

The Foundry Climbing Centre – Conditions of Use

RISKS - “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.”

OUR DUTY OF CARE - The ‘Conditions of use’ set out here 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 you may be asked to leave the centre.

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.

Although the climbing centre is an artificial environment the risks involved are **no less serious than when climbing outside** on a crag or mountain. **There is an additional risk that bolt-on holds can become loose, spin or break. Loose/damaged holds must be reported to reception straight away.**

Any fall may result in an **injury** despite the safety systems in place to avoid it. You must make your **own assessment of the risks** whenever you climb. **The Foundry is used at your own risk and does not accept responsibility for any accident or loss of or damage to personal possessions.**

UNSUPERVISED CLIMBING - Before you climb without supervision the centre expects you to be competent in the use of a safety harness, a suitable knot to attach a rope to the harness and a belay device to secure a falling climber or lower a climber from the wall using a rope. You are required to register to say that you know how to use the equipment, that you are prepared to abide by these ‘Conditions of use’ and that you understand the risks involved in your participation.

Anyone who has not registered is classed as a **novice** and **must not** climb without supervision.

Unsupervised climbing is just that! 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.

SUPERVISED CLIMBING - An adult who has registered at the centre may supervise up to **two** novice climbers as long as they are prepared to **take full responsibility for the safety of those people.**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS– Must be supervised by a registered adult user unless they have been assessed by the management and registered for unsupervised climbing.

GENERAL SAFETY - Report to reception on each visit before you climb.

- The climbing walls are not supervised.
- Only climbers and belayers should be standing within the red floor tiled ‘hazard’ area under the climbing walls.
- Only boulderers and spotters to go on the bouldering wall matting .
- Report any problems with the walls, equipment or other climbers’ behaviour to a member of staff immediately.
- Stand well back from the climbing walls unless you are belaying or spotting a climber. Never stand directly under someone who is climbing.

TOP ROPING - Many of the climbs in the centre have top ropes already in place. Do not take them down to use on other routes.

LEADING - When using the lead walls you must supply your own appropriately rated 30m(min length) dynamic rope. Do not use the centre’s top ropes for lead climbing. Use one Single rated rope or two double rated ropes.

- Running belay attachments (runners) are already provided at intervals on the lead walls. You must clip **all** the runners (quickdraws) on the route you are climbing.

WHEN BELAYING - Always use a belay device attached to your safety harness belay loop with a locking karabiner. ‘Traditional’, or ‘body’ belaying is not acceptable.

- The weight bags are provided to give support to people belaying a heavier climber by attaching the bag securely to your harness. Weight bags must never be used for direct belaying.
- Always pay attention to what the climber is doing.
- Always stand as close to the climbing wall as is practical. Sitting or lying down are not acceptable.

WHEN CLIMBING - 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.

BOULDERING

The soft matting under the bouldering walls is designed to provide a more comfortable landing for climbers falling or jumping from bouldering wall. **THE SOFT FLOORING DOES NOT MAKE THE CLIMBING SAFE.** Injuries may occur despite the soft landing. Uncontrolled falls are likely to result in injuries to yourself or others.

- Always try to avoid uncontrolled falls.
- Do not climb directly above or below another climber.
- Do not run over the bouldering mat.

