

UNIVERSITY of OXFORD SPORTS DEPARTMENT				
OXFORD UNIVERSITY RISK ASSESSMENT MOUNTAINEERING DATE:28/05/2026				
Who might be harmed	HAZARD	Risk	Control Measure in place	Further Risk reduction required Y / N
General hazards				
Participants	Alcohol	Minor / Major injury	The consumption of alcohol is prohibited whilst climbing.	
Participants/ Public	Travel	Major incident / accident / fatality	Club Committee to check the insurance of car drivers. Drivers to comply with current Road Safety laws and have a full driving licence. Hire vehicles drivers MUST have passed the University accredited driving course. Drivers must be 21 or over. Trip registration forms to be sent to the Sport Federation no later than 5pm on the Thursday before the fixture. Sports fed will forward the form to security services. The registration form for trips aboard MUST be sent a minimum of 1 month prior to the trip departing. Club Committee to supply Safety officer with travel insurance details and trip Risk Assessment. In the event of a major accident security services must be contacted 01865 289999	
Participants	Sporting Injuries	Minor / major	All participants are recommended to learn how to warm	

		injuries	up and down correctly before and after climbing. Climbers with specific injuries are encouraged to seek professional medical advice to prevent the injury re-occurring or worsening. Anyone with any minor injuries should notify the trip organiser. On outdoor meetings a First Aid kit will be available. Members are encouraged to carry their own First Aid kit and acquire sufficient First Aid knowledge, especially for geographically dispersed meets in mountainous areas when the group first aider(s) may be some distance away. A First Aid kit can be loaned from the Sports Federation for any club meets.	
Participants	COVID/Infection	Minor/Major illness	The club will follow up to date NGB and Government guidance at all times in the first case. Members are encouraged to wear masks during club activities, wash hands and sanitise appropriately. The club will be transparent about details of organised activities (planned numbers, accomodation, transport etc.) so that individuals can make their own assessment on whether they are happy to attend. The club will avoid travelling to areas that government guidance recommends travellers not to visit.	
Outdoor climbing				
Participants	Belaying Failure	Minor / major injuries	Whilst belaying, new members will be supervised, on a peer basis, by existing and more experienced members of the club. Members are encouraged to satisfy themselves by direct experience with climbing partners before climbing outdoors.	

Participants	Bouldering	Minor / major injuries	Climbers intending to boulder on outdoor meets should ensure that they bring bouldering mats or that mats are borrowed from the club ahead of the meet. Climbers are advised not to boulder on their own and to spot each other, or ask to be spotted, whenever appropriate. Spotters should be aware of good spotting technique or seek advice from experienced peers before continuing.	
Participants	Navigation Error	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Where required maps, compasses and head torches be carried. Members are strongly advised to carry or wear suitable garments, including a waterproof, warm jumper, fleece and correct footwear. Members going on long walks, or intending on climbs to be gone for some time should communicate their plans to a meet secretary and aim to keep to the plan. Where members are lost or delayed, they could use a mobile phone to contact other club members.	
Participants	Extremes of Weather e.g. heatstroke or hypothermia, flooding, snow and ice etc	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Club members must consider the weather conditions for each and every trip and check local and national weather forecasts. Appropriate decisions taken on treatment for both. First Aid provided. Shelter provided for those suffering from hypothermia. Regular intake of fluids for both.	
Participants	River crossings	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Club members are advised to seek alternative routes avoiding river crossings where feasible. Crossing of swollen rivers is to be avoided. Members are advised to seek alternative routes or await improved	

			conditions. Any person who falls into a river during crossing or otherwise is to be provided with dry clothing as soon as possible and treated for hypothermia as appropriate.	
Participants	Becoming trapped whilst climbing	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Members advised to ensure that there is plenty of time for the climb planned and this should be considered in line with the time of the sunset and weather conditions. Members are advised to leave an appropriate margin for error in their plans. Members are strongly encouraged to have appropriate equipment in the eventuality of having to spend the night on the mountains e.g. clothing, navigational aids, shelters, Head-torch, food etc	
Participants	Leader Falls	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Participants are made aware that the OUMC does not provide any coaching or instruction, and that advice given by fellow members is on an informal and peer basis only. Club members are encouraged to lead only when they are satisfied with their own level of competence (practical and theoretical). This should include the use of natural or bolt protection to protect both the leader and the second, the appropriate use of rope or ropes and the ability to evaluate the risk associated with an individual pitch, based on personal skill, guidebook information, and appraisal of the pitch itself. Members are discouraged from solo climbing on club meets. Members are encouraged to wear helmets, available upon request from the club. First Aid kit and First Aider on hand to deal with incident. Members are encouraged to carry their own	

			First Aid kit and acquire sufficient First Aid knowledge, especially for geographically dispersed meets in mountainous areas when the group first aider(s) may be some distance away. If assistance required 999 called to arrange Mountain Rescue.	
Participants	Injury from falling object e.g. rock	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Members are encouraged to wear UIAA-approved helmets at the base of crags as well as when climbing or belaying. The clubs avoids arranging meets to locations with higher chance of rock falls etc. Members should be aware of the need to warn others of falling objects by an appropriate call. Advice should be given in the event of hearing such a call.	
Participants	(Sea cliffs) Getting stuck at the base of a cliff	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Members wishing to attempt climbs approachable by abseil should be warned of the seriousness of the situation. Members in the above case, are strongly encouraged to leave abseil ropes in place and have the necessary skills and equipment (e.g. Jumars, prussik cords) to ascend the ropes. Members attempting routes are advised that they should not attempt such routes in the high seas.	
Participants	(Sea cliffs) Getting trapped by the tide.	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Members to be aware of the possibility of high tide preventing retreat. Information is available from guide books but also by studying tide marks on the cliff. Members must know the times and heights of tides in a given location. Members considering exposing themselves to the risk	

			of high tide are advised that they should be able to swim although this is a last resort. Individuals can be putting themselves at as much risk from swimming due to the strength of the seas and height of swell etc.	
Participants	(Sea cliffs) Falling into the Sea.	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Members to be aware that a fall into the sea whilst wearing a climbing rack is highly dangerous. As a result members are encouraged to wear their rack on a bandolier when climbing routes above open water. Members are advised to build substantial belays when near to the sea and to attach themselves and all essential gear to these belays, even when climbing from large platforms due to the threat posed by large waves. Whilst abseiling over open water, members are advised to tie knots in the end of their abseil ropes.	
Participants	Emergencies	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Members must be aware of the emergency services rescue situations and courses of action, including calling the Mountain Rescue and maintaining contact with the rest of the club on the meet, a club member in Oxford and the University Security Services on (01865) 289999. On Line Accident Report form to be completed on clubs return to Oxford and sent to the Sports Federation Link: http://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/sports-federation/safety/accident_form All individual members are affiliated to the BMC and registered by the secretary each year. The Club must keep accurate records of all club members who are affiliated. Cover for Civil Liability and Personal Accident Cover in place. Copy of BMC insurance certificate to be given to the	

			Safety Officer each year.	
Participants	Club Equipment	Minor / major injuries or fatality	A copy of the club inventory is to be sent to the Sports Federation each July. The equipment will be tested each year by an appropriately qualified person. A procedure for retiring kit must be highlighted on the Club inventory. A procedure for reporting defects to equipment must be in place with clear lines of communication.	
Participants	Static Abseil Ropes	Minor / major injuries or fatality	The Condition of Abseil ropes is to be verified with the rest of the gear by an experienced person. Before each use the rope should also be inspected and if damaged, retired immediately. When Abseiling over sharp edges a rope protector should be used	
Winter Mountaineering				
Participants	Winter climbing	Minor / major injuries or fatality	Winter climbing refers to the ascent of technical mountainous terrain in prevailing winter conditions where two ice axes or ice tools and crampons are required. Members intending to participate in winter climbing on club meets should have previous experience on winter routes of a similar level or be supervised by climbers with extensive winter experience. All participants must be suitably equipped with sufficient warm clothing and winter climbing gear (i.e. ice axes and crampons). <i>Refer to generic risk assessment for more information on clothing and equipment</i> Members are strongly advised to check conditions and forecasts in order to select a route appropriate for their ability and the prevailing conditions.	

Participants	Winter walking	Minor/Major injuries or fatality	<i>Refer to 'extreme weather' and 'leader falls' sections</i> All members will fill in a route card to the best of their ability before leaving the hut at the beginning of each day. Winter walking refers to the ascent of non-technical mountainous terrain in prevailing winter conditions. Members walking in remote terrain in prevailing winter conditions must be aware of the additional challenges of navigating in these conditions. All participants must be suitably equipped with sufficient warm clothing and winter walking gear (i.e. ice axe and crampons). Members are strongly advised to check conditions and forecasts in order to select a route appropriate for their ability and the prevailing conditions.	
Indoor Climbing				
Participants	Falling	Minor / major injuries	Bouldering mats are advised although those using the campus board should be able to drop onto their feet where necessary.	
Participants	Finger Tendon Injury	Minor / major injuries	Instructions will be given on the use of the board by club members. Warm up for wrists and fingers. Members are encouraged to seek professional advice on how to manage their injury if necessary	
Participants	Iffley Bouldering wall	Minor / major injuries	The wall is only to be used by club members who need to book with the centre. There must be at least two club members present to	

			use the bouldering wall and the maximum capacity limit of 30 will not be breached. Users are advised to use the bouldering mats available and to employ a spotter at all times when bouldering. Club members are to be aware of and minimise risk to Sport Centre users walking down the corridors. A clear walkway, free of bags, must be kept clear at all times to allow other facility centres to pass. On club nights, marshalls are positioned at each end of the wall to alert climbers of people walking past. Users are required to climb at least in pairs, taking turns in spotting one another. Users should not to attempt to jump from the sports hall balcony to the bouldering wall. For bouldering competitions – suitable signage should alert spectators of possible falls. An alternative route could be used for the duration of the bouldering competition. Call 999 from the front reception desk for assistance if a fall results in a serious accident e.g. broken bone or suspected spinal injury. In the case of a fire alarm the boulder mats should be raised upright to clear the corridor and all participants should then leave all belongings and follow all fire drill protocol.	
Participants	Injuries	Minor / major injuries	The most common injuries are scrapes, grazes or small cuts from the impact with the wall. Ask for First Aid assistance from the main reception desk.	
Participants	Rock Solid	Minor / major	Club members are encouraged to lead only when they	

	(Oxford Brookes University) Climbing Wall	injuries	are satisfied with their own skills and knowledge. This should include the use of in-situ protection and appropriate use of a rope. Follow guidelines outlined by those at Brookes University. All members must read the Sports Centre rules and sign in before they use the wall. The climbing wall staff are responsible for the provision of First Aid and the receptionist should be asked to call the Emergency Services.	
Camping & Staying in a Hut				
Participants	Location	Minor / major injuries	Only official huts and campsites are used. No wild camping	
Participants	Severe weather conditions (rain and cold)	Minor / major injuries	Every participant is required to bring a sleeping bag, rolls mats and other insulating pieces of gear. Tents are allocated to participants in advance.	
Participants	Camp Hygiene	Minor / major injuries	Only campsites/huts with fresh water and bathroom facilities are used.	
Participants	Wildlife	Minor / major injuries	Avoid livestock fields. Appropriate food storage and immediate disposal of waste is enforced.	
Participants	Cooking and fires	Minor/ major injuries or fatalities	No naked flames are to be allowed inside or near tents. Fires are to be extinguished fully before the last person retires to bed.	
Participants	Slips, trips and falls	Minor / major injuries	Climbers are required to have adequate torches with a spare power supply. Climbers are advised to walk clear of guy lines on tents. Peer supervision when tents are pegged. Appropriate footwear is required by all climbers at all times. Within huts floors are to be kept dry.	

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RISK REDUCTION

Action	By When?	By Whom?	Completed

Club President ...William Chave..... Date28/05/2026.....

Club SecretaryHugo Tollit..... Date28/05/2026.....