

Ethos Climbing Wall Conditions of Use

Participation Statements

BMC: "The British Mountaineering Council recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."

ABC: "All climbing activities have a risk of serious injury. Participants must recognise that even if they follow all good practice there may still be the risk of accident and injury. It is the responsibility of the participant to adhere to the conditions of use."

"Free solo climbing is not permitted. All auto-belay climbers must attach to the automatically delayed system. Any failure to do so will result in your membership being revoked and carries the risk of severe injury &/or death."

"Bouldering is hazardous. It involves climbing to height & there is no fall protection. Bouldering involves falls to ground, despite the matting a fall from height onto the mat carries risk of severe injury."

Conditions of use

While the Ethos Climbing Wall is an artificial environment the risks involved are no less serious than when climbing outside on a crag or mountain. There is additional risk that bolt on holds can spin or break loose and cause falls.

The soft flooring under the wall is designed to provide a more comfortable landing for climbers. **The soft flooring does not make climbing any safer.** Broken and sprained limbs are common on this type of climbing wall despite the soft landing. Uncontrolled falls are likely to result in injuries to yourself or others.

Climbing beyond your capabilities on any wall is likely to result in a fall. Any fall may result in an injury despite the safety systems in place to avoid it. You must make your own assessment of the risks whenever you climb.

Registration

All climbing wall users must register with Ethos prior to use of the centre.

Our Duty of Care

The conditions of use of Ethos climbing wall are not intended to limit your enjoyment of the facilities, they are part of the duty of care that we, as operators, owe to you the customer, by law. As such they are not negotiable and if you are not prepared to abide by them staff may ask you to leave.

Your Duty of Care

You as a customer have a duty of care to act responsibly towards the other users of the centre, follow good practice and abide by the conditions of use of the centre. Statements of good practice are posted around the climbing wall on the screen dividers. These describe accepted methods of use of equipment and climbing areas.

UNSUPERVISED CLIMBING IS JUST THAT! Staff will provide whatever help and advice they can, but instruction in the use of equipment or climbing techniques will only be provided where it has been booked and paid for in advance. If you are not confident in the use of any climbing equipment or technique, then do not use it without the supervision of someone who is competent to do so.

Anyone who has not had an induction and completed a Climbing Wall Registration Form must not climb without supervision.

Unsupervised Auto Belays

Before using the auto belays without supervision Ethos expects you to understand the dangers involved with auto belays and accept the risks. An auto belay induction will be provided to all customers prior to being registered to climb at Ethos.

Unsupervised Bouldering

Before you climb without supervision the centre expects you to be able to understand the dangers involved with bouldering and accept the risks involved a bouldering induction will be provided to all customers prior to climbing.

Helmets

Helmets must not be worn while using the auto belays.

Rules

General Safety

- Report to the main office on the ground floor on each visit before you climb to be checked in and given the access card to the wall.
- You must exercise care, common sense and self-preservation at all times.
- Report any problems with the wall, equipment or other climbers' behaviour to a member of staff immediately. This is particularly important with broken or spinning holds.
- Be aware of the other climbers around you and how your actions will affect them.
- Do not distract people while they are climbing or belaying.
- Never stand directly underneath someone who is climbing.
- Do not bring bags into the climbing area, please make use of the lockers and cages around the centre.

Auto Belays

- When using the auto-belays you must identify the line your route climbs and not deviate off this line.
- Descending from the route must be done in a controlled manner with, where possible, the landing zone and path checked to be clear before letting go.
- Never attempt to grab back onto the wall when descending as the auto-belay will continue to lower.
- Free Solo climbing on the auto-belay routes is unacceptable; always use the auto-belay safety line to protect yourself on these climbs.
- Only clip your auto-belay attachment into your harness belay loop.
- Helmets must not be worn while using the auto-belay and all harness hardware and loose clothing must be removed.
- Additional ropes are not permitted to be attached when using auto-belay.

Bouldering

- Always climb within your capabilities and descend by down climbing or a controlled fall.
- Before a controlled fall, assess the space behind you and land on both feet with bent knees.
- Never climb directly above or below another climber.

- Do not boulder while wearing a harness or with any hardware hanging from your clothes or chalk bag.
- No belongings (bags, shoes etc.) can be taken onto the matting. The safety mat must be always kept free of objects and obstructions.
- No food or drink is permitted on the mats.
- Do not sit or stand under the wall when people are bouldering.
- Do not grab or touch the top of the wall or any girders, metalwork or lights.
- The safety mat does not remove the risk of injury and does not make the climbing any safer.