



# Somers School Camp – Risk Assessment

Activity	HIGH ROPES COURSE
School	Somers School Camp
Supervising Staff	All qualified teaching staff
Program	9 Day Network Program
Year Level	Year 5 & 6
Dates	February 2026 to February 2027
Location(s)	Somers School Camp – Somers Campus – High Ropes Course

• **Duty of care - Duty of care obligations require that school personnel take all reasonable steps to protect students from risks likely to cause personal injury that could reasonably have been for-seen.**

Risk Description	Existing Controls	Risk Assessment – with existing controls			
		Effectiveness of existing controls	Risk Consequences	Risk Likelihood	Risk Rating
Describe the risk event, cause/s and consequence/s. For example, <i>Something occurs ... caused by ... leading to ...</i>	Describe any existing policy, procedure, practice or device that acts to minimise the risk				
An accident occurs caused by faulty equipment leading to injury of student.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each piece of equipment is regularly inspected to assess condition, and inspection is logged in an equipment register.</li> <li>Each piece of equipment is logged and recorded.</li> <li>Each piece of equipment is retired when deemed unsuitable by S.S.C staff in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.</li> <li>All rigging is independently inspected annually.</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
While on the high ropes course a student falls out of the harness leading to serious injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSC Staff check that all harnesses are correctly fitted onto each child into an appropriate harness.</li> <li>The harness is thoroughly checked by PS members and adjusted if necessary</li> <li>SSC Staff check that the lanyards have been fitted correctly to each child.</li> <li>SSC ensure that all children are wearing an approved helmet.</li> <li>Harnesses are routinely checked at the start of each camp. Any Issues are log and the damaged or worn harnesses are removed from the program if required.</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
The student falls from the H.R.C causing serious injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All users are attached by one locked karabiner on a Bornack Lanyard Systems, at all times.</li> <li>Students' equipment is checked prior to entering the course</li> <li>Students must undertake a practice activity and demonstrate correct transition procedures and be deemed competent in before ascending to the H.R.C.</li> <li>Students are profiled by S.S.C Staff during practice session to identify any 'at risk' children.</li> <li>The student has Bornack Lanyards System attached to their harness using a Larks Spur knot</li> <li>The student is under constant buddy supervision and staff supervision</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
The student falls off the entry/exit ladders or entry platform caused by incorrect climbing technique leading to serious injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An approved caged ladder is used for access to the entry platform.</li> <li>Students are instructed in the correct climbing technique by S.S.C staff.</li> <li>As soon as students reach entry platform they attach to H.R.C structure.</li> <li>Students are under constant supervision by S.S.C staff while ascending and descending the caged ladder and on the entry platform from S.S.C staff.</li> <li>There is a limit of five people on entry platform at any one time.</li> <li>There is a two-ladder system used- one ladder for ascending to the entry platform and one ladder for descending the entry platform.</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium



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Unsafe conditions occur during lesson caused by severe weather elements leading to serious injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.S.C Staff assess weather conditions at the time of the activity. If lightening or severe wind imminent, the High Ropes Course will be cleared of students immediately.</li> <li>Assessment of weather conditions by S.S.C staff will be considered following protocols including -DEECD weather warning, SES warning the School Principal instruction and S.S.C staff weather assessment.</li> <li>S.S.C Staff to continually monitor weather throughout activity.</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium												
The student or teacher removes their harness or tapes/karabiner systems while on the H.R.C causing them to fall resulting in serious injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The student has Bornack Lanyards System attached to their harness using a Larks Spur knot</li> <li>The student is under constant buddy supervision and staff supervision while on the H.R.C</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium												
People on the ground are injured caused by being struck by items falling from H.R.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All S.S.C staff and students must wear helmets at all times while around the H.R.C.</li> <li>All equipment that is required to complete the H.R.C is securely fixed to harness</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Moderate	Rare	Low												
People are struck by falling tree limbs caused by nearby vegetation leading to serious injury or death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periodic checks of trees to identify and remove hazards.</li> <li>Students on H.R.C will be cleared in strong winds.</li> </ul>	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium												
A student becomes too tired to continue or is rendered unconscious while attached to the course becoming stranded at height, resulting in anxiety or complications of their condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.S.C staff to participate in annual professional development in High Ropes Rescues</li> <li>Element &amp; Site-specific rescue equipment is set up and kept at the site while the course is active.</li> <li>S.S.C staff all have level 2 first aid certificate including anaphylaxis training.</li> </ul>		Major	Rare	Medium												
A student or staff member catches their hair, clothing or jewellery in equipment, causing injury and distress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff will advise participants that jewellery and rings must not be taken or worn and suggest appropriate clothing (both in the pre-activity briefing and before the day of the activity).</li> <li>Staff will ensure that hair, clothing and jewellery are appropriately managed to avoid injury or mishap.</li> </ul>																
<p><b>Supervision-</b> The following table shows the minimum staff-to-student ratios that must be met based on the Adventure Activity Safety Guidelines</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">High Ropes Course</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Staff numbers</th> <th>Total students</th> <th>Student Ratio</th> <th>Staffing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>20</td> <td>1 : 10 Active Climbers - 6</td> <td>2 x SSC Staff (Qualified in rescue procedures) 1 x Visiting Teacher</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*On High Elements, staff must directly supervise each belay transfer.</p>					High Ropes Course				Staff numbers	Total students	Student Ratio	Staffing	3	20	1 : 10 Active Climbers - 6	2 x SSC Staff (Qualified in rescue procedures) 1 x Visiting Teacher
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