**Why Bother?**

Those running the society have a **legal duty of care** to ensure the safety of its members and any other people who may be affected by its activities and events. A **risk assessment** is not just a box ticking exercise, it is a useful checklist of what might go wrong and how your society and committee can reduce the risk. In the event of an **incident** you will need to produce your risk assessment as part of proving the committee fulfilled their legal duty of care.

**How do I assess risk?**

For every hazard, you need to ask yourself how severe it is and how likely it is to happen. Severity and likelihood are each given a value, which are multiplied together to give you the risk factor. The tables below are useful for deciding what numbers to assign severity and likelihood.

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| **Severity of Harm** | **Description** |
| High (3) | Major injury or death; loss of limb or life-threatening conditions. |
| Medium (2) | Moderate injuries. |
| Low (1)  | Minor/insignificant injuries. |
| **Likelihood** | **Description** |
| High (3) | Will probably occur in most circumstances  |
| Medium (2) | Might occur, but uncommon  |
| Low (1)  | Rare, only occurs in exceptional circumstances  |



**What do I do?**

For risk scores of 3 or less, simply follow existing practices. Scores of 4 or more will require you to think of, and implement, some additional preventative measures to reduce risk before continuing the activity. For risk scores of 9, avoid the activity and seek an alternative. For example: if a risk is of medium severity and low likelihood, it would get a risk score of 2.

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| **Society:** Leeds University Union Mountaineering and Climbing | **Assessor:** Joshua Hillas-Smith |
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| **#** | **Perceived Hazard**  | **Persons affected**  | **Control Measures**  | **Severity** | **Likely** | **Risk Score** | **Action By** |
| 1 | COVID-19 – transmission from person to person | Participants, committee members, centre staff, members of the public | Members to bring their own, labelled water bottleAll equipment must be cleaned prior to and after use, it is also quarantined for 72 hours between different uses as per BMC guidance.Social distancing must be adhered to when entering the site, once inside, preparing equipment and exiting the site. Members are to remain in their groups of six for the duration of the activity and maintain social distancing where possible at all times. Members must wash their hands prior and post each session.Members should wear face coverings for the entire duration of the activity except for when they are actually climbing. This includes wearing them while walking to the centre and while belaying.Numbers to be limited to 30 total with participants split into groups of 6 for the duration of the event. (1 committee member and 5 participants) | 1 | 2 | 2 | Making participants aware of the measures in advance and committee ensuring that they are maintained throughout the session.  |
| 2 | COVID-19 – transmission from infected surfaces | Participants, committee members, members of the public, centre staff | Limit contact with surfaces in communal areas. Wash hands after touching any surfaces in communal areas.Sanitise hands on entry and exit of the centre and at regular intervals due to the nature of touching climbing hand holds.  | 1 | 2 | 2 | Making participants aware of the measures in advance and committee ensuring that they are maintained throughout the session.  |
| 3 | COVID-19 – transmission from equipment | Participants, committee members  | Equipment should be cleaned before and after the session. Committee and coaches to abide by NGB guidance on cleaning practices Quarantine gear for 72 hours between use as per BMC guidance. All gear to be returned to storage bags by person using it so that gear secretary only needs to take and store these bags for 72 hours to minimise risk to them. Ensure that there is minimal mixing of gear during session, no sharing of harnesses or shoes. Ropes to be used by one group only. Inform participants of the potential risks associated with touching shared climbing hardware– protection and quickdraws – while on a route and recommend a regime of using hand sanitiser (or anti-bacterial wipes) before and after each route.  | 1 | 2 | 2 | Making participants aware of the measures in advance and committee ensuring that they are maintained throughout the session.  |
| 4 | COVID-19 – transmission from members of the public | Participants, committee members and members of the public, centre staff | Abide by government social distancing guidelines.Wear a face covering at all time in the centre and throughout the activity except when actually climbing. Abide by centre guidelines on keeping one line of climbing between each different group.Liase with the centre to organise sessions in quieter periods to minimise potential contact with general public.  | 1 | 2 | 2 | Making participants aware of the measures in advance and committee ensuring that they are maintained throughout the session.  |
| 5 | COVID-19 – transport and travel | Participants, committee members  | Encourage members to walk to the session rather than car or public transport. When walking in groups of six to the centre from Parkinson steps social distancing should be maintained and masks should be worn.  | 1 | 2 | 2 | Making participants aware of the measures when we first meet and committee ensuring that they are maintained throughout the travel.  |
| 6 | COVID-19 – toilets and changing rooms | Participants, committee members and members of the public, centre staff | You may need to use changing rooms & toilets one at a time to ensure social distancing measures can be adhered to.If possible, members should be asked to arrive changed and ready to train so use of changing facilities is not essential. | 1 | 2 | 2 | Making participants aware of the measures in advance and asking all participants to arrive ready to climb. Remind participants of measures throughout session when necessary.  |
| 7 | COVID-19 – awareness of covid-19 processes and guidelines | Participants, committee members  | Latest NGB guidelines should be shared with members (insert link) https://www.thebmc.co.uk/coronavirus-update-new-rule-of-6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Committee to distribute NGB guidelines to members and remind them of any key or relevant points during the activity.  |
| 8 | COVID-19 - symptoms | Participants, committee members and members of the public | Members are required to self-screen to prevent anyone with symptoms or living in a house with anyone with symptoms or awaiting a Covid-19 test, from attending sessions | 1 | 2 | 2 | Committee to remind members in advance that they should not attend any activity if they are self isolating, are awaiting test results, have symptoms or have housemates with symptoms or have come into contact with someone who has tested positive. |
| 9 | COVID-19 – Track and Trace | Participants, committee members  | Ensure everyone has logged their attendance on the Track and Trace app.Registers are kept of all who attend each session and what group of six they are in. | 1 | 1 | 1 | Committee to ensure all members log their attendance using the app. Secretary to keep record of who attended and who was in each group of six. |
| 10 | COVID-19 – Site staff first aid limitations | Participants, committee members, members of the public, Centre staff | In the case of an accident or injury, the injured party will self-administer their own first aid, if this is not possible, a first aid qualified coach or committee member is able to administer first aid using full personal protection equipment (PPE).Encourage participants to climb within their competency level to reduce the likelihood of incidents occurring and first aid being needed. PPE to be kept in club first aid kit. | 1 | 2 | 2 | Making participants aware of the measures in advance and committee ensuring that they are maintained throughout the session.  |