



NEWCASTLE 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.”

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 spin or break.

The soft flooring under the bouldering walls is designed to provide a more comfortable landing for climbers falling or jumping from the bouldering wall. **THE SOFT FLOORING DOES NOT MAKE THE CLIMBING ANY SAFER.** Broken and sprained limbs are common on this type of climbing wall despite the soft landing. **Uncontrolled falls are likely to result in injuries to yourself or others.**

Climbing **beyond your capabilities** on any wall is likely to result in a **fall**. 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.

Our Duty of Care

The rules of the climbing centre set out below **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 then the staff must politely ask you to leave.

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.

Unsupervised Climbing on roped walls - Before you climb on roped walls without supervision the centre expects you to be competent in the use of a safety harness, a re-threaded figure of eight 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 the Rules below and that you understand the risks involved in your participation. You may also be asked to demonstrate that you have the skills listed above in order to climb safely at the centre. Anyone who has not registered is classed as a **novice** and **must not** climb without supervision **on roped walls**. Novices may register to climb on the bouldering wall or on the Auto-Belay devices after completing a taster session or demonstrating competence in these areas from previous experience.

Unsupervised climbing is just that! Staff will provide whatever help and advice they can, but instruction in the use of equipment or climbing techniques will only be provided where it has been booked and paid for in advance. 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**. Groups of three or more novices must only be supervised by an instructor holding the relevant Mountain Leader Training qualification (CWA, SPA, MIA or MIC)

Children – Children must be aged 5 years to use the centre and must be supervised by an adult until they are aged 14 when they can be assessed by the management and registered for unsupervised climbing.



NEWCASTLE CLIMBING CENTRE - RULES

General Safety

- Report to reception on each visit before you climb. On your first visit you must become a registered user or book induction instruction.
- You must exercise care, common sense and self preservation at all times.
- Report any problems with the walls, equipment or other climbers' behaviour to a member of staff immediately.
- Be aware of the other climbers around you and how your actions will affect them.
- Do not distract people while they are climbing or belaying.
- Stand well back from the climbing walls unless you are belaying or spotting a climber. Never stand directly under someone who is climbing. Be particularly vigilant of this in the area below the large roof at the far end of the central zone.

Top Roping

- Most 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 dynamic rope. Do not use the centre's top ropes for lead climbing.
- Running belay attachments (runners) are already provided at intervals on the lead walls so you do not need your own 'quick draws'. You must clip **all** the runners on the route you are climbing. Avoid "back clipping" runners.
- If to lead a route you pulled a top rope down from its top anchor, then you must replace the rope to its original anchor. To do this you must top rope an adjacent route and, when at the top, reach across to replace the top rope. Or pull the original through the anchor using a "reef" or "sheet bend" knot.

When Belaying

- Always use a belay device attached to your safety harness with a locking karabiner. 'Traditional' or 'body' belaying is not acceptable.
- In roped areas of the centre there are heavy anchor bags provided. Please ensure that these are returned to storage areas after use, as they may constitute a tripping hazard if left in climbing areas. Direct belays from the attachment heavy anchor bags on the floor are not acceptable.
- Always pay attention to what the climber is doing and manage the rope safely.
- Always stand as close to the climbing wall as is practical. In the central zone, belayers must keep to the marked area.
- Sitting or lying down is 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 re-threaded figure of eight or bowline knot. Clipping in with a karabiner is not acceptable.

Bouldering

- Always climb within your capabilities and descend by down climbing, jumping or, at the very least, a controlled fall.
- Never climb directly above or below another climber.