

CONDITIONS OF USE – MORPETH BOULDERING WALL

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 - You are required to register to say that you know how to climb, that you are prepared to abide by the Rules below and that you understand the risks involved in your participation.

People who can supervise novice climbers:

- Staff (if booked in advance)
- Wall members who have been assessed as competent (maximum of two novice climbers)

Unsupervised climbing is just that! Staff will provide whatever help and advice they can, but instruction in terms of technique can only be provided where it has been booked and paid for in advance. If you are not **confident** then **do not** attempt to climb 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 qualification.

Young people – All Young people between ages 4–14 must be accompanied by a registered climber(s) at all times, the registered climber must accept full responsibility for this young person. Young People between ages 14-18 must be inducted by a Morpeth Bouldering Wall staff member at £10; this will include free membership and ay promotions at this time.

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.
- Keep the base of the climbing wall free of gear and personal items.
- Food, beverages, and chewing gum are not permitted in the climbing area.
- Do not distract people while they are climbing.
- Report all accidents, loose holds or damaged equipment to the Morpeth Bouldering Wall Staff.
- Loose chalk is not permitted on the wall; participants must have chalk balls in a chalk bag.
- Unsafe conduct and inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Observe and practice safe climbing techniques. Dangerous or unsafe behaviour will result in suspension of climbing.
- No Drinking is permitted at all on or around the mating.

Bouldering

- Always climb within your capabilities and descend by down climbing, small jumps.
- Never stand directly under someone who is climbing.
- Be aware of the other climbers around you and how your actions will affect them.
- Stand well back from the climbing walls unless you are a spotter or a climber.
- Only authorized staff will set routes.
- Patting chalk on wall is not permitted; chalk is for hands only.
- Only climbing shoes and clean trainers are allowed for climbing. No sandals, boots or bare feet.
- Climbers are encouraged to remove all jewellery and tie long hair back.
- Climbers are encouraged to assist less experienced climbers.

Footwear

Only climbing shoes and trainers are appropriate footwear. Shoes that are dirty or worn are not allowed. Open-toed sandals, heavy mountaineering boots, and other hard soled shoes are not allowed.

Chalk

Closed chalk balls are the only acceptable chalk allowed. Participants can bring their own chalk bags but these must be free of loose chalk. This is to keep the Morpeth Bouldering Wall clean and to keep loose dust from the air, which can adversely affect other users of the facility.

Minors

All children between ages 4–14 must be accompanied by a registered climber(s) at all times, the registered climber must except full responsibility for this young person. Children between ages 14-18 must be inducted by a Morpeth Bouldering Wall staff member at £10, this will include free membership and ay promotions at this time.

Any climbers found to be climbing in a hazardous manner will be told why their activity was deemed dangerous. They will be educated as to the proper climbing procedures and then may be asked to stop climbing for the night. Habitual or otherwise serious offences will result in the loss of climbing privileges. Climbing under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol will not be tolerated.