

# Risk Assessment for Redpoint Climbing Centre & RedBloc Bouldering Centre

Date last updated: August 2018

(Review date August 19)

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Hire Gear includes;

- Harnesses
- Helmets
- Belay devices and karabiners

Group gear includes;

- Harnesses
- Helmets
- Belay devices and karabiners

In situ Equipment includes;

- Top ropes
- Bolt hangers
- Quickdraws
- Karabiners
- Holds
- Belay anchors

## Definitions

ACS - Artificial climbing structure

Accident - An incident which results in personal injury

Adults - Aged 18yrs and over

Belayer – Person on ground holding climbers rope using belay device.

Bouldering Wall - ACS designated for un-roped climbing

BMC - British Mountaineering Council

Centre - Establishment in which the artificial climbing wall is used

CWI / CWDI – Climbing Wall Instructor / Climbing Wall Development Instructor

Climbing Instructor - An experienced climber with an instructing qualification such as the Mountain Training Association Rock Climbing Instructor (RCI), Climbing Wall Instructor (CWI) Climbing Wall Development Instructor (CWDI) or appropriate in-house training.

Competent - Having the knowledge and experience of a subject to be able to make the correct decisions and judgements and having the skills to put them into effect. (It is equally important for a competent person to know the limits of their competence)

Danger - Potential to cause harm or injury to persons

Group – A number of people undergoing instruction.

Group Leader / Supervisor – Person in charge / in loco parentis of group undergoing instruction.

**Group leader will be required to manage group behaviour and intervene if necessary**

**Group leader will be expected to have completed all relevant paperwork prior to session.**

**Group leader will be expected to pass on any relevant information to centre staff**

Hazard - Something with a potential to cause harm to persons

Karabiner - Usually a D shaped strong metal loop with a gate on one side which opens and closes

Leading wall - ACS designed to allow leading and provided with running belay points and top belay points.

MTUK - Mountain Training United Kingdom (consists of MTNI – Northern Ireland, MTS - Scotland, MTW - Wales and MTE - England)

Near Miss - An incident which has the potential to cause injury but did not do so

Provider - Owner or operator of artificial climbing structure

Quickdraw - Two karabiners attached to a tape sling

Risk - The likelihood that the harm from a particular hazard will be realised

Running Belay - A protection point which in an ACS is usually a permanent bolt in a climbing wall with an in situ quickdraw which can be clipped by the climber

Shall - Mandatory

Should - Strongly recommended

RCI – Rock Climbing Instructor

Top Rope Wall - ACS with a climbing rope used in place through the top belay point. Also more correctly known as bottom rope wall.

User/Customer - Member of the public using the facilities provided, including spectators not involved in activities.

UIAA - Union Internationale des Associations D'alpinisme. The International Mountaineering Association.

HAZARD	WHO AFFECTED	EXISTING PRECAUTIONS	RISK FACTOR	ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS & COMMENTS
Injury as a result of inappropriate behaviour	Groups Customers Staff	<p>External Group leaders to sign external groups conditions of use.</p> <p>Group leaders to remain with group at all times taking overall responsibility of group behaviour.</p> <p>All customers/new members must read &amp; sign the conditions of use before using the centre.</p>	Med	<p>If behaviour compromises safety in any way, person/s responsible will be asked to leave the centre.</p> <p>Centre is monitored by CCTV and regular hall patrols by staff.</p>
Injury as a result of incorrect group ratio	Groups Customers Staff	Group leader and supervisor/s to comply with centre regulations regarding instructor: participant ratio. Ratio max 1:8	Low	If more staffing needed due to needs of group instructor/participant ratio must be appropriate to group as advised by Redpoint Staff.
Injury as a result of incorrect use of equipment	Groups Customers Staff	<p>Groups using own instructors must have relevant climbing qualification i.e. CWI, RCI current first aid certificate and current insurance (£5m) Evidence of qualifications, experience and insurance must be provided for centre records. Original documents must be shown on or before first visit. Documents will be copied for Redpoint records.</p> <p>Redpoint Climbing Centre instructors all have relevant NGB qualifications or in-house training to take climbing sessions with all groups</p> <p>Groups to be made aware of ABC best practice signs and BMC safety signs on Display throughout centre.</p>	Low	<p>Group leader must also have own insurance. Group leader and supervisor/s must supervise group at all times during any climbing activity inc bouldering.</p> <p>Staff on duty to monitor all belaying and safe practice inc knots.</p> <p>Leading must be taught by appropriately qualified adult with CWDI (aka CWLA) or equivalent</p> <p>Groups lead belaying to have adult on rope as safety at all times unless assessed by RP</p> <p>Groups belaying each other to be supervised at all times. Individuals only allowed to belay independently after being assessed by Redpoint staff or manager and signed off.</p>

HAZARD	WHO AFFECTED	EXISTING PRECAUTIONS	RISK FACTOR	ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS & COMMENTS
Climbing to first bolt on lead walls.	Groups Customers Staff	Sensible setting of routes (see Staff Safety Policy) Group leader to belay or supervise lead climbers & belayers at all times.	Low	Quickdraw in hanger. Rubber crumb safety matting or crash mats on floor below all routes.
Falling persons a) Bouldering	Groups Customers Staff	Children to be accompanied by adult/instructor at all times unless they have manager's written permission & relevant paperwork has been completed.  Crash mats on floor under bouldering wall, bouldering wall maximum height 3m.	Med	No objects to be left on matting. Boulders must ensure they have removed belay device etc from harness, ideally remove harness & chalk bag. Warning posters displayed  Participants briefed on how to climb down or descend in a controlled manner.
Falling persons b) Leading	Groups Customers Staff	Customers have to be competent climbers and have signed 'Conditions of Use'  Group leader to belay & supervise lead climbers at all times.	Low	BMC safety posters are displayed around the centre to keep users vigilant of their belaying technique. Staff to monitor safe practice in climbing hall.  (see also Staff Safety policy and group use risk assessment)
Falling persons c) Top Roping	Groups Customers Staff	As Above	Medium	As above
Injury as a result of leaving karabiner unlocked when belaying or other poor practice.	Groups Customers Staff	Redpoint staff on regular hall patrol. Reception positioned with good view of main hall & will act upon any unsafe practice immediately, staff will act upon customer concerns of others unsafe practice immediately	Low	Additional hall patrols and monitoring during busy periods.  BMC and ABC best practice posters on display throughout centre.

HAZARD	WHO AFFECTED	EXISTING PRECAUTIONS	RISK FACTOR	ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS & COMMENTS
Injury as a result of belay ledge being misused.	Groups Customers Staff	Only Redpoint staff, or authorised and appropriately qualified leader or instructor to be allowed on belay ledge with groups Managers discretion may be used for others ie CWI trained to gain experience for assessment. Maximum persons on ledge '4'	Low	Group leader to be briefed in the use of the belay ledge. Appropriate behaviour expected.  All persons to be attached by tight lanyard ledge at all times when on ledge.  Area beneath to be cordoned off.
Injury as a result of defective or worn equipment	Groups Customers Staff	Groups using own equipment: Group leader expected to do regular safety checks on all safety equipment i.e. harnesses, helmets, ropes and karabiners, belay devices. Centre Gear - Regular safety checks as described in 'Redpoint Climbing Centre' safety policy' to take place on all equipment; hire gear, group gear, insitu equipment. (see above)	Low	Safety check records are kept under reception desk in file marked 'Safety Checks'.  For external groups using own equipment, Redpoint staff will perform an informal check on first visit and monitor on an ongoing basis.  Customers using own out of date or worn equipment to be offered free hire gear.
Injury as a result of tying in incorrectly, dropping climber to the floor too quickly or other dangerous practice.	Groups Customers Staff	a) Over 18 users to sign competency declaration.  b) Under 18 to have appropriate forms signed by parent/guardian.  c) Novices supervised by competent registered over 18 person/instructor  d) Young persons in instructed groups to be checked by group leader/instructor before any climbing takes place.	Low	All instructed group members or novices to be supervised when belaying & other person to hold dead end of rope at all times unless manager has given written permission
Injury as a result of a spinning hold ie falling away from climbing or bouldering wall	Groups Customers Staff	Customers to be made aware that holds may spin due to various reasons eg temperature change Signs displayed around centre to remind that holds may spin	Med	Routesetters are in-house trained & make every effort to ensure holds are adequately tightened to avoid spinning , however it is still possible for a hold to spin.

Falling over bags / equipment on floor	Groups Customers Staff	Bags and equipment are not to be left on main climbing area floor. Lockable lockers are situated on the first floor, lockable lockers & cubby holes are found in the main climbing area by reception & in RedBloc	Med	Posters to remind not to leave bags etc on floor.  Group leader to point out importance of being extra vigilant whilst walking around main climbing hall.
Walking into belayers rope or descending climber.	Groups Customers Staff	Belayers are to belay within the safe zones. (see posters displayed) Belayer to be aware of people on ground as well as their climber.  Group to be made aware of climbers on ground and above.	Low	Group to stay with group leader unless asked to do otherwise.
Running into others causing injury	Groups Customers Staff	Group leaders to go through centre rules and expected behaviour prior to session taking place. No running anywhere in the centre	Low	Staff to monitor behaviour when on hall patrol and reception duties.
Any of above due to groups causing disturbance whilst kitting up	Groups Customers Staff	Groups are to kit up in a group room or in a quiet area	Low	If group rooms are busy mezz can be used.
Any of above due to groups causing disturbance as a result of instructor not being prepared for group	Groups Customers Staff	Group leader/ centre instructor to have all equipment ready for group to kit up in group room	Low	
Any of above due to group unable to concentrate on rules of centre, expected appropriate behaviour or objectives of session due to distractions in main climbing area	Groups Customers Staff	Group to be taken to group room prior to session in order for the group leader/ centre instructor to do full explanation of expectations & safety rules without any distractions	Low	

Group member suffering strain or injury	Group member	Group leader/instructor to ensure group warm up correctly. Group leader to have an awareness of group ability.	Med	Cold packs available if needed.
Group member becoming ill due to ongoing medical issue eg asthma, epilepsy etc	Group member	Group leader to be aware of any medical issues and how to deal with them. Group leader should be authorised to administer any necessary prescribed medication. If medical issue of instructed group member or independent user could affect risk factor when using the centre Redpoint staff need to be informed of any ongoing medical issues or special needs.	Medium	If group leader is also group instructor need to have current first aid qualification. Redpoint qualified first aid staff always on site to deal with first aid issues. List of Redpoint First Aiders can be found in safety file in 'Lilliput'. Certificates on reception wall. First aid kit checked & recorded weekly and restocked when necessary.
Group member becoming ill due to getting cold	Group member	Group leader should make group aware that in the winter they may need to wear extra clothing when they are not climbing.	Med	The first floor, shop, reception area and main room have heating.
Panic attack or refusal to come down from a climb	Group member	Group leader to be aware of any issues. Make group aware what is involved in the activity and expectations. Briefing to take place in group room away from distraction to go through what will happen during session	Low	Group leader to work on confidence building and trust. Centre staff trained in rescue technique. If needed person to be taken to quiet area to calm down. If it helps to do so talk through the incident or potential trigger of panic attack to try to avoid happening again.
Child protection issues	Group members or other young person or vulnerable adult	Groups should have a designated member of staff ie group leader, to deal with any child protection issues which may arise within the group.	Low	All Redpoint Climbing Centre staff have a current DBS check. Redpoint has a Child Protection Policy all staff & volunteers must read policy.
Falling object from pockets e.g. mobile phone.	Groups Customers Staff	Pockets should be emptied before climbing. Helmets should be secured under the chin to prevent falling off.	Low	Helmets must be worn by all group members and group leaders or instructors at all times when in main climbing area. Some



				circumstances may dictate that helmets do not need to be worn this would be at the managers discretion.
Injury as a result of wearing jewellery or hair snagging when climbing or belaying	Groups Customers Staff	All jewellery inc watches should be removed when climbing or belaying. Rings which cannot be removed should be taped over.  Hair should be tied back	Low	Small ear studs may be left in.  Hair ties can be provided
Falling objects from wall i.e. broken holds, loose holds	Groups Customers Staff	Group leaders and any supervisors must wear a helmet at all times when in main climbing area. Independent climbers advised to wear helmet whilst in main climbing area. Helmets can be obtained from reception free of charge.	Low	Route setter to check all holds before setting routes. Routine checks on holds. Any concerns from public re a hold to be reported to reception and dealt with & recorded immediately by RP staff.  Route setting to be cordoned off to public and ideally done during quiet times. All route setting equipment to be attached securely to harness; holds to be taken up in appropriate bag or bucket.  For route setting risk assessment see 'Staff Safety Policy' Only authorised route setters permitted to set, change or strip routes
Basement	Groups Customers Staff	Basement door is closed at all times. No unaccompanied public access.	Low	See separate basement risk assessment
Cleaning products in cleaning cupboard.	Groups Customers Staff	Cleaning cupboard is kept locked at all times – no public access. Majority of cleaning products are eco-friendly	Low	See COSHH regulations on HSE website. All staff to be familiar with regulations.
Illness, irritation to chest eyes	Groups	Loose chalk is not allowed to be used at	Low	Anyone found using loose chalk will be asked

or nose as a result of using chalk	Customers Staff	Redpoint. All chalk must be in ball form Research has shown chalk is non carcinogenic.		to stop.  Climbing surfaces and floor will be vacuumed every evening to reduce dust build-up.
Injury as a result of being under the influence of illegal substances or alcohol	Groups Customers Staff	Zero tolerance policy on all aspects of illegal substances alcohol anywhere in the building	Low	Police will be informed if illegal substances found or staff suspect anyone to be under the influence of illegal substances.  If staff feel anyone is under the influence of alcohol they will be asked to leave the climbing area immediately
Health of others put at risk and fire hazard due to smoking in the building	Groups Customers Staff	Smoke alarms situated throughout the centre. Building complies with all fire regulations. In the event of a fire 'Redpoint Climbing Centre' fire policy and evacuation procedure to be adhered to.  Copies of evacuation procedure displayed around building.	Low	If anyone is found smoking anywhere within the building they will be asked to leave the centre immediately.  Fire policy to be adhered to  Fire safety checks made & recorded  Fluorescent vests for emergency use by fire officer etc
Injury regarding use of belay sandbags:-  Back Injury when moving bags  Tripping over bags	Groups Customers Staff	Adults to move belay bags or ask a member of staff. (see manual handling policy)  Groups to be made aware of belay bags on the ground	Low	Belay bags to be used when children are belaying or if belayer is considerably lighter than climber.  Signs to be displayed around centre showing correct use of belay bags  Belay bags must not be picked up

Injury involving hot drinks in main climbing or bouldering area	Groups Customers Staff	Hot drinks are not allowed in main climbing or bouldering areas	LOW	Anyone seen with hot drinks in main area will be ask to return to reception  'No Hot Drinks' signs displayed throughout centre
Injury as a result of incorrect use of assisted hoist system	Groups Customers Staff	Hoist system to be set up by experienced Redpoint staff only Hoist system to be used by Redpoint staff only	LOW	
Injury when using 'Trublue' autobelay as a result of:-  Not clipping in  Defective equipment  Getting caught on holds on descent  Being landed on by Trublue climber	Groups Customers Staff	Safety triangle always used to remind and Trublue cannot be used without unclipping it from triangle.  Trublue fully serviced by Enterprise annually RP staff visually check tape daily RP staff physically check tape weekly Tape replaced at first sign of wear  Helmets not allowed to be worn on Trublue  Trublue 'danger' area clearly taped off to avoid anyone standing in area.	LOW  LOW  LOW  LOW	Trublue positioned on window wall in front of reception clearly visible to RP staff.  Staff always available to explain how to use Trublue correctly clipping in with twistlock karabiner & descent method.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Groups to be informed of evacuation procedure and shown fire exits during briefing session. If group leader new to centre to ask centre staff.

Group names and contact details will be kept at reception in the event of issues arising needing emergency contact

Names and contact details of all customers will be kept at reception in the event of issues arising needing emergency contact. All climbers must sign in at reception.

All customers must sign in at reception.

All incidents accidents or near misses must be recorded in the appropriate place & reported to appropriate body when necessary

All staff receive training on 'Redpoint Climbing Centre' fire policy and evacuation procedure and 'Redpoint Climbing Centre' accident and emergency procedure during induction and on a regular scheduled basis during year.

All staff to be familiar with 'ABC rescue guidelines'

This Risk assessment is to be used in conjunction with 'Redpoint Staff Safety Policy'.

All staff have a copy of the Redpoint 'Staff Safety Policy' and must comply with all points mentioned.

Copies of 'Redpoint Climbing Centre' fire policy and evacuation procedure and 'Redpoint Climbing Centre' accident and emergency procedure are displayed around the centre for all to read.

ABC best practice signs and BMC safety signs on display throughout centre