

Risk Assessment – Blindfold Activities

Hazard?	Who may be at risk?	Risk		Control Measure
		Likelihood	Consequence	
Weather				
General	Group			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to check the weather forecast at the start of the day prior to the programme commencing
Cold and/or wet	Group	H	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to check that all participants have suitable clothing prior to commencing the activity
Sun	Group	H	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator must ensure that they make the group aware of the dangers relating to the sun Facilitator to ensure that the group have suitable clothing, e.g. long sleeves, trousers and sun hat
Lightning and/or storms	Group	L	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitators are not to run this session in any serious storm If caught out during a lightning storm, then the facilitator must cease the activity immediately and seek appropriate shelter with advice from hosts
High winds	Group	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to monitor weather and suspend or cancel session when wind conditions result in the safety of participants being affected
Terrain				
Slips/trips and falls	Group	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitators to brief participants about specific trip hazards prior to entering activity area All trip hazards that cannot be removed, are to be made highly visible, access restricted and edges softened Facilitator to ensure participants hold guide rope where one has been provided
Static obstacles	Group	M	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to monitor participant's progress on the course and intervene if participants may be at risk Facilitator to check course prior to session commencing and remove any hazards of potential hazards Facilitator to ensure participant remove blindfolds where it is clear the obstacle may be too difficult for the participants to negotiate
Course detritus	Group	M	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to check course prior to session commencing and remove any loose stones, sticks etc.
Exposed skin on rough surfaces	Group	H	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before the event, the group must be informed of clothing requirements Facilitator to ensure all participants wear suitable clothing (long sleeves and trousers and sensible footwear)
Bumping into/kicking out at participants	All	M	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to brief participants prior to the session commencing to follow the Instructors directions and be aware of the dangers of colliding with others and kicking others whilst negotiating the course Facilitator to reinforce the dangers of collisions to the participants throughout the session Facilitator to control the progress of participants particularly at static obstacles Facilitator to monitor space separation between participants
Equipment				
Blindfolds	Participants	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to ensure blindfolds are clean and free from harmful debris prior to programme commencing Facilitator to brief group members on how to apply blindfold prior to use Facilitator to brief participants on the safe practice of blindfolds (including 'pinging' these)
Structural failure	All	VL	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to carry out visual inspection of all apparatus prior to commencing the activity Facilitator must complete a fit-to-use form prior to the session commencing
Other				
Thrown water	Participants	L	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water deliberately thrown over participants is not permitted by anyone during the activity
Fear of darkness	Participant	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-visit medical forms to be completed by organiser and checked for claustrophobia or fear of darkness Facilitator to identify participants who may be fearful of darkness or are concerned about the session prior to commencement
Participants spectacles	Participants	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator to ensure participants remove spectacles prior to session commencing
Hair, clothing or jewellery entangled in apparatus	Participants	M	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitators are to brief all participants to tuck away loose clothing and long hair prior to commencing the activity Facilitators are to brief participants to remove all jewellery including watches prior to commencing the activity and sharp objects are removed from pockets.