

Activity Area:	Zip Wire
Minimum Staffing Level	1 Instructor per group
Staff/Pupil Ratio	1:12 (1:1 when on platform)
Staff Qualifications	In-house Training
Maximum Number of Participants	15
Role of Accompanying Adult:	Supervision of group at platform base

Risk Matrix	Likelihood			
	Very Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Highly Unlikely
Fatality	High -16-	High -15-	High -14-	Medium -13-
Major Injuries	High -12-	High -11-	Medium -10-	Medium -9-
Minor Injuries	High -8-	Medium -7-	Medium -6-	Low -5-
Negligible Injuries	Medium -4-	Medium -3-	Low -2-	Low -1-

Hazard	Persons at risk	Prior Risk	Existing Controls	New Risk Factor
Lightning and/or storms	Instructors Participants Observers	High 16	Instructor is not to run this session in any serious storm. If caught out during a lightning storm, then the instructor must cease the activity immediately and seek appropriate shelter.	Medium 13
High winds	Instructors Participants Observers	High 16	Instructor to monitor weather & suspend or cancel session when wind conditions cause safety to be affected. Tree survey and wind policies in place (see SOP N:Drive).	Medium 13
Falling objects	Instructors Participants Observers	High 8	Instructor to visually check the structure for any loose items before each session. Helmets must always be worn whilst on the zip line. Instructor to brief participants at the start of the session about the correct way to use equipment. Instructor to brief participants on safety systems. Instructor to brief participants to remain in the safe area when participants are ascending/descending.	Medium 6
Fall whilst ascending/descending ladders	Participants	High 12	Instructor is to brief all participants on the correct use of a ladder with three points of contact. Instructor is to determine if the ladders are too slippery to use at the start (and during) each session. Only one person at a time may ascend/descend an individual ladder unless there is a need to do so.	Medium 9
Fall from platform	Participants	High 12	Instructor to clip themselves on to safety line immediately as they arrive at the platform and remain clipped on for the duration of the activity. Instructor to clip each participant on to safety rope immediately as they arrive at the platform. Instructor to clip each participant on to descent wire prior to unclipping them from the safety rope.	Medium 9
Fall from descent wire	Participants	High 12	Instructor to clip each participant on to descent wire prior to them descending the wire. Instructor to check each participant's harnesses prior to them descending the wire. Instructor to brief participant that they are not to adjust any equipment.	Medium 9
Harnesses and helmet incorrectly fitted	Participants	High 12	Instructor to brief all participants on the fitting of harnesses and helmets prior to commencing the activity. Instructor to check everyone's harness and helmet immediately before they ascend the platform	Medium 9
Hair, clothing, or jewellery trapped in equipment	Participants	High 12	Instructor is to brief all participants to tuck away loose clothing and long hair prior to participation. Instructor is to brief participants to remove prominent jewellery prior to participation. Instructor to visually check every participant prior to each descent.	Medium 9

Zip Wire

06/03/2026 Date of next review 06/03/2027 RA Creator CW

Faulty equipment	Instructors Participants Observers	High 16	All equipment has a log that relates to its age. All equipment is allocated a 'use by' date and upon this date is decommissioned. Equipment is checked on a regular basis and recorded and replaced where necessary. Instructor is to visually check the equipment for obvious faults at the start of every session.	Medium 13
Structural failure	Participants	High 16	Senior Instructors are to conduct monthly visual check of the structure. Zip Wire structure is majorly inspected yearly.	Medium 13
Unauthorised access	Participants	High 12	Instructor to brief participants on arrival reference not going onto any activity without a member of staff. Clear signs to be posted at all Zip Wire structures stating no access without suitable qualified staff. Gate to the Zip Wire tower are to be kept locked when not in use.	Medium 10
Weather	All	Medium 4	Instructor to monitor weather & suspend or cancel session when conditions cause safety to be affected. Instructor to check that all participants have suitable clothing prior to commencing the activity. Instructors must always wear appropriate clothing to run the activity safely. Appropriate clothing, time out of sun, fluid breaks.	Low 1
Inversion/fall	Participants, Instructors,	High 16	Instructors will provide clear instruction to avoid inversion or falls Activity. Instructors to ensure correct use and fitting of equipment. Instructors to use an improvised chest harness where needed (i.e., oversized, or undersized participants).	Medium 13

Walesby
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