

## Risk Assessment for Adventure Forest Ltd T/as Go Ape! &/or Go Ape! EOT

**SUBJECT:** Nets Adventure  
**WRITTEN BY:** Operations Team/Health and Safety Team  
**REVIEWED BY:** David Wainwright, March 2026  
**REVIEW DATE:** December 2026

**RISK ASSESSMENT REF:** NA/2026/V2

Risk Matrix								
Risk rating guidance	Likelihood (L)	5	5	10	15	20	25	Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) = Risk Rating (RR).
		4	4	8	12	16	20	
		3	3	6	9	12	15	
		2	2	4	6	8	10	
		1	1	2	3	4	5	
			1	2	3	4	5	
		Severity (S)						
Acceptability of risk guidance	<b>High-risk: 15 – 25</b>		High-risk activities should cease immediately. Further effective control measures to mitigate risks must be introduced.					
	<b>Medium-risk: 8 – 12</b>		Medium-risks are an acceptable level based on the reduced likelihood after sufficient control measures are implemented.					
	<b>Low-risk: 1-6</b>		Low-risks are largely acceptable. Where it is reasonable to do so, efforts should be made to reduce risks further.					
Guidance. When completing a risk assessment, you should:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the persons at risk and the significant hazards.</li> <li>2. Calculate an initial RR for the activity.</li> <li>3. Identify risk control measures that reduce the risks to an acceptable level.</li> <li>4. Calculate a revised RR - you should consider how much safer the task will be if the control measures are followed. Here, you should consider changing both the likelihood (L) and the severity (S) ratings.</li> </ol>							
<b>Note.</b> Ideally, you should look to reduce the risks so that the task can be classified as “low-risk”.								

Likelihood	Definition	Points rating
<b>Inevitable</b>	If the work continues as it is, there is almost 100% certainty that an accident will happen, for examples: A broken stair or broken rung on a ladder, Bare, exposed electrical conductors, Unstable stacks of heavy boxes	<b>5</b>
<b>Highly likely</b>	Will happen more often than not. Additional factors could precipitate an incident but it is still likely to happen without this additional factor.	<b>4</b>
<b>Possible</b>	The accident may occur if additional factors precipitate it, but it is unlikely to happen without them.	<b>3</b>
<b>Unlikely</b>	This incident or illness might occur but the probability is low and the risk minimal.	<b>2</b>
<b>Remote possibility</b>	There is really no risk present. Only under freak conditions could there be any possibility of an accident or illness. All reasonable precautions have been taken - This should be the normal state of the workplace.	<b>1</b>

Severity	Definition	Points rating
<b>Very high</b>	Causing multiple deaths and widespread destruction eg. fire, course/building collapse.	<b>5</b>
<b>High</b>	Causing death, serious injury or permanent disability to an individual.	<b>4</b>
<b>Moderate</b>	Temporary disability causing injury (to member of the public, contractor or employees) or disease capable of keeping an employee off work for seven days or more and reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995).	<b>3</b>
<b>Slight</b>	Minor injury (to member of the public, contractor or employee), which would allow the individual to continue work after first aid treatment on site or at a local surgery. The duration of the stoppage or treatment is such that the normal flow of work is not seriously interrupted.	<b>2</b>
<b>Nil</b>	Very minor injury, bruise, graze, no risk of disease.	<b>1</b>

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SER	HAZARD	L	S	RR	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	CONTROL MEASURES	FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES: reviewed annually to formulate Risk Reduction Plan	L	S	RR
1	<p>Net Failure/Defects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequately maintained</li> <li>• Falling Objects</li> <li>• Vandalism</li> <li>• Day to day use</li> <li>• Tree Issues</li> <li>• Pest damage (Squirrels)</li> </ul>	4	5	20	Staff, Customers and Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In accordance with the manufacturers guidance the equipment will be inspected and maintained at designated intervals and additionally in line with Nets Adventure Operating Procedures, which will include: -                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Daily Opening Checks</li> <li>○ Checks during operation</li> <li>○ Recorded Monthly Inspection</li> <li>○ Annual Inspection</li> <li>○ Annual Tree Inspection by qualified arboriculturist</li> <li>○ Checks and Inspections will be carried out by trained staff and logged accordingly</li> <li>○ Inaugural Inspection</li> <li>○ Periodical Inspection (internal / external inspection body)</li> <li>○ Ad hoc Inspections as required (e.g. following adverse weather)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Damaged equipment will be replaced or repaired where necessary in accordance with Manufacturers Guidance.</li> <li>• Safety Rules – No Smoking or vaping is permitted in the nets area.</li> <li>• All trees used have been inspected prior to build by a qualified arboriculturist.</li> <li>• Pest Control measures</li> </ul>		2	4	8

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2	Unauthorised Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overnight</li> <li>• During operation</li> </ul>	4	4	16	Staff, Customers and spectators Members of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activity has been designed and constructed so that all access points during normal operation can be closed to prevent unauthorised access. Slides must have access at the top and bottom restricted by a signed panel and a lock wrapped around the centre to prevent access to the Course.</li> <li>• Perimeter has fencing of an adequate height to mitigate the risk of unauthorized entry by those not registered as participants or spectators.</li> <li>• All Participants and Supervisors will receive a Safety Brief</li> <li>• Spectators advised to not enter the nets.</li> <li>• All participants will be issued with a wristband to identify them; non-participating supervisors and spectators will have different colour wristbands.</li> <li>• Patrolling staff will monitor the activities in accordance with the Monitoring and Patrolling Nets Adventure policy to ensure only participants are in the nets.</li> <li>• Benches secured down to stop them being used to facilitate overnight access. (Black Park and Sherwood)</li> </ul>		2	2	4
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entanglement &amp; Entrapment                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Body Parts</li> <li>○ Jewellery</li> <li>○ Hair</li> <li>○ Clothing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Slips and Trips</li> <li>• Objects Falling (i.e., personal belongings)</li> <li>• Net Abrasions</li> </ul>	3	4	12	Staff & Customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity is designed and manufactured to minimise the risk of entrapment.</li> <li>• Safety Rules and Advice available on website and given to customers on arrival                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jewellery removed or covered up</li> <li>○ Hair tied up</li> <li>○ Footwear Policy</li> <li>○ Pockets emptied</li> <li>○ Loose clothes tucked in</li> <li>○ Long sleeves and trousers advised</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Instructors to check this is followed during Pre-Brief checks</li> <li>• Key Rules are repeated and delivered verbally during the Safety Brief</li> </ul>		2	2	4

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualified first aiders on site during operational hours</li> <li>• Staff completing works at height will ensure tools are unable to fall or where this is not possible, cordon off the area below.</li> <li>• Ground Area inside compound included in daily checks for potential hazards, layout of area designed to minimise risks.</li> </ul>				
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collisions</li> <li>• Slides</li> <li>• Awkward landings</li> <li>• Pre-existing injuries</li> </ul>	4	3	12	Staff, Customers, Members of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety Rules and Advice</li> <li>• Safety Brief</li> <li>• Allow Adequate space for others to move around</li> <li>• “Kids”/ “Chill Out” Net for younger participants and those feeling unsure or nervous</li> <li>• Only one at a time in slides and ensure slide is clear before descending.</li> <li>• Exclusion zone directly underneath net slides and ramps.</li> <li>• Customers instructed to descend slides feet first and cross their hands over their chest</li> <li>• Participant capacities on Nets and Treehouses are set in accordance with Manufacturer Guidance and operating procedures.</li> <li>• Seating and relaxing areas created on the ground for people to congregate and rest reducing the numbers in the nets.</li> <li>• Supervision Policy</li> <li>• Ages and supervision ratios confirmed in the Safety Rules.</li> <li>• Supervisors to remain within the nets area for the duration of the activity</li> <li>• Instructors to Patrol in accordance with operational policy</li> </ul>		2	2	4
5	Participants unable to make own way off nets due to injury, exacerbating injury.	4	4	16	Staff, customers and spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For minor injuries staff may be able to assist participants from the net.</li> </ul>		2	2	4

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedure in place to alert all participants to an incident that requires them to sit down and stay still.</li> <li>• Monitoring and Patrolling Nets Adventure</li> <li>• Where participants need additional assistance, staff can advise and assist.</li> <li>• Staff are trained in methods of assisting customers to move around the nets and to the ground using standard entrances and exits.</li> </ul>				
6	Participants Falling from Height <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contravention of safety rules</li> </ul>	2	4	8	Staff, customers and spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course design and construction ensure participants cannot reach outside the nets at any point, windows in Treehouses covered with net.</li> <li>• Net checks are carried out regularly (see net failure above)</li> <li>• Safety Rules and Advice No climbing of net walls</li> <li>• Supervision Ratios (in line with Supervision Policy) to ensure rules are followed</li> <li>• Instructors to Patrol in accordance with operational policy</li> </ul>		2	2	4
7	Darkness causing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disorientation</li> <li>• Inability to read safety signs</li> <li>• Impaired supervision</li> </ul>	2	3	6	Course users, Employees, Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Careful planning of session availability in line with sunset times</li> <li>• Torches available</li> <li>• Adequate supervision</li> <li>• Staff assistance</li> <li>• Termination of the activity</li> </ul>		1	3	3
8	Weather <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lightning</li> <li>• High Wind</li> <li>• Ice and snow</li> <li>• Extreme Cold</li> <li>• Excessive Heat</li> <li>• Mist and Fog</li> </ul>	3	3	9	Course users Employees Contractors	Course closures and evacuations due to adverse weather policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Evacuation Procedure</li> <li>• Suitable clothing guidance and uniform</li> <li>• Communications and use of radios and phones</li> <li>• Rest periods and breaks</li> <li>• Training of staff and customers</li> <li>• Monitor weather reports and forecasts</li> </ul>		1	3	3

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patrolling instructors' observations (Beaufort scale)</li> <li>Provision of water</li> </ul>				
9	Medical conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-existing injuries</li> <li>Pregnancy</li> <li>Fatigue</li> <li>Hearing and Visual impairment</li> <li>Individual additional needs</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>	2	2	4	Course users Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical, Disability, Pregnancy, Additional Support, Deaf Participants, Existing Physical Injuries Policies</li> <li>Terms and Conditions</li> <li>Staff training</li> <li>Safety Rules and Advice</li> <li>Dynamic assessment of risk</li> <li>Patrolling and observation</li> <li>Users advised to seek medical advice</li> </ul>		1	2	2
10	Challenging Behaviour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verbally abusive</li> <li>Physically abusive</li> <li>Failure to follow rules</li> <li>Aggressive</li> </ul>	2	3	6	Course Users, Employees and Members of the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff Customer Conflict Policy</li> <li>Staff Training</li> <li>Exclusion from activity</li> <li>Safety Rules and Advice</li> <li>Terms and Conditions</li> <li>Patrolling group observation and management</li> <li>Verbal warning, of session being cut short</li> <li>Emergency Services</li> </ul>		1	3	3
References: HSW Act, MHSW Regs, WAH Regs, PUWER, LOLER, PPE Regs, Workplace HSW Regs, H&S (Safety Signs) Regs, First Aid Regs, Occupiers Liability Act, European Standard for ropes courses EN 15567 Part 1 and Part 2, HSL "Guide to good practice in safety management of aerial ropes courses. AAIAAC "UK Ropes Course Guide" (3 <sup>rd</sup> edition), HSE Information Sheet Entertainment Sheet No 14, HSE 5 Steps to Risk assessment INDG 163, HSE A Guide to Risk Assessment requirements INDG 218, Go Ape Generic Risk Assessments										
Control Measures. Where a control measure has been identified, it is only included once and not repeated under every subject. Therefore, for a specific hazard identified, a control measure noted above may apply to that hazard. (HSE RA guidance.)										
Go Ape operational and training systems. These include the following: Go Ape Operations on how to run a Go Ape Activity, Go Ape Training Manual including training and assessment policy, Practical Session plans and online training and Go Ape Company Handbook.										
Instructor Training. Go Ape staff must undertake relevant training and assessment programme specific to their role. They undergo training in accordance with the Go Ape Online Training Manual										