

Tinaroo Environmental Education Centre

Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment

Activity Details

CARA Creation Date: 26-Nov-2019			
Activity:	Challenge Low Ropes & Group Activities		
Activity Scope:	<p>This guideline relates to student participation in low ropes courses and group challenge activities in an outdoor education context, as a curriculum activity.</p> <p>Challenge low ropes courses and group activities provide students with opportunities to help build self-confidence, determination, cooperation and decision-making skills, and develop physical attributes such as balance and flexibility. Due to the risk associated with falls from height, the safe conduct of these activities requires the use of spotters in order to protect the participant's upper body and head from heavy contact with the ground. Spotters are required when the feet of the participant are up to 1.8m above the ground (Australian Standard AS 2316.2.1:2016). If the feet of the participant are above 1.8m, additional fall protection must be applied.</p> <p>Where the participant's safety can no longer be achieved by spotting, refer to Challenge high ropes activity guideline.</p> <p>Low ropes refers to any activity that requires an individual or pair to complete an element conducted on a purpose-built facility for which the appropriate safety is achieved through safe and effective spotting.</p> <p>Group activities refers to any activity undertaken by a small to large group conducted on a purpose-built facility for which the appropriate safety is achieved through safe and effective spotting.</p>		
Guidelines:	https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/school-curriculum/CARA/activity-guidelines		
Activity Description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Ropes Course • Group Challenge Adventure Course and Team Work games - Small groups of students complete a number of different challenges. Each group always has an adult supervisor. 		
Inherent Risk Level:	Medium		
Inherent Risk Level Description:	Low ropes and group activities conducted at a purpose-built facility for which the appropriate safety is achieved through safe and effective spotting.		
Start Date:	Wednesday, 01 January, 2020	End Date:	Thursday, 31 December, 2020
On School Grounds:	Yes	Is parental permission required for this activity?	No

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Mandatory/Special Requirements

Challenge low ropes courses and group activities provide students with opportunities to help build self-confidence, determination, cooperation and decision-making skills, and develop physical attributes such as balance and flexibility. Due to the risk associated with falls from height, the safe conduct of these activities requires the use of spotters in order to protect the participant's upper body and head from heavy contact with the ground. Spotters are required when the feet of the participant are up to 1.8m above the ground (Australian Standard AS 2316.2.1:2016). If the feet of the participant are above 1.8m, additional fall protection must be applied.

Where the participant's safety can no longer be achieved by spotting, refer to [Challenge high ropes activity guideline](#).

Low ropes refers to any activity that requires an individual or pair to complete an element conducted on a purpose-built facility for which the appropriate safety is achieved through safe and effective spotting.

Group activities refers to any activity undertaken by a small to large group conducted on a purpose-built facility for which the appropriate safety is achieved through safe and effective spotting.

For management of a ropes course, a Challenge Ropes Course Manager (either low ropes or high ropes as relevant) is required. Management can also be carried out by people who have received training from an approved Challenge Ropes Course Conductor.

It is highly recommended that the [Queensland Adventure Activity Standards](#) are referred to when planning this activity.

I have incorporated the above factors when planning my risk management strategies for this activity.



Detailed risk management guidelines for this activity are outlined in the Tinaroo EEC Standard Operating Procedures for Low Ropes and Group Challenges.

Risk Management Details

Supervision Requirements

In addition to the teacher or activity leader, other supervisors should be selected from those most suitable for the particular activity. Before the activity commences all supervisors should be informed of their role, potential hazards and precautions to be taken.



When planning any outdoor activity, the ratio of qualified, experienced leaders to dependent participants needs to be considered. In certain situations, judgment may dictate smaller or larger numbers of participants per leader. In addition to variables listed in the Planning Considerations section, consider:

- the nature of the challenge ropes course elements
- line of sight and sound for supervision.



A registered teacher along with other adults will be working on the Group Challenge Adventure Course. There may be up to 4 small groups. A registered teacher will supervise the activity, and TEEC will provide training and written guidelines for visiting teachers and parents in the safe use of low ropes elements.

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Qualification Requirements	
A registered teacher with:	
competence (knowledge and skills) and experience in the teaching of the activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OR	
a statement of attainment from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) covering SROCRP001A/SISOCR301A Conduct a low ropes session.	<input type="checkbox"/>
OR	
A registered teacher or other adult (working under the direct supervision of a registered teacher) with:	
a statement of attainment for a nationally recognised course, at the level of Low Ropes course conductor, from an RTO.	<input type="checkbox"/>
OR	
Certificate III in Sport, Outdoor or Community Recreation or higher, with specialisations in appropriate activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Note: Competence is to be assessed annually, considering the outdoor environment that the activity is taking place in, to ensure currency and relevancy. Details about how the activity leader has demonstrated competence should be included in the Other Details box below.	
Current first aid qualifications including Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or ready access to first aid facilities including qualified personnel.	

Equipment/Facility Requirements	
Appropriate clothing, taking into account the requirements of the activity and weather conditions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Firmly fitting, non-slip footwear.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A maintenance log for each course.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Hazards and Control Measures	
Environmental conditions	
Assess the suitability of the course prior to undertaking the activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Equipment	
Supply all equipment in a clean and serviceable condition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Check equipment prior to the start of each session. Pay particular attention to fastening systems when removable rope systems are used.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure all safety equipment is in place and in good condition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Use, maintain and store equipment according to manufacturer's specifications.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure damp or wet equipment is dried before storing.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carry electronic and other equipment that can be damaged by water in water resistant containers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student considerations	
Provide specific (written and verbal) training in, and awareness of, safety requirements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Guide students through an activity or provide a demonstration prior to undertaking the activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Use competent spotters where appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Staff/Other Participants

Family Name	Given Name	Type	Other Participants Role
Crosby	Bret	Staff Member	N/A
Dilger	Darryl	Staff Member	N/A
Fulford	Hal	Staff Member	N/A
Harrison	Philip	Staff Member	N/A
Holcroft	Kimberley	Staff Member	N/A
Lazaredes	Louka	Staff Member	N/A
MacGregor	Peter	Staff Member	N/A
Marsh	Matthew	Staff Member	N/A
Watson	Dayna	Staff Member	N/A

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Planning Considerations

Which students will be involved?

- Consider the number of students, size of student groups and students' capabilities e.g. age, experience, competence, fitness, maturity.
- Consider any individual student needs e.g. personalised learning, support provisions (including behaviour support plans), health management (including health plans and prescribed medication requirements).

Where will the students be?

- Consider the location of the activity e.g. remote/easily accessible, public /private, school/classroom/workshop/other.
- Is the number of students appropriate for the available space?
- If outdoors – sunsafe strategies are implemented; weather and environmental conditions are assessed before and during activity (e.g. temperature, storms, water currents, tides); and strategies to reduce the likelihood of viruses, allergies and skin infections caused by insects (e.g. ticks, mosquitoes, spiders) and other animals are applied.
- The site is checked for hazards (e.g. poisonous plants, dangerous animals, uneven terrain, barbed wire,) and necessary controls implemented.
- Activities are appropriately situated in relation to buildings, pedestrians, members of the public, vehicles and other activities e.g. designated areas for activity, spectators and vehicles are established.

What will the students be doing?

- Consider the nature and duration of the activity i.e. need for drinking water, food, rest, appropriate clothing, warm-up and warm-down.
- Instruction in rules and pre-requisite skills is provided.
- Student skills are developed in a progressive and sequential manner.
- First aid and emergency medical treatment provisions are appropriate for the type of activity and location e.g. first aid kit, first aid trained personnel, Ventolin®, Epipen®, and students' personal prescribed medications as required in health plans are available.
- Emergency response strategies are in place e.g. communication plans (e.g. mobile phone, walkie talkie), safety induction, evacuation plans.
- Hair, clothing, footwear and jewellery are worn in a manner that is appropriate and safe for the activity.
- Personal items, e.g. drink bottles, towels and mouthguards, will not be shared between students.

What will the students be using?

- Instruction in safety procedures and safe handling of equipment is provided.
- Equipment is suitable for the activity, properly maintained, appropriately used and complies with the relevant safety standard.
- [Relevant department procedures and guidelines](#) are adhered to for the use of equipment and work processes.

Who will be leading the activity?

- A registered teacher has overall responsibility for the activity.
- Sufficient adult supervision is in place to manage the activity safely (including in emergency situations).
- The activity leader has the competence (knowledge and skills) to plan, induct, instruct and manage the activity safely for students and others.
- There are sufficient adults present with current First Aid qualifications (including CPR) or ready access to qualified first aid personnel.
- Blue Card requirements are adhered to for leaders/volunteers.

I have incorporated the above factors when planning my risk management strategies for this activity.

Additional activity-specific requirements for students with specialised learning needs are provided in the Other Details box below.

Additional equipment and TEEC staff are occasionally employed with students with special needs. The exact modifications to this activity are dependant on the precise requirements of the student concerned.

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Monitor and Review

Informal review with students after each activity session.