

Risk assessment and Management 2024

Bouldering / weaseling

Description.

Bouldering is a form of rock climbing that is performed on small rock formations or artificial rock walls without the use of ropes or harnesses. While it can be done without any equipment, most climbers use climbing shoes to help secure footholds, chalk to keep their hands dry and provide a firmer grip, and bouldering mats to prevent injuries from falls and limit environmental damage.

Weaseling tends to involve more 'squeezing' and or movement across / between rocks. Weaseling is similar to bouldering and the lines are often blurred when it comes to running sessions.

Managing Risk Statement. Supervisors will hold the appropriate qualification for this activity (see [Minimum Qualifications document](#)). The quality and safety of sessions will be regularly reviewed with any outcomes being fed into the RA and policies. Inherent within this activity is the possibility of getting wet, tired and exposed to ambient weather conditions(see [Weather Policy](#))

Benefits. Adventure Activities provide a range of benefits (see [Education and Learning policy](#))

The Hazard, what is causing a risk?	Who might be affected	How we manage the risk
Falling objects	all	Helmets to be worn if loose rock / objects above the group or rocky landing area. Movement above groups to be kept to a minimum.
Falls from height	all	Boulderers kept away from edges / drops where possible. Spotting by instructor used where this is not possible or peer spotting is not suitable. Ropes may be used to protect movement.
Stuck (wedged) climber	all	Climbers will not be forced verbally or physically into small spaces. Generally, If they can climb in they can climb out.

Risk assessment conducted by: E3Adventures Ltd

Date Conducted: 1/2/2024

Signed: Bryn Beach

Review Date: Jan 2025

An E3Adventures Ltd director will review and update this document yearly AND following any near miss or incident, or should circumstances demand it.

		Vertical slots to be managed by instructor to minimize chance of gravity assisting the wedging process. All rocks will be tested for movement before any squeezes / climbing.
Cuts from sharps / glass in holes	all	Instructor to demo or check approach and exit of areas.
Specific assessments		

Operating Procedures

Before

- Check medical / consent forms.
- Instructor to be familiar with E3Adventures activity RA – specifically any site specific notes.
- Check the weather forecast – does your plan still work.
- Check if there any venue restrictions (bird ban / road closures / rockfall)
- Instructor to ensure correct kit is available for the venue / group.
- Instructor to inspect all kit to ensure it is usable.
- If residential course ensure the group know where to go / park etc.

During

- Clear briefing to highlight risks, safety measures and expectations.
- Any assistants / staff to briefed on their role.
- Session delivered within instructors NGB remit / inhouse training / experience and accounting for the weather / group ability.

After

- Return kit.
- Inform E3 of any damages or loss.
- Inform course leader of any issues with group / venue to assist with planning for future.

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