

## **Specific Safety Procedures – Leap of Faith**

### **LF1 Description:**

LF1.1 Ascend pole to gain platform then leap to touch bouy suspended in mid air.

### **LF2 Learning Outcome:**

LF2.1 The learning outcome will vary depending on client needs and may include aspects of personal challenge, confronting fears, trust, responsibility and communication.

### **LF3 Facilitator:**

LF3.1 Have been assessed and passed out by a suitably experienced person.

LF3.2 Adequate group management and programme skills to work safely and effectively with the particular client group.

LF3.3 Knowledge of the correct fitting procedures of the full body harness.

### **LF4 Facility Knowledge:**

LF4.1 Knowledge of correct jump direction and the ability to set up a clear system of commands between the rope handlers and the jumper.

### **LF5 Client Requirements:**

LF5.1 Have a clear understanding of the aims of the session.

LF5.2 Have received a clear safety brief regarding Jump direction and the possibility of swinging into the pole or back into the platform.

LF5.3 Have been briefed to state clearly that they intend to jump by calling “ready to leap”. The jumper should then wait for the rope handlers to reply “leap when ready” before stepping off the platform. If the jumper does not leap within 10 seconds of the rope handlers reply then the process should be repeated.

### **LF6 Equipment:**

LF6.1 Equipment must be counted, returned and usage recorded after the session.

LF6.2 All use of ropes must be logged.

### **LF7 Ratios:**

LF7.1 Minimum of one facilitator to ten participants. (1:10)

**LF8 Weather:**

LF8.1 The implications of the weather on the proposed activity should be taken into consideration e.g. strong winds, wet and icy conditions etc.

## **Risk Assessment – Leap of Faith**

### **Hazards**

#### **Identify significant hazards which could cause harm:**

1. Facilitator.
2. Facility Knowledge.
3. Clients.
4. Equipment.
5. Ratio.
6. Weather.

### **How**

#### **How will people be exposed to hazard?**

1. Little knowledge of safety procedures / clients briefed poorly.
2. Insufficient knowledge of facility / health & safety risk.
3. Group behaviour and approach / clients at risk.
4. Equipment malfunction or misuse / risk of serious injury.
5. Facilitator cannot manage site/ group size too large.
6. Improper clothing / bad conditions for activity.

### **Risk**

#### **Evaluate risks arising from each hazard (High, Medium, low)**

1. High.
2. High.
3. Medium.
4. High.
5. Low.
6. Medium.

### **Action**

### **Prescribed**

### **Risk management strategies to remove hazard or reduce risk**

1. Qualification and pass out system (L3, LF3)
2. Training in facility use (L4.1, LF4)
3. Group Safety briefing. (L5.4 L5.6, L5.7, LF5)
4. Equipment Checks / inspections. (L6.1, L6.2, L6.5, LF6)
5. Effective group management / end session (L3.3, L3.4, LF7)
6. Suitable clothing / right weather conditions. (L5.5, LF8)

### **Monitor**

#### **How are risk management strategies monitored?**

1. Facilitator pass out system.
2. Continual Evaluation / Course Reports.
3. Client Evaluation forms / Risk Awareness forms.
4. Daily, quarterly and annual inspections.
5. Incident book and Near-miss folder.
6. Weather forecast supplied.

### **Review**

**Review date of this assessment:**

**Instructor Competencies: Leap of Faith Instructor:**

**Preparation:**

Ropes rigged on leap and Italian hitches and karabiners secured.

Harness and helmets prepared.

Condition of equipment inspected during set-up.

Medical information pertaining to group sought and implications for session considered.

Instructor safety equipment carried.

**Group Introduction:**

Group briefed on session outline and equipment. Need to remove rings and earrings.

Group given tips on participating in the leap of faith.

**Harness:**

Correctly fitted (waist belt located above hips and tightened to lock in place)

Leg loops comfortable and loose tails on straps tied back.

**Helmets:**

Correctly positioned on head and tightened appropriately to move with head

**Belaying:**

Group positioned to allow everyone to observe rope handling brief

Bell pull role (keep rope tight between jumper and their hands during the ascent to the platform; move behind karabiner to dead part of the rope prior to jumper leaping; No use of phrase "let go rope" by the instructor).

1st catcher role (Position behind karabiner; keep rope tight between bell pull person and their hands; main responsibility for catching the jumper in the event of a fall; two hands on the rope when waiting for jumper to move higher up the wall).

2nd catcher role (Position behind 1st catcher; keep rope tight between 1st catcher and their

hands; responsible for catching the jumper in the event of a fall; two hands on rope; do not stand on rope if last person.

3rd catcher role (as per. Second catcher)

**Lowering:**

Rope handlers should give clear instructions to the jumper that they are about to be lowered prior to feeding rope through hands.

Rope handlers should be clearly briefed that no jumpers to be lowered without the consent of the instructor.

**Delivery of session:**

Instructor position (between both rope handling teams with clear view of both systems)

Instructor focus (this should be mainly on the rope handlers rather than the jumper)

Observation of critical moments (lowering of jumper by rope handlers should be observed; Initial few metres of ascent to ensure rope holders are competent and focussed)

Verbal reinforcing safety (use of phrases that encourage good practice “keep the rope nice and tight”

Maintaining a clear line of sight (Stand facing the jumper to enable continued observation of rope handlers).

Prioritising tasks (identifying tasks that can be delayed to deal with something that needs immediate attention. For example, Jump can be delayed if the rope handlers need good practice reinforced)

**End of session:**

Kit is returned correctly to store

Equipment and site inspected and defective equipment identified and removed from use.

Course report completed

**Changes to procedures:**

Changes to procedures should incorporate all of the above but be an addition rather than an alternative. For example, the instructor deciding to tail the rope due to weather or group focus level still requires bell pull person to move behind karabiner during jump and lowering.

The safety procedures should not be unwittingly compromised by implementing on the spot changes to procedures even though being undertaken with the best intentions.

**Additional observations and comments:**

**Conclusion and recommendations:**

**Observed by:**

**Venue: Date:**