

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR GO APE NETS KINGDOM

SUBJECT: Nets Kingdom	Dated: February 2018	RISK ASSESSMENT NUMBER: NK/BP/001
Reviewed by: Operations Team / BP Site Team / Health and Safety Manager		REVIEW DATE: January 2019

Assessing risks is simple in principle. It involves identifying hazards or examining what in a particular situation could cause harm or damage and then assessing the likelihood that harm will actually be experienced by a specified population and what the consequences would be (i.e. the risk). The overall objective is to obtain a view on how to manage the risk or to compare the risk with other risks. At a conceptual level, it has proved useful to make a distinction between an assessment of the risks (the evaluation of the likelihood of harm and its consequences for populations or individuals as described above) and risk control (the prioritisation of risks and the introduction of measures that might be put in place to reduce, if not prevent, the harm from occurring). This stems from the belief that an assessment of risks by and large can be scientific and objective but risk control less so because it integrates the results of an assessment of risks with other critical inputs. (www.hse.gov.uk/risk)

Step 1. Identify the Hazards.

Step 2. Identify “Who may be harmed?”	Course User Employees Public Contractors	People who are taking part in the High Wire Activity Course Full time, seasonal and freelance instructors, and any head office staff. The general public who are not actually taking part in the course (spectators or forest users). People working for a company or individual contracted by Go Ape to work on or around the course, etc.
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Step 3. Evaluate the Risk.

LIKELIHOOD

Very low	Definitely will not happen
Low	Unlikely to happen
Medium	Moderate chance of accident happening
High	Quite likely to happen
Very high	Likelihood will happen

CONSEQUENCE

Very low	Injury very insignificant i.e. splinters
Low	Injury fairly minor i.e. minor cut, grazes, bruising
Medium	Injury would stop casualty continuing with task.
High	Serious injury requiring medical assistance i.e. sprains/strains, broken bones, lacerations
Very high	Very serious injury or possible fatality

Step 4. Existing Control Measures ². These are the measure we have put in place to keep the risk to an acceptable level. The Residual Risk (RR) is the level of risk that remains after putting all the control measures into practice.

RESIDUAL RISK

Very low	Minimal risk, control measure more than necessary
Low	Control measures satisfactory
Medium	Control measures adequate
High	Control measure requires constant supervision. Re-assess situation
Very high	Control measures inadequate. Stop activity

Step 5. The Review Process. Go Ape risk assessments will be reviewed when it is suspected that the assessment is no longer valid or there has been a significant change. In addition, they will be thoroughly reviewed annually.

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Go Ape risk assessments are written in compliance with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations and in accordance with HSE’s 5 Steps to Risk Assessment. The assessments are reviewed when it is suspected that the assessments are no longer valid or there has been a significant change. They are also reviewed annually. Go Ape recognises that risk assessments are fundamental in ensuring a safely run Adventure Course. By continuous and dynamic assessment of risk by all Go Ape staff, adhering to the Go Ape operational and training systems¹, risks are reduced to a reasonable level. To carry out daily risk management all staff must be able to fully understand the Risk Assessment procedure as detailed above.

This Risk Assessment is produced in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health “Risk Assessment Principles and Practice” programme. This risk assessment looks at the risks associated with the Go Ape nets courses. The assessment refers to the Go Ape operational and training systems¹. **If you identify any additional foreseeable risks or have any ideas on how this Risk Assessment can be improved, or identify further control measures please provide feedback to info@goape.co.uk.** Thank you.

SER	HAZARD	LHD	CON	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES	FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES	RR
001	Net Failure/Defects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrectly maintained • Falling Objects • Weather • Vandalism • Day to day use • Tree Issues • Pest damage (Squirrels) 	V. High	V. High	Staff, Customers and Spectators	In accordance with the manufactures guidance the equipment will be inspected and maintained at designated intervals and additionally in line with Nets Kingdom operating procedures, which will include: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Opening Checks • Checks during operation • 3 Monthly Checks • Annual Inspection • Annual Tree Inspection by qualified arboriculturalist Checks and Inspections will be carried out by trained staff and logged accordingly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaugural Inspection Damaged equipment will be replaced or repaired where necessary in accordance with Manufacturers Guidance. Safety Rules – No Smoking is permitted in the nets All trees used have been inspected prior to build by a qualified arboriculturalist.	Pest Control measures, Squirrel scarers	Med
002	Unauthorised Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overnight • During Operation 	High	High	Intruders, Staff, Customers and Spectators	The activity has been designed and constructed so that all access points during normal operation are raised up or having closing doors (climbing tower) to prevent access points when the course is not open. Entire area is enclosed with 6ft fencing to prevent access during operational hours by anyone who hasn’t signed in as a participant or spectator.	Benches secured down to stop them being used to facilitate overnight access.	Med.

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					<p>All Participants and Supervisors (including non-participants) will receive a Safety Brief (OD)</p> <p>Spectators will sign in to confirm that they will not enter the nets</p> <p>All participants will be issued with a wristband to identify them, non-participating supervisors and spectators will have different colour wristbands.</p> <p>Patrolling staff will monitor the activities in accordance with the Monitoring and Patrolling Nets Kingdom policy (OD) to ensure only participants are in the nets</p>	
003	<p>Injuries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrapment of Body Parts, Jewellery, Hair or clothing • Slips and Trips • Objects Falling (i.e. personal belongings) • Net Abrasions 	Med.	High	Staff, Customers and Spectators	<p>Activity is designed and manufactured to minimise the risk of entrapment.</p> <p>Safety Rules and Advice available on website and given to customers on arrival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewellery removed or covered up • Hair tied up • Suitable footwear (no - heels, open toes, lacing hooks) • Pockets emptied • Loose clothes tucked in • Long sleeves and trousers advised <p>Instructors to check this is followed during Pre-Brief checks (OD)</p> <p>Key Rules are repeated and delivered verbally during the Safety Brief (OD)</p> <p>Qualified first aiders on duty at all times</p> <p>Staff completing works at height will ensure tools are unable to fall or where this is not possible cordon off the area below. Ground Area inside compound included in daily checks for potential hazards, layout of area designed to minimise risks.</p>	Low

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004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collisions • Awkward landings • Pre-existing injuries 	High	Med.	Staff and Customers.	<p>Safety Rules and Advice available on the website and on arrival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow Adequate space to others to move around • Kids Net for younger participants and those feeling unsure or nervous • Only one at a time in slides • No Summersaults or tricks <p>Participant capacities on Nets and Treehouses are set in accordance with Manufacturer Guidance and operating procedures</p> <p>Seating and relaxing areas created on the ground for people to congregate and rest reducing the numbers in the nets.</p> <p>Supervision Ratios –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 5s must be accompanied on the Nets by an Over 18 at a maximum ratio of 1:2 • 5-15 year olds must be supervised either from the ground or on the nets by an over 18 with a maximum ratio of 1:5 • Ages and supervision ratios confirmed on Risk Acknowledgement and Consent Form • Supervisors to remain on site for the duration of the activity • These ratios may be modified accordingly for private bookings such as schools. <p>Trained staff will patrol the Nets in accordance with Operating Procedures to ensure participants are following the rules and advice. (OD)</p> <p>Risk Acknowledgement and Consent Form to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of no previous injuries or pregnancy • Confirmation of reading of Safety Rules 		Low
005	Participants unable to make own way off nets due to injury	High	High	Staff, Customers and spectators.	<p>For minor injuries staff may be able to assist participants from the net.</p> <p>Procedure in place to alert all participants to an incident that</p>		Med.

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					<p>requires them to sit down and stay still. (confirmed in safety brief). Monitoring and Patrolling Nets Kingdom (OD)</p> <p>Where participants need additional assistance, a stretcher is available.</p> <p>All staff to be trained in loading the stretcher and moving it around the nets and to the ground using standard entrances and exits with regular practice.</p> <p>Where control is needed in lowering down slides and ramps, additional equipment must be used by specifically trained staff. Nets Rescue Method Statement (OD)</p>	
006	<p>Participants Falling from Height.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contravention of safety rules • Infrastructure failure 	Low	V. High	Staff, customers and spectators.	<p>Course Design and construction to ensure participants aren't able to get outside the nets at any points, openings in Treehouses covered with net.</p> <p>Net Checks are carried out regularly (see net failure above)</p> <p>Safety Rules and Advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No climbing walls <p>Supervision Ratios (see above) to ensure rules are followed</p> <p>Instructors to Patrol in accordance with operational policy (OD)</p>	Low
007	<p>Inclement Weather during operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow • Heavy Rain/Hail • High Winds • Thunder and Lightening 	High	Med.	Staff, customers and spectators	<p>Activity to only operate in accordance with Manufacturers Guidance regarding operating limits due to weather, including wind, thunder and lightning and in accordance with Nets Kingdom Hazards Due to Bad Weather (OD)</p> <p>Staff to monitor forecasts to ensure readiness for inclement weather, patrolling staff to monitor what is happening around the nets and communicate with the Duty Manager.</p> <p>Following extreme weather conditions activity to be inspected in accordance with manufacturers guidance (see Net Failure/Defects)</p>	Low

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Refs	OD = Go Ape Operational Documents; exact titles of documents may change from time to time HSW Act 1974, MHSW regs amend 1999, WAH regs 2005, PUWER 1998, LOLER 1998, PPE regs 1992, Workplace HSW regs 1992, H&S (Safety Signs) regs 1996, First Aid regs 1981, Occupiers Liability Act 1984, HSE 5 Steps to Risk Assessment INDG 163, HSE A Guide to Risk Assessment requirements INDG 218, EN 15567-1:2015 (Construction and safety requirements) and EN 15567-2:2015 (Operation requirements)
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Notes: Control Measures - Where a control measure has been identified, it is only included once and not repeated under every serial number. Therefore, for a specific hazard identified, a control measure in a serial above may apply to that hazard. (HSE RA guidance.)

1. Go Ape training package. These include the following: Go Ape Operations Manual (OD) and Appendices on how to run a Go Ape course, Go Ape Online Training / Manual (TM), including training and assessment policy and training objectives, generic PowerPoint presentations and training videos, Go Ape Duty Manager Training (DMT), Go Ape Rescue Package (RP), Go Ape Company Handbook and further library documents listed in the Go Ape document library (OD).
2. Control Measures. Where a control measure has been identified, it is only included once and not repeated under every serial number. Therefore, for a specific hazard identified, a control measure in a serial above may apply to that hazard. (HSE RA guidance.)
3. Instructors Training. Go Ape instructors must pass through a full training and assessment programme before they can instruct on Go Ape. They undergo training in accordance with the Go Ape training package, training and assessment policy and training objectives which includes the delivery of safety instruction, operational limits on the use of the course, course inspections during daily course opening and closing, supervision and patrolling techniques, personal protective equipment, harness fitting and inspection, emergency operations, health and safety and customer care. Instructors are First Aid trained. Only instructors with the correct aptitude are selected for additional training in rope rescue techniques. Training and assessment of rescue trained instructors is only carried out by our trained and qualified persons, who have been formally assessed as competent to do so by the Operations Manager responsible for training. Duty Managers complete an additional Duty Manager Training package. Site Managers attend annual Managers Training and quarterly Managers Meetings where they are updated on any operational changes including training requirements.
4. Consultation with paramedics from the local ambulance service and HART team validated the Nets Kingdom emergency first aid and stretcher procedures.

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Update History

Date	Update By	Summary
24/7/17	Rob Davies	Final Version complete
9/8/17	Rob Davies	Removed balls from falling objects and climbing of walls as both are unlikely to happen and therefore remove control measures in Safety Brief to ensure rules are clearer
31/8/17	Rob Davies	Addition of "Falling Objects to Net Failure/Defects following incident 26/8/17
18/01/18	Mark Elliott	Addition of additional control measures and adjusted values.
19/01/2018	Operations Team	Team review of content and update.