

PARTICIPATION STATEMENTS

BMC: "The British Mountaineering Council recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."

ABC: "All climbing activities have a risk of serious injury. Participants must recognise that even if they follow all good practice there may still be the risk of accident and injury. It is the responsibility of the participant to adhere to the conditions of use."

CONDITIONS OF USE

Although the climbing centre is an artificial environment the risks involved are no less serious than when climbing outside on a crag or mountain.

Registration: All climbing wall customers must register with Warwick Sport prior to use of the centre, the registration will be renewable annually and the retesting of competency may be required

Our Duty of Care: The rules of the climbing centre set out below are not intended to limit your enjoyment of the facilities. They are part of the duty of care that we, as operators, owe to you, the customer, by law. As such they are not negotiable and if you are not prepared to abide by them then the staff must politely ask you to leave.

Your Duty of Care: You also have a duty of care to act responsibly towards the other users of the centre. Statements of 'Good Practice' are posted around the centre adjacent to the relevant facilities. These describe the accepted methods of use and how customers would normally be expected to behave towards each other.

Unsupervised Climbing: Before you can be unsupervised for using the top ropes, you have to demonstrate you can: put a harness on correctly, tie a figure of 8 and stopper knot, connect a belay device correctly, belay safely, be able to catch a falling climber and lower a climber down safely. You are required to register to say that you know how to use the equipment, that you are prepared to abide by the Code of Practice and that you understand the risks involved in your participation. You must also pass a safety test.

Anyone who has not had a floor induction and/or safety test must not climb without supervision.

Staff will provide whatever help and advice they can, but instruction in the use of equipment or climbing techniques will only be provided where it has been booked and paid for in advance. If you are not confident in the use of any climbing equipment or technique then do not attempt to use it without the supervision of someone who is competent to do so.

Unsupervised Auto Belays: Before using the Auto belays without supervision, the centre expects you to understand the dangers involved with Auto belays and accept the risks. An Auto belay induction will be provided to all customers prior to climbing

Unsupervised Bouldering: Before you climb without supervision the centre expects you to be able to understand the dangers involved with bouldering and accept the risks involved a bouldering induction will be provided to all customers prior to climbing.

Supervised Climbing: An adult who has registered and passed the safety test at the centre may supervise a **MAXIMUM OF TWO** novice/junior climbers as long as they are prepared to take full responsibility for the safety of those people. Supervised climbers must still complete a registration form and sign in on the "Supervisory Form". If a novice is being taught to how to belay then the supervising competent climber must always be on the floor holding the dead rope during any live belaying situation. Groups of three or more novices must only be supervised by an instructor holding a relevant Mountain Training qualification, and carry relevant insurance.

Children: An adult who has registered and passed the safety test at the centre may supervise a **MAXIMUM OF TWO** junior climbers as long as they are prepared to take full responsibility for the safety of those people. All under 18 year old climbers must have a signed parental Waiver prior to access being given to the climbing centre. All children in the centre must be supervised by a registered and safety assessed adult unless they are over fourteen (14) and have passed the junior safety assessment wherein with a parent consent waiver being complete they may use the climbing centre independently. The minimum age for use of the climbing wall is five (5) years old.

All those under the age of 18 must wear a helmet during instructed sessions when using the roped climbing walls. It is also compulsory for all children under the age of 12 to wear a helmet at all times when using the roped climbing walls. The Climbing Centre can provide helmets free of charge.

CODE OF PRACTICE

- Report to reception on each visit before you climb.
- All jewellery must be removed before using this facility.
- You must exercise care, common sense and self-preservation at all times.
- Climbing shoes must be worn when climbing, and protective shoes when belaying. Bare foot is not permitted.
- Do not bring bags into the climbing area, please use the storage provided.
- Report any problems with the walls, equipment or other climbers' behaviour to a member of staff immediately.
- Be aware of the other climbers around you and how your actions will affect them.
- Do not distract people while they are climbing or belaying.
- Unless you are belaying or spotting a climber please stand well away from the climbing walls. Never stand directly under someone who is climbing.
- The abseil platform may only be used with the permission of the senior climbing staff.
- Volumes on the walls are designed to enhance the quality of climbing but you must be aware that when climbing above them there is an additional risk of falling onto them.
- Rope stretch must be taken into consideration when using dynamic ropes as these can stretch at least 10%, i.e. 1m for every 10m of rope in use.
- Customers are politely asked that they do not start any new route or boulder within 10 minutes of closing time.

General climbing:

- Many of the climbs in the centre have top ropes already in place. Do not take them down to use on other routes.
- Do not use your own quickdraws to lead the top rope walls.
- You may only top rope on the walls using the top anchor points.

Auto-Belays

When using the Auto-Belays you must identify the line your route climbs and not deviate off this line. Descending from the route must be done in a controlled manner with, where possible, the landing zone and path checked to be clear before letting go. Never attempt to grab back onto the wall when descending as the Auto-Belay will continue to lower. Solo climbing on the Auto-Belay routes is unacceptable; always use the Auto-Belay safety line to protect yourself on these climbs, only clip into your harness belay loop. Helmets must not be worn when using the Auto-Belays, and all harness hardware and loose clothing must be removed.

If you would like to use the Speed Auto-Belay lines then you must undertake the speed induction prior to climbing on these lines.

When Leading:

- When using the lead walls you must supply your own appropriately rated single dynamic rope. Do not use the centre's top ropes for lead climbing.
- Do not pull down in-situ top ropes when leading.
- You must clip all the quick draws on the route you are climbing.
- When climbing on the tallest walls of the climbing centre users must have a 35 metre rope. If you are unsure of your rope length, ask one of our climbing staff members and they will be happy to give advice.

When Belaying:

- Always use a belay device attached to your climbing harness with a locking karabiner.
- 'Traditional' or 'body' belaying is not acceptable. Figure of 8 devices are not permitted as belay devices in this centre.
- The sandbag belay bags in the centre are provided to give support to people belaying a climber who is much heavier than they are. Direct belays from the belay bags on the floor are not acceptable.
- Always pay attention to what the climber is doing.
- Always stand within close proximity of the wall when belaying. The advisory distance is 2 meters. Belaying whilst sitting or lying down is unacceptable.
- The tall walls are designed to be climbed using a rope for protection. Solo climbing is not acceptable on these walls. Always use a rope to protect yourself on these climbs.
- Always use a safety harness to attach yourself to the rope.
- Always tie the rope directly into the harness using a suitable climbing knot. Clipping in with a karabiner is not acceptable unless permission has been given by the centre manager.

When Bouldering:

- Always climb within your capabilities and descend by down climbing, or a controlled fall.
- Never climb directly above or below another climber.
- Do not boulder whilst wearing a harness or with any hardware hanging from your clothes or chalk bag.
- Keep the safety mat free from objects or obstructions such as bags, clothing, brushes, shoes etc.
- No food or drink is permitted on the mats.
- Do not sit or stand under the wall when people are bouldering.
- Problems finish on the last obvious hold. Do not grab or touch the top of the wall or any girders, metalwork or lights.
- The soft mat does not remove the risk of injury and does not make the climbing any safer.

Training Area:

The training area of the climbing centre (campus/finger boards) is limited to experienced climbers over the age of 18, unless accompanied by a member of staff or external instructor. Use of campus/finger boards by junior climbers can result in muscular and/or skeletal damage if used incorrectly.