



Grafham Climbing Club

Conditions of use for the climbing 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 climbing wall is designed to provide a more comfortable landing for climbers falling or jumping from the 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 injury 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. The officers of Grafham Climbing Club and Grafham Water Centre Instructors reserve the right to suspend a member if they feel that they are not following the safe guidelines set out.

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

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 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

Membership is open to 10 years and over, however climbers under the age of 18 years must also be supervised by a responsible adult at all times during the session.

RULES

General Safety

- Report to a member of staff and sign in 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.

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.

Leading

- When using the lead walls you must supply your own appropriately rated dynamic that is at least rope 30 meters long. Do not use the centre's top ropes for lead climbing.
- You must clip all the runners 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.
- The ballast bags that are provided to give support to people belaying a climber who is much heavier than they are. Direct belays from the ballast bags on the floor are not acceptable.
- Always pay attention to what the climber is doing.
- Always stand as close to the climbing wall as is practical.

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.

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.