

British Mountaineering Council Participation Statement

“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.”

The soft floor matting under the bouldering wall is designed to provide a more comfortable landing for climbers falling from bouldering wall. The soft flooring does not make bouldering 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.

Bouldering beyond your capabilities on any wall is likely to result in a fall. Any fall may result in injury despite the safety systems in place to avoid it. You must make your own assessment of the risks whenever you climb. In some instances the use of a spotter can greatly reduce the potential of injury in the event of a fall.

Climbing holds might spin or break unexpectedly. If you come across a spinning, fractured hold or any other defect on one of the walls please report this to a member of staff immediately.

Helmets can greatly reduce the risk of head injuries. Free helmet hire is available at reception.

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 yourself and 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.

When you make a bouldering only registration you must agree not to use the roped walls as a belayer or climber. Failure to comply with this condition may result in your registration being permanently withdrawn.

Inexperienced climbers – Inexperienced climbers can climb under the responsibility of a centre member or take part in a bouldering induction run by one of GCC staff.

Unsupervised Climbing is just that! 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.

While you climb unsupervised the centre expects you to be aware of all other climbing users whether boulderers or roped climbers and their belayers. Unless you have registered you must not climb without supervision.

Supervised Climbing Adult members of the centre are entitled to take responsibility for and ensure the safety of two guests per day. Junior members cannot take responsibility for any guests. Groups of 3 or more guests must only be supervised by an instructor holding a relevant Mountain Leader Training Board qualification.

Junior (under 18) – All Juniors in the centre must be supervised by an adult unless they have been assessed by a member of staff for a junior membership. In addition to the obvious risks of climbing, juniors on the ground are at particular risk of being seriously injured by falling climbers. Supervising adults are responsible for making sure juniors maintain a safe distance from climbing activities.

General Safety & Rules

1. Report to reception on each visit before your climb.
2. Report any problems with the walls, holds or general facility to the staff immediately.
3. Stand well back from the climbing walls unless you are spotting a climber. Never stand directly under someone who is climbing
4. Never climb directly above or below another climber.
5. Rock boots are compulsory
6. Climbing holds can only be moved by centre staff.
7. The use of climbing chalk is allowed, in the form of chalk balls. The use of loose (block) chalk is not allowed.
8. Spectators or individuals not climbing should stay off the matted areas.
9. Food and drink is not permitted in the climbing / bouldering areas.
10. All incidents and accidents must be reported to reception.
11. Please use the changing rooms for changing your clothes.
12. In the interest of hygiene please do not climb topless.
13. All bags and possessions will be placed in a locker.

Bouldering Safety & Rules

1. Traversing is permitted on the bottom rope and lead walls as long as your feet stay below the red line.
2. When traversing or bouldering on the tope rope and lead walls, roped climbers have priority.
3. Always descend in a controlled manne.
4. Climbing onto the tops of the bouldering walls is not permitted.
5. If you want to take part in roped climbing on the walls you must:
 - Either
 - a. Be signed in as a guest by a climber who is registered for roped climbing.
 - b. Complete an Unsupervised climbing registration form and declaration.
 - c. Book an Introduction to Climbing Course.