

Climbing Wall – System of Operations

This is a system of operations for authorised persons to follow when using the Raywell Climbing Wall.

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Assessment of Supervisors

The wall shall only be used while there is a supervisor in charge who has been assessed by a person appointed by Raywell Park Management to the standard detailed below.

There are three grades of assessment:

- Assessed belayer
- Assessed climbing supervisor
- Assessed abseiling supervisor

The minimum age for a supervisor is eighteen years although there is no restriction for assessed belayers

It is a requirement that all supervisors read 'Single Pitch Climbing and Abseiling' published by the Scout Association.

It is a requirement that all supervisors have a thorough knowledge of the activity rules of the Scout Association and operate the wall in accordance with them.

Exceptions:

Those visiting from outside the county who can provide written confirmation of competence from a District Commissioner (or above)

Those qualified to S.P.A. or above AND who have knowledge of this system of operations (which the wall must be operated in accordance with)

Note:

All supervisors should consider undertaking training and assessment of the S.P.A. climbing instructors' qualification administered by the Mountain Leader Training Board (MLTB) – part of the British Mountaineering Council (Tel: 0161 445 4747)

Equipment

Helmets certified to CE or UIAA to be worn at all times by all users and supervisors who are on the wall or gravel surround

(Exception: Belaying on top of tower for long periods of time)

All ropes used are to be suitable kernmantel ropes of 10mm minimum diameter for the full length of the rope certified CE or UIAA

All equipment (including ropes, harnesses, slings, karabiners, helmets etc.) to be manufactured for the purpose by a recognised company

All equipment to be stored, maintained and discarded in accordance with Scout Association and manufacturers guidelines

Belayers must check that harnesses are correctly fastened immediately before every climb and abseil

General

The wall MUST NOT be used in wet conditions

Supervisors must wear climbing harnesses at all times

None of the handrails should ever be used as anchors in any circumstances

Only one person on each ladder at any one time

(Exception: When a supervisor is helping an anxious user)

Climbing

A supervisor will be responsible for a maximum of three rope systems at any one time

If both the front and rear elevations of the wall are being used at the same time, there should be adult supervision on each side of the wall.

Harnesses and ropes should always be correctly used for climbing and all climbs to be belayed.

(Exception: Bouldering – see below)

Ropes to be attached direct to harness (no karabiner) using threaded figure of eight knot. Harness manufacturers' guidelines to be followed for attaching rope (belay loop to be avoided)

A safe method of belaying to be used at all times

Only recognised belaying devices to be used for belaying

All climbs should be top-roped by a belayer positioned on the ground

The belayer should be heavier than the climber in all circumstances

The position of the climbs (14 in total) is indicated by a fixed anchor loop at the top

Top ropes to be attached directly above the climbs (to avoid pendulum in case of fall) with screw-gate karabiners and all screw-gates are to be fastened

Only authorised persons are to go on top of wall to fix up climbs

Bouldering

An adult who is never more than four metres away must directly supervise participants

There are to be no more than three people bouldering at once

The section of wall must not be otherwise being used

Feet are never to be more than one and a half metres from the ground

Abseiling

Maximum of three people on top of tower at any one time – one of which must be an authorised supervisor

(Exception: Training of new assessors)

Abseiling is only to be done from top of tower or down the front of the small wall

Use only RELEASABLE group abseil with safety rope:

- Abseil rope should be attached to the tower via Italian hitch and daisy chain attached to a fixed anchor point (NOT the handrail)
- Rope should be clear of the ground
- Spare rope available at the top for lowering a stuck user

The abseil rope should be threaded between the lower and upper bars of the handrail to avoid placing too greater stress on the handrail, while providing some lift to the rope

Safety rope to be attached to two separate anchor points (NOT the handrail)

Belay device attached direct to anchor rope and then to abseiler (belayer is out of system although still attached to an anchor point)

All abseiling should take place at a controlled speed

Belaying to be undertaken only by an assessed supervisor