

Assault Course Risk Assessment- Green Beret 2024

This activity risk assessment must be read in conjunction with the HCSC General site risk assessment and Green Beret event risk assessment.

Name of activity, event, and location	Green Beret Assault Course - 16 th November 2024	Date of risk assessment	November 2024	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Ian Leach Course Manager Reviewed by: Doug Stack ACM HCSC Katy Pearce EM HCSC
	Hertfordshire Scout Activity Centres- Tolmers Activity Centre	Date of next review	November 2024		

Hazard - what could go wrong?	Who is at risk?	Assessment of risk	Control measures in place	Remaining risk using control measures
GENERAL COURSE HAZARDS				
Incliment weather.	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the HCSC general site risk assessment and Green Beret event risk assessment as appropriate. Assault course management team will monitor the weather forecast in advance and during the event. If adverse weather e.g., heavy rain occurs the team will ensure all assault course participants are updated on any changes to the programme or use of the site in accordance with main event managers instructions. The assault course management team will intercept any participants wearing unsuitable clothing for the weather conditions and ask them to return to their sites and change into appropriate clothing for the conditions. This includes sun protection as well as waterproofs and water bottles, and suitable footwear. A drink station will be provided for assault course leaders providing snacks and hot and cold drinks. High winds – all gazebos and tents to use guy lines and to be weighted in case of adverse weather. If winds become high the assault course management team will assess structures and instruct to dismantle structures seen as high risk of moving, or amend how they are operated if appropriate. In strong winds the possibility of trees or branches falling onto assault course staff and participants must be assessed and if appropriate areas cordoned off. 	Low
Safeguarding.	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the HCSC general site risk assessment and Green Beret event risk assessment as appropriate. All members of the assault course team will be in pairs unless directed by the course manager due to extenuating circumstances. 	Low

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Pedestrian impact from a vehicle.	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the HCSC general site risk assessment and Green Beret event risk assessment as appropriate. The only need to use transport will be to drop and collect equipment. Course manager responsible to facilitate this. 	Low
Medical emergency.	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the Green Beret event risk assessment as appropriate. Sufficient first aid cover is in place for the assault course. First aid kit available at the course start/finish line. Further assistance will be called from additional onsite first aid team including paramedic led medical support if required. The course manager will take the lead on any medical emergency on the course. 	Low
Clients with additional abilities/pre-existing health issues.	All	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the Green Beret event risk assessment as appropriate. Start team to identify any issues at start line and communicate to all base teams where necessary regarding competitors that may need additional support. 	Low
Unauthorised use of radio communication.	All radio operators	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the Green Beret event risk assessment as appropriate. 	Low
Exposure.	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the Green Beret event risk assessment as appropriate. If correct clothing is not worn and members of the assault course team feel that this is putting the team at increasing risk for exposure then the team will not be able to start the course and group leader contacted as appropriate. 	Low
Incorrect information issued to participants/ staff	All	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe operating practice has been written and provided to the staff by assault course manager. All information issued to those competing on the course will be explained in full prior to the team starting the course. 	Low
Poor radio communication.	All	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the days leading up to Green Beret the necessary activities will take place to ensure adequate radio communication can be achieved. As a final resort, the mobile telephone numbers of all key personnel will be known and used to establish communication if possible. Mobile phone reception is usually good. 	Low
Walking on road/crossings	All	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To get to the start finish teams may need to cross or walk on the car park or road inside Tolmers. All teams will be in company with their own leaders and it is their responsibility to marshal their own teams to the start/finish. No team is to leave the start/finish line back to their campsite unless accompanied by their own leader. 	Low

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Darkness	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone will should be off the assault course by 16:00, therefore darkness should not be an issue. Set up and take down to be completed in daylight hours. If needed extra lighting can be placed at the start/finish to assist in the setup and pack down of the start/finish. Course manager to arrange if necessary. 	Low
Manual handling – lifting and moving heavy and large items.	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi person lifts used for large or heavy items. 	Low
Exhaustion/tiredness.	Assault course team	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff rotated to allow rest to prevent exhaustion. Team numbers large enough to allow staff rotation. Indoor sleeping accommodation available for all assault course team volunteers. 	Low
Participant access and egress from the bases area.	All	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic free route from the main site to the bases area and it will be signposted. 	Low
Running-uneven ground	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to the HCSC general site risk assessment and Green Beret event risk assessment as appropriate. Assault course management team will check the outdoor assault course area and make sure that the surfaces suit the planned activities and are free of obstacles that may cause hazards. Assault course team have been directed to brief young people on what they need to do to complete each part of the assault course and that briefing will include appropriate behaviour. Participants advised at start of briefing that there is no need to run between bases. Assault course area reviewed for slip hazards by assault course management team in adverse weather events and areas cordoned off with hazard tape if waterlogged/slippery etc. Pathways between elements cleaned before start and clearly defined. Checked throughout day by roaming staff. 	Low
Equipment failure	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that an hourly check is signed off to ensure the safety of the elements and note if any changes are made if issues found. If anything becomes unsafe during use the element is closed immediately and not reopened until it is reviewed by the event safety team. 	Low
SPECIFIC RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH ELEMENT				

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START/FINISH				
Gazebo	All	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure gazebo is erected properly with no trip hazards from guy lines etc. All gazebos and tents to use guy lines and to be weighted in case of adverse weather. 	Low
COMMANDO CRAWL				
Entrapment	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All competitors fully briefed at start to remove any loose items/scarfs. Briefing to highlight entrapment risk. Close observation of obstacle. Net regularly inspected to ensure in place and stakes are solid. All competitors reminded that if coming out sideways to ensure they are fully out before standing up. 	Low
Bumping in to each other	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit of 1 person under the net at a time. 	Low
Abrasion injuries	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground checked before and during competition and any hazardous objects removed. Participants should be wearing a long sleeve top and trousers before going under the cargo net. 	Low
LOG CARRY				
Manual handling	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In safety brief participants instructed how to lift properly by the rope and to lift pole by safe method i.e. bend knees. The pole is long but light to avoid excess weight. 	Low

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Injury from road Pins.	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that road pins are properly in the ground. Ensure hooks on road pins are in opposite direction to travel. 	Low
Rope caught on hands/fingers/around neck.	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All competitors fully briefed at start to not wrap rope around their hands, wrist or neck etc. Briefing to highlight risk. Close observation of obstacle. 	Low
Dropping pole.	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate footwear must be worn. Due to the method used to carry the pole, there should be nothing underneath the pole if dropped. 	Low
WATER CARRY				
Manual handling.	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In safety brief participants instructed how to lift properly by the rope and to lift water container by safe method i.e. bend knees. The container is only half full to avoid excess weight. 	Low
Injury from road Pins.	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that road pins are properly in the ground. Ensure hooks on road pins are in opposite direction to travel. 	Low
Rope caught on hands/fingers/around neck.	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All competitors fully briefed at start to not wrap rope around their hands, wrist or neck etc. Briefing to highlight risk. Close observation of obstacle. 	Low
Dropping water containers.	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate footwear must be worn. Due to the method used to carry the water containers, there should be nothing underneath the containers if dropped. 	Low
Getting wet.	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Containers are sealed. 	Low
SPIDERS WEB				

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General Injury.	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants instructed in safety brief and reminded throughout to step through web – no diving or running. 	Low
Entrapment.	Participants	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All competitors fully briefed at start to remove any loose items/scarfs. Briefing to highlight entrapment risk. Close observation of obstacle. 	Low
Tripping over guy lines.	All	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area where guy lines are pegged to be tapped off as a no go area, included in briefing. 	Low
Injury from lifting participants through web.	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care must be taken when passing participants through the spiders web. There must be at least 2 people either side of the web whilst passing participants through high gaps. 	Low
8FT WALL				
Falls from height.	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum of two people at the top of the wall at any one time. Ensure ground conditions alongside the wall are free from obstructions and holes to avoid twisted ankles and injuries to hands and feet. Ground regularly checked that egress is not slippery. At 8ft competitors feet will always be below 2 meters. Step on back side of wall to assist with climbing down. Step ladder at base to allow safe egress if a participants is stuck on wall. Participants advised to climb down and not jump in the safety brief. 	Medium
UNDER, OVER				
Beams	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All poles used are checked to be sound at construction using ring method. All fixings to be checked by a 2nd person at construction to ensure they are secure. Trees being used checked they are live and a minimum of 20cm diameter. All trees being used checked that they are alive. 	Low

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Falls from height.	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All beams being used as overs to be kept below 1.75 meters. Ground regularly checked that egress is not slippery. Ensure ground conditions alongside the beams are free from obstructions and holes to avoid twisted ankles and injuries to hands and feet. 	Medium
Hitting head going under beam.	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants fully briefed at start to watch head when going under beam. 	Medium
HILL CLIMB				
Rope burn.	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants briefed on how to use the rope to assist in ascent. 	Low
Injury from coming back down hill.	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants briefed to use the safe walkway in returning to start of base. 	Low
TREE WALK				
Construction (breaking or working lose) - entrapment, injury or fall.	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction equipment checked prior to use for damage and suitability and replaced. Appropriate and sufficient nail, rope or strap fixings to be used and placed correctly. Ropes and hand-lines to be tensioned to minimise slack. Base team to check throughout the competition that course remains in place and to rectify anything immediately. If unable to fix issues the activity will be stopped and advice sought from the Green Beret Event Safety Team. Participants briefed - only 1 participant at a time on each section. 	Low
Trees (breaking / moving) - entrapment, injury or fall.	Participants	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees are checked for stability and over 10cm in diameter to ensure the load (in line with POR). Support stakes added to smaller trees to reduce/spread the load. 	Low

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Course height - trauma, fall, injury.	Participants	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximum foot height above the ground will be 600mm (as per EN-1176 and ROSPA guidelines for max fall height without crash mats etc).• Base team to ensure landing zone is clear of hazards throughout the competition.• Base team to follow participants around the course and provide support, encouragement, help where needed.• Ladders available to assist and help competitors down if anyone is hurt or stuck.	Low

Note: This risk assessment is intended only as a guide to help you complete your own risk assessment document.

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Element Name: _____

Time	7-8am	8-9am	9-10am	10-11am	11-12am	12-1pm	1-2pm	2-3pm	3-4pm
Any comments?									
Element leader sign off									
Assault course manager sign off									