“CONDITIONS OF USE” FOR THE ETHOS CLIMBING WALL

RISKS – “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”

Although the climbing wall is an artificial wall the risks involved are no less serious than when climbing outside on a crag or mountain. There is an 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.

OUR DUTY OF CARE – The rules of the climbing wall set out below 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 then the staff will require you to leave our premises.

YOUR DUTY OF CARE – You also have a duty of care to act responsibly towards the other users of the wall. Statements of ‘Good Practice’ are posted adjacent to the wall. These describe the accepted methods of use and how customers would normally be expected to behave towards each other.

All climbing at Ethos is unsupervised unless you are in an instructed session or supervised by a registered adult.

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.

Unsupervised Roped Climbing – Before you climb without supervision Ethos expects you to be competent in the use of a climbing harness, a suitable knot to attach the rope to the harness and a belay device to secure a falling climber or lower a climber from the wall using a rope. You are required to register to say that you know how to use the equipment, that you are prepared to abide by Ethos Rules and that you understand the risks involved in your participation.

Anyone who has not registered is classed as a novice and must not undertake roped climbing without supervision.

SUPERVISED CLIMBING – An adult who has registered at the wall may supervise up to two novice climbers as long as they are prepared to take full responsibility for the safety of those people. Groups of three or more novices must only be supervised by an instructor holding the relevant Mountain Leader Training Board qualification.

HELMETS – The use of a helmet is at the discretion of the climber.

RULES

GENERAL SAFETY:
• Report to reception on each visit before you climb.
• 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.
• 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.
• Stand well back from the climbing wall unless you are belaying or spotting a climber. Never stand directly under someone who is climbing.
• Only climb on the surfaces; not on support structures or parts of the building.
• Do not run around the wall area.

TOP ROPING:
• Some of the climbs on the wall have top ropes already in place. Do not take them down to use on other routes.
• Always use a climbing harness to attach yourself to the rope.

LEADING:
• When using the lead walls you must supply your own appropriately rated dynamic rope. Do not use Ethos's top ropes for lead climbing.
• Running belay points attachments (runners) are already provided at intervals on the lead walls. You must clip all the runners on the route you are climbing.

WHEN BELAYING:
• Always use a belay device attached to your safety harness with a locking karabiner. ‘Traditional’, or ‘body’ belaying is not acceptable.
• The ballast bags on the floor are provided to give support to people belaying a climber who is much heavier than they are. Direct belays from these bags are not acceptable.
• Always pay attention to what the climber is doing.
• Always stand as close to the climbing wall as is practical unless you are using one of the ballast bags. Sitting or lying is not acceptable.

WHEN CLIMBING:
• The walls are designed to be climbed using a rope for protection. Solo climbing is not acceptable on these walls.
• Always use a rope to protect yourself on these climbs.
• Always tie the rope directly into the harness using a suitable climbing knot. Clipping in with a karabiner is not acceptable.