

CONDITIONS OF USE OF THE PINNACLE CLIMBING CENTRE

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. If you are ever unsure about any aspects of the Conditions of Use please consult a member of The Pinnacle Climbing Centre staff.

Unsupervised Rope Climbing - Before you climb without supervision the centre expects you to be competent in the use of a safety harness, a suitable 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. Anyone who has not registered is classed as a **novice** and **must not** climb without supervision.

Unsupervised Bouldering - Before you boulder without supervision The Pinnacle Climbing Centre expects you to be competent in and familiar with the appropriate techniques and safety procedures.

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.

Children – All children in the centre must be supervised by an adult unless they have been assessed by the management and registered for unsupervised climbing.

RULES

General Safety

- Report to reception on each visit before you climb.
- 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.
- You must pay attention to all signage and advise from The Pinnacle Climbing Centre staff. The Pinnacle Climbing Centre policy and Manager's decisions are final.
- All climbing equipment must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Top Roping

- Many of the climbs in the centre have top ropes already in place. Do not take them down to use on other routes.
- Do not use your own 'quick draws' to lead the top rope walls.

- When climbing on a top rope you must only climb the routes that have been set on that line; do not climb the routes on adjacent lines.

Leading

- When using the lead walls you must supply your own appropriately rated and marked dynamic rope. Do not use The Pinnacle Climbing Centre's top ropes for lead climbing. Your rope should be at least 30m in length to climb at The Pinnacle Climbing Centre.
- You must clip **all** the runners (quick draws) on the route you are climbing.

When Belaying

- Always use a belay device attached to your safety harness with a locking karabiner. 'Traditional', or 'body' belaying is not acceptable. When climbing in the roped area you can only climb when belayed by another person; no self-belaying is allowed.
- The attachment points on the floor are provided to give support to people belaying a climber who is much heavier than they are. Direct belays from the attachment points on the floor are not acceptable, other than during group instruction when authorised by a member of The Pinnacle Climbing Centre staff. Always pay attention to what the climber is doing.

- Where designated belay zones are marked, when lead belaying you must stand within these zones at all times. Where there are no designated belay zones, you should always belay as close to the wall as is reasonable.

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 a suitable climbing knot. Clipping in with a karabiner is not acceptable.

Multi-Pitch /Abseils

- The multi-pitch/abseil area is predominantly for the use of The Pinnacle Climbing Centre staff and groups. The Pinnacle Climbing Centre staff may allow individuals to use these facilities at their discretion if they are satisfied with the competence of the climbing/instructional team. You must seek authorisation each and every time you wish to use these facilities.

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.
- No sitting on the bouldering mats at any time.
- You cannot take any personal belongings, other than a chalk bag, on to the bouldering mats at any time; any item taken on to the bouldering mats will be removed by a member of staff.

- Never walk, or stand, underneath someone who is climbing.
- Never climb above the last hold or on any of the building's structure, or the red panels or scaffolding above the walls.
- Bouldering and traversing in the main tall climbing area will only be allowed at quiet times and under no circumstances are you allowed above the first clip.

Training Area

- The campus board and finger boards are advanced training tools. It is strongly recommended that beginners do not use them, unless under supervision by a member of The Pinnacle Climbing Centre staff. These advanced training tools increase the risk of injury. If unsure how to use these properly please seek advice from a member of The Pinnacle Climbing Centre staff.
- Do not stand on the campus rungs or finger boards at any time.
- Do not climb on to the top of the training area, or hold the top of the training area at any time.
- Hanging training equipment, by its very nature is unstable and you should be aware of the risks before using this equipment. Equipment may be stored behind reception or left out – in either case you must ask staff for permission to use it.
- Do not leave any personal belongings on the crash mats under the training area. Any items left there will be removed by a member of staff.

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