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|   | **Conditions of use & rules** **for The De Montfort University Climbing Wall** | C:\Users\jricha00\Downloads\10521_302466_345978428815544_776138384_n.jpg |

**Conditions of Use for the De Montfort University Climbing Wall**

Although the Climbing Centre is an artificial environment the risks involved are no less serious than when climbing outside on a crag, mountain or any other cliff. Artificial climbing structures have the additional risks of bolt on and screw on holds spinning or breaking, resulting in a fall.

Climbing beyond your capabilities on any wall is likely to result in a fall. Any fall may result in injury despite the safety systems 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 facility. They form part of our 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 Centre staff must politely ask you to leave.

**Your Duty of Care** - You also have a duty of care to act responsibly towards the users of the Centre. Statements of good practice and Centre rules are on display around the Centre. These describe the accepted methods of use and how customers would normally be expected to behave towards each other.

**Unsupervised Climbing** - Before you climb on the roped walls without supervision the Centre expects you to be able to display competence of the following: correct fit and use of a safety harness; knowledge and ability to tie a suitable knot to attach a rope to the harness; correct use of a belay device to support a climber, secure a falling climber or lower a climber from the wall using a rope. You are required to register and demonstrate that you know how to use the equipment and that you are prepared to abide by the rules below. Anyone who has not registered as a competent belayer is classed as a novice and must not climb without supervision. If you are not confident in the use of any of the climbing equipment or in the techniques required, then do not attempt to climb or belay. . . .

**Supervised Climbing** -. Novices must only be supervised by a DMU in house qualified member of staff, or instructor holding the relevant Mountain Training Board qualification, and can prove that they are appropriately insured. (SPA, CWA, MIA, MIC, Guide). All supervisors must hold a current first aid qualification, with minimum of 8 hours instruction, to include CPR.

**Children** - All children at the Centre must be under control of, and in line of sight of their supervisor.

**Rules of the Centre**

**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’ behavior to the Centre Staff immediately. This includes spinning holds.
* Be aware of 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 walls unless you are belaying or spotting a climber. Never stand directly under someone who is climbing
* We reserve the right to ask you to use a harness provided by the Centre if we feel that your harness looks old or unsuitable
* Under 16’s must wear helmets at all times, adults are also advised to wear helmets. Helmets are not to be worn when using the Auto-Belay.

**When Belaying**

* Always use a belay device attached to your safety harness with a locking karabiner. Traditional, body belaying or belaying with an ‘Italian Hitch’ is not acceptable.
* Self-belaying is not allowed.
* Sandbags are provided to give support to people belaying a climber who is much heavier than they are. A ‘Direct Belay’ from the sandbags is not acceptable.
* Always pay attention to what the climber is doing.
* Always stand as close to the climbing wall as is practical.
* Sitting or lying down is not acceptable.
* Always check the area that you are lowering the climber into.
* Do not lower too quickly.
* Do not use phones or cameras when belaying!

**When Climbing**

* The climbing walls are designed to be climbed using rope as protection. Solo climbing is not acceptable. Always use a rope to protect yourself.
* Always tie the rope directly into your harness using a re threaded figure of 8 knot, clipping in with a karabiner is only accepted by DMU staff, and NGB qualified staff. In this case only use a DMM belay master Karabiner.
* Do not carry phones, cameras, wallets, coins, keys etc when climbing, they may fall and hurt other people.

**When Lead Climbing**

* No lead climbing on front 6 routes facing reception.
* Most of the climbs in the Centre have ropes already in place. Do not take them down to use on other routes.
* You must supply your own dynamically rated rope for lead climbing. Do not use the Centre’s ‘top ropes’ for lead climbing.
* Running belay attachments (runners) are not provided on the lead walls. Your own ‘quick draws must be used. ’ You must clip all runners on the route that you are climbing.
* If you expect to lead climb at the Centre – please speak with a duty manager as to the specific procedures in place to safeguard you and other wall users, (helmets to be worn by belayers and climbers, not permitted at busy times, areas where leading to be cordoned off)

**Auto-Belay use**

* Users of the Auto-Belay must be inducted prior to use.
* No helmets are to be worn when using the Auto-Belay
* Always perform a safety test of the Auto-Belay prior to using.
* Ensure landing area is clear of obstructions