



SCOUTS

Nibnu Dinja A'fjar



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION
OF MALTA

RISK ASSESSMENT - ABSEILING

This risk assessment report is for advice only. All instructors and helpers must actively and continually risk assess throughout all activities, taking appropriate action to reduce the risk presented to participants and themselves to an acceptable level. All documents presented are dynamic i.e. they are to be updated through discussion between instructors and Island Head Quarters.

All instructors are in possession of certification approved by Island Head Quarters.

Hazard	Risk	Solution
Instructor and/or participants unaware of hazards and safe working practice.	<p>Injuries caused as a result of poor practice.</p> <p>Anxiety caused by realisation of imminent danger without the means to manage the risks</p>	<p>All participants are to be accompanied by instructors who are able to risk assess actively on site, have significant instructional experience in the type of environment in which they are working and have been trained, assessed by an approved organisation.</p> <p>Instructors should offer an appropriate safety brief taking into account the nature of the client group, their anxieties, their confidence and their questions.</p> <p>All instructors are to carry appropriate technical and safety equipment sufficient for all members of their party.</p>
Rockfall	Injury caused by falling rock	<p>All participants, observers and staff are to wear helmets at all times during the activity.</p> <p>Instructors must identify a safe area in which all people can stand/sit, ideally out of reach of falling debris.</p> <p>Loose debris is to be removed, stabilized or avoided to prevent it falling after having achieved the above situation.</p> <p>Instructors should consider not using a venue that is prone to rockfall.</p>

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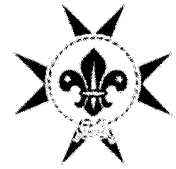
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Hazard	Risk	Solution
Heights	Injury caused by a fall from height	<p>Instructors must ensure that all participants, themselves and observers are aware of the whereabouts of the edge and of sloping and/or loose ground leading to the edge. We recommend using a physical marker e.g. kit bag to identify a no-go parameter.</p> <p>Instructors must ensure that all participants, themselves and observers are belayed effectively before approaching an edge at height.</p> <p>All participants engaged in abseiling must be belayed effectively at all times, unless their height is minimal and/or physical support (spotting) can be used.</p> <p>Instructors should ensure that all participants know not to abseil unless the instructor is supervising.</p>
Faulty Equipment	Injuries caused by failure of equipment	<p>All equipment will be checked prior to use and faulty items removed from operation.</p> <p>Equipment must be used only for the purpose(s) intended.</p> <p>Equipment must be treated with respect, with care and will be maintained as required to ensure good working order.</p> <p>We recommend using minimal components in the safety system.</p>

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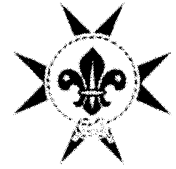
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Hazard	Risk	Solution
<p>Faulty belaying</p>	<p>Injuries caused by failure in the operation of the belay system</p>	<p>Instructors must carefully instruct belayers and observe their practice at all times or sufficiently regularly to ensure that they maintain good practice.</p> <p>All sub-standard practice by participants must be stopped and corrected immediately.</p> <p>Instructors must check understanding of belay principles and check operation before allowing participants to belay.</p> <p>If a Gri-Gri is used, the dead rope must be held securely behind the belay device at all times whilst belaying is in progress. A Gri-gri must not be used as a failsafe device.</p> <p>Instructors should be aware that no belay devices are failsafe devices.</p>
<p>Cragfast participant</p>	<p>Anxiety and stress caused by fear</p>	<p>Instructors should make themselves aware of a participant's state of mind, their fears and anxieties.</p> <p>Instructors are to ensure that they have the means to perform a mid-crag rescue at all times.</p> <p>Instructors are to offer appropriate support to enable participants to regain control and retain dignity for themselves.</p>
<p>Cragfast participant caused by jammed abseil device, trapped clothing, jewellery, hair or parts of the body.</p>	<p>Anxiety and stress caused by fear, minor cuts/bruises.</p>	<p>Instructors are to ensure that they have the means to perform a mid-crag rescue at all times.</p> <p>Instructors should use a releasable abseil rope as required.</p> <p>Cont'd.....</p>

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Hazard	Risk	Solution
Cont'd	Cont'd	<p>Instructor could advise participants to remove any jewellery that increases this risk.</p> <p>Instructor could advise participants to wrap tuck or hide long hair to reduce the risk of it becoming entangled in the belay or abseil device.</p> <p>Instructors could ensure that loose clothing, toggles, laces etc are appropriately tucked away.</p>
Abseiler Pendulums or falls	Injuries caused by impact with rock, another object or another person during a swing or fall	<p>Instructors must ensure that the abseiler remains directly below their point of attachment as much as possible.</p> <p>Instructors to maintain appropriately tight belays in a situation where a fall or swing would cause significant impact with another object, especially trees, rock ledges.</p> <p>Instructor to ensure that abseilers do not move into a position from which a swing or fall will cause an impact with another person.</p> <p>Instructors to ensure appropriate space for a fall/swing where unavoidable and to ensure that other people do not occupy that space.</p>
Rugged or steep terrain leading to top or base of crag	<p>Injuries caused by a fall on rugged terrain.</p> <p>Injuries caused by a slip leading to a fall from a height.</p>	<p>Instructors are to identify an approach route to avoid hazards as much as reasonably possible.</p> <p>Instructors to consider using a fixed rope or belay when a slip on the</p> <p>Cont'd.....</p>

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Hazard	Risk	Solution
Cont'd	Cont'd	<p>Approach might lead to a more catastrophic fall.</p> <p>All participants to wear boots providing ankle support on rugged approaches.</p>
Instructor falls	<p>Injuries caused by instructor fall.</p> <p>Isolation of participants in a hazardous environment</p>	<p>Instructor is to consider ensuring that at least one member of their party is aware of an emergency procedure to be implemented in this scenario.</p> <p>If all participants are considered not to be sufficiently responsible, instructor should consider an appropriate form of belay.</p> <p>Instructor is to ensure the Event Coordinator/responsible person has details of their destination, party, estimated time and date of return.</p> <p>Instructor must not change location or vary route significantly without first contacting the Event Coordinator/responsible person and changing destination details and ETR.</p>

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