

Risk Assessment – Axe Throwing



Reviewed Date	22/03/2025
Next Review Date	23/03/2026
Risk Assessment completed by	Phil Harris
Internally reviewed by	Alex Mortimer

General Information	This risk assessment considers the use of throwing axes at our dedicated ranges.
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Instructor Competence	L&W Statement of Competence
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Ratios & Remits	1:4 on the throwing line.
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Identified Hazards	Who is at risk?	Example Causes	Control Measures
Personal Injury E.g. Trips and slips, cuts, bruises	Instructors & All Participants/Group Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor supervision which leads to axes being thrown when participants are collecting axes. - Throwing the axes with excessive force leading to bounce back. - Poor safety brief - Inability of participants to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate clothing to be worn / carried. - Throwing line to be established. - Staff to control when axes are picked up and thrown etc. - Axes only to be thrown towards targets. - Everybody collects axes only when the instructor indicates it's safe too. - Designate a safe zone to the side of the

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		behave in a safe manner. - Running to collect axes. - No safety zone set. - Poor instruction and demonstrations. - Cuts and splinters from damaged axe handles	range. - Instructor to demonstrate correct technique for throwing and collecting axes and monitors. - Instructor to provide health and safety briefing to prevent injuries. - Instructor to carry a first aid kit. - Replace handles when damaged, having spares kept with the axes. - No open toed footwear to be worn whilst throwing
Difficulty controlling body temperature (Hyperthermia/Hypothermia)	Instructors & All Participants/Group Leaders	- Cold, wet windy days. - Hot, sunny days - Inappropriate clothing	- Appropriate clothing and footwear to be worn / carried. - Appropriate amounts / type of food and drink should be carried depending on weather conditions, terrain etc. - Appropriate group safety equipment to be carried – e.g. shelter, warmth etc.
Injury to others	Public	- Unacceptable range set up.	- Instructor to consider surroundings carefully before erecting range. - Minimum area required behind / side of the targets - Warning signs could be used if taking place in a place where lots of public are around.

This risk assessment in no way negates the need for continual dynamic risk assessment on session.

You must report incidents or near misses using company procedures.

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If you have any concerns or questions about the risk assessment speak to your manager.

Emergency Action Plan

Remember;

Self – Team – Casualty – Equipment

1. Make sure you are safe
 2. Make sure the group are safe
 3. Make sure the individual(s) concerned are safe
 4. Rescue the individual(s)
 5. Call/send for assistance (as required)
 6. Remove all to a safe place
 - a. Where possible move the casualty and group up an exit route via the safest route to a safe place or vehicle.
 - b. Land Based rescue. If the casualty cannot move, make them safe and await rescue services help. Where possible, move the group away from the venue to a safe place to allow an unhindered rescue to take place.
- If the assistant knows the exit, they may lead the group out at the lead instructor's discretion and make the group safe.
7. Diagnose the extent of the injury and effect first aid in line with your training.
 8. Take further action as appropriate.
 9. Inform Day Manager, ensuring all appropriate documentation is completed at the earliest possible opportunity.

If required, call the emergency services on 999. If no signal exists, move to a new location, perhaps on higher ground. Ensure you have discussed your plans with your colleague and also the additional risk you are being exposed to yourself.

Instructors are to have knowledge of the nearest hospital (A&E or small injuries unit to where they are operating).