



VERTIGO ADVENTURES SANDWELL VALLEY PARK / CONKERS DISCOVERY CENTRE GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT



Risk Assessment carried out by the General Manager (Sandwell and Conkers)

Risk Matrix		High ----- Low				
Severity (S) + Likelihood (L) = Risk Rating (RR)		Severity (S)				
		5	4	3	2	1
		Likelihood (L)				
		5	4	3	2	1
Low risk: 1-3	Low-risks are largely acceptable. Where it is reasonable to do so, efforts should be made to reduce risks further.					
Medium-risk: 4-7	Medium-risks are an acceptable level based on the reduced likelihood after sufficient control measures are implemented.					
High-risk: 8-10	High-risk activities should cease immediately. Further effective control measures to mitigate risks must be introduced.					

Potential Hazard	Person Affected	Risk Rating			Control Measures	Risk Rating		
		S	L	RR		S	L	RR
Object falling above and landing on someone	All that visit the site	5	3	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Once a helmet has been issued by an instructor, the helmet is then not to be removed until the participant is leaving the activity area. ▪ Helmets are to be worn at all times by participants when taking part in the activities. ▪ Spectators are not allowed on the inside of chains/activity area. ▪ Participants to empty pockets of all items before taking parts in the activities. ▪ Instructors to be vigilant that all participants are complying with wearing a helmet. ▪ Bringing people in and out of the activity area when no one is crossing above. ▪ Instructors to wear a helmet at all times when in the activity area. 	3	1	4
Participating in an activity without being attached	Participants and Instructors	5	4	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All staff running activities are qualified to an ERCA standard. ▪ Instructor to attach and detach all participants. ▪ All connection points cannot be undone either under load or undone with hands for participants. ▪ Activity/safety briefings are to be given to all participants. ▪ Constant monitoring of participants. ▪ Everything should be double checked in accordance with SOP's. ▪ All elements are restricted to the 8ft recommended height to prevent access. 	1	4	5
Falls due to safety equipment failure	Participants and Instructors	5	3	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only approved CE/UIAA equipment to be used at the centre. ▪ Only centre owned equipment to be used. ▪ All equipment must have full record history and documented accordingly. ▪ All equipment to be used, stored and replaced in accordance with manufactures guidelines. ▪ Annual checks to be carried out by a PPE inspector and recorded. ▪ Periodical checks to be carried out by a competent senior and recorded. ▪ Each instructor to visually check equipment for signs of wear and tear on each use. ▪ Damaged/worn or defected equipment to be placed in the quarantine box/ sin bin in the kit room with report from filled in and it brought to the centre manager's attention. 	5	1	6



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		S	L	RR		S	L	RR
Fall due to operator error	Participants and Instructors	5	5	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All operations to be in line with ERCA standards, EN15567 and UK Ropes Guide. ▪ All staff are qualified to and gained the ERCA qualification. ▪ Instructor to attach and detach only. ▪ Double checking system to be carried out in line with the SOP's. ▪ CDP to be carried out with all staff each month to decrease skill fade in accordance with SOP's. ▪ Staff to be equipped for all weather. ▪ Rotation of staff on activities. ▪ All staff to comply with SOP's. 	5	1	6
Slips, trips and falls on ground	All that visit the site	1	3	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grit paint on the relevant areas. ▪ Safety/Activity briefs to be given to all participants. ▪ Walking expected by all. ▪ Participants to be kept under close control. 	1	2	3
Psychological Damage	Participants	4	3	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenge by choice challenge. ▪ Instructors to be trained in soft skills, communication and facilitation. ▪ Clear instructions and demonstration of the activity from the instructor. ▪ Celebrate success no matter how small. 	3	1	4
Participant freezing	Participants and Instructors	2	2	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenge by choice challenge. ▪ Instructors to be trained in soft skills, communication and facilitation. ▪ Clear instructions and demonstration of the activity from the instructor. ▪ Last resort is a lower. This is to co-insid with the lower SOP's that are compliant with the ERCA syllabus. ▪ Instructors to see the signs and prevent this from happening. 	1	1	2
Misuse/damage to equipment	Participants & Instructors	5	3	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only approved CE/UIAA equipment to be used at the centre. ▪ Only centre owned equipment to be used. ▪ All equipment must have full record history and documented accordingly. ▪ All equipment to be used, stored and replaced in accordance with the manufacture's guidelines. ▪ Annual checks to be carried out by a PPE inspector and recorded. ▪ Periodical checks to be carried out by a competent senior and recorded. ▪ Each instructor to visually check equipment for signs of wear and tear on each use. ▪ Damaged/worn or defected equipment to be placed in the sin bin in the kit room with report form filled in and it brought to the centre mangers attention. 	3	1	6



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		S	L	RR		S	L	RR
Ill fitted personal equipment	Participants and Instructors	5	4	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All personal equipment is available in a range of sizes. ▪ All participant equipment is fitted and double checked by a qualified instructor. ▪ Instructors are trained to ERCA standards. ▪ If for whatever reason personal equipment cannot be worn correctly or does not fit. Then that person does not take part in any activity. 	3	1	4
Personal equipment becoming lose during an activity	Participants and Instructors	4	2	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instructors to follow safety brief explaining no one is to adjust or tamper with any equipment on them or on the course. ▪ Instructor to constantly check equipment throughout the activity. 	2	1	3
Clothing/Hair/Jewellery Entrapment	Participants and Instructors	3	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SOP guidance regarding clothing to be followed. ▪ No jewellery to be worn. If rings cannot come off these must be tapped up. ▪ Hair should be tied back at all times when taking part in an activity. ▪ Instructors to be vigilant and aware of the surroundings. ▪ CPD for all staff on rescue techniques. 	3	1	4
Failing to follow safety rules and instructions	Participants and Instructors	5	3	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All safety equipment provided is mandatory and must be worn and used correctly in accordance with instructions given by the qualified instructor. ▪ Following the safety rules and the oral information from instructors will reduce the risk. ▪ Make instructors aware of any medical conditions, emergency medication should be brought with the participant and kept with the instructor. 	3	1	4
Poor behaviours	All that visit the site	4	3	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear instructions and demonstration of the activity from the instructor. ▪ Constant monitoring of participants. ▪ Early intervention. (Two strikes and you're out). ▪ Abandonment of session should the instructor deem it unsafe to continue due to poor behaviours. ▪ Utilise other group members to maintain high standards of group control. 	2	1	3
Hot/Cold weather conditions	All that visit the site	3	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check weather report daily. ▪ Staff to be briefed each morning. ▪ Everyone to be advised to dress for the weather. ▪ In hot conditions breaks to be given where necessary for rehydration. ▪ Staff to be vigilant to the signs of a participants suffering from the weather and act accordingly. 	1	1	2
Lightning Storm	All that visit the site	5	3	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cease activities should lightening be within 2 miles (one mile per second from thunder to lightening) refer to emergency procedures to evacuate activities 	1	1	2
Wind	Participants and Instructors	3	3	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If winds exceed 35mph all activities to cease. ▪ If an evacuation of the course is needed all emergency procedures should be followed. 	1	1	2