



# Dynamic Rock

## Activity & Venue Risk Assessment

**Version 2026**

To be reviewed annually

Last review completed by:

Matt Woodfield, Technical Director

June 2026

### **Contents:**

#### 1 - Climbing Activity:

Roped Climbing

Auto Belays

Bouldering

Abseiling

#### 2 -Premises:

Café

Building

Car Park

#### 3 – Cleaning & COSHH:

Cleaning

COSHH

#### 4 –Maintenance:

Tools

Manual Handling

Boulder Setting

Roped Setting

Access Behind the Wall

#### 5 –Version History:

## Definitions

Customer types:

General Entry – a non-instructed climbing customer.

Group Member – a customer supervised by an Instructor.

Spectators – a non-climbing visitor entering the sporting activity zone to spectate.

Visitor – Non climbing, upstairs only parent or café visitor.

Instructor – a member of Dynamic Rock staff responsible for a session.

Climbing types:

Top Roping – climbing with a rope above you at all times.

Leading– clipping a rope in as you climb above connection points.

Bouldering – low level non-roped climbing over matting.

Likelihood of Occurrence:

LOW            Highly unlikely to occur ever

MEDIUM      Could occur rarely

HIGH           Likely to occur often

Potential Severity of Hazard:

LOW            Slightly Inconvenient

MEDIUM      Minor Injury Requiring First Aid

HIGH           Major injury leading to hospitalisation, possible fatality

# 1 – Climbing Activity:

Hazard	Who is at risk	Probability of Occurrence	Potential Severity of Hazard	Control Measures	Action
<b>Roped Climbing</b>					
Falls from Height	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	High	Group Members to have harness checked for correct fitting before use. Buddy checks to be encouraged. Group Members to be checked by their instructor before climbing. Any bouldering in the main room to stay below 1 <sup>st</sup> clip. Regular floor walking to monitor customer behaviours.	
Equipment Failure	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	High	All PPE checked on a regular basis by a competent person. All PPE replaced when required. Regular floor walking to include identification of customer PPE that is too old.	Place any items of concern in the Quarantine Box in the office. Free kit hire if their PPE is not appropriate to use.
Anchor Failure	-Customers -Staff Members			Anchor points to be checked every 6 months by a competent person. Wall substructure to be checked annually by a competent person.	

Connection Failure	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	High	The registration procedure follows ABC guidance and ensures Customers self-declare competence. Regular floor walking. Only recognised climbing knots to be used. Group Members to be appropriately supervised and buddy checked before climbing.	Near misses to be recorded in Near Miss book. Poor practice to be addressed and upskilling offered.
Belay Error	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	High	The registration procedure follows ABC guidance and ensures Customers self-declare competence. Regular floor walking to monitor belay practice. Group Members to be appropriately supervised and use an assisted braking belay device.	Near misses to be recorded in Near Miss book. Poor practice to be addressed and upskilling offered.
Falling Climbers	-Customers -Spectators -Staff Members	Low	Medium	Belay Zone clearly marked on floor. All spectators to remain outside this zone. Regular floor walking to enforce this. Signage present to inform of risk.	Place signs on walls to remind customers of hazards and safe practice. All customers, including spectators, complete registration and check-in procedures.

Falling Objects	-Customers -Spectators -Staff Members	Low	Medium	Pockets to be empty before climbing. Shoes to be properly attached before climbing.	
Trips	-Customers -Spectators -Staff Members -Contractors	Medium	Low	All personal items to be placed in the cubby holes. Regular floor walking to monitor trip hazards. Signage to highlight hazard where appropriate.	
Hair Entrapment	-Customers -Staff Members	Medium	Low	All Group Members with long hair, recommended to tie it back. Regular staff floor walks to observe customer activities and offer advice if necessary.	Hair bands available in reception and instructor cupboard.
Injury From Wall	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Medium	Instructor to brief and supervise warm up games appropriately. Instructor to prevent Group Members from using the quickdraw or bolt hanger as a hold. All Group Members will be asked to remove jewellery. If jewellery cannot be removed then tape will be offered to secure and cover it, to reduce the potential for it getting caught.	Near misses to be recorded in Near Miss book. Tape in reception and instructor cupboard
Illness	-Customers -Spectators -Staff Members	Low	Medium	All customers to register before going downstairs. This includes the ABC acceptance of risk form, personal details and medical information.	First aider on site

Inversion/Impact Injury	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Medium	Regular floor walking to monitor lead climbing technique. Group Members to be closely supervised when being taught to lead and this hazard highlighted to them.	
Spinning Holds	-Customers -Staff Members -Contractors	Low	Low	All holds to be pinned in line with route setting procedures. Regular monitoring of holds. Loose holds tightened whenever brought to the attention of staff, and pinned at the earliest opportunity.	Any spinning holds to be noted in the near miss book Signs to make the public aware that 'holds may spin'.
Falls Before 1 <sup>st</sup> Clip when Leading	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Medium	Quickdraws pre-placed on every line. Rubber crumb flooring to provide some shock absorption should a climber hit the floor. Appropriate route setting to prevent crux moves before the 1 <sup>st</sup> clip.	Staff to suggest pre-clipping from another route where appropriate.
Quickdraw Failure	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Medium	All quick draw fixtures checked every 6 months by a Competent Person and replaced as required.	Checks to be recorded
Interference with top ropes on slab from I ???	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Low	All top ropes to be threaded through maillons which cannot easily be undone. Regular floor walks by staff to observe customer activities.	

Movement Fail Sandbags	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Low	Manual handling procedures to be followed. Lift as a team where appropriate.	
Climber coming into contact with roof beams	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Low	Anchors set below beams to reduce likelihood. Padding added where most likely.	No recorded near miss or incidents here. This will be monitored.
Climber coming into contact with window.	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Low	Design of wall and anchors such that potential contact with window is reduced. Sensible route setting.	No recorded near miss or incidents here. This will be monitored.
Entrapment in crack in slab	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Medium	Design of wall to reduce potential for entrapment. Top roping only. Quickdraws have been removed to prevent lead climbing and the possibility of an inversion fall.	No recorded near miss or incidents here. This will be monitored.
<b>Auto Belays</b>					
Connection Error	-Customers -Staff Members	Medium	High	Signs to remind people to clip in. Inductions available with an Instructor. Safety gate in place to discourage climbing before being clipped in. Close supervision from instructor on led sessions. Carabiners inspected weekly.	

Suspension and Strangulation	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Medium	No helmets to be used when climbing the auto belays. Snagging loops to be removed before climbing, i.e. lanyards. Regular floor walking to monitor potential issues.	
Landing on Person	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Medium	Landing Zone clearly marked on floor. Group Members briefed to stay out of zone and area monitored by instructor when in use on session. Regular floor walks by staff to observe customer activities.	
Tape Failure	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	High	Tapes to be visually checked weekly and inspected 6 monthly.	
Unit Failure	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Low	Units to be serviced as per manufacturers recommendations. Any failure will result in the unit locking up.	
<b>Bouldering</b>					
Falls From Wall	-Customers -Staff Members	Medium	Medium	Bouldering room floor fully covered by crash mats to reduce injury to falling climbers. Customers to have watched ABC bouldering video as part of induction. Rules require customers to climb down, not jump.	

				Instructors to closely supervise group members and advise or spot as required. Setting to minimise high crux moves or awkward falls. Signage present to highlight the risk.	
Impact From Falling Climber	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Medium	Customers to have watched ABC bouldering video as part of induction. Rules require customers to not climb over or walk under another person. Mirror by fire escape shows climbers on blind side of wall. Harnesses to be removed before bouldering. Max 20 people in the bouldering room at a time.	
Low Roof Point	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Low	Point painted to clearly identify it. Instructor to closely manage any warmup activity.	Monitor.
Matting	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Low	Registration procedure requires user to positively agree and understand that matting does not remove the risk of an injury. Annual inspection for density and coverage, carpet integrity and uniformity.	

Trips	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Low	Bouldering mat to have continuous carpeted cover The central join in carpet to be monitored No running activities in the bouldering room.	
Impact with Door Frame /Duct	-Customers -Staff Members	Low	Low	Padding around metal casing and top of door frame. Signage to highlight risk.	
<b>Abseiling</b>					
Falls from belay platform/stairs.	-Staff Members -External Instructors	Low	High	Belayer to remain behind barrier or be connected to top anchor. Abseiler to climb up to top anchor from below, NOT step over the barrier.	Induction required before use.
Falls from abseiler lowering themselves too fast	-Customers	Low	Med	Safety rope must be used.	
Abseiler stuck due to device jamming	-Customers	Low	Low	Releasable system to be used. Staff Member must be trained and signed off or appropriately qualified. External instructors must be appropriately qualified.	

Impact with climber	-Customer	Low	Low	Line 21 not to be used when abseil is taking place.	Induction required before use.
Dropped objects	-Customers -Staff Members -Spectators	Medium	Medium	Descender to be put on rope on stairs side.	Induction required before use.
Trips on stairs/equipment	-Customers -Staff Members -Spectators -Contractors	Low	Low	Rope to be kept in rope bucket. No equipment to be left on stairs.	Induction required before use.

2 –Premises:

3 – Cleaning & COSHH:

4 –Maintenance:

5 –Version History: