls – these are processes or management actions. They happen outside of the instructed session time.				Level	Severity Description
 What to say – these are instructions or information that the instructor leading the session must give to the participants.	Low	Minor injury requiring no treatment, or simple first aid.		Control measures have reduced the severity and/or likelihood to minimal levels.	
 What to do – these are actions that the instructor leading the session has to take either before or during the session.	Medium	Injury would require the participant to stop doing the activity; medical treatment is beyond the skills of a basic first aider.		Control measures have reduced severity and/or likelihood to an adequate level, but hazard still requires dynamic risk assessment and conscious consideration.	
 What to check – these are the key things the instructor leading the session must confirm – they can be either physical things or participant understanding.					
 Participant actions – these are actions that participating site visitors shall address to minimise the potential from residual risks.	High	Injury would require expert medical attention and/or be fatal.		Control measures haven't reduced severity or likelihood to an acceptable level.	

GENERIC HIGH ROPE ACTIVITIES

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place					Residual Risk
			( Systematic controls  What to say  What to do  What to check  Participant actions)					
Trips/slips related injuries as the high ropes activities are in a woodland setting (inc. access and egress). Spare rope (belay tails) will be found lying on the ground, too.	All including: Participants Instructors Anyone in the vicinity Trespassers	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The high ropes activity area is within the site visitors 'Out of Bounds' zoning unless being accessed or egressed for pre-booked activities. The high ropes activity zone is further designated by a physical boundary; fenced off area with locked gates. Activity Instructors shall make their presence on site known to the Duty Warden(s) prior to collecting the activity security keys from the Wardens Den and shall return the keys prior to leaving site. Infrastructure inspections and/or maintenance including the grounds e.g. mowing/strimming, in and around the high rope's activity zone shall only take place when there are no user sessions due to start or in progress. Anti-slip strips on Crate Stacking platform and Zipline stairs. 				
	Individuals with additional needs			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors shall invite the users into the activity zone, when safe to do so. Encourage group rope management during activity sessions (belay back-ups). 				



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place						Residual Risk
			 Systematic controls	 What to say	 What to do	 What to check	 Participant actions)		
Any occurrence attributable to poor behaviour and/or poor supervision.	Participants Instructors Anyone in the vicinity Individuals with additional needs	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of Bounds areas are outlined to site visitor representatives by our Duty Warden(s) during site induction. Tidy away spare equipment. 					Low
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAC Instructors shall address or report any notable ground hazards. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visitors shall share induction information and make their own groups aware of the Out of Bounds restrictions, and the nature of the underfoot environment. Site visitors shall wear appropriate footwear for the ground conditions and activities (closed toe, no wellies, sandals, crocs or flip-flops). Site visitors shall provide adequate supervision when accessing / egressing the activity zones. 					
Any occurrence attributable to poor behaviour and/or poor supervision.	Participants Instructors Anyone in the vicinity Individuals with additional needs	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity participants shall arrive at the high rope's activity zone with adequate adult supervision for their group size (maximum 12 participants + supervising adults) as defined by Scouts POR and PAC's terms and conditions. PAC shall provide the activity defined number (usually 1 or 2) of Instructors to deliver the activity. Instructors are there to provide a safe enjoyable experience, NOT to supervise and manage the behaviour of the participants. Instructors have safety responsibility for the activity and shall make any concerns known if participants are not behaving in an appropriate manner. This may include halting the activity. 					Low
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give an activity safety briefing i.e. introduction, environment, PPE, waiting and activity zones, safety rules and inherent risks. Confirm acceptable boundaries (crib sheet). 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors shall highlight any poor behaviour to the group for acting upon. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the briefing is understood. Instructors shall check with the participants if there is anything they need to be aware of e.g. additional support needs. Utilise adults with the group for supervision and assisting with basic tasks, 					



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

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			 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting participants shall provide appropriate supervision and manage their group throughout. Aid as requested by the instructor(s). 	
General injury sustained / medical occurrence during the activity	Participants	Medium	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAC shall maintain and operate the activities to their written standards. The high ropes activity store contains a multi-person first aid kit and cold packs. PAC instructors are encouraged to maintain currency of their first aid training to a minimum level of first response (modules 10A & 10B), enabling them to deal with minor and emergency scenarios. PAC will confirm first aid currency of their staff volunteers via Scouts membership records. PAC have emergency response arrangements. 	Low
	Instructors		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required, request emergency services support. Inform Duty Warden(s) to ensure site access management. Ask participants if the instructors need to be aware of anything e.g. insulin pump, monitor patch, medical conditions, support needs. NB: some medical conditions may preclude someone taking part in roped activities e.g. pregnancy, back problem, post-surgery, etc. 	
	Anyone in the vicinity		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the SHIFT safety procedure in an emergency S – Stop and get everyone safe. Engage adults present to assist. H – Help, get assistance from other staff. I / F – Deal with the Incident / administer First Aid. Use specific training where appropriate e.g. rope rescue. T – Tell PAC management at earliest opportunity, complete Reporting, and review learning. 	
	Individuals with additional needs		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check first aid facilities, communication options, and additional site staff are in place prior to commencing activities. 	
			 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants shall advise instructors of any medical or support needs at the start of the session. Participants shall arrive with 'just in case' medication e.g. asthma inhaler, allergy auto-injector. Participants should follow Instructors guidance in an emergency and assist where appropriate. 	



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

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			⚙️	⚙️ Systematic controls	📢	What to say	✋	What to do	🔍	What to check	👤	Participant actions)	
Injury caused by a fall from height	Participants Instructors Trespassers	Medium	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Standard Operating Procedures are in place for activities. SOP assessed by an independent technical advisor. Instructors are in-house site specific trained as a minimum against our SOP's. Training instructors are experienced and have received external training for the activities. In-house and peer monitoring of instructors is common practice. 							Low		
			📢	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain correct fitting of PPE. (And instruct: Do NOT remove or self-adjust). Explain that instructors need to adjust / check for correct fit of PPE (safeguarding). Explain activity waiting areas. Avoid lingering or walking through fall zones. Explain and demonstrate correct use of safety systems. 									
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use equipment in the correct manner, as trained/instructed. Manufacturers instructions are held on file for reference. Manage the activity systems in the manner that you were trained, including ongoing application of redundancy knots. 									
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check all PPE is correctly fitted before starting the session. Complete any adjustments in full view of participants (safeguarding). Make a Final Departure CHECK (FDC) before participants leave the starting point. C – Clothing, check for loose clothing and hair (entanglement risks). H – Helmets and harnesses, check for correct fit. E – Environment, check for other hazards e.g. persons in the fall zone. C – Connections, check carabiners and devices are closed and functioning. K – Knots and ropes, check they are place and not tangled. 									
	Individuals with additional needs		👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise the instructors if any participants are seen to remove or alter their PPE. Manage toilet visits to before or after the activity. 									
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic in-house checks of equipment infrastructure and PPE by PAC approved instructor. Annual infrastructure checks by independent external inspectors. 									
Injury caused by equipment failure.	All including: Participants	Medium	👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief the participants of any additional hazards identified in pre-session checks. 									



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

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			 Systematic controls	 What to say	 What to do	 What to check	 Participant actions)			
Injury caused by objects falling from height	Instructors	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate, restrict or manage any newly identified hazards. Follow any SOP specific instructions for setting up the activity. 					Low	
	Anyone in the vicinity			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to starting, make a visual check of the equipment and infrastructure e.g. tree damage, component parts hanging off 						
	Trespassers			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 						
	Individuals with additional needs									
Injury from misuse of activity equipment	All including:	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment infrastructure is assembled with multiple mounting points and redundancies such as halo loops. The woodland is estate managed. A lot of woodland clearance occurred in 2024/2025. 					Low	
	Participants			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct participants to remove loose items from their pockets e.g. phones. Emphasize the importance of wearing helmets within the activity zone. 						
	Instructors			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure any equipment you need to take above ground level, use lanyards. 						
	Anyone in the vicinity			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check for loose branches in the activity zone trees Monitor the ongoing wearing of helmets during sessions. Make a FDC check on helmet fit. 						
	Trespassers			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants shall arrive with suitable footwear, no wellies, crocs or flip-flops as all are liable to fall off. Tie laces. Participants should leave loose items back at their camp. Speak up if you notice potential hazards that the instructor may have missed. 						
	Individuals with additional needs									



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

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			⚙️ Systematic controls	📢 What to say	✋ What to do	🔍 What to check	👤 Participant actions			
Injury from unsupervised use of activity equipment.	Participants	Medium	👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief the group on do's and don'ts of using the activity. Use demonstrations. 					Low	
	Instructors		✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the safe systems as trained, including direct supervision and the ability to intervene. Provide opportunities to practice using equipment e.g. carabiners Stay vigilant for developing hazards. 						
	Anyone in the vicinity		🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check participants understanding of instructions given. Monitor group behaviour and equipment use throughout 						
	Trespassers		👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain group behaviour management throughout. 						
	Individuals with additional needs		⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High rope activities have numerous built-in access restrictions i.e. fences and locked access. High ropes activity zone is designated out of bounds when sessions are not running. 						
Risk of equipment failure due to weight.	All including:	Medium	👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 					Low	
	Participants		✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove ropes when activities are not in use. Lock the activity zone gates, store, and install equipment access deterrents. 						
	Instructors		🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that locks are in place at the start and end of each session. 						
	Anyone in the vicinity		👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect the out of bounds borders advised by the Duty Warden during site induction. Visitors shall provide adequate supervision throughout their stay. 						
	Trespassers		⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum participant weight limit of 18-stone (120kg). All activity safety systems/components have an inherent safety factor built into their design/manufacture – see product instructions. 						



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			 Systematic controls	 What to say	 What to do	 What to check	 Participant actions)		
Injury through entrapment (including strangulation, hair or clothing entanglement, fingers in hardware)	Participants	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you suspect a participant to be over the weight limit, check with them tactfully, emphasising it is for all-round safety. (Difficulty fitting into PPE is a fair indicator). 					
	Instructors			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain observant. 					
	Anyone in the vicinity			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check PPE fit when adjusting. 					
	Trespassers			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect any PAC applied weight and height restrictions. They only apply to a small number of activities for equipment fit, safety reasons, and user enjoyment. 					
	Individuals with additional needs								
Injury through entrapment (including strangulation, hair or clothing entanglement, fingers in hardware)	Participants	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety systems consider risk of entanglement or entrapment. Instructors provide direct supervision allowing for prompt intervention. Removable risks such as neckerchiefs shall be removed before activities commence. 					
	Instructors			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief participants of appropriate hand placements on ropes and proximity to belay devices, descenders and/or pulleys. Instruct the use of hands and feet to fend off the activity element during descending, minimising the risk of snagging helmet or harness. 					
	Trespassers								
	Individuals with additional needs								



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

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			⚙️ Systematic controls	📢 What to say	✋ What to do	🔍 What to check	👤 Participant actions			
Any occurrence through operating the activity in poor light (darkness).	All including: Participants Instructors Anyone in the vicinity Trespassers Individuals with additional needs	Low	✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors MUST control descent from activity elements per our SOP. Watch for developing hazards during descending e.g. snagging, poor hand placement. IF AN ENTANGLEMENT OCCURS (dynamic decisions dependent on the situation): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lock off the rope. 2) Encourage the participant to try and climb back up enough to release tension and free off the entanglement. 3) Unclip and remove their helmet if causing strangulation. 4) Use group members to support the participant from the ground, or to pull them up by taking in rope. If self-help nor the instructor's skill set can overcome the entanglement, seek help from other instructors, preferably with rescue training. 					Low	
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check hair and clothing is tucked away during the PPE FDC. No neckerchiefs can be worn. 						
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure participants have means of tying back long hair and arrive at the activity wearing suitable clothing. 						
Any occurrence through operating the activity in poor light (darkness).	All including: Participants Instructors Anyone in the vicinity Trespassers Individuals with additional needs	Low	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roped activities are only scheduled to take place during daylight hours. The available time slots are reduced alongside BST > GMT changes to avoid the risk of running into darkness. The roped activity store internal lighting and an external light towards the zone entrance gate. Any consideration of nighttime activities would require a full RA review. 					Low	
			📢	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 						
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 						
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the activity store lighting is working at the start of sessions as it can be beneficial when tidying away after late afternoon sessions. 						
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 						



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			⚙️ Systematic controls	📢 What to say	✋ What to do	🔍 What to check	👤 Participant actions)		
Any occurrence directly related to poor weather conditions.	All including: Participants Instructors Anyone in the vicinity Trespassers Individuals with additional needs	Low	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take account of current and forecast weather conditions and adapt, postpone or cancel activities accordingly. (Wet (rain, snow, frost) weather generates additional slipping risks on wet wood and other surfaces, plus the transporting of mud, dirt and debris from the ground onto the activity equipment surfaces). PAC may need to close the woodland areas if poor weather is forecast e.g. a yellow weather warning for high winds 				Low	
			📢	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In failing weather, curtail the activity, gather the group and inform why the activity needs to be postponed or cancelled. 					
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain dynamically aware and adapt to the surrounding weather conditions. Poor weather approaching is often precluded by a notable drop in temperature, increased wind speed, light reduction from dark clouds, and possibly thunder in the distance. 30:30 rule, if thunder to lightning (bang to flash) is less than 30 seconds, cease any off the ground activities and retreat to a suitable location for 30 minutes. Restart the timer for any new thunder and lightning. Be prepared to move the participants to shelter 					
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the weather forecast beforehand. 					
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants should be prepared for inclement / changing weather conditions when visiting PAC. In hot weather, participants are responsible for managing their own hydration. 					
	All including: Participants Instructors Anyone in the vicinity		⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions are booked as one-hour sessions with a half-hour in between. (This allows some flexibility for running over and for PAC instructors to take a welfare / refreshment break. Instructors may swap between elements to prevent monotony creeping in 			Low	Low	
Any occurrence directly related to complacency.			📢	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind participants that anyone with prior experience still needs to pay attention to instruction given as requirements may have changed. 					
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take welfare breaks when presented or needed. 					



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

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			🔍 Systematic controls	📢 What to say	✋ What to do	🔍 What to check	👤 Participant actions			
Participants become psychologically stuck, scared or frightened	Individuals with additional needs		🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer checks are encouraged between the PAC team. 						
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants shall arrive at activities on time and not try to extend sessions. Participants shall not increase numbers beyond the preset quantity. 						
Participants become psychologically stuck, scared or frightened	All including:	Low	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity sessions are flexible and adaptive, allowing participants to self-challenge. Challenge by Choice ethos. 						
	Participants		📢	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct and encourage. Be firm enough to gain their attention. Encourage them to set their own targets, enough to have at least had a go, as that may be all that is needed for them to progress further. 						
	Instructors		✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be patient and give all participants the same opportunity. Consider how the rest of the group are communicating. Generally, it is encouragement but can be overwhelming if too many are calling out. Quiet the group where appropriate to make yourself heard. 						
	Anyone in the vicinity		🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the participant is ready to come down, offering another chance to progress. 						
	Trespassers		👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the ground participants can be supportive and challenging to their peers but must be respectful of those who may struggle or not achieve as much as others. 						
Clients with additional needs	Participants	Medium	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAC's SOP does not cater for specific additional needs or disabilities as the possibilities are too wide ranging. However, the PAC team will endeavour to provide an activity experience for all clients on a case-by-case basis, provided it is safe to do so. 						
	Instructors		📢	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speak with the additional need's client and their support network to understand the challenges that may be faced. Talk through any adaptations to check the client is comfortable. 						
	Individuals with additional needs		✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a need for adaptations to a client's needs, discuss with the lead instructor beforehand to ascertain if suitable adaptations can be made. Engage additional instructors if available and appropriate. 						



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			 Systematic controls	 What to say	 What to do	 What to check	 Participant actions)		
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that any adaptations are in line with SOP and have been risk assessed. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing PAC with prior knowledge of a client's additional needs maximises the instructors' chances of being able to make the activity inclusive, but guarantees cannot be made. 					



Climbing Tower - Element Specific High Ropes Activity

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place					Residual Risk	
Access to the climbing tower – low level fall from	Trespassers	Medium	 Systematic controls	 What to say	 What to do	 What to check	 Participant actions	Low	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mobile climbing tower is positioned at the edge of the high rope's activity zone but is not yet in service, as we await additional ground works for the support legs. Parked in the lowered position. Access to the remote control (for raising the tower) is in a lockbox. RA review, plus full SOP, operation and instructor training MUST be completed before any consideration of bringing into service and making an available activity (auto-belay requires a priming process to be completed before any session). 12V battery will require recharging, and the compressed air tank pressurising for the auto-belay system, before commissioning. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise any curious participants (of other activities) that the tower is out of commission and out of bounds. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain aware for any site visitors trying to take a look. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodically check for potential signs of unauthorised misuse. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					



Crate Stacking - Element Specific High Ropes Activity

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place					Residual Risk	
 Systematic controls  What to say  What to do  What to check  Participant actions									
Participants struck by falling crates	Participants Instructors Anyone in the vicinity Individuals with additional needs	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belayers use the furthest away ground anchors to maximise the size of the fall zone. 				Medium	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the number of 'crate passers' small (2-3 max), and preferably adults or older young persons. Brief that if anywhere near the fall zone vicinity, participants should keep facing the crate stacks and be prepared to move out of the way. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain vigilant to falling crate stacks and clearly warn people as they start to topple. Instruct users to push crate stacks away from the other participants when preparing for a controlled descent. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post session, check the crates for damage, and set aside any that present a risk. NB: chips and cracks to the crates are commonplace, but they remain serviceable. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					
Injury from damaged crates	Participants Instructors	Low		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic in-house checks of equipment by PAC approved instructor. 				Low	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell 'crate passers' to handle with care as damages can occur. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set aside any crates with obvious damage of concern. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post session, check the crates for damage, and set aside any that present a risk. NB: chips and cracks to the crates are commonplace, but they often remain serviceable. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					
	Participants	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 				Low	



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			 Systematic controls	 What to say	 What to do	 What to check	 Participant actions)		
Participants landing on crates during descent resulting in lower leg injuries				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell other 'crate passers' to move away fallen crates that present a risk to the participants about to be lowered. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower participants with vigilance and be prepared to stop the lower if obstacles become present. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic checks required for crates and/or persons moving crates. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					
Low level fall resulting in lower leg injuries	Participants	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a clear area around the stacking platform allowing 'cleaner' landings. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct belayers to remove all slack from the rope, particularly below for the first five crates high. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build an initial crate staircase as this will gain initial height quicker and safer. Ascend to five crates one at a time and install redundancy knots in each belay tail. Instructor shall be extra attentive to the belayer actions during this initial section. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check belayers are removing sufficient slack from their ropes as the total system (ropes, cable and trees) all have their own dynamic stretch. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					



Gladiator Challenge - Element Specific High Ropes Activity

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place					Residual Risk	
Unsupervised use of the activity	Trespassers	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic controls What to say What to do What to check Participant actions 				Medium	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of Bounds areas are outlined to site visitor representatives by our Duty Warden(s) during site induction. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When preparing for activity sessions, check the padlocks for potential signs of tampering. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					
Collision with activity equipment	Participants	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 				Low	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct finished participants to wait before lowering onto the rope Instruct the use of hands and feet to fend off the activity element during descending, minimising the risk of snagging helmet or harness. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all slack is taken in by belayers, particularly before weighting participants fully onto the rope in readiness for lowering. Instructor only to lower participants, with vigilance and be prepared to stop the lower if collision should occur. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain vigilant for hazardous occurrences during lowering. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					



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			 Systematic controls	 What to say	 What to do	 What to check	 Participant actions)		
Splinter & similar type injuries from contact with the equipment.	Participants	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic in-house checks of equipment infrastructure and PPE by PAC approved instructor. Annual infrastructure checks by independent external inspectors. 				Low	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell participants to avoid grabbing linkage points and metal support wires 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should a splinter occur, confirm from which part of the equipment and make a closer inspection. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad-hoc equipment checks if an occurrence demands one. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					
Entanglement leading to injury or stuck participant	Participants	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 				Low	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell participants to remain on the front side of the activity element and NOT to climb through or over the top pole. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not start to lower if the participant has climbed through/over the element. Lower participants with vigilance and be prepared to stop the lower if entanglement occurs e.g. a leg through the cargo net or a ladder rung. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain vigilant for hazardous occurrences during lowering. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					



Jacobs Ladder - Element Specific High Ropes Activity

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place					Residual Risk	
Unsupervised use of the activity	Trespassers	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic controls What to say What to do What to check Participant actions 				Medium	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of Bounds areas are outlined to site visitor representatives by our Duty Warden(s) during site induction. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When preparing for activity sessions, check the padlocks for potential signs of tampering. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					
Collision with activity equipment	Participants	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 				Low	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct finished participants to wait before lowering onto the rope Instruct the use of hands and feet to fend off the activity element during descending, minimising the risk of snagging helmet or harness. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all slack is taken in by belayers, particularly before weighting participants fully onto the rope in readiness for lowering. Instructor only to lower participants, with vigilance and be prepared to stop the lower if collision should occur. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain vigilant for hazardous occurrences during lowering. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place					Residual Risk	
			⚙️ Systematic controls	📢 What to say	✋ What to do	🔍 What to check	👤 Participant actions		
Splinter & similar type injuries from contact with the equipment.	Participants	Medium	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic in-house checks of equipment infrastructure and PPE by PAC approved instructor. Annual infrastructure checks by independent external inspectors. 				Low	
			📢	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell participants to avoid grabbing linkage points and metal support wires 					
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should a splinter occur, confirm from which part of the equipment and make a closer inspection. 					
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad-hoc equipment checks if an occurrence demands one. 					
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					
Injuries from participants climbing on or over each other	Participants	Medium	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 				Low	
			📢	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise acceptable techniques include using a bent knee as a step up and using a hand to steady or pull up. No standing on shoulders or pushing on heads. 					
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a small-holed climbing aid e.g. etriers or handcuff style rope (more useful higher up as rungs are wider apart). 					
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be vigilant to participants only using safe assistance methods. 					
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					
Entanglement leading to injury or stuck participant	Participants	Medium	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 				Low	
			📢	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell participants to remain on the front side of the activity element and NOT to climb through or over the top pole. 					



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place						Residual Risk	
			 Systematic controls	 What to say	 What to do	 What to check	 Participant actions)			
Falling with excess rope slack caused by participants pulling on the rope instead of the activity element.	Participants	High		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not start to lower if the participant has climbed through/over the element. Lower participants with vigilance and be prepared to stop the lower if entanglement occurs e.g. passing through rungs or with the climbing aids. 					Medium	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain vigilant for hazardous occurrences during lowering. 						
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 						
Participants falling from the activity element due to loss of grip on the rope.	Participants	Medium		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 					Medium	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell participants not to pull on the ropes. 						
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get participants established onto the third rung and then install redundancy knots in each belay tail. Instructor shall be extra attentive to the belayer actions during this initial section. 						
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be vigilant to 'rope pulling'. 						
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 						



Zipline - Element Specific High Ropes Activity

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place					Residual Risk	
Unsupervised access to the zipline staircase and platform with potential of a fall from height.	Participants	High		 Systematic controls  What to say  What to do  What to check  Participant actions				Medium	
	Instructors			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only one participant accesses the staircase at a time. The instructor will advise when the next participant can start their ascent. Make it very clear that participants must wait at the top of the stairs, where the instructor will connect the safety lanyard. 					
	Trespassers			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of Bounds areas are outlined to site visitor representatives by our Duty Warden(s) during site induction. Access gates will only be opened by the attending instructor whilst setting up and running the activity. They shall be locked again if the instructor needs to leave the immediate area. The instructor shall ask for an adult from the participants group to monitor the gated area to prevent unauthorised entry during the activity. NB: there should be no need to adults and young persons to spend one on one time within the gated area (think safeguarding). The instructor will manage platform access by clipping the safety lanyard to the participant's harness before opening the top gate. 					
	Individuals with additional needs			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When preparing for activity sessions, check the padlocks for potential signs of tampering. Maintain vigilance for participants arriving at the top of the staircase. 					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. Provide an adult to manage access to the staircase. 					



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place					Residual Risk	
			⚙️ Systematic controls	📢 What to say	✋ What to do	🔍 What to check	👤 Participant actions		
Slips / trips / falls on the staircase	Participants Instructors Trespassers Individuals with additional needs	Medium	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic in-house checks of equipment infrastructure and PPE by PAC approved instructor. Annual infrastructure checks by independent external inspectors. Anti-slip strips installed on each step. Wire rope installed to righthand posts offering the option of the ascendant clipping on via 'Cow's tail'. NB: this is provided for reassurance and whilst capable of holding a simple slip on the stairs, its SWL is constrained by the anchor points i.e. wood screws into wooden posts. 					
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct only one person on the staircase at a time, unless there is an identified need to support a person ascending/descending. Instruct the use of handrails for support. Instruct how to alternate Cow's tail (if being used) to pass anchor points. 					
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sweep the stairs prior to starting sessions to remove woodland debris. 					
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain vigilance for participants arriving at the top of the staircase. Watch over anyone who decides to descend the staircase because they don't want to go down the zipline. 					
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. Provide an adult to manage access to the staircase, and to support if a need arises. 					
Participant lowers onto the safety rope whilst descending.	Participants Individuals with additional needs	Low	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery and rescue options are available to instructors should the participant be unable to release the safety rope due to loading. 					
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give a demonstration of how to descend from the zipline. Give each participant clear instructions of how to descend prior to leaving the platform. The receiving instructor shall talk the participant through the descent process. 					



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place (⚙️ Systematic controls 🎤 What to say 🖐️ What to do 🔎 What to check 📋 Participant actions)					Residual Risk
			👉	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The receiving instructor shall take control of the descent rope, (once the participant comes to a stop), before talking through the descent routine. Implement a recovery by dragging smaller participants back to the platform for the instructor to release. Use a rescue trained instructor to lower down the zipline for a winch and release rescue. 				
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the participant has the physical dexterity to undo the twist lock carabiner. Check the participant remembers the instructions: Stop, Drop, Undo, Lower before leaving the platform. 				
		👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					
Entrapment in the lowering device.	Participants Individuals with additional needs	Low	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery and rescue options are available to instructors should the participant be unable to release the safety rope due to loading. 				
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give a demonstration of how to descend from the zipline, including hand placements. Give each participant clear instructions of how to descend prior to leaving the platform. The receiving instructor shall talk the participant through the descent process. 				
			👉	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The receiving instructor shall take control of the descent rope, (once the participant comes to a stop), before talking through the descent routine. Implement a recovery by dragging smaller participants back to the platform for the instructor to release. Use a rescue trained instructor to lower down the zipline for a winch and release rescue. 				
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that loose clothing and hair are controlled as part of the Final Descent Checks. Check what is entangled prior to commencing any recovery or rescue as pulling on the descent rope may make it worse. 				
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 				



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place					Residual Risk
			⚙️ Systematic controls	👉 What to say	✋ What to do	🔍 What to check	👤 Participant actions	
Recoil from hitting the zipline end stop	Participants Individuals with additional needs	Low	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tyre is mounted at the end of the zipline as an end stop to prevent participants hitting the end pole. Speed has already started reducing by the end of line. Ziplines are designed to allow an acceptable end of line recoil, should the participant carry enough speed. 				Low
			👉	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise heavier participants that they may hit the end stop. 				
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 				
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 				
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 				
Zipping into an under-wire obstruction. (Zipline crosses an access route to other onsite activities)	Participants Anyone in the vicinity Individuals with additional needs	Low	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zipline path is maintained as a clear zone except for the boundary fence and access route. 				Low
			👉	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The platform instructor shall communicate with the receiving instructor prior to departure. 				
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coil the descent rope for the participant to carry so there is minimal risk of a trailing rope contacting the activity zone fence or a passing pedestrian. 				
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visually check the zipline route is clear before allowing a participant departure. 				
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 				
Fall from height whilst descending	Participants Instructors Individuals with additional needs	Medium	⚙️	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOP incorporates redundancy to combat how far a fall could be if the participant starts the Drop, Unclip, Lower process prior to stopping. SOP review underway to add redundancy descent control to the rescue line also. 				Low
			👉	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide instruction on how to descend at the start of the session and then to every participant followed by an FDC, with an emphasis on control of the RIG lowering lever. 				



High Ropes Activities Risk Assessment – Patshull Activity Centre

Hazardous Event	Who may be harmed?	Foreseeable Severity	Control Measures in Place						Residual Risk
			(⚙️ Systematic controls)	👉 What to say	✋ What to do	🔍 What to check	👤 Participant actions)		
			✋	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a receiving instructor to control the descent rope, (pulling down hard acts as a brake on the Petzl RIG descender), and who can talk participants through the descent process. • During coiling, add a slippery hitch knot into the descent rope @ 1 to 1.5m below the RIG. The receiving instructor will then release the hitch when they pull down on the dropped descent rope tail. 					
			🔍	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FDC 					
			👤	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic High Ropes RA requirements shall apply. 					

