

Kenelm Youth Trust Activity Risk Assessment – LOW ROPES CHALLENGE COURSE

Hazards	Who is affected	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Control Measure	Further Risk Control Measure / Actions	Residual Risk
Falling from the activity system to the ground, Falling, sliding or swinging into something solid.	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Highly Likely	Harmful (sprains, limb fractures, back injury)	Soft Fall Matting installed. 'Spotting' of participants. Participants receive a clear explanation and demonstration of 'Spotting'. Helmets must be worn at all times when taking part.	Safety briefing to include 'stepping off' or if possible failing that, attempt a two footed bent kneed landing. 'Spotting' of participants.	Low
Being Struck	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Highly Likely	Harmful	Climbing helmets to be worn by all participants. Activity Leaders to check correct fitting of helmets.	Safety briefing to cover careful passing/moving of equipment.	Low
Entanglement	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Harmful	Spotting safety briefing, Activity Leaders competence	Hair tied back, jewellery removed, pockets emptied.	Low
Splinters	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Highly Likely	Slight Harm	Activity Leaders are First Aid qualified and carry a first aid /splinter removal kit.		Low



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Climatic Injury	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Harmful	Participants briefed to dress appropriately for the weather conditions.	Activity Leaders can halt the activity if weather too hot to continue. Move group to warm or shade. Water to be on hand.	Low
Misuse causing injury or damage	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Slight Harm	Activity Leaders competence clear briefings and check of participants Understanding.	Strictly limit numbers of participants on elements. No group photos on an element.	Low
Slips/Trips	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Highly Likely	Harmful	Safety briefing to cover walking around the course.	Spotting of participants	Low
Course Integrity	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers, Inspector	Likely	Harmful	Regular inspections by Activities Manager.	Annual inspection by Inside Out (course manufacturer).	Low
Snow Ice Frozen Course	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Highly Likely in Winter months	Harmful	Activity not to be used in icy conditions/dynamic risk assessment of conditions.	Anti Slip tread plates fitted to platform areas.	Low
Lightning Strike	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Highly Unlikely	Harmful/Fatal	Use “flash to bang principle” https://www.rospa.com/leisure-safety/advice/lightning.aspx	Course not to be used during lightning storm.	High



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Element Specific Hazards						
Hi-Lo	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Harmful	Activity Leaders to brief participants of their obligations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with safety instructions and briefings • Bring any safety concerns to the attention of ropes course staff • Be careful of their own safety and the safety of others 	Activity Leaders to be ready to stop impulsive attempts, insist that a plan is discussed before any attempt is made. Spotting.	Low
Hook on Skipping Ropes (being struck by metal hooks or swages. Flipping the timber planks)	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Slight Harm	Safety brief about not throwing skipping ropes and where feet must be placed on the planks.		Low
Laser Field (falling from the activity system to the ground, Falling, sliding or swinging into something solid)	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Slight Harm.	Effective spotting	If blind folded, participants must receive a safety briefing to cover Importance of communicating instructions to blindfolded participant.	Low



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Parallel Ropes (falling from the activity system to the ground, Falling, sliding or swinging into something solid)	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Slight Harm	Activity Leaders to be ready to stop impulsive attempts, insist that a plan is discussed before any attempt is made. Spotting		Low
Sliding Vines (falling)	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Slight Harm	Activity Leaders to be ready to stop impulsive attempts, insist that a plan is discussed before any attempt is made. Spotting		
Broken Indiana Bridge (entrapment, falling)	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Slight Harm	Activity Leaders to be vigilant about not having planks too far apart so that they do not slide along the ropes.	Activity Leaders to point out to participants as to where potential pinch point are	Low
Hanging Platform (entrapment, falling)	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Unlikely	Slight Harm	Activity Leaders to point out to participants as to where potential pinch point are. Spotting		
Peg Poles (slip or fall)	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Slight Harm	Activity Leaders to ensure that pegs protrude both sides of the poles equally.		Low
Cantilever (falling from the activity system to the ground. Falling into something solid) (Entrapment of feet under the plank)	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Slight Harm	Activity Leaders to be ready to stop impulsive attempts, insist that a plan is discussed before any attempt is made effective 'Spotting'. Activity leader to point out possibility of feet being trapped under the plank.		Low



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Jigsaw (finger entrapment)	Participants, Staff, Visiting Teachers	Likely	Slight Harm	Activity Leaders to point out to participants as to where potential 'pinch point' are.		Low
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- 1 signed off activity leader to 16 participants.
- When more than 16 participants, 1 signed off Activity Leader can be joined by other competent Activity Leader who have at least 4 hours of experience and basic training on the low ropes course, but who have not been through the 'signed off' process to help with group management and safety.
- Maximum of 40 participants on the low ropes course at once.

Risk assessment conducted by:	Signature:	Date:	Approved by:	Signature:	Next scheduled review date:
Richard Moore		April 2024	Sandra Satchell		April 2025



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