

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Artificial Climbing Structure - Is designed and built to the European standard BS 12572 : 1999, artificial climbing structures, protection points, stability requirements and test methods.

The Boulder stands between 4 - 5 m height vertically from the floor to the highest point. Thick matting is provided around the boulder, uniform with no gaps or other inconsistencies within the expected landing area.

Individual Protection points are of BS EN 12572 : 1999 standard.

Shock absorbing matting is provided around the top rope and lead area to reduce injuries and severity under the walls. Matting is uniform and a continuous surface.

MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION

We are members of the Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC). All maintenance, inspection and safety procedures shall be overseen by Simon Young and Brian Martin.

Equipment Checks - Check books have been made for specific areas, so regular checks can be made and recorded for evidence.

- All load bearing fixtures and fittings (e.g.. Top belays, running belays, quickdraws and karabiners) are to be checked every 6 months.
- Ropes are to be checked every
- Hire equipment, we don't hire out lead ropes out or quickdraws. Quickdraws are already placed on the lead wall and are only to be removed or changed by members of staff. All hire equipment (e.g.. Harnesses/ belays/ karabiners/ slings) are to be checked on a weekly basis*?

When any equipment checks are done, it must be written in the appropriate check book as a record on that piece of equipment. Damaged or unsatisfactory items should be removed for further inspection and/ or made unusable and be disposed of appropriately when considered unsafe.

ACCESS, GROUPS AND SUPERVISION

Access - We have a conditions of use sheet which makes centre user aware of the criteria for safe use of the climbing facility and the risks inherent in climbing. They are displayed on our front desk and given to people to read before they register.

REGISTRATION FORMS

All participants must register on visit to the Barn. All registration forms whether adult, junior, novice, group or guest, contains the statement 'The Barn Climbing Limited take all necessary precautions to try and ensure the safety of all participants, unfortunately accidents will occur in consequence. Each participant should familiarise themselves with the hazards and try and minimise these as much as possible by complying with The Barn Climbing Limited risk management guidelines'. Registration forms include a positive written response stating that the user has read and understood the statement and conditions of use of our centre.

Adults shall be registered after they have;

1. Given their name, age and address.
2. Given a positive written response to the minimum requirements of the centre which will include:
 - (i) Can you put on a harness correctly?
 - (ii) Can you attach a rope to your harness using a suitable knot?
 - (iii) Can you use a belay device to secure a falling climber and lower a climber from the wall?
3. Given a written response to our 'Conditions of use' and signed an acknowledgement (registration) form which outlines the dangers of climbing and that the participant is familiar with and understands the use of climbing equipment and belay techniques and does not require instruction in them.

Assuming a customer has answered positively to these questions then they will be allowed to climb unsupervised within the climbing wall.

14 - 18 YEAR OLDS

Young persons shall be registered and allowed to use the centre unsupervised only after they have:

1. Successfully demonstrated their proficiency in safe climbing techniques to a climbing instructor or competent member of staff. The test/ observation includes safe use of climbing harnesses, attachment of rope to the harness and appropriate belay techniques.
2. Their parent or guardian has completed a consent form.
3. The registration form points out that the ability of the young person to climb on an indoor climbing wall does not imply they will be competent to climb in any natural rock environment.
4. For 14 and 15 year olds their parents or guardians should visit the centre before junior membership will be issued, the young person will be allowed to use the centre completely unsupervised.

UNDER 14 YEARS OLD

Young people under 14 are only permitted to climb when constantly supervised by an adult who is a registered user of the centre.

NOVICE

A novice is a user unable to satisfy our minimum requirements to use the centre unsupervised.

Novice climbers must be constantly supervised by an adult (18 yrs and over) who is a registered user of the centre. The supervising adult must sign a novice guest in the 'novice book' provided but only once they have read the conditions sheet which outlines their supervisory responsibility. A registered member can sign in up to 2 novice guests (the registered adult doesn't require a recognised climbing instructional qualification). When being signed in novices are to be advised of the risks of climbing and made aware of our statement that climbing is a dangerous sport.

NOVICE GROUPS

When there are more than 2 novices within a group they should be supervised by a climbing instructor. We shall keep a register of climbing instructors including a copy of their relevant instructor qualifications at the centre. CWA, SPA and MIA/ MIC qualifications can be checked with the MLTB (Mountain Leader Training Board) if necessary.

THE TEACHING OF LEAD CLIMBING WITHIN SUPERVISED GROUPS INDOORS

The teaching of lead climbing must only be carried out by suitably experienced and qualified instructors.

For the teaching of indoor climbing all instructors must have one of the following:

1. A) Hold the Mountain Leader Training Board (MLTUK) Mountain Instructors Award (MIC)/ Mountain Instructor Certificate (MIC).
B) Have appropriate experience of teaching lead climbing in a climbing wall environment by observation and assistance.

Or

2. A) Hold the MLTUK Single Pitch Award (SPA), Climbing Wall Award (CWA) or be a site specific trained and assessed climbing instructor.
B) Have attended an additional course of training and assessment which details with teaching of lead climbing in an indoor environment. This course must be provided by a suitably experienced holder of the MIA award and must be approved by the climbing wall technical advisor.
C) Have appropriate experience of teaching lead climbing in a climbing wall environment by observation and assistance.

OUTDOOR SESSIONS

The teaching of climbing outdoors must be carried out by suitably experienced and qualified instructors.

For the teaching on single pitch top roping all instructors must have one of the following.

1. A) Hold the Mountain Leader Training Board (MLTUK) Mountain Instructors Award (MIC)/ Mountain Instructor Certificate (MIC).
B) Have appropriate experience of teaching in an outdoor climbing environment by observation and assistance.

Or

2. A) Hold the MLTUK Single Pitch Award (SPA).
C) Have appropriate experience of teaching climbing in a outdoor environment by observation and assistance.

Outdoor Lead Climbing Sport and Traditional Climbing

Traditional Climbing employing the use of modern climbing protection placed by the climber 'on the lead' or Sports Climbing where protection is provided by fixed equipment.

For the teaching of Traditional and Sports Climbing all instructors must hold:

1. A) Hold the MLTUK MIA/ MIC.
B) Have appropriate experience of working in an outdoor environment by observation and assessments.

MONITORING

Appropriately trained staff shall monitor the centre, looking for breaches of the 'Conditions of use' and any other actions by users adversely affecting the safety of themselves or others.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The Barn Climbing Centre accident reporting procedure complies with the requirements of the Reporting of Injuries, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995.

Whenever an accident occurs to any person in the centre, an Incident Report Form should be completed as soon as possible. If the accident or incident is potentially serious, where an injury may necessitate absence from work, Brian Martin must be notified immediately. However all incidents must be brought to his attention in case a departmental investigation is needed.

More serious, but moveable, casualties should go straight to hospital at all times. For a serious casualty, summon help immediately by telephoning 999 (as for fire).

All accidents involving the eyes must be referred to a doctor.

All accidents causing a serious injury **must** be reported **and** investigated. All accidents requiring hospital attention or resulting in a member of staff being absent from work for more than 3 days must be reported to the HSE (or local Environmental Health Department) by using a form F2508, completing it and handing it into the HSE office or online reporting at www.riddor.gov.uk.

An investigation will then be undertaken by Brian Martin or Simon Young, which may be followed by an investigation by Riddor. The objective of the investigation will be to establish the circumstances of the accident, not to apportion blame. This may include seeking statements from witnesses to the accident and preparing reports in conjunction with the department.

The Incident Report form should be completed as soon as possible after the accident giving all relevant detail and, where applicable, a written risk assessment for the activity being undertaken when the accident occurred must be provided.

DANGEROUS OCCURRENCE PROCEDURES

A dangerous occurrence can be defined as a "near miss" or more correctly a "near hit" where the incident has the potential to cause serious personal injury, has caused property damage or has the potential to cause property damage. It is important that equipment or objects relating to the incident must be left in situ at the time of the incident unless it would be unsafe to do so.

The investigative and reporting procedure is exactly the same as for accidents.

There is to be on duty at all times at least one member of staff who holds a current First Aid qualification.

FIRE

A written fire procedure is to be displayed

- On discovering a fire, or the fire alarm sounding, evacuate the building from the nearest fire door:
- A) Large barn doors down stairs, assemble in yard down the lane from the car park.
- B) Upstairs door, assemble in yard down the lane from the car park.
- Only tackle small fires yourself using the appropriate fire appliances and where there is no risk to yourself.

- On evacuating the building act calmly and quietly to avoid alarming/ scaring anyone. Take care on the stairs, do not rush anyone which may result in accidents and provide reassurance.
- Check areas are clear if safe while directing people out.
- Do not enter the building until informed it is safe to do so by the Fire Brigade or The Barn centre manager.

Fire exits and evacuation routes have the correct signs and exit signs. All fire exits are checked for safe opening on a regular basis. Staff must be fully briefed on the evacuation procedures and use of fire fighting equipment.

STAFF ASSOCIATED WITHIN CLIMBING

Staff shall hold a current First Aid Certificate of a minimum of 16 hours.
Staff shall be appropriately qualified and experienced in safe climbing practice.
Staff are to hold a current CRB check.

All staff must be made aware of their responsibility and the procedures for the safe operation of the centre.

All staff must be trained in accordance with operational procedures as appropriate.

While on duty, staff are clearly identifiable by clothing or other means.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

At all times The Barn operates with any existing statutory obligations.
We are certificated with a current Public Liability and Employers Liability insurance.
Our sub - contractors comply with the operational and safety procedures of the centre, and any statutory obligations.