

## CLIMBING, BOULDERING AND ABSEILING ON THE OYC CLIMBING TOWER

<b>LOCATION/ENVIRONMENT</b>	OYC Climbing Tower			
<b>RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS</b>	<b>Lead Instructor:</b> Climbing - OYC climbing wall leader Abseiling – OYC Abseiling Certificate Lead Climbing – Single Pitch Award + OYC On-site lead climbing certificate. <b>Assistants:</b> OYC certified belayers.			
<b>NGB GUIDELINES</b>	MLTB Single Pitch Award			
		<b>LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRING IN NEXT YEAR</b>	<b>IMPACT IF OCCURS</b>	<b>OVERALL SCORE</b>
		1 = Low, 2 = Med, 3 = High		
<b>POTENTIAL RISKS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Head injury</li> <li>2. Body injury</li> <li>3. Injury to hand</li> <li>4. Rope burn</li> <li>5. Failure of belay system</li> <li>6. Inappropriate physical contact</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1</li> <li>2</li> <li>2</li> <li>2</li> <li>1</li> <li>1</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3</li> <li>2</li> <li>2</li> <li>1</li> <li>3</li> <li>3</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3</li> <li>4</li> <li>4</li> <li>2</li> <li>3</li> <li>3</li> </ol>
<b>WHAT EVENTS ARE LIKELY TO CAUSE THE ABOVE RISKS?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Object dropped from tower onto person below.            Fall from wall or against wall while climbing, bouldering or abseiling.            Hair or clothing getting stuck in friction device during abseiling.            Hitting head while climbing tower ladder.            Falling out of harness.</li> <li>2. Climbing beyond your level.            Fall from wall or against wall while climbing, bouldering or abseiling.            Falling off tower.            Falling off ladders.            Falling out of harness.            Participant lowered too quickly.</li> <li>3. Hand being caught in friction device.            Hand being stood on by other climber while playing gladiators.</li> <li>4. Rope running through hand too quickly.</li> <li>5. Karabiners not locked prior to climbing commencing.            Karabiner gates unwinding during a climb or abseil.            Karabiners being cross loaded.            Poor belaying technique.            Climber heavier than belayer.</li> <li>6. Harnesses and helmets being fitted inappropriately.            Inappropriate spotting technique.</li> </ol>			
<b>WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO MINIMISE THE RISKS?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.a All people entering the area at the base of the tower must wear a helmet.</li> <li>1.b A demonstration on the ground teaching correct abseiling and lowering technique is to be carried out before participants are taken up the tower.</li> <li>1.c Ensure all hair is tied back or tucked in and well away from friction devices.</li> <li>1.d Harnesses to be laid out on the ground in correct position ready for when participants arrive so they can step into them once an explanation is given as to how to correctly fit them.</li> <li>1.e Lead instructor to check harnesses once fitted, then again by belayers before client climbs or abseils, (by same gender if at all possible).</li> </ol>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.f Individuals are allowed up the tower only under supervision.</li><li>1.g Participants must stand in safe area unless called forward by instructor.</li><li>1.h Participants taught the 'below' call for falling objects.</li><li>1.i Use bouldering mats and spotters when bouldering and lead climbing.</li><li>2.a As for point 1.d, e, f, &amp; i.</li><li>2.b Instructors run climbing sessions progressively so as not to push people beyond their level.</li><li>2.c Only one person is allowed on a ladder at a time.</li><li>2.d Explain the risks of fast abseils or lowers prior to descent and always lower participant slowly despite any requests made to go fast.</li><li>2.e Control speed of the lower by belaying hand over hand so that the rope is not allowed to just slip through the fingers.</li><li>3.a Teach correct belay technique, emphasising the distance of the hands from the belay device, and the controlling hand by the hip for abseiling.</li><li>3.b Gladiators to climb on separate routes, and only cross to tag the other climbers shoe.</li><li>4.a See 2.d &amp; e above.</li><li>4.b Control speed of abseil with the safety line if required.</li><li>5.a Climber / abseiler and instructors to both check all karabiners prior to committing weight to rope.</li><li>5.b All karabiners that are used with a belay device are to be "Belay Master" style, thus ensuring that the gates will not work loose.</li><li>5.c Teach correct belay method to all new belayers. Ensure that all current belayers use exactly the same method so that no bad habits can be picked up by new belayers whilst observing others.</li><li>5.d Novice belayers must be tailed for a minimum of six observed sessions, or until deemed competent and awarded with the OYC belayers award.</li><li>5.e Use grounds anchors for a semi-direct belay.</li><li>6.a Harnesses are to be fitted (whenever practically possible) by members of the same gender. Final inspection of harness is to be carried out by the session leader.</li><li>6.b Teach spotting techniques that minimise the risk for inappropriate physical contact.</li></ul>
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