

# Curriculum activity risk assessment

## Rock Climbing and Abseiling

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### Activity scope

This document relates to student participation in Rock Climbing or Abseiling as a curriculum activity.

Both activities may occur in natural or built environments and require the use of specialised equipment and ropes.

Rock climbing is the process of ascending natural cliffs. Associated activities include single pitch top rope climbing and abseiling, and multi pitch lead climbing and abseiling. If students are bouldering, refer to [Low Ropes and Group Activities](#) risk assessment.

The safety requirements for rock climbing and abseiling also apply to all rock climbing walls and abseiling towers specifically constructed for this purpose, including those in gymnasiums.

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



### Risk level

This document is a guideline, the actual risk level will vary according to the specific circumstances of the activity and these **must** be considered when assessing the inherent risk level and planning the activity. As a starting point, ask the following questions:

- Which students will be involved?
- What will the students be doing?
- What will the students be using?
- Where will the students be?
- Who will be leading the activity?

Inherent risk level		Action required/approval
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>High</b>	<p><b>Single Pitch Top Rope Climbing or abseiling</b></p> <p>An anchor is set up at the summit of a route prior to the start of a climb. Rope is run through the anchor. One end attaches to the climber and the other to the belayer, who keeps the rope taut during the climb and prevents long falls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ A <i>Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment</i> is required to be completed.</li> <li>☑ Principal or head of program (e.g. DP, HOD, HOSES) approval prior to conducting this activity is required.</li> <li>☑ Once approved, activity details are to be entered into the <i>School Curriculum Activity Register</i>.</li> <li>☑ Obtaining parental permission is recommended.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Extreme</b>	<p><b>Single or Multiple Pitch Lead Climbing or multi pitch abseiling</b></p> <p>One person, called the 'leader', will climb from the ground with a rope directly attached (and not through a top anchor) while the other, called the 'second', belays the leader. The leader ascends and places protection. At the top of a pitch, the leader sets up an anchor, and then belays the 'second' up to the anchor. Once both are at the anchor, the leader begins climbing the next pitch and so on until they reach the top. Once at the top, the group may abseil back down. Multi pitch abseiling may be a stand alone activity, not involving climbing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ Consider alternatives to the activity.</li> <li>☑ A <i>Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment</i> is required to be completed.</li> <li>☑ Principal approval prior to conducting this activity is required.</li> <li>☑ Once approved, activity details are to be entered into the <i>School Curriculum Activity Register</i>.</li> <li>☑ Parental/carer permission <b>must</b> be obtained for student participation.</li> </ul>

Teachers/leaders:		
Activity description:		
Start date:	Finish date:	No. of students (approx):
Class groups:		Supervision ratio (approx):

Listed below are the minimum recommendations for this type of activity. For any items checked “No”, provide further information on the additional or alternate controls to be implemented for the safe conduct of the activity.

<b>Minimum supervision</b>
At least two adults are to be present
Adequate adult supervision is to be provided. In determining what is adequate, consider the number of students, their individual needs, and the nature of the activity. If an adult other than a registered teacher is engaged for instruction, a teacher should be present to take overall responsibility. <a href="#">Blue Card</a> requirements <b>must</b> be adhered to.
<input type="checkbox"/> Registered teacher with minimum qualifications as outlined below <b>OR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> An adult with minimum qualifications as outlined below, in the presence of a registered teacher.
<p>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.</p> <p>Several variables can affect this decision, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outcomes of the risk management process</li> <li>• leaders' experience</li> <li>• participants' expected capabilities (i.e. experience, competence, fitness)</li> <li>• conditions (environment, weather)</li> <li>• distance and nature of terrain between each active rope</li> <li>• line of sight and sound for supervision</li> <li>• belay system and participant skill</li> <li>• planned duration of the activity</li> <li>• number of participants and optimum group size</li> <li>• remoteness of the activity</li> <li>• suitability and availability of equipment.</li> </ul>
Further information:

## Minimum Qualifications

*The qualifications listed in this section are minimums for each type of situation. Leaders are encouraged to seek training to raise their qualification level above the minimum listed.*

- Current first aid qualifications including Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or ready access to first aid facilities including qualified personnel
  - OR**
  - If operating more than one hour away from Emergency Services, current Remote Area First Aid.
- Blue Card requirements met

### High – single pitch top rope climbing or abseiling

Demonstrated skills and currency that meet the leadership, group management, technical capacities and safety requirements (including familiarity of the environment, emergency procedures by all adult participants) of the specific circumstances being addressed.

#### **Rock climbing, artificial or natural surface, single pitch (not lead climbing)**

##### **For a registered teacher:**

- A statement of attainment from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) covering the following units of competence [or equivalent](#):
  - SISOCLA201A/ Demonstrate top rope climbing skills on artificial surfaces
  - SISOCLN201A Demonstrate top rope climbing skills on natural surfaces
  - SISOCLA302A/ Apply top rope climbing skills on artificial surfaces
  - SISOCLN302A Apply climbing skills on natural surfaces
  - SISOCLA303A/ Establish belays for climbing on artificial surfaces
  - SISOCLN303A Establish belays for climbing on natural surfaces
  - SISOODR303A Guide outdoor recreation sessions
  - SISOVTR301A Perform vertical rescues
- OR**
- Certificate III, IV or Diploma in Outdoor Recreation, with specialisations in appropriate activities
- OR**
- a registered leader under the [National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme](#) (NOLRS), at Restricted, Single Pitch Climbing Guide (Natural/Artificial Surfaces) levels
- OR**
- [Australian Climbing Instructors' Association](#) (ACIA) or equivalent Single Pitch Guide certification.

##### **For a leader other than a registered teacher:**

- A statement of attainment for a nationally recognised course or Skill Set, at the level of Climbing Guide, Artificial Surface (restricted) Top Rope or Climbing Guide, Natural Surface (restricted) Top Rope Single Pitch, from a RTO
- OR**
- Certificate III, IV or Diploma in Outdoor Recreation, with specialisations in climbing single pitch (Natural/Artificial Surfaces)
- OR**
- a registered leader under the NOLRS, at Restricted, single pitch Climbing Guide (Natural/Artificial Surfaces) levels
- OR**
- ACIA or equivalent Single Pitch Guide certification.

## Minimum Qualifications

The qualifications listed in this section are minimums for each type of situation. Leaders are encouraged to seek training to raise their qualification level above the minimum listed.

### Extreme – Single or Multiple Pitch Lead Climbing or multi pitch abseiling

#### Rock climbing, natural surface, multi pitch

##### For a registered teacher:

- A statement of attainment from a RTO covering the following units of competence or equivalent:
  - SISOCLN201A Demonstrate top rope climbing skills on natural surfaces
  - SISOCLN302A Apply climbing skills on natural surfaces
  - SISOCLN303A Establish Belays for climbing on natural surfaces
  - SISOCLN405A Apply single pitch lead climbing skills on natural surfaces
  - SISOODR303A Guide outdoor recreation sessions
  - SISOVTR402A Perform complex vertical rescues

**OR**

- Certificate III, IV or Diploma in Outdoor Recreation with specialisations in appropriate activities

**OR**

- a registered leader under the NOLRS, at Multi pitch Climbing Guide (Natural Surfaces) levels

**OR**

- ACIA or equivalent Multi Pitch Guide certification.

##### For a leader other than a registered teacher:

- A statement of attainment for a nationally recognised course or Skill Set, at the level of Climbing Guide, Natural Surfaces Multi Pitch, from a RTO

**OR**

- Certificate III, IV or Diploma in Outdoor Recreation with specialisations in climbing natural surfaces, multi pitch

**OR**

- a registered leader under the NOLRS, at Multi pitch Climbing Guide (Natural Surfaces) levels

**OR**

- ACIA or equivalent Multi Pitch Guide Certification.

#### Abseiling, natural or artificial surface, single pitch

##### For a registered teacher:

- A statement of attainment from a RTO covering the following units of competence or equivalent:
  - SISOABA201A Demonstrate abseiling skills on artificial surfaces
  - SISOABA302A Apply single pitch abseiling skills on artificial surfaces
  - SISOABA303A Establish ropes for abseiling on artificial surfaces
  - SISOABA405A Establish ropes for multi pitch abseiling on artificial surfaces
  - SISOABN201A Demonstrate abseiling skills on natural surfaces
  - SISOABN202A Safeguard an abseiler using a single rope belay system
  - SISOABN303A Apply single pitch abseiling skills on natural surfaces
  - SISOABN304A Establish ropes for single pitch abseiling on natural surfaces
  - SISOODR303A Guide outdoor recreation sessions
  - SISOVTR301A Perform vertical rescues

**OR**

- a registered leader under the NOLRS at single pitch Abseiling Guide (Natural/Artificial Surfaces) levels

**OR**

- ACIA or equivalent Single Pitch Guide certification.

## Minimum Qualifications

*The qualifications listed in this section are minimums for each type of situation. Leaders are encouraged to seek training to raise their qualification level above the minimum listed.*

### For a leader other than a registered teacher:

- A statement of attainment for a nationally recognised course or Skill Set at the level of Abseiling Guide, Natural/Artificial Surface Single Pitch, from a RTO
- OR**
- Certificate III, IV or Diploma in Outdoor Recreation with specialisations in Abseiling
- OR**
- A registered leader under the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS), at Single pitch Abseiling Guide (Natural or artificial Surfaces) level
- OR**
- ACIA or equivalent Single Pitch Guide certification.

### Abseiling, natural surface, multi pitch

#### For a registered teacher:

- A statement of attainment from a RTO covering the following units of competence or equivalent:
  - SISOABN406A Apply multi pitch abseiling skills on natural surfaces
  - SISOODR303A Guide outdoor recreation sessions
  - SISOVTR402A Perform complex vertical rescues
  - SISOABN407A Establish ropes for multi pitch abseiling on natural surfaces
- OR**
- Certificate III, IV or Diploma in Outdoor Recreation with specialisations in appropriate activities
- OR**
- a registered leader under the NOLRS at Multi pitch Abseiling Guide (Natural Surfaces) levels
- OR**
- ACIA or equivalent Multi Pitch Guide certification.

#### For a leader other than a registered teacher:

- A statement of attainment or for a nationally recognised course or Skill Set, at the level of Abseiling Guide, Multi Pitch, from a RTO
- OR**
- Certificate III, IV or Diploma in Outdoor Recreation with specialisations in appropriate activities
- OR**
- a registered leader under the NOLRS at Multi pitch Abseiling Guide (Natural Surfaces) levels
- OR**
- ACIA or equivalent Multi Pitch Abseiling Guide certification.

Further information:



Minimum equipment/facilities <i>If 'No' is ticked, provide further information.</i>	Yes	No
Spare equipment to be available in case of emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicular access to within a reasonable distance of the activity in case of emergency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further information:		

Governing bodies/associations	Yes	No
It is highly recommended that the Queensland Adventure Activity Standards are referred to when planning this activity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further information:		





Hazards/risks	Control measures	Yes	No	Implementation plan/ Additional controls
<b>Students</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special needs</li> <li>High risk behaviours</li> <li>Medical conditions</li> <li>Student numbers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain parental permission, including relevant medical information.</li> <li>When students with medical conditions are involved, ensure that relevant medical/emergency plans and medications are readily available (insulin, Ventolin®, EpiPen®, etc).</li> <li>Refer to Individual education plan/Educational adjustment plan/Behaviour management plan and other student documents.</li> <li>Where necessary, obtain advice from relevant advisory visiting teachers or specialist teachers.</li> <li>Ensure there is adequate adult supervision.</li> <li>Ensure long hair is tied back before participating in activity.</li> <li>Students who are actively participating in the activity, to be seen by at least one adult at all times.</li> <li>Jewellery can be a serious hazard when undertaking many activities. All forms of jewellery should be considered in terms of the risk it presents for each activity. Procedures should be put in place to ban, dissuade or protect (e.g. tape) the wearing of jewellery accordingly.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>	

Additional control measures	
<i>These would relate to the specific student needs, location and conditions in which you are conducting your activity.</i>	
Hazards/Risks	Control Measures

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
List the names of those who were involved in the preparation of this risk assessment.	

Approval	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved as submitted:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved with the following condition(s):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not approved for the following reason(s):
By:	Designation:
Signed:	Date:
Once approved, activity details should be entered into the <i>School Curriculum Activity Register</i> by administrative staff.	Reference no.

<b>Monitor and review</b> <i>To be completed during and/or after the activity and/or at the completion of the series of activities.</i>	Yes	No
Are the control measures still effective?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have there been any changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are further actions required?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Details:		

## Important links

- HLS-PR-003: First Aid  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr003/>
- HLS-PR-004: Management of Prescribed Contagious Conditions  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr004/>
- Infection Control Guideline  
[http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/infection\\_control\\_guideline.pdf](http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/infection_control_guideline.pdf)
- HLS-PR-005: Health and Safety incident recording, notification and management  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr005/>
- HLS-PR-013: Developing a Sun Safety Strategy  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr013/>
- HRM-PR-010: Working with Children Check – Blue Cards  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/hr/hrmpr010/>
- SCM-PR-002: School Excursions  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/schools/scmpr002/>
- Australian Climbing Instructors' Association  
<http://www.acia.com.au/>
- European Committee for Standardization  
<http://www.cen.eu/cen/pages/default.aspx>
- International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation  
[http://www.theuiaa.org/safety\\_standards.php](http://www.theuiaa.org/safety_standards.php)
- National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme  
<http://www.oric.org.au/NOLRS/index.htm>
- Professional Association of Climbing Instructors Pty Ltd  
<http://www.paci.com.au/>
- Queensland Adventure Activity Standards  
[http://www.qorf.org.au/01\\_cms/details.asp?ID=1048](http://www.qorf.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=1048)
- Sport Climbing Australia  
<http://www.sportclimbingaustralia.org.au/>
- Training.gov.au  
<http://training.gov.au/>

## Glossary and important information

**BELAYING:** Belaying refers to a variety of techniques used in climbing to exert friction on a climbing rope so that a falling climber does not fall very far.

**KARABINER:** A karabiner or carabiner (colloquially: *crab*, *snap-link*, *krab*, or *biner*) is a metal loop with a sprung or screwed gate. The loop part opposite the gate is referred to as the spine. It can quickly and reversibly connect components in safety-critical systems.

**PRUSIK LOOP:** A Prusik is a friction hitch or knot used to put a loop of cord around a rope. This is applied in climbing, canyoneering, mountaineering, caving, rope rescue, and by arborists.

### Further information

For further information on incorporating risk management strategies into curriculum activity planning refer to [HLS-PR-012: Managing Risks in School Curriculum Activities](#) and the associated list of [Curriculum Activity Risk Management Guidelines](#).

For further support with risk management training and advice, contact trained staff in schools such as Workplace Health and Safety Officers (WHSOs) and Workplace Health and Safety Representatives (WHSRs), and regional staff such as Senior Health and Safety Consultants.

**Uncontrolled copy.** Refer to *HLS-PR-012: Managing Risks in School Curriculum Activities* at <http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr012/> for master.